

AREA DEATHS



DIANE LENGENFELDER

After a 10-year struggle with Alzheimer’s Disease, Diane Lengenfelder passed away amid prayer and hymns, surrounded by her children at 1:42 am on Saturday, October 25th.

Diane was born June 4, 1944 in Braddock, North Dakota. The eldest of five siblings, she grew up working on the family farm, tending to the younger children, and the duties of a rugged, rural life.

In 1954, the family moved to Steele, North Dakota. Diane graduated salutatorian from Steele High School in 1962. After graduation, she spent a year with the Sisters of St. Joseph in St. Paul, MN, taking courses at St. Catherin’s College. The sisters ran a tight ship. Days at the convent began at 4:00 AM and having difficulty sleeping since childhood, this early schedule quickly took its toll on Diane’s health. After finishing up the year, she lived with her grandparents in Bismarck, North Dakota, selling apparel at Opgrans, a high-end clothing boutique downtown.

While completing a delivery to a regular customer, Diane met John Lengenfelder. Diane was more the quiet type but also friendly and despite being a farm girl who wasn’t afraid to get her hands dirty, she was also lady-like, academically brilliant, and quick-witted. John was attracted to her gentle femininity and motherly qualities. After dating six months the couple was married on September 13, 1964 at St. Francis de Sales Catholic Church in Steele, ND. Soon after, they would begin their lives as parents.

Diane was highly intelligent and loved reading about heady topics. Her brilliant and bright mind was able to grasp the deepest scientific and spiritual insights, and she never grew tired of diving deep into God’s realities. She was obsessed over books. Everytime the kids went with her to the mall they tried keeping her away from bookstores. If she got so much as a whiff of ink, it meant at least an hour or two of waiting around while she happily scavenged the clearance section. Many long hours were spent in libraries,

including the Benedictine Library at the University of Mary, just outside of Bismarck.

Eventually John built Diane a large bookcase to house her huge collection of conquered materials. Within that collection one could find topics such as physics, theology, theoretical science, world religions, psychology, symbolism, phenomenology, and everything in-between.

Whenever Diane had time between cooking, cleaning, helping other people, and chasing after all the kids, she could be found with her nose in a book. She never lost her love of learning. She could be found, even late at night, doing her research, with a book in hand, a pen in her ear, and papers covered in notes. Even while she washed the dishes or folded the laundry, she would be lost in her deep thoughts, having barely audible conversations with herself.

Diane enjoyed sewing, beautifying her home, and crafting. From the year 2000 to 2010, Diane and daughter, Maria Wanchic, owned and operated a wedding decor business together named, Lamplighter Decor and Rental. Dad often got stuck with the building projects, creating archways, pillars, and backdrops. With Diane’s special touches, they always turned out beautifully.

Diane’s greatest joy in life was practicing the Catholic faith. She studied Mariology and was very devoted to the Virgin Mary. She ceaselessly promoted the revelations of Mary at Fatima, Portugal and taught her children the rosary and to pray for world peace. She took an active role in the Fatima Family Apostolate and Blue Army (World Aspostalate of Fatima).

Diane taught her children life lessons through her quiet faith. She taught self-sacrifice and was a shining example of long-suffering, fortitude, and patience. Whenever there were troubles, she turned to God in prayer. Through the tough times, she remained faithful and loyal to her marriage and family unit. Although she could have graduated with multiple degrees and followed a path of worldly success, she gave that up to be a wife, homemaker, and lovingly raise seven children.

Diane is survived by her husband of 61 years, John F. Lengenfelder, sons, Steven Lengenfelder, Kevin (Lynda) Lengenfelder, John Scott Lengenfelder, Kris (Rebecca) Lengenfelder, Robert Lengenfelder, daughters, Maria (Eric) Wanchic, and Melissa Stegmiller (Jorey Kartez), siblings, Janice (Jim) Hoge, Lois Materi, Blanche Materi, Duane (Mary) Materi, and many grandchildren and great-grandchildren. Diane is preceded in death by her parents, Peter and Rozanne Materi, brother, Roger Materi, and son, David Lengenfelder.



“NICK” NICHOLAS JAHNKE

It is with heavy hearts that we announce the passing of Nicholas “Nick” Jahnke 75, of Sterling, ND, who was our wonderful Husband, Father, and Grandfather who passed away peacefully in the early morning hours of 10-30-25 with his wife, daughter, and granddaughter at his side after a brief illness.

He was born in Fargo to Kenneth & Ruth Roden Jahnke. He joined an older brother & sister! He grew up in Casselton, graduated from Casselton High School where he enjoyed playing football and getting into trouble every once in a while.

He went to work for the Great Northern Railroad right out of high school for a short time till he enlisted in the Navy in June of ‘69 and served on the USS Girdley ship (DLG-27) till Feb. 1973 when he was honorably discharged. He went back to work for the BNSF railroad for 40-plus years. Then retired and enjoyed spending time with his friends and his Bud Light. He enjoyed fishing & hunting with his hunting dogs whom he loved dearly!

He married Patricia (Patty) Stroh Tappen, ND, his lifelong wife of 48 1/2years on March 4th, 1977. To this union one daughter was born, Nicole Ann. In 2005 he got a granddaughter who was his pride & joy Tobie. He was proud of his family.

He is survived by his wife Patty, daughter Nicole and granddaughter Tobie, his in-laws Dennis & Yvonne Fike, Karen Bodvig, Tammie & Don Meidinger, Shannon & Bruce Thorsness, Dean & Twyla Stroh, Shelly Puklich (Brent Job), Kent Stroh, (Thi Trang Nguen), and many nieces & nephews.

He was preceded in death by his grandparents, parents Kenneth & Ruth, his brother Kenny, sister Debbie, and many aunts & uncles. His mother-in-law and his father-in-law Harold and Delores Stroh, his brother-in-law Rodney Bodvig, and Patty’s grandparents and his furry hunting buddies.

As Nick always said: “Ten or twelve more and I’m out of here!”

Private services & burial will be held at a later date. There will be no viewing as cremation has taken place. A time of sharing will be at Flash’s Place in Sterling on Nov. 15, 2025, at 2:00 p.m.

Memorials can be made to Furry Friends Rockin’ Rescue P.O. Box 7364 Bismarck, 58507 or St. Jude’s Children’s Hospital Rest in peace, my Nick, you will be loved & missed forever!

Visit www.eastgatefuneral.com to share memories and sign the online guestbook.

Public Notice

October 2025 City Council Meeting Minutes of the City Council of Steele, North Dakota Held on October 13, 2025 In the Steele Community Building

*Mayor Jon Harter called the meeting to order at 7:00 PM

*Roll Call

Present: Jon Harter, Stuart Blotter, Jorey Kartes, Luke Reski, Jason Rutledge, Josh Rode, Bob Anderson

Also Present: Leigh Nolan, Wendlin Rohrich, Jason Grzadzieleski, Norm Fries, April Rutledge

*Motion by Jorey Kartes, seconded by Josh Rode to approve the agenda - Motion Carried

*Motion by Jason Rutledge, seconded by Jorey Kartes to approve the minutes from the September 8, 2025 regular meeting – Motion Carried

*Motion by Jorey Kartes, seconded by Jason Rutledge to agree with the Sales Tax Committee to approve a \$ 35,000.00 grant to Lil Rascal’s Daycare (Michell Pfaff) for sewer connections – Motion Carried

*Wendlin Rohrich presented the police report.

*Motion by Stuart Blotter, seconded by Bob Anderson to approve the second reading of Ordinance 177 (allow licensed golf carts in city limits) – Roll Call Vote: Josh Rode yes, Luke Reski yes, Stuart Blotter yes, Jorey Kartes yes, Jason Rutledge yes – Motion Carried

*City employees reported on the water plant, curbstop repair, new meters, ditches, and the purchase of a city vehicle.

*Mary Rohrich presented the Community Coordinator report.

*Motion by Josh Rode, seconded by Bob Anderson to approve building permits for Alvin Braun, and Barry Vanetta – Motion Carried

*Motion by Stuart Blotter, seconded by Bob Anderson to deny the building permit for a corrugated structure - Roll Call Vote: Jason Rutledge yes, Jorey Kartes yes, Stuart Blotter yes, Bob Anderson yes, Luke Reski yes, Josh Rode yes – Motion Carried

*Motion by Jason Rutledge, seconded by Jorey Kartes to approve a gaming permit for Steele County Winter Fest – Motion Carried

*Motion by Jorey Kartes, seconded by Stuart Blotter to approve the financial report - Motion Carried.

*Motion by Josh Rode, seconded by Jason Rutledge to approve the tree grant application (up to a \$ 25,000.00 grant, city cost is \$ 5,000.00; the city

pays the entire \$ 30,000.00 then will be reimbursed \$ 25,000.00) – Motion Carried

*Jon Harter and Luke Reski reported on the League of Cities meeting they attended.

*Motion by Josh Rode, seconded by Luke Reski to approve the installation of a meshtastic antenna on the water tower provided it does not interfere with any city or county services – Motion Carried

*Next meeting on November 10, 2025 at 7:00 PM

*Motion by Josh Rode, seconded by Bob Anderson to adjourn – Motion Carried.

Checks 16356 - 16406

General Fund

KEM.....	\$ 202.49
MDU.....	1,890.42
Salaries Less Deductions	7,758.49
Verizon	84.55
Hetland Law Office.....	387.00
City Water Dept.....	166.89
Ecolab	196.78
BEK.....	391.13
Farmers & Merchants	737.33
Information Technology.....	37.00
Rath & Mehrer	11,000.00
Norm Fries	75.91
Choice Insurance.....	9,903.00
Code 4	5,883.40
CB&T.....	778.09
ND State Tax.....	479.00
Karen Brandt.....	22.63

Water Department

MDU.....	\$ 1,664.37
Salaries Less Deductions	3,068.19
Hawkins	5,721.88
ND One Call	15.00
DSG.....	187.15
BEK.....	211.24
ND Dept of Health.....	54.00
H2O Innovations.....	5,591.09

Sewer Department

MDU.....	\$125.79
----------	----------

Garbage Department

Strom Sanitation.....	\$16,395.68
Gary Magstadt.....	333.33

Street Department

Salaries Less Deductions	\$7,291.01
Visa/Northland.....	5,079.15
Aflac.....	229.49
Farmers & Merchants	1,146.06
CB&T.....	532.87
Starion Bond	46,127.50
Kal’s Inc.....	15,690.00
Highmark Dirtworks.....	1,916.82

Sales Tax

MDU.....	\$7.58
City of Steele.....	25,579.72
Bank of ND	\$ 4,469.38

/s/ Jon Harter
Mayor
/s/ Norm Fries
City Auditor

STEELE, ND INSTANT INTERVIEWS

COME FOR COFFEE LEAVE WITH A JOB

TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 11TH
10 A.M.–7 P.M.
WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 12TH
7 A.M.–2 P.M.

Starting Pay
Increased To:
\$17-\$19
Per Hour

In addition to the store positions, we will also be holding Truck Service Interviews if someone with mechanical experience or even an interest would like to interview. \$20-\$25 DOE + Commission

MEDICARE BENEFITS?

I can help!

Simmers Agency 701-220-3251