



Obituaries



Feb. 10, 1949-Oct. 25, 2025
On Saturday, October 25, 2025, at the age of 76, Allen Earl Garness Sr. passed away. He was reunited with his beloved wife and two sons.

Allen Earl Garness Sr. was born on February 10, 1949, in Sanish, North Dakota, to Leonard and Opal (Hasby) Garness. He was raised in the New Town area alongside his five sisters and graduated from New Town High School. During his school years, Allen played football, earning the nickname “Tank.”

In July 1968, Allen was drafted into the Army during the Vietnam War. He was stationed at Fort Dix in New Jersey and later in Wildflecken, Germany. While on leave, he married the love of his life, Cecelia Loretta Grady, whom he had met in school, at the Baptist Church in New Town. He returned to active duty and was honorably discharged in 1974.

Allen and Loretta were blessed with three children, Gabe “Pepic,” Shelly “Babe,” and Al Jr. “Cowboy.” They initially moved to Sidney, Montana and later to Dunn Center, ND, where Allen owned and operated a gas station and garage called “Al and Sons.”

Throughout his life, Allen worked various jobs. He served as a foreman in the oil field in Sidney for BWAB. After moving back to New Town, he drove a school bus for New Town School and was a handyman for Dale Følven. He also helped build the Three Affiliated Tribes Museum and the old Motor Lodge Hotel during his construction years.

Allen was a dedicated worker whose passion shone through in his woodworking and beading. He crafted a variety of wooden items, including cabinets, chests, crosses, and walking sticks.

Allen and Loretta enjoyed playing card games with many friends, and he cherished spending time with his family, taking special care of his grandchildren. He was a member of the Beck Sherven Legion Post 290 and a former member of the New Town Saddle Club. Allen was also a proud supporter of Donald Trump.

A simple man, Allen preferred to stay out of the limelight. He rarely asked for much and was always eager to give to others. He cared deeply for his wife, Loretta, and adored his children and grandchildren, striving to be a part of their lives in any way he could.

He was preceded in death by his parents; wife, Cecelia Loretta Garness; sons, Gabe “Pepic” and Al Jr. “Cowboy”; sister, Luann Severance; and grandchildren, Stephanie and Candice.

Allen is survived by his daughter, Michelle Cook (Wayne); grandchildren, Charles, Chance, Catherine, William, Karissa, Autumn, Justyna, Zoe, Gage and Rylee; great-grandchildren, Kendall, Charlie, Johnny, Nathaniel, Lucas, Esmee, Naomi and Kahliia; sisters, Cindy Pister, Sherill Berg, June DeLap and Charlene Moran.

A memorial service was held Tuesday, November 4, 2025, at Langhans Funeral Home, Parshall, with the burial of cremated remains at Holy Family US Scout Catholic Cemetery, Shell Creek, New Town. Military honors were presented by Beck Sherven Post 290 and Myron B. Johnson/Nathan Good Iron Post 271. To view memorials or leave condolences visit www.langhansfuneralhome.com.

(Langhans Funeral Home, Parshall)



Mary Lou Bloom

Jul. 26, 1941-Nov. 5, 2025
On Wednesday, November 5, 2025, Mary Lou Bloom passed away at the age of 84. Blessed be her memory among us.

Mary Lou Bloom was born on June 26, 1941, in Stanley, to J. Edgar and Dora (Malcomb) Bloom. The family lived northeast of Plaza, where she attended Shealy Town-

ship Country School #2. Later, they moved into Plaza, and Mary Lou continued her education there, graduating in 1959. She loved sports and practiced with the boys’ basketball team since there was no girls’ team at that time.

In October 1959, Mary Lou enlisted in the United States Navy. She received training in electronics and was stationed in Norfolk, Virginia. After her honorable discharge in March 1964, she returned home for a year.

In 1965, Mary Lou moved to Minneapolis and began her career in technology at Control Data Corporation (CDC), which developed the first supercomputer. In the 1980s, when CDC reorganized, she relocated to Oklahoma City and began working for Seagate Technology. She retired in the mid 1990s as an inspector and decided to stay in Oklahoma. Following her retirement, she helped longtime friends, Ray and Caroline Dodd, with their store, where they sold collectables, baseball cards, coins and China. She frequently attended local swap meets and enjoyed hunting for treasures at rummage sales.

Mary Lou had a deep love for her roots and returned to Plaza and her grandfather’s farm each summer throughout her life. She was an avid baseball card collector from high school onward and enjoyed watching and supporting her favorite teams, the Minnesota Twins and Minnesota Vikings. Additionally, she played softball and participated in local bowling leagues.

In 2023, Mary Lou packed her essentials (including her step ladder) and moved to Minot, North Dakota, to be closer to her brother and cousins. She could often be found watching The Weather Channel (on mute) while completing a crossword or Sudoku puzzle.

Mary Lou lived a fulfilling life, marked by unique experiences, including being part of groundbreaking technology. Her big smile and kind heart will be deeply missed by all who knew her.

Mary Lou is survived by her beloved brother, Walter Bloom of Minot; niece, Carmen Duvall (Dylan) of Elk River, MN; three great-nieces and two great-nephews; and many cousins.

She is preceded in death by her parents, and sister, Barbara Johnson.

Mary Lou’s funeral will be held on Wednesday, November 12, 2025, 2:00 p.m. at Langhans Funeral Home, Parshall.

Interment will be held at East Plaza Cemetery, Plaza with fellowship to follow at the Plaza Senior Citizens Center. To view memorials or leave condolences visit www.langhansfuneralhome.com.

(Langhans Funeral Home, Parshall)

Edward Lone Fight Cagáaga Cagic (Good Bird)



May 28, 1939-Nov. 1, 2025
Edward Lone Fight passed away peacefully at age 86, surrounded by family.

Born on the Fort Berthold Reservation to Maybelle Good Bird and Theodore Lone Fight, he lived his entire life in service to the Mandan, Hidatsa, and Arikara Nation: an educator, tribal chairman, language keeper, and elder whose quiet strength guided generations.

As Tribal Chairman from 1986 to 1990, Edward fought for his people’s

rights with the same careful determination he brought to everything. In 1988, he met with President Ronald Reagan, a meeting that became a catalyst for the Just Compensation Bill, which was the culmination of decades of struggle for fair compensation for lands lost to Garrison Dam. Under his leadership, the tribe established the reservation’s first dialysis center and comprehensive diabetes program, founded Mandaree Electronics and LCM Company to bring jobs home, created a solid waste disposal system across the reservation’s scattered communities, and began repatriation work to bring ancestors home. He testified before Congress, articulated the case for justice with precision and force, and helped secure resources the tribe still depends on today.

But Edward’s work extended far beyond those four years. He spent over two decades in education, earning his biology degree at Dickinson State University, among the first tribal members to do so, before completing two master’s degrees, one in education, one in public administration. He worked to transform boarding schools that had once sought to erase Indigenous identity, including his time as superintendent at Chemawa Indian School in Oregon. Later, he helped implement the Tribal Colleges Act and develop equitable funding formulas for Native schools nationwide. He returned home to guide Mandaree School, first as guidance counselor, later as superintendent, retiring in 2000 after decades of investing in young people.

Edward spoke Hidatsa fluently, opened meetings with traditional blessings, and carried himself with the dignity of someone who understood where he came from. Descended from Buffalo Bird Woman (Waheenee), the renowned Hidatsa historian and culture keeper, and from Chief Four Bears and Sheheke, prominent leaders of the Mandan people, he honored that legacy not through words but through action: language preservation, cultural revival, the quiet work of teaching anyone who asked to learn.

Those who knew him remember his warmth most. He had a way of making you feel like the most important person in the room, whether you were a tribal elder or a child asking questions. His humor arrived regularly and warmly, delivered with laughter that filled rooms. He never rushed off the phone without making you laugh. He moved between worlds with ease, traditional regalia and business suits, ceremonial grounds and congressional hearings, because he never saw them as separate, just different expressions of the same commitment.

From 1994 through 1998, Edward guided the Tribal Programs office through expansion, nurturing initiatives he’d seeded during his chairmanship. Retirement changed nothing essential as he continued arriving at ceremonies, answering calls that mattered, moving through the community with that particular gravity people had come to trust. Even from New Town in these later years, he traveled to gatherings that needed his voice, carrying forward what four decades of leadership had taught him to hold.

When his health declined, family gathered close. Prayers and songs surrounded him as he prepared for the journey home to the ancestors.

Edward Lone Fight is survived by his children, Lisa Lone Fight, Anthony Lone Fight, Karen Lone Fight and Megan Lone Fight; grandchildren, Darren Lone Fight, Eliza Yellow Bird, Spencer Lone Fight, Reed Lone Fight, Aleeya Lone Fight, Edward Schilf, Adrian Schilf, Circe Clunie; great-grandchildren, Amaria Lone Fight, Elias Lone Fight, Uriel Lone Fight, Liam Thomson, and Alorah Lone Fight; siblings, Sharon Lone Fight, Pete Lone Fight, Tana Lone Fight, and Ted Lone Fight III; and countless other relatives and friends across Indian Country.

We carry him forward in the

language being learned, in the programs still serving our communities, in the way we greet each other with warmth and care. Edward showed us how to lead by serving, how to honor tradition while building toward tomorrow, how to walk through this world with both strength and gentleness. He has gone home to the ancestors, but he remains with us in every young person learning Hidatsa, in every gathering opened with blessing, in the continuing work of justice and care he championed.

His service to his people will echo for generations.

A wake was held on November 4, 2025, at the new Mandaree High School, Mandaree, ND. Edward’s funeral was held on November 5, 2025, at the school. He was laid to rest at the Lone Fight Family Cemetery, Mandaree, ND. To view memorials or leave condolences visit www.langhansfuneralhome.com.

(Langhans Funeral Home, Parshall)

Janet Russ

Janet Russ, 83, Plaza, died Wednesday, October 29, 2025, at a Stanley nursing home.
(Springan Stevenson Funeral Home, Stanley)

Tjelde Named Director Of NDSU Williston Research Extension Center

Tyler Tjelde has been named director of the North Dakota State University Williston Research Extension Center (WREC).

In his new role, Tjelde will provide leadership and administrative oversight for the center’s agricultural research and Extension programs.

“The WREC plays a key role in advancing dryland and irrigated crop production practices for northwestern North Dakota and eastern Montana,” says Tjelde. “My former position as the WREC dryland irrigation agronomist allowed me to work closely with producers and researchers to find practical, research-based solutions. I look forward to building on that collaboration in this new leadership role.”

As director, Tjelde will oversee the center’s staff, research and educational initiatives, and collaborations with other NDSU faculty, Extension specialists and partner agencies. He will guide the development of innovative, science-based programs that address the needs of area producers and communities, including work focused on crop variety evaluation and improvement, plant disease management, cropping systems and foundation seed production.

“The Williston Research Extension Center has a long tradition of serving North Dakota agriculture through applied research and outreach,” says Marlen Eve, North Dakota Agricultural Experiment Station assistant director of field operations. “Tyler’s experience and leadership will continue that legacy and support the success of farmers, ranchers and communities across the region.”

Tjelde earned a bachelor’s degree in crop and weed science from NDSU in 2003 and a master’s degree in agronomy from Iowa State University in 2010.

Tjelde began serving in this new role on September 15.

Memorials Received By Food Pantry

The Mountrail Community Food Pantry received a donation from Mark and Penny Uran in memory of Orville Nyhus and Robert Dauwalder (from Chateau, Montana).

Donations are very appreciated and may be mailed to 6989 84th Ave NW, Stanley 58784.

ND Submits Rural Health Transformation Application Aimed At Strengthening Care In Rural Communities

Gov. Kelly Armstrong last week announced that North Dakota submitted its Rural Health Transformation Program application to the federal Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS). The application outlines how the state will invest more than \$500 million over five years to strengthen rural health care by improving access, quality and outcomes for North Dakotans in rural communities.

“North Dakota is a proud rural state. Whether you live in Beach or Belcourt, Crosby or Colfax, or anywhere in between, North Dakotans should have access to high-quality health care,” Armstrong said. “The Rural Health Transformation Program gives us an opportunity to think about ways to bring sustainable and transformational care to our rural communities. We appreciate President Trump, CMS Administrator Oz and our congressional delegation for supporting this funding that will be transformational for health care delivery in North Dakota.”

Signed into law as part of the federal One Big Beautiful Bill Act, the Rural Health Transformation Program empowers North Dakota to reimagine how rural health care is delivered and create innovative, lasting solutions that meet the needs of local communities.

The state’s application centers on four strategic initiatives: strengthening and stabilizing rural health workforce; making North Dakota healthy again with preventive care and healthy eating; bringing high-quality health care closer to home; and connecting technology, data and providers for a stronger North Dakota.

“This is a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity to strengthen rural health care delivery in North Dakota,” said Pat Traynor, interim commissioner of North Dakota Health and Human Services (HHS). “Our plan prioritizes better access to care and long-term wellness while advancing our vision to make North Dakota the healthiest state in the nation.”

Each initiative includes proposed activities supported by the funding, such as creating new workforce pipelines for rural health through expanded residencies and training programs and launching North Da-

kota Moves Together to encourage physical activity and community connection. Other initiatives include developing telehealth infrastructure for local primary, behavioral health and specialty care, and building a modern, connected statewide health care data hub.

Sarah Aker, HHS medical services executive director, said the state’s application was shaped predominantly from stakeholder feedback and support from North Dakota lawmakers.

“Our goal from the beginning was to listen first,” said Aker. “The ideas and priorities came directly from the people who know rural health care best, our residents, providers, tribal partners, community leaders and other partners across the state.”

To gather input, HHS launched a 30-day survey that received more than 1,200 responses and hosted three listening sessions attended by over 300 participants.

The federal law appropriates \$50 billion over five years, splitting half equally among all states. The other half will be given to states based on their applications and metrics that show where the funding can make the biggest health impact in rural communities.

CMS is expected to announce award decisions by December 31, 2025.

To learn more about the Rural Health Transformation Program and to review the state’s application, visit hhs.nd.gov/rural-health-transformation.



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CITY OF STANLEY - GARBAGE NOTICE

The Stanley Landfill is closed for the winter season.

The City of Stanley will have a garbage roll-off at the Public Works Building at 404 Reservoir Road available Monday through Friday from 7:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m., during the winter season, to dispose of any additional garbage for city residents only.

Construction material, metal, wood, or tires are **NOT** allowed. The roll-off is **NOT** allowed for disposal from **house renovations and/or trailer loads of garbage.**

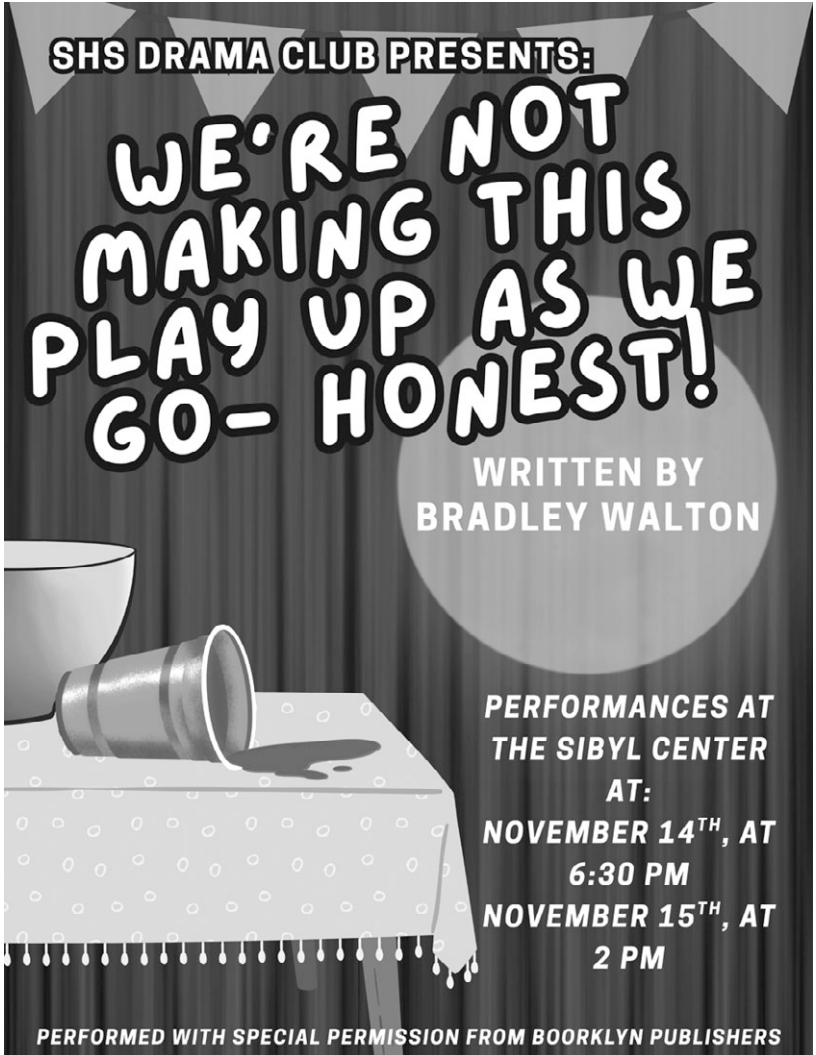
NOTICE OF ANNUAL MEETING

**The 7th Annual Meeting of the
R&T Water District will be held
at the Tioga Community Center Meeting Room,
410 6th St. NE, Tioga, ND
Monday, November 24, 2025, at 5:30 p.m.
This meeting is strictly a business meeting.
No meal will be served.
Door prizes will be awarded.
All participating members are invited to attend.**

Agenda, Bylaw Revisions and Zoom link to join the meeting
will be available at www.rtwatersupply.com



R&T Water District - PO Box 126, Ray, ND 58849 - 701-568-3422 - rtwater@nccray.net



SHS DRAMA CLUB PRESENTS:

**WE'RE NOT
MAKING THIS
PLAY UP AS WE
GO - HONEST!**

WRITTEN BY
BRADLEY WALTON

**PERFORMANCES AT
THE SIBYL CENTER
AT:
NOVEMBER 14TH, AT
6:30 PM
NOVEMBER 15TH, AT
2 PM**

PERFORMED WITH SPECIAL PERMISSION FROM BOORKLYN PUBLISHERS

MOUNTRAIL COUNTY FARMERS UNION

COUNTY CONVENTION

THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 13

6 p.m. Supper
Meeting to Follow

 **The Pines, Scout Building**
(440 Reservoir Rd, Stanley)

DOOR PRIZES!

Reports & Resolution Adoption
Bring your resolutions!

**Election of Officers &
Delegates for State Convention**
(December 12-13)

NDFU Presidential Candidate Forum

