



Donna May Johnson

Donna May Johnson passed away on March 11, 2026, at the age of 93.

A Funeral Service was held at 11 AM on Friday, March 20, 2026, at Sims Lutheran Church in rural Almont with Rev. William Dodd presiding. Burial followed at Sims Cemetery. Visitation was held from 4-6:30 PM on Thursday, March 19, 2026, at Weigel Funeral Home, Mandan, with a Prayer Service at 6:30 PM. The family greeted friends one hour prior to the service at the funeral home on Thursday.

The daughter of William "Bill" and Ragna (Olson) Knutson, Donna was born on May 28, 1932. Her family lived on a farmstead south of Almont and later at the Reichel farm. It was a time before the days of Rural Electric Co-Ops and indoor plumbing. Kerosene lamps provided light and a "pot-belly" stove using wood and coal for heat and cooking. She remembered winter mornings were chilly until the house warmed up so getting dressed was done near the stove. "We bathed in a square laundry tub or took a sponge bath using a small basin that mother, using a Norwegian expression, called a "katte vaske" cat's wash." The Knutsons moved to Almont in 1946, where Bill started a grocery store.

Donna attended school in Almont. "I carried my lunch in an empty syrup pail. We played fun games at recess, like Prisoner's Base, Pom Pom Pullaway, and Anti-over." At home, Donna accompanied her dad when he was out hunting and trapping. Indoor entertainment was spent listening to radio programs and reading books. She was the only child until, when she was seven years old, her brother, Donald, was born and later, Gary. Almont offered free street movies on Saturday night, which was a fun time for the kids. They were usually westerns or science fiction.

Donna's ambition was to be a teacher. Her

mother and her aunts were teachers. After graduating from Almont High School in 1949, she attended Dickinson State Teachers College for two years and began a teaching position in Washburn. Donna began her own family and life on a ranch marrying Joel Johnson on December 19, 1954. They moved into Joel's childhood home, north of Almont, where she assisted Joel with ranch work. The Johnsons had three children, Grant, Bryan, and Kay. Donna resumed her education attending classes, while the children were attending school in Almont, completing a Bachelor of Science degree in Education at Mary College, Bismarck in 1973. She taught at New Salem Elementary for 26 enjoyable years.

Donna will be remembered for numerous community activities, especially her 50 years as the Sims Scandinavian Lutheran Church organist. Donna and Joel were active in obtaining a "Save America's Treasures" grant for the renovation of the 1884 Sims church parsonage. This led to statewide recognition of Joel and Donna in 2008, when they were hosts to the First Lady Laura Bush (honorary chairperson of the Treasures grant) and North Dakota First Lady Mikey Hoeven. Laura Bush selected the Sims parsonage as one of the two sites during her visit to North Dakota.

Later years, Donna always enjoyed expanding her knowledge through reading every night, often on historical subjects, documentaries, and survivor stories related to the Holocaust. The Mandan library bookmobile knew Donna well and often recommended books to her.

A wonderful mother, wife, grandma, and great grandma, Donna is survived by her husband of 71 years, Joel Johnson of Almont; children, Grant (Sheri) of Almont, Bryan of Louisville, CO, and Kay (Dave) Moody of Dickinson; grandchildren, Andrew (Katarina), Nate (Ellie), Ali (Addison), Aanen (Gabrielle), and Claire; seven great-grandchildren (from 6 years to 1 week), Asher, Ailo, Kai, Jeremiah, Aanen-Joel "AJ", Ove, and Obidah "Obie"; and brother, Gary Knutson of Bismarck.

Donna was preceded in death by her parents; brother, Donald; and sister-in-law, Marti Knutson.

Ministerial Moments

Rev. Marcy Dawson

Salem UCC

There are so many things going on in the world. You can't turn on the news, open any social media page and not see all the things happening in our world. We read and see visions of war, watch as prices rise around us. Rising Gas prices, clothing and grocery prices. We hear more blaming rather than solutions. We see natural disasters, we see crime reports. We hear of the divisions among us; so much fake news, we can't decide what is true or not true. Where should we turn, what should we do? Uncertainty clouds our hearts

Paul states in Hebrews 12:2 "Fix your eyes upon Jesus, the pioneer and perfecter of our faith". When your heart fills with anxiety, when life seems confusing, turn your gaze to Jesus. Peter experienced this out on the Sea of Galilee in

Matthew. When Peter got out of the boat and tried to walk to Jesus on water, at first he seemed to walk above the water, suddenly Peter noticed the waves, noticed the wind and Peter became afraid and suddenly started to sink. Jesus reached out to him and caught him. The storm didn't change, but Peter's focus did.

At times our lives seem like we are out on a stormy sea. News and uncertainty swirl around us like the waves and wind of the storm. When we focus on only those things we become overwhelmed, it is hard to focus, we worry, we can't sleep, at times we can't eat. Which makes the storm worse. But when we look to our faith, when fix our eyes upon Jesus, when we go the Word of God, remember God's Promises, we can find comfort, we can find peace and steadiness in our life.

Morton County fatal crash

North Dakota Highway Patrol: On Friday, March 20 at 9:37 a.m., a 2004 Chevrolet Trailblazer was traveling eastbound on I-94 near mile marker 97 when the driver lost control. The vehicle entered the south ditch, overcorrected and rolled before coming to rest

in the eastbound lanes. Traffic was temporarily re-routed onto the exit while the crash scene was investigated and cleared. The driver was pronounced deceased at the scene.

The crash remains under investigation by the North Dakota State Patrol.

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REQUEST FOR BIDS

Morton County Fair Board – Request for Bids

The Morton County Fair Board is accepting bids for a concrete project at the Morton County Fairgrounds in New Salem, ND. Contractors may request the official bid packet by emailing: info@mortoncountyfair.com

Bid deadline: March 30, 2026

Morton County Fair Board reserves the right to reject any or all bids.

Published March 18, 2026

New Salem Park District JOB OPPORTUNITY

SUMMER HELP WANTED: New Salem Park District is in need of lifeguards for the pool and maintenance crew for lawn mowing and park upkeep. If you are interested, provide a letter of interest to the Park at newsalempark@outlook.com or PO Box 165, New Salem, ND 58563

Event Calendar

April Western Plains Public Health Clinics

1 Footcare and Blood Pressure at Mandan Senior Center 8:00 a.m.-11:00 a.m. Call 667-3370 for an appointment

6 Immunizations at Western Plains Public Health, call 667-3370 for an appointment

9 Footcare at Hebron Senior Center, 8:30 am-11:30 am. Call 662-3591 for an appointment

9 Footcare at Glen Ulin Senior Center, 12:30 p.m.- 1:30 p.m. call 622-3591 for an appointment

8 Footcare and Blood Pressure at Mandan Senior Center 8:00 a.m.-11:00 a.m. Call 667-3370 for an appointment

13 Immunizations at Western Plains Public Health, call 667-3370 for an appointment

15 Footcare and Blood Pressure at Mandan

March Western Plains Public Health Clinics

30 Immunizations at Western Plains Public Health in Mandan. Call 667-3370 for an appointment.

Senior Center 8:00 a.m.-11:00 a.m. Call 667-3370 for an appointment

15 Footcare and Blood Pressure at Library Square, Mandan 1:00 p.m.- 2:30 p.m. call 667-3370 for appointment

20 Immunizations at Western Plains Public Health, call 667-3370 for an appointment

21 Footcare and Blood Pressure for Seniors 60 and older at Elm Crest Manor, New Salem 9:00 am- 10:30 am. Call 667-3370 for appointment

22 Footcare and Blood Pressure at Mandan Senior Center 8:00 a.m.-11:00 a.m. Call 667-3370 for an appointment

27 Immunizations at Western Plains Public Health, call 667-3370 for an appointment

29 Footcare and Blood Pressure at Mandan Senior Center 8:00 a.m.-11:00 a.m. Call 667-3370 for an appointment

Almont Board of Equalization Meeting

The City of Almont will hold its Board of Equalization meeting April 6, 2026, at 7:30 p.m. at the city hall.

Have a meeting notice? Email Us at mcjournal@gspublishing.net to have it featured in the community calendar!

MORTON COUNTY

Golden Age Menu

THURSDAY MARCH 26

Meatloaf or Liver & Onions, Baked Potato, Green Beans, Tropical Fruit

FRIDAY MARCH 27

Parmesan Crusted Fish, Rice Pilaf, Coleslaw, Pineapple

MONDAY MARCH 30

BBQ Pork on a Bun, Potato Wedges, Macaroni Salad, Apricots

TUESDAY MARCH 31

Easter Dinner

Roast Turkey, Mashed Potatoes/Gravy, Carrots, Cranberry Sauce, Easter Egg, Angel Food Cake w/Strawberries and Cream

WEDNESDAY APRIL 1

Polish Sausage, Kneophla & Kraut, Green Beans, Applesauce

Call 701.663.6528 to have meals delivered to you if you are 60 or older

FARMER'S LUMBER & GAMBLES

Will host their annual meeting

Saturday 3/28 at 2 pm

(Meeting inside Gambles)

Beverage and Snack will be provided.