

OBITUARIES

HARRIET GRIFFIN



Harriet Griffin, age 89, of Tower City, ND, died Friday, December 20th at PAM Rehab Hospital in Fargo, ND. A funeral service will be held at 10:30 AM on Monday, December 30th at the Lerud Mathias Funeral Home Chapel in Valley City. Visitation will be held one hour before the service at the funeral home. Interment will be in Greenwood Cemetery, Tower City, ND. An online guestbook and livestream of Harriet's service will be available at www.lerud-mathias.com.

Harriet Esther Keys was born on August 23, 1935, in Nome, ND, the daughter of Earl and Clara (Ward) Keys. The following year the family moved to a farm near Tower City. Harriet attended country school and graduated from Tower City High School in 1953. She went on to graduate from St. Lukes School of Nurs-

ing in Fargo in 1956 as a registered nurse. She married James Griffin on January 1, 1957, in the First Presbyterian Church in Tower City. The couple operated a grain and dairy farm near Tower City. Harriet worked at the Sheyenne Care Center for 33 years. Harriet's first day at the Care Center was Clara's last day. She continued to stay in touch with many of her co-workers from that time. Harriet was always willing to lend support to community activities and organizations. She was active in the Presbyterian Church, spent many years as a leader in the Towerettes 4-H club, acted as the township assessor, and taught CPR classes. Harriet enjoyed researching family history on the Keys and Griffin sides of the family. She was a voracious reader, a gardener, and a great lover and savior of many generations of cats. Harriet was happy to make and share her apple crisp. She stayed in touch with family and friends every day and enjoyed all the phone calls.

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Harriet is survived by three daughters, Judith (Dwight) Krueger, Sheldon, ND; Susan (Jim) Swenson, Middleton, WI, and Brenda Matteson, Fargo, ND, four grandchildren, Anna and Kyle Swenson and Lindsey and Ashlyn Allan, nephews Jerry, Ron, and Alan Keys, Don, Bob, and Dick Stringer, Alan and Jim Griffin, and nieces Marsha Holden, Mary Cockerill, Nancy Aldrich, and Marsha Wauson.

She was preceded in death by her husband James, her parents, two brothers, David and Philip Keys, sisters-in-law Miriam Grieger and Dorothy Stringer, brothers-in-law George Stringer and Donald Griffin, niece Debbie Griffin, and nephew Dale Stringer.

LAURIE ELSTON

The funeral for Laurie Ann Elston, 59, Valley City, North Dakota, will be 11 am Friday, December 27, 2024, at the Oliver-Nathan Funeral Chapel, Valley City. Visitation will be one hour before the service in the chapel. Burial will be in the Hope Cemetery, Hope, North Dakota. Laurie passed away December 23, at Mercy Hospital, Valley City.

The first part of her obituary was written by her father prior to his death in 2017. She was the daughter of Don and Carol (Nelson) Elston.

The summer our daughter Laurie Ann was born on July 23rd, 1965, at Mayville, North Dakota, I was out haying road ditches and wherever there was grass to cut. I had been at the hospital in Mayville most of the night when Laurie finally decided to enter this world. I went home. Like I said I was haying, and this was

before any cell phones so one of my neighbors came and told me I should go back to the hospital which I did. This is when I found out Laurie was not normal and had a mental handicap. Some of the joy I was feeling left me. Carol and I talked about it and decided we would do what we could for her. Laurie took a lot more care than a normal baby. Carol did a great job right from the start. Laurie has given us a kind of joy that most parents don't have.

Laurie spent several years with the Open Door in Valley City before entering SMP Health-St. Raphael.

Laurie was a happy person and loved to give hugs out. She enjoyed combing fixing hair by combing it out and putting barrettes in. She liked to color and would set and do that while watching football but enjoyed the coloring more. One thing that Laurie really loved was her coffee and it had to be hot... if it cooled

down, she would insist it be put in the microwave to reheat it. She was the sweetest soul. When she would visit at home, in Hope, her nephew, Jeremy, gave her the nickname, Larry, which stuck with her when he would talk about her. One of Laurie's favorite times of the year was Christmas. She loved singing Christmas songs.

She is survived by her mother, Carol, Valley City; two brothers Curt and Paul (Kesey Cole) all of Hope; a nephew Jeremy Elston and a niece Kaylauna Cooley.

She was preceded in death by her father Don, a brother Gary and a nephew Randy Cole.

Funeral arrangements have been entrusted to the care of the Oliver-Nathan Funeral Chapel. An online guestbook is available at www.olivernathanchapel.com

DAKOTA DATEBOOK BY TESSA SANDSTROM

A Very White Christmas

December 26, 2024 – Those dreaming of a white Christmas got more than they bargained for on this day in 1916. The Bismarck Tribune reported some snowfall in Los Angeles, but it was the northern states that received the brunt of white Christmas wishes. In what was considered at the time the worst

storm in 48 years, western North Dakota was bombarded with 20 inches of snow and 36 mph wind gusts.

The snowfall began early afternoon on Christmas day, and continued through the night, dropping 18 inches of snow by noon. Trains were snowbound for nearly two days, and taxis and cars in Bismarck were forced to drive on sidewalks in places where snow was too deep on the streets. It wasn't long before travel in the city was restricted entirely to sleighs and bobsleds. Because streets were totally impassable from downtown to the capitol, even the governor and other state officials bundled up for a sleigh ride to their offices.

Perhaps the sleigh ride was cold, but businessmen could work in their warm offices. Other workers, however, had

to battle the elements. As the storm raged, adults found themselves busy with making snow tunnels and ice fortresses—activities that are usually reserved for children and their imaginations. But, these adults had to make their snow creations on a much larger scale. Snow plows were busy across the state carving tunnels through 13 to 15 foot tall snow banks for trains. Meanwhile, Bismarck firefighters faced a larger task: forming a giant ice shield on a building to protect it from a downtown fire.

Late on the night of the 26th, a fire broke out in downtown Bismarck. Firefighters were called down to battle the flames that were fanned by the strong gale. Fighting fire with water was difficult in the subzero temperatures, as water froze instantly to their

clothes. "Firemen in jackets of ice, moving about as human icicles, fought the fire under the direction of Chief Thompson in a blizzard considered the worst since 1896," reported the Tribune. The fire was already burning about a quarter of a block and firemen struggled to keep it from spreading. The only way to stop the flames, according to the Tribune, was for the firemen to turn their water hoses to a building in path of the flames.

"As water lashed the building, it froze almost instantly, preventing the flames from the yards from taking a hold," said the Tribune. "This morning...the structure looked as though a temporary ice palace had been erected by the firemen to stave their drive.... The coat of ice given this building held the fire in its

limits of devastation, and was a remarkable piece of work on the part of the firemen."

For those who experienced the blizzard of 1916, the lyrics, "I'm dreaming of a white Christmas, just like the ones I used to know," just might not have the same meaning for others. This is especially true for those who are disgruntled by the memories of brown Christmases of the last few years!

"Dakota Datebook" is a radio series from Prairie Public in partnership with the State Historical Society of North Dakota and with funding from the North Dakota Humanities Council. See all the Dakota Datebooks at prairiepublic.org, subscribe to the "Dakota Datebook" podcast, or buy the Dakota Datebook book at shopprairiepublic.org.

PUBLIC NOTICE

Jeffrey Gunkelman (#07229)
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 Attorneys for Estate
 Probate No. 02-2024-PR-00036
 IN THE COUNTY COURT OF
 BARNES COUNTY, STATE OF
 NORTH DAKOTA
 In the Matter of the Estate of
 Verlyn Frances Koch, aka
 Verlyn F. Koch, Deceased.
NOTICE TO CREDITORS
 NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that Gary L. Koch and Juleen D. Cruff have been appointed Co-Personal Representatives of the above estate. All persons having claims against said deceased are required to present their claims within three (3) months after the date of the first publication of this notice or said claims will be forever barred. Claims must either be presented to the undersigned, Jeffrey Gunkelman, Attorney for the Estate of Verlyn Frances Koch, also known as Verlyn F. Koch, or Gary L. Koch and Juleen D. Cruff as Co-Personal Representatives of the Estate, at Kennelly Business Law, 117 - 3rd Street, Suite 5, Valley City, North Dakota 58072, or filed with the Court. DATED this 9th day of December 2024.
 KENNELLY BUSINESS LAW
 Jeffrey Gunkelman, Attorney
 (December 12, 19, 26, 2024)

WEEKLY ONGOING EVENTS/REMINDERS:
***AA Fellowship Corner Meeting Schedule:** Monday 7 p.m., Wednesday noon, Friday noon, Satur-

day 8 p.m. **NA Meetings:** Tuesday evening 7:30 p.m. and Sunday at 6:30 p.m. For more information call 701-845-3705. The meetings are held at 320 2nd Ave SE in Valley City. ***Barnes County Museum,** is open and welcoming visitors from 10 a.m.-4 p.m. Monday through Saturday, closed on Sundays. The museum is located at 315 Central Ave N, Valley City. Call Wes at 701-845-0966 for tour and additional information.

***Barnes County Veterans Service Office Veterans Coffee Hour** welcomes BC Veterans to a meet and greet with other area veterans every third Wednesday of the month from 10 a.m.-12 noon. Office is located at 575 10th St SW, Suite #7, Valley City (same building as Sheriff's Office). Refreshments and treats will be provided.

***Celebrate Recovery,** a Christ centered 12-step program for every hurt, habit or hang-up meets 6:15 p.m. free will donation meal, 7 p.m. large group, 8 p.m. small group with childcare available at Connect Church, 320 Central Avenue South in Valley City. For more information call Tanner Nielsen @ 701-840-5281 or Erin @ 701-213-6834.

***Drivers License at Grand Stay Hotel & Suites,** 271 Winter Show Road in Conference Room every 1st and 3rd Wednesday from 9 a.m.-4 p.m. For more information call 701-328-2500. ***Everbridge - Barnes County Emergency Notification System,** is a great way to get community updates directly on your phone. Download the app or choose to receive emails, phone calls or text messages on winter road closures, severe weather warnings, missing or endangered persons alerts and more. You choose what you want to be notified of and how you are notified. Go to www.co.barnes.nd.us Click on resident alert button. Click on "sign up" button to add your information to this notification system. Create your account. Sign up for alerts. ***Roller Skating at the Rec. Center,** Sunday's 6:00 p.m. - 8:00 p.m. Sponsored by the Optimist Club. ***St. Catherine Quilters** make quilts for those in need, meeting every Thursday from 1-4:30 p.m. and 6:30-9 p.m. in the basement gym of St. Catherine School. All are welcome, no experience necessary and supplies are provided. Questions

call Christine 701-840-2580 or Lela 701-845-8352.

UPCOMING EVENTS:
Thurs., Dec. 26
 • Barnes County Senior Center menu: Stuffed pepper, Yukon diced potatoes, Capri vegetables, pears. Activities: 1:00 p.m. Board games.
Fri., Dec. 27
 • Barnes County Senior Center menu: Chicken pot pie biscuit, lettuce salad, tropical fruit. Activities: 9:30 a.m. Bone Builders Exercise; 1:00 p.m. Bingo.
Sat., Dec. 28
 • Barnes County Senior Center menu: Broccoli cheese soup, ham sandwich, V8 juice, pineapple.
Sun., Dec. 29
 • Barnes County Senior Center menu: Roast beef, mashed potatoes & gravy, corn, applesauce.
 • Roller skating every Sunday at the Rec Center in Valley City, hosted by the Valley City Optimist Club from 6:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m.
Mon., Dec. 30
 • Barnes County Senior Center menu: Swedish meatballs, mashed potatoes, green beans, Mandarin oranges. Activities: 1:00 pm.m Mexican Train Dominoes.
Tues., Dec. 31
 • Barnes County Senior

Center menu: Pancakes, scrambled eggs, diced potatoes, juice. Activities: 11:30 a.m. New Years Eve brunch.
 • The Valley City Eagles club will have free Tom and Jerry's on Dec. 31st from 2 p.m. until gone.
Wed., Jan. 1
 • Barnes County Courthouse will be closed Wed., Jan 1, 2025 in observance of New Years Day. The Barnes County Sheriffs Office and jail will remain staffed.
Sun., Jan., 5
 • Roller skating every Sunday at the Rec Center in Valley City, hosted by the Valley City Optimist Club from 6:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m.
Wed., Jan. 8
 • Barnes County Wildlife Federation is sponsoring a FREE SUPPER Wed., Jan. 8th at the Valley City Eagles. Drawing for prizes, no host social at 5:00 p.m. Supper; 6:00 - 7:00 p.m.
Sun., Jan. 12
 • Roller skating every Sunday at the Rec Center in Valley City, hosted by the Valley City Optimist Club from 6:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m.
Mon., Jan. 13
 • Valley City Lion's Club Meeting at Eagles Club Past President Room. 6 p.m.

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Extended Forecast for Valley City ND National Weather Service

32/25

Thursday

Mostly sunny, with a high near 32. South southwest wind around 8 mph.

Thursday Night

Mostly cloudy, with a low around 25. South southeast wind around 7 mph.

Friday

Mostly cloudy, with a high near 36. South wind 6 to 8 mph.

Friday Night

Mostly cloudy, with a low around 26. South southwest wind around 6 mph.

Saturday

Partly sunny, with a high near 33. West wind 5 to 7 mph.

Saturday Night

Mostly cloudy, with a low around 23. West wind 6 to 8 mph.