

Obituaries

Amy Strasser



Oct. 16, 1924-Nov. 21, 2023  
Amy Strasser, 99, of Stanley, ND passed away on Tuesday, November 21, 2023, at Trinity Hospital in Minnot, ND.

Amy Viola Strasser was born on October 16, 1924, in Valley City, ND. She was the only daughter of Ed and Gusta Nelson. She had two brothers, Melvin and Arthur. She graduated from Valley City High School and then completed her four-year teaching degree from Valley City Teachers College. Her first year of teaching was in New Salem.

In 1947, she married Harold Strasser and they moved to Cando, ND. During the first oil boom in 1953, the family moved to Williston, ND where Harold built houses for nine years while Amy raised four children and further developed her "social skills" with the wonderful women of 14th Avenue West. The family moved to Stanley, ND as Harold became the manager of Stanley Bowling Lanes. Amy, begrudgingly, became the cook/waitress of the restaurant portion of the establishment. After a few years, the Stanley school hired Amy as their English and typing teacher and Harold as the Science teacher. She was also involved with the drama club and had the pleasure of directing many plays throughout the years. Her former students will tell you that they enjoyed her classes and that they learned lifelong skills. If you happened to walk by her classroom at SHS you might hear students asking her to "check books". Those students that either dared to be disruptive or didn't use proper grammar were punished with a kiss on the cheek from Mamma Strasser. She had been told lovingly by many of these former students that such behavior would probably not be allowed in today's schools.

They retired from teaching in 1986 after 20 years Harold and Amy spent the next 26 years enjoying their winter months in Mesa, AZ. Harold passed away in 2014 and the wonderful people of Stanley allowed her to continue to live in the house that he built 60 years ago.

Amy loved her flowers and gardening. She cherished her family and visitors. Jean, her lifelong best friend, was kind enough to let her use her family piano growing up. You could often times hear her singing to her dog or talking Norwegian to them. If they were German Shepherds, her favorite, German was spoken. Playing cards (hand and foot) with her senior citizen friends and family was a real joy. She played up until the day that God called her to Heaven.

Those who shared her life are Harold; and their four children, Susan (Dave) Polfiet, Barbara (David) Guttormson, Bill (Val) Strasser, and Steven (Yvonne) Strasser. She had nine grandchildren and twenty great-grandchildren.

She was preceded in death by her parents; husband, Harold; brothers; son, Steven; and great-grandchildren, Tresha and Taylee Sinclair.

In lieu of flowers, the family prefers memorials be given to the organization of their choice.

Amy's funeral service was held on Saturday, November 25, 2023 at the American Lutheran Church in Stanley, ND. Pastor Rebecca Mangelsdorf officiated. Amy was laid to rest in the Fairview Cemetery in Stanley, ND.

The funeral service was broadcast, you can view Amy's service on her obituary page on the website [www.springan Stevenson.com](http://www.springan Stevenson.com).

Springan Stevenson Funeral Home of Stanley were entrusted with arrangements and services. Friends may sign the online register and give their condolences at [www.springan Stevenson.com](http://www.springan Stevenson.com).

Betty Elliot

Jan. 9, 1937-Nov. 15, 2023  
Betty Jane Elliot, 86, Minnot, formerly of Granville, died Wednesday, November 15, 2023, in a Minnot Nursing Home.

Betty was born on January 9, 1937, in Blaisdell, the daughter of Emil and Sarah (Rock) Bruhn. She was raised and educated at Blaisdell and graduated from Palermo High School in 1955 and attended the Minnot Business College.

Betty was united in marriage to Ronald Elliot on November 19, 1957, in Minnot. They made their home in Minnot and Granville, where along with raising their four children, she was employed as a CNA (Certified Nursing Assistant) in Boise, Idaho and Minnot at the Americana Nurs-

ing Care Center (now Minnot Health and Rehab). She had also worked at the Piggly Wiggly Grocery Store at the Arrowhead and East locations in Minnot. She retired in 1997.

Betty was a former member of Hope Congregational Church in Granville.

She is survived by her spouse, Ron; her children, Ronna Masteller, Pierre, SD, Randy Elliot, Granville, Renae Ofsthun, Minnot, and Roxanne Boser, Granville; nine grandchildren; fifteen great grandchildren; and siblings, Donald Bruhn, Minnot, and Darrold Bruhn, Bozeman, MT.

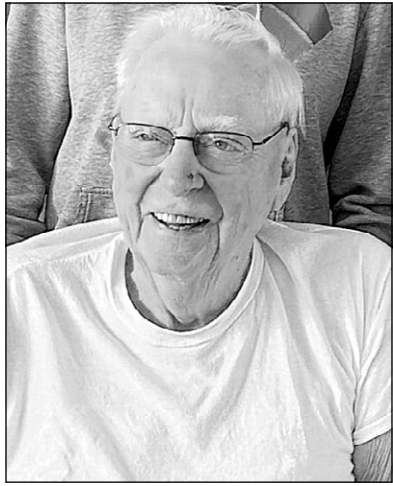
She was preceded in death by her parents; brothers, Charles, Raymond, Clarence and LaVerne; sisters, Alice, Loretta, Violet and Dorothy.

At her request there will not be a service, viewing, or visitation.

May God Bless her loving memory.

Those wishing to sign the online memorial register or share a fond memory are invited to [www.thomasfamilyfuneralhome.com](http://www.thomasfamilyfuneralhome.com).

Dr. Lester O. Wienbar



Sept. 1, 1932-Nov. 22, 2023  
Dr. Lester O. Wienbar, 91, of Redfield, SD, passed away on November 22, 2023, at Avera St. Luke's Hospital in Aberdeen, SD.

Lester Orland Wienbar was born September 1, 1932, in Fergus Falls, Minnesota, to George and Minnie (Iverson) Wienbar. He grew up on the family farm, attended country school, and later graduated from Fergus Falls High School. During his youth, he spent many seasons custom combining with his dad and brothers.

Lester attended Logan Chiropractic College in St. Louis, Missouri. He served in the U.S. Army from 1954-1956 in Frankfurt, Germany, in the 97th General Hospital as a physical therapy tech. After his discharge, he married Karen Asleson on December 31, 1957. He returned to Logan College and earned his chiropractic degree in 1958. Lester earned his post-graduate degree from Palmer College in Davenport, Iowa.

He started his chiropractic business in Redfield and practiced there for 39 years. Lester and Karen raised three children, Bradley, Gregory, and Kimberly.

He was a member of the Masonic Lodge and Yelduz Shriners and served as a Chapter Dad for the Masonic Youth Group. He served on the Redfield School Board and, after his retirement from his chiropractic practice, served on the Spink County Commission Board.

Lester is survived by his children, Bradley (Mary) of Irroquois, SD, Gregory (Laura) of Redfield, and Kimberly Wienbar of Spearfish, SD; eight grandchildren, Mathew (Rachel) Wienbar of Beresford, SD, Annie (Kevin) Schaefer of Colman, SD, Leah (Evan) Olson of Madison, SD, Chad (Cassie) Jungwirth of Minneapolis, MN, Lindsey (Jim) Costello of Spearfish, SD, Holly (James) Lambert, LeAnne (Chris) Bonin, and Anthony (Kelsey) Ehrich, all of Redfield; 16 great-grandchildren; and several nieces and nephews.

He was preceded in death by his parents; wife, Karen; six brothers, Orval, Clarence, Robert (Wanda), Donald, Amos (Mildred), and Earl Wienbar; and one sister, Arlean (Walter) Henryson.

Visitation was held on Monday, November 27th at Hyke Funeral Home in Redfield.

The funeral service was held on Tuesday, November 28, at First Congregational United Church of Christ in Redfield. Reverend Keith C. Kraft officiated. Burial, with military honors, followed the service at Greenlawn Cemetery in Redfield.

Dr. Wienbar's funeral service was livestreamed on the funeral home's website below his obituary. Arrangements were entrusted to Hyke Funeral Home, [www.hykefuneralhome.com](http://www.hykefuneralhome.com).

Eugene Harold Jensen



Aug. 19, 1934-Nov. 26, 2023  
Eugene Harold Jensen, also known as Gumper, passed away on November 26, 2023, at the age of 89 in Mineral Wells, Texas.

Eugene was born on August 19, 1934, in Newell, Iowa. Eugene was a kind soul, always eager to hear everyone's stories and never considering anyone a stranger. He had a helpful nature and was always ready to lend a hand, whether it was fixing cars, shoveling snow, or mowing lawns. Eugene had a passion for traveling to rodeos with his family and could always be heard cheering from the stands.

Eugene's career began on the family farm in Powers Lake, North Dakota, where he honed his mechanical skills at Jensen's Garage. He had a talent for welding and became proficient in the field. He was united in marriage with Judith Hurley and then later moved his family to Williston, North Dakota, to pursue a welding career. Afterward, he ventured into ranching, residing at the Williston Packing Feed lot for over five years. In his later years, Eugene started his own mechanics business, specializing in small engine repair, which became known as Gene's Small Engine Repair.

Outside of work, Eugene had a variety of hobbies. He enjoyed traveling, going on bicycle rides with his grandkids, attending auction sales, watching rodeos, taking walks, and following his favorite television shows, including "Days of Our Lives," "Young and The Restless," "Dukes of Hazzard," and "Walker Texas Ranger."

Eugene will be deeply missed by his loved ones. He is survived by his daughter, Jean (Mike) Black of Oregon; daughter, Lila (Douglas) Smith of Texas; son, Blaine (Connie) Jensen of North Dakota; his grandchildren, Donald Bruels of Illinois, Jammie Bone of Montana, Jake Jensen of North Dakota, Cody Haugen of Colorado, Sierra Smith, Hunter Smith, and Madison Smith, all of Texas, Jared Jensen of North Dakota; and his great-grandchildren, Annabelle, Donald, Adon, Alexandra, Benjamin, Olivia, Jennessy, Justin, Jensen, Luna, Kennedy, Dillon, and Freya.

Eugene was preceded in death by his mother, Hazel Jensen; father, Harold Jensen; brother, Roy Jensen; sister, Delores Haas; and sister, Marion Rice.

Memorial services for Eugene Harold will be held in the Spring at Bethel Cemetery in Powers Lake, North Dakota. Further details will be announced at a later date. The funeral home in Texas is assisting with the arrangements.

May Eugene's kind and helpful spirit be remembered fondly by all who knew him.

Dakota Legacy Initiative To Host Free Webinar On Backyard Conservation

The Dakota Legacy Initiative is hosting a free webinar to engage North Dakotans in conservation efforts, right from their backyards. The webinar, titled "Birds, Bees & Trees: An Intro to Backyard Conservation," will take place Tuesday, December 19 from 12:00 p.m. to 1:00 p.m. Those interested can learn more or register at [www.DakotaLegacyInitiative.com](http://www.DakotaLegacyInitiative.com).

Backyard conservation techniques can help protect habitats and the species that rely on them. These same practices can also help owners increase their property value and save money on maintenance costs.

"Conservation doesn't just need to take place on large acreage. Whether you rent an apartment,

have a small backyard in town, or own rural acreage, you can play a part in preserving North Dakota's legacy of legendary land and water," said Jeff Miller, webinar presenter and Director of the Cass County Soil Conservation District. "All it takes is the willingness to welcome conservation onto your property."

Webinar attendees will learn what backyard conservation is, how to begin implementing conservation practices, and what expertise is available through their local soil conservation district. Miller will also review successful residential and commercial backyard conservation projects and facilitate a live question-and-answer session.

Senators Introduce Legislation To Address Federal Government Overreach On Farmers, Ranchers, And Landowners

U.S. Senator Kevin Cramer (R-ND) joined his colleagues in introducing the Farmers Freedom Act of 2023, legislation requiring the Biden Administration to revert to the definition of prior converted cropland (PCC) from the Trump administration's Waters of the United States (WOTUS) rule.

During the Trump administration, the definition in the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) Navigable Waters Protection Rule (NWPR) of 2020 determined a PCC must be used for production at least once every five years to maintain exemption from the Clean Water Act (CWA). Under the Biden administration's definition, the land may lose its exclusion if it undergoes a "change in use," including when the area is unavailable for the production of crops. The new definition

lacks the clarity farmers and ranchers need to ensure they can remain compliant and their land is not subjected to greater regulation through the CWA.

"Landowners need more freedom to use their land as they see fit without excessive, burdensome environmental regulations. The Biden administration is deferring to a loosely-defined and arbitrary definition for prior converted croplands which creates uncertainty for landowners, especially those in the Prairie Pothole region," said Senator Cramer. "Our producers will always be better caretakers of the land than federal bureaucrats in Washington, and the administration should acknowledge it."

U.S. Senator Mike Rounds (R-SD) led the letter, along with seven additional cosponsors.

ND Farmers Still Navigate Corporate Land Ownership Policy Maze

By Mike Moen, Prairie News Service

North Dakota's farming landscape is seeing policy shifts dealing with corporate ownership of agricultural interests. Now, there's fresh debate at the federal level.

Earlier this year, the Legislature loosened restrictions under the state's longstanding anti-corporate-farming law. The changes, which followed lengthy debate, focus on livestock operations.

In Congress, the National Family Farm Coalition is among the groups calling for passage of the Farmland for Farmers Act, which would restrict the amount of farmland large corporations can own.

Ben Vig, who farms small grains in east-central North Dakota, said he's happy to see the federal proposal, noting the broader corporate influence within agriculture these days.

"The idea that we have checks and balances when we purchase our food - well, sometimes, the corporations own everything and we're subjected to what they put as a price," Vig observed.

He's referring to corporate dominance in such areas as meat processing. And foreign ownership of U.S. ag property also has emerged as a concern; the U.S. Department of Agriculture reports foreign inves-

tors hold about 40 million acres of American farmland.

The North Dakota Farmers Union has said it doesn't think the federal bill would overlap with the state-level changes, but it does support the Congressional efforts.

Groups representing large ag firms have criticized recent federal attempts to establish market fairness, warning they would harm consumers. But Vig said giving the little guy more "wiggle room" to operate keeps farming communities thriving.

"And we still have people taking care of the land or taking care of small-town infrastructure," Vig pointed out. "Whether we're serving on a township board, or serving on a church board and a school board, we still know who the neighbors are."

Corporate influence within agriculture also has led to concerns about the impact on land prices.

The Farmland for Farmers Act was introduced by U.S. Senator Cory Booker, D-NJ. And separate bipartisan efforts are focused on foreign investors.

At the state level, North Dakota got attention for the livestock-related ownership changes, but lawmakers also advanced legislation to restrict foreign governments from acquiring farmland.

EPA Takes Decisive Action To Cut Methane Emissions

Last week, the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) unveiled its finalized rule aimed at reducing methane emissions from new and existing sources within the oil and gas industry. This rule is the result of a meticulous, multi-year process to augment the Clean Air Act, and plays a pivotal role in safeguarding public health and mitigating climate change by curbing methane emissions - one of the leading contributors to human-related warming.

Dakota Resource Council (DRC) proudly lauds this historic development, recognizing it as one of the most significant opportunities in recent years to combat waste methane, foster responsible energy development, and advance a cleaner and healthier North Dakota.

Scott Skokos, Executive Director of Dakota Resource Council, emphasized, "Today's announcement of the EPA's new standard to cut methane and other harmful pollutants from oil and gas operations is welcome news for protecting our health, our environment, and impacted communities in North Dakota. This final rule will reduce harmful emissions, limit wasted methane from leak-prone equipment, and mandate monitoring at all well sites along with the use of zero-emitting equipment."

Critical Impact on Fort Berthold Area

Representative Lisa Finley-DeVill, ND(4a), co-founder of Fort Berthold Protectors of Water and Earth Rights (POWER) and DRC board member, highlighted the significance of the rule in areas like the Fort Berthold Reservation, "Fort Berthold Reservation, where my family and I live, is where the most oil and gas waste and pollution occurs in North Dakota. EPA has taken an important step forward to

reduce waste and pollution from oil and gas operations in North Dakota and begin to address routine flaring."

Delvin Rabbithead, Sr., President of Fort Berthold POWER, remarked, "President Biden and EPA Administrator Regan have taken bold action to cut methane waste and pollution from oil and gas production, including important steps to tackle routine flaring. Now the work begins to ensure strong implementation and enforcement to protect communities from the impacts of oil and gas extraction."

Sherry Turner-Lonefight, MHA Tribal Business Councilwoman (West Segment), added, "EPA's new rule has taken an important step to protect my tribe and other tribes impacted by oil and gas pollution. The rule will fill regulatory gaps that my community has not been able to address."

Environmental Impact

EPA estimates that from 2024 to 2038, the standards will reduce methane from covered sources by 80 percent, resulting in significant emission reductions:

- Methane: 58 million tons (1.5 billion tons CO2e using a 100-year GWP and nearly 5 billion tons of CO2e on a 20-year basis - the near-term climate equivalent of taking nearly a billion cars off the road for a year.)
  - Volatile Organic Compounds (VOCs): 16 million tons
  - Hazardous Air Pollutants (Toxics): 590,000 tons
- Dakota Resource Council calls for robust implementation and enforcement of these standards to ensure the sustained protection of our environment, public health, and the well-being of communities in North Dakota, particularly in the Fort Berthold area.

NDSU Extension Getting It Right In Soybean Production Webinar Set

Soybean producers and crop advisers hunting for research-based soybean production recommendations should plan to participate in the Getting It Right in Soybean Production webinar on Tuesday, December 19 starting at 8:30 a.m.

The webinar is organized and will be conducted by North Dakota State University Extension and is supported by the North Dakota Soybean Council. This online-only meeting will be hosted on Zoom.

"This soybean educational event will provide research updates and recommendations that can help farmers with soybean production decisions for the 2024 growing season," says Greg Endres, Extension cropping systems specialist and organizer of the event.

Topics to be discussed primarily by NDSU Extension crop specialists include: variety selection, plant establishment, soil management and plant nutrients, plant protection (weed, disease and insect management) and soybean markets.

Participants will have the opportunity to ask questions after the presentations. The presentations will be recorded and archived at [www.ndsu.edu/agriculture/ag-hub/getting-it-right](http://www.ndsu.edu/agriculture/ag-hub/getting-it-right). Certified crop adviser continuing education credits will be available for attending the live event.

There is no participation fee, but preregistration is required at [www.ndsu.edu/agriculture/ag-hub/getting-it-right](http://www.ndsu.edu/agriculture/ag-hub/getting-it-right). All who preregister will receive emailed instructions and a Zoom link to join the webinar.

Future Getting It Right crop production webinars are scheduled for: Jan. 30, 2024 - Dry bean; Feb. 27, 2024 - Sunflower; March 12, 2024 - Canola

Bowling

HOT SHOT

	Won	Lost
Prairie Ford	19	13
NW Beef	19	13
Blackwell Electric	18	14
NCEC	17	15
Gooseneck Imp	12	20
Bowling Stones	11	21

High Scratch Team Game: Blackwell Electric 660; High Scratch Ind.: Dar Mrnak 201; High Team Handicap Game: Blackwell Electric 886; High Handicap Ind.: Dar Mrnak 693; High Ind. Series: Galen Kudrna 528

Splits Chris Kaiser 5-7  
Errorless Game: Dar Mrnak 201

CITY LEAGUE

	Won	Lost
Joyce's	21	11
Mike's Plumbing	17.5	14.5
Red Angus	16	12
Gray's	16	12
Larson's Tire	13.5	18.5
Prairie Home Furnishings	7	21

High Scratch Team Series: 5-Spot 1641; High Team Handicap Series: 5-Spot 2454; High Scratch Ind.: Jacqui Snyder 188; High Scratch Ind. Series: Jacqui Snyder 537; High Handicap Ind.: Jacqui Snyder 699

Splits: Eryn Faber 3-10, Fancy Farhart 5-8-10, Bryton Parkinson 4-5-7

MONDAY NIGHT BOMBERS

	Won	Lost
5-Spot	22	10
Stanley Ambros	19	13
Thelen	16	16
NAPA Bowl How	16	16
Liberty	12	20
Tipsy Moonshiners	11	21

High Scratch Team Series: 5-Spot 1553; High Team Handicap Series: Napa Bowl How 2405; High Scratch Ind.: Bryton Parkinson 174; High Scratch Ind. Series: Cora Wol-sky 447; High Handicap Ind.: Bryton Parkinson 669

SUGAR AND SPICE

	Won	Lost
Gooseneck	19	9
Meiers Oil	17.5	10.5
Superbloom	17	11
Skarsgards	16	12
Tioga Drug	9.5	18.5
Thrivent	5	23

High Team Handicap Game: Skarsgards 855; High Team Handicap Series: Meiers Oil 2372; High Scratch Team Game: Skarsgards 612; High Scratch Team Series: Skarsgards 1586; High Ind. Game: Nikki Heinle 187; High Ind. Series: Ashley Skarsgard 451

Splits: Kelly Jones 4-5, Shelby Davis 2-7

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# DID YOU KNOW?

- ▶ Every month, 86% of North Dakota adults read a newspaper
- ▶ 88% of adults in North Dakota read public notices in newspapers
  - 76% of North Dakotans believe they should STAY in newspapers
  - 94% of adults in North Dakota feel newspapers are the most trusted source for public notices
- ▶ Newspapers reach 88% of voters in North Dakota
- ▶ Local newspapers are relied on more than any other media for information on local government
- ▶ 90% who are shopping or intending to buy a new vehicle in North Dakota read newspapers

# ND Newspapers work for YOU!

- ▶ Of those North Dakotans planning to purchase goods and services, here's how many read newspapers:
  - Boats and other RV's ..... 83%
  - Home Appliances ..... 92%
  - Real Estate ..... 92%
  - Jewelry/watches ..... 92%
  - Automobiles ..... 90%
  - Health/Medical Services ..... 90%
  - Restaurants/bars ..... 87%
  - Sporting Goods ..... 87%
- ▶ Almost two-thirds of North Dakotans traveled on vacation in the past 12 months, here is where they went:
  - Visit family ..... 50%
  - Business trip ..... 39%
  - State or national parks ..... 24%
  - Shopping ..... 26%
  - Historical attraction ..... 25%
  - Sporting event ..... 28%
- ▶ 88% of these vacationers read newspapers

NDNA  
NORTH DAKOTA NEWSPAPER ASSOCIATION

NEWSPAPERS: Yesterday, Today, & Tomorrow

Source: Coda Ventures Market Study 2020