

NEWS/OBITUARIES



Clinton Kurtz
December 16, 1938 — January 05, 2026

Clinton D. Kurtz, age 87 of Norwood Young Amer-

ica passed away Monday January 5, 2026 at The Haven in Norwood Young America. Former owner/president of Citizen State Bank in Norwood Young America. Funeral 11 a.m., Saturday, January 10, 2026 at Church Of Peace (424 Franklin Street N.) in Norwood Young America with Rev. Dale Inman as officiant. Visitation held AT THE CHURCH Saturday from 9 a.m. until the time of the service. Interment in the Forest Hill Cemetery. Livestream will be available at: [https://www.face-](https://www.face-book.com/churchofpeacenya/)

[book.com/churchofpeacenya/](https://www.face-book.com/churchofpeacenya/) In lieu of flowers, memorials are preferred. Clint is preceded in death by his parents, Henry and Irene Kurtz; daughter, Susan Kurtz; sisters, Beverly Slotten, Rosemary Hagen; father-in-law and mother-in-law, Norman and Louise Nelson; brothers-in-law, George Schaffhausen, Chuck Nelson, Ken Nelson. Clint is survived by his loving family: wife Pat Kurtz; sons, Tom (Pam) Kurtz of Waconia, Steve (Kim) Kurtz of Hamburg; grandchildren,

Cortney (Luke) Minger, Katherine Kurtz, Kylie Kurtz (special friend: Zack Hughes), Ryan Kurtz, Kendra Kurtz, Andrew Kurtz; great-grandchildren, Teddy and Charlie Minger; sister, Jocyelyn Schaffhausen; sisters-in-law, and brothers-in-law, Virginia and Lynn Marr, Larry and Corinne Nelson, Russ Slotten, Art Hagen; nieces, nephews, other relatives and many dear friends. Arrangements are with the Johnson Funeral Home in Waconia. 952-442-2121 www.johnsonfh.com

Relatives take sides as accusations and denials pile up

DEAR ABBY: I'm a 51-year-old mother and grandmother whose kids don't talk to me. The reason: My son, "Aaron," was sexually assaulted by his friend, "Eli," and I told him his friend was no longer allowed to come over. I spoke to Eli's mother. She told me she'd take care of it and agreed the two shouldn't hang out. They were both underage at the time. (Aaron was 10, and Eli was 13.)

A few months later, Aaron told me that it wasn't Eli but his own uncle "Joe" who sexually assaulted him. I knew better. I talked to Joe and, of course, he knew nothing. I told Aaron to stop lying about his uncle and that Eli still couldn't come over.

Aaron is an adult now, and he's got his siblings believing him about his uncle, and he's still friends with Eli. My husband and I moved next door to Joe, and now all the kids have blocked me from their and their kids' lives. When I tried to talk to Aaron about the situation, he blocked me completely. Joe knows nothing about what's going on. How do I get back into my children's and grandkids' lives? — TURNED UPSIDE DOWN

DEAR TURNED: Could the boys have been experimenting with getting familiar with their bodies when all this occurred? Did you see something and confront your son and he admitted it? Aaron may have blamed Uncle Joe because he wanted to continue seeing Eli. Or ... was his accusation TRUE? You will not be able to heal the schism in your family until everyone is in agreement about what really happened when Aaron was 10.

DEAR ABBY: My older brother, age 70, is making his estate plans with his partner. We have no other siblings or children. I told him I'm financially



ABIGAIL VAN BUREN

secure and don't need him to leave me anything, but he insisted on having my Social Security number, saying it's needed for beneficiary bequests. I called him back before disclosing the information, because I wanted to make sure it was really him.

He later called me and asked for my passport number because his partner has assets in China, and the paperwork required more information. That was too much information for me, and I asked him to take me out of his bequests entirely. He fussed about having to contact the lawyer and change the trust information but said he would take care of it. Now, he's no longer speaking to me.

Abby, my brother never disclosed that he would need anything beyond a Social Security number. Should I feel guilty about the added expense of editing his trust? — TROUBLEMAKER SIS IN TEXAS

DEAR SIS: You should absolutely NOT feel guilty for refusing to reveal the information your brother was requesting! Are you SURE it was your brother calling and asking for this highly personal information and not a scammer? I ask because a beneficiary's Social Security number and/or passport number is NOT REQUIRED when someone is being mentioned in a will, and I think you may have dodged a bullet.

Dear Abby is written by Abigail Van Buren, also known as Jeanne Phillips, and was founded by her mother, Pauline Phillips. Contact Dear Abby at www.DearAbby.com or P.O. Box 69440, Los Angeles, CA 90069.



Charles "Pat" Mahrer
August 05, 1946 — January 08, 2026

Charles Patrick "Pat" Mahrer, age 79, entered into his eternal rest on January 8, 2026. Pat was born to Charles "Chuck" and Ellen (Oland) Mahrer in Britton, SD. He was raised in Forman along with his sisters Rita, Pam, and Candy. He graduated in 1964 from Sargent Central High School in Forman, ND. In 1965, the family moved to Hankinson where he worked for his dad at the gravel pit by Lake Elsie. That same year, on a fateful Friday evening, Pat noticed a certain young gal walking with her friend in the cool fall air and offered them a ride in his 1962 Chevy Super Sport (white with red interior). It was love at first sight. Linda loved that car-and soon, she and Pat were insepara-

ble. So began a love story for the ages. Pat and Linda were engaged on Christmas Eve and married at St. Philip's Catholic Church in Hankinson, ND, on July 6, 1966. They made their family home in Hankinson. Pat's life was distinguished by service to others: his family, his country, and his community. Family was first. Pat and Linda raised three boys and created many happy memories with them: trail riding, camping, boating, fishing, hunting, and riding in the truck. They would later share many of these pastimes with their beloved grandchildren. He was extremely proud of his three boys, grandchildren, and great-grandchildren and left them a legacy of valuable lessons: steadfastness, hard work, faith, and unconditional love. Pat loved and was loved by his extended family. To Pat, family were friends and friends were family. He always had time for a cold beverage and a visit on the patio. Pat was exceptionally proud of his military service. In March of 1966, he was drafted into the United States Marines (Semper Fi). Pat was wounded in combat in Vietnam and awarded the Purple Heart. In the Marines, he found

a family of brothers with whom he would share an indivisible bond. Upon his return to Hankinson, Pat continued to serve. He was a member of the Community Betterment Club, Hankinson Centennial Committee, and St. Philip's parish where Pat served on the pastoral council, ushered, and assisted Linda with the Catholic Youth Organization (CYO). A lifetime member of Disabled American Veterans, Military Order of the Purple Heart, and the Hankinson American Legion Eberhard Post 88, Pat spent countless volunteer hours working at the Hankinson American Legion Memorial Site, a memorial for his brothers in service. Pat spent most of his working life in the family business, Mahrer Construction, later Bernard Mahrer Construction. Later, he ran the motor grader for Brightwood Township and helped as an equipment operator at Falk Drilling. He was a hard worker and proud of the work he did. Pat enjoyed retirement. As a matter of fact, he enjoyed it so much that he retired three times. This was a special time for Pat and Linda when they spent several winters "down south" making many special friends who

would occasionally come visit them "up north." Those who will continue to share his story include his beloved redhead and wife of 59 years, Linda; his children Chad (Christy), Jason (Stacy), and Chris (Kristi); grandchildren Austin (Michaela), Ethan (Chantel), Dylan (Krissi), Emily (Zach) Vollan, Jordan (Hailey), and Sydney; great-grandchildren Preston, Zealand, Charlee, and Nova; step-grandchildren, step-great grandchildren; sisters Rita (Jerry) Wohler, Pam (Mark) Olson, and Candy (Wally) Kath; sister-in-law Judy (Bill) Mayo; many relatives and friends, and a well-loved and slightly-spoiled pup named Cruz. He was preceded in death by his parents, Chuck and Ellen Mahrer; and his in-laws, Henry and Faye Krump. Visitation will be held Thursday, January 15, 2026 at St. Francis Convent Chapel, 102 6th St., SE, Hankinson, ND, from 9 to 11 a.m., with a funeral mass at 11 a.m. A luncheon will follow at Hankinson Community Center, 112 Main Avenue South. A burial service with full military honors will be held at a later date. Online guestbook: www.frankfamilyfuneralhome.com

DAKOTA DATEBOOK

George Defender, Bronc Rider

BY MERRY HELM
Dakota Datebook

January 14, 2026 – The annual Cowboys Reunion Rodeo started out somewhat accidentally at the first Mercer County Fair in 1915. Among the exhibits was a shorthorn bull, and Frank Chase of Fort Berthold decided he wanted to ride it – which he did. The crowd was impressed and passed a hat, and Chase walked away with \$30.

It was the first rodeo event in Beulah, and in the following three years, rodeos became an annual event there.

Ed Boland described how it all began: "One day during the month of August, I was mowing along the creek when A.

D. Brown, the newspaper editor, and George Slowey, an area businessman, came driving across the flat in a shiny new contraption. They stated their mission flatly – 'Could we stage a rodeo at Beulah the following month?' ... When they left some two hours later, the foundation had been laid for the now famous Cowboys Reunion Rodeo.

One of the riders in that first year was George Defender. He was born in South Dakota in 1891 and started working as a "rough string" rider for the DZ Cattle Company at Standing Rock when he was 16.

Most of George's spectacular rides never got into the record

books. One of these was a first-place win in Montana at the 1914 Miles City Roundup. The Roundup was one of the biggest rodeos on the circuit, and Defender quickly earned a reputation as a top bronc rider. He competed all over the continent, including wins at Madison Square Garden and the Calgary Stampede. At one point, he was a finalist for the world championship as all-around cowboy.

George also competed in wild horse races, bulldogging, wild cow

milking, bareback riding, calf roping, relay races and buffalo riding. His ranch was on the Standing Rock Reservation, but he later worked in Arizona after contracting tuberculosis. In 1932, he was injured during a roundup in New England, North Dakota, and it was on this date in 1933 that he died at Fort Yates. He was inducted into the North Dakota Rodeo Hall of Fame in 2001.


See all the Dakota Datebooks at prairie-public.org.

LIDGERWOOD RURAL AMBULANCE SERVICE

LIDGERWOOD RURAL AMBULANCE DISTRICT

ANNUAL & QUARTERLY MEETING

Thursday, January 22nd, 2026 7:00 PM



Agenda

1. Call to Order
2. Squad Leader Report
3. Election of Two Board Members
4. Old Business
5. New Business
6. Adjournment

We had 33 runs and \$370 donations in the 4th quarter.

***Next regular board meeting will be March 19th, 2026

Bre'Anna Gleason, Business Manager

Lidgerwood Rural Ambulance Service

HANKINSON

5:00 PM TO 8:00 PM

TAKE OUTS START 4:00 PM

ADULTS \$20 | KIDS 7-12 \$10

7 & UNDER FREE

FISH FRY

SATURDAY

JANUARY 17TH, 2026

- CASH BAR
- MEAT RAFFLES
- BINGO
- GUN BOARD



HANKINSON COMMUNITY CENTER

HOSTED BY HANKINSON FIRE DEPARTMENT

St. Jude Novena

To St. Jude, Holy St. Jude, Apostle and Martyr, great in virtue and rich in Miracles, near kinsman and Jesus Christ, faithful intercessor of all who invoke your special patronage in time of need.

To you I have recourse from the depths of my heart and humbly beg to who God had given such great power to come to my assistance.

Help me in my present and urgent petition. In return I promise to make known your name and cause you to be involved. St. Jude, Pray for us and all who invoke your aid.

Amen

Say three (3) Our Fathers, three (3) Hail Mary's and Glory Be.

Publication must be promised. My request has been granted.

Say this Novena on nine (9) consecutive days.



66th Annual RRVCC COIN SHOW AND SALE

Jan. 23, 24 & 25, 2026

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www.redrivervalleycoinclub.org

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