

# Obituaries

## Bethany Brianna Bartlett

Oct. 5, 1931 - Dec. 14, 2005

Bethany Brianna Bartlett was born Shirley Ramona Sieleman on Oct. 5, 1931, in Kansas City, Kan., to Steven John Sieleman and Maude Irene Yockey Sieleman. She had two brothers: James Dean Sieleman and Forrest Tucker Sieleman. The family lived in Shawnee Mission and Kansas City, where she attended elementary and secondary school.

Bethany's father grew up in a Catholic home but her mother's family was Protestant. With the conflicts in belief in the home, her parents dealt with religion by not dealing with religion — a non-Christian home. Neighbors and a school friend were faithful to invite and take Bethany to church. At church, Bethany found a special kind of family that met a longing in her heart. During these years, Bethany received Jesus as her Savior and was baptized at Country Club Christian Church when she was 8-years old.

Before her senior year, her family moved to Clinton, Mo., where she met her husband, John Lee Bartlett. The two were married in Clinton on June 24, 1950. To this union were born four children: John Lee, II, Rebecca, Rachelle and Karissa.

John and Bethany served the church in Springfield, Mo., Zeoring, Iowa; Selma, Calif., Salem, Ore., and St. Francis, where they moved in 1967.

While in St. Francis, John pastored at the First Christian Church until his retirement in 1993. Bethany had several outstanding spiritual gifts that she used to benefit the body of Christ. She had the gift of helps, working behind the scenes doing tasks that freed others up to better utilize their own spiritual gifts. One way she did this was by finding people to serve as greeters or to share a special music selection for the church's worship service. She really enjoyed asking people who hadn't been to church for awhile to serve as greeters. Bethany loved being a part of the church body so much that she believed if others could just get involved in the church again, it would minister to them and to others. She wanted others to be blessed the same way she was.

Another spiritual gift was administration. Bethany had an uncanny ability to keep track of important moments in other people's lives. She would keep John apprised of days that were likely to be difficult for someone, so that he could call on them. Many needs in the church were met because of Bethany's obedience to the Holy Spirit in this area. Discernment of spirits was another gift that she had and used to serve the body of Christ. She would receive knowledge from the Holy Spirit when something was not right. In one particular situation, a con artist came to town. When this person called for John, Bethany answered the phone and knew instantly that this person had evil attached to him. She told John to be careful with this person.

Bethany was a bold person. She had learned throughout the years that when God put something on her heart, she'd better obey fast. At one point, there were quite a few of the young people in the church who had believed in Jesus but never publicly professed Christ as Saviour nor followed through by being baptized. Compelled to do so, she wrote a personal letter to each young person. One hundred percent of the young people responded by public profession and baptism. Her boldness showed up in other ways, too. She wasn't afraid to be different if the situation warranted it. In the 1990s, she decided to change her name to better reflect the person God had remade her to be when she

became born again in Christ. She changed her name at that time from Shirley Ramona to Bethany Brianna. Bethany Brianna means "strong house of God."

Bethany loved her Lord and Savior. She loved to worship Him through the singing of hymns and spiritual songs, through the taking of communion and by being a part of the body of Christ. She loved showing hospitality to others by serving meals on beautifully decorated tables. She collected dishes and had over 60 complete sets. She enjoyed playing bridge with friends and often had them over to share a meal first. She thoroughly enjoyed her beautiful home. It was remodeled with much volunteer labor from friends and family, both biological and church. She decorated it with the purple violets that she loved, filled it with dishes, friends and family. She and John delighted in watching the birds feed at the feeders outside their wall of windows in the family room. They enjoyed watching and listening to the squirrels who played in their backyard garden sanctuary. Bethany also loved Herb Albert and the Tijuana Brass. A highlight of her life was meeting Herb Albert and getting a hug from him at a concert in Denver.

After her children were mostly raised, Bethany became office manager of the Good Samaritan Village. She served in that capacity for 20 years, two of which were after she became legally blind, due to diabetes.

As diabetes took her vision, cancer took a toll on her body. Originally, her desire was to fight cancer. However, several days before they were informed of test results, Bethany knew that she was going to go home to heaven soon and she began to prepare the family to be ready. When Dr. Rubinowitz let her know that chemotherapy held no further hope for her fight with cancer, she told her husband, "I want to go home." Hospice was called. Granddaughter Abby and Jason Howard brought their daughter, Gloria, and their puppy, Buddy, to stay with John and Bethany in the home and help care for Bethany. John said that the puppy was for him and the great-granddaughter was for Bethany. It was there in the family room with loved ones near that death's song was played by ear. Bethany watchful and listening for the approach of eternity. Bethany was peaceful, but moving away from this earthly realm. On Dec. 14, 2005, Bethany died.

God's plan for His children is that they leave a legacy to the generations that follow. Bethany came from the beginnings of a non-Christian home to be the matriarch of a family that has a minister as the patriarch, four children and spouses who are deeply involved in music ministry and helps ministry in their own churches, grandchildren who are involved in ministry in their churches including three pastors. Bethany and John began a dynasty of the strong house of God.

She was preceded in death by her

parents, Steve and Irene Sieleman, her brother, Jim, and granddaughter, Erin Moore.

She will be missed by her husband, John; her children: Jay and Margie Bartlett of Springfield; Rebecca and Scott Wiley of Highlands Ranch, Colo.; Chelly and Roger Moore of St. Francis; Karissa and Steven Wilhoft of Parsons; 12 grandchildren: Jason, Jeremy, and Sarah Bartlett; Gina Orcut and husband, Ted, Missouri; Janessa and Alex Jordan; Abby Howard and husband, Jason; Hannah and Katie Moore; Jonathan, Violet, and Liesl Wilhoft of Parsons; three step-grandchildren: Aaron Garcia, and husband; Braden and Calissa Wiley; and four great-grandchildren: Gloria Howard, Delton Orcutt, Kyla Adams and Emma Leigh Garcia; one brother, Forrest Sieleman, a special cousin who was like a sister to her, Darlene Johnson and her husband, Bob, and many friends and church family.

A Celebration of Life was held on Dec. 17, at the First Christian Church in St. Francis with Pastor Tony Christians officiating.

Interment was at Clough Valley Cemetery,

Arrangements by Knodel Funeral Home.

## Letha Alberta Redden

May 7, 1937 - Jan. 9, 2006

Letha Alberta Redden was born May 7, 1937, in Bucklin, Kan., to James H. and Jessie M. (Scotfield) Wright. After a hard-fought battle with cancer she died on Monday, Jan. 9, 2006.

Her family moved to St. Francis in 1947. Letha attended St. Francis Community High School. She married Frank David Redden on July 17, 1954, in St. Francis. She was a member of the First Assembly of God Church in McCook, Neb.

She had worked in local restaurants. Letha took great joy in her family especially singing gospel hymns and playing cards with her brothers.

She was preceded in death by her parents; infant children, Gailen and Brenda; son, Glenn; a sister, Darline Welch; a brother, Wayne and sister-in-law Mary Wright.

Survivors include her husband, Frank of Indianola, Neb.; three sons, Geary and wife, Patricia of Imperial, Neb., Timothy Redden and Tammie Marts of McCook, and Terry Redden of Kearney, Neb.; three brothers, Leon Wright and wife, Sarah of Indianola, David and wife, Jenny of St. Francis and Keith and wife, Judy of Hutchinson; one brother-in-law, Dale Welch of Hutchinson; one sister, Nadine Workman and husband, Charles of Haigler; three grandsons; and one granddaughter.

Services were Friday, Jan. 13, at the First Assembly of God Church in McCook with the Reverend Eddie Wright officiating. Interment was in the Haigler Cemetery on Monday, Jan. 16.

Friends and family can leave condolences at www.carpenterbreland.com. Memorials are being accepted in her name.

## Student News

### Fort Hays State University

Kelsey Dunn, a 2005 St. Francis Community High School graduate, and a Fort Hays State University sophomore, has accepted a \$250 Katherine Rogers Scholarship for the 2005-06 academic year at Fort Hays State University.

Dunn, the daughter of Melvin and Barb Dunn, St. Francis, is majoring in communications.

### Barton County Community College

Jill Zumbahlen of Bird City is among the 189 students named to the dean's list for the fall 2005 semester at Barton County Commu-

nity College.

To qualify for this honor, students must have been enrolled in a minimum of 12 credit hours and maintained a grade point average of 3.5 to 3.99 on a 4.0 scale.

### Johnson County Community College

Brooke Lucas, a 2005 St. Francis Community High School graduate, has been named to the dean's list at Johnson County Community college for the fall 2005 semester.

To be eligible for this list, a student must be enrolled in at least 12 hours and earn a grade point average between 3.5 and 3.99.



**RAUL WOLF** cooks up another special dish at the Haigler Cafe. Along with his wife, Cathy, the restaurant is at full steam. *Herald staff photo by Casey McCormick*

# Haigler Cafe reopens with a variety of items on the menu

## By Casey McCormick

Local diners have a new choice of where to eat. The Haigler Cafe has opened.

Owners Raul and Cathy Wolf, of Wray, are operating the restaurant located just 25 minutes north of St. Francis.

The Haigler Cafe is open seven days a week and has a large variety of items on the menu. Breakfast is served all day.

"We're like a Denny's," Mr. Wolf said. "You can have breakfast any time."

Senior meals are also featured at the restaurant. The senior menu has one Mexican selection as well as several continental choices. The meal includes a choice of fruit or

juice and choice of coffee, tea or 2-percent milk. The price is \$3.50 for guests 60-years-old or above.

Mr. Wolf grew up in Mexico City and serves authentic Mexican dishes.

"We have some Mexican meals for breakfast, lunch and dinner," Mr. Wolf said.

Mr. and Mrs. Wolf are not new to the restaurant business. They have run the Riverside Restaurant in Wray for several years. Their children are running the Wray restaurant while the parents put their energy into the Haigler location.

Along with the full Mexican menu and daily specials, the cafe offers pancakes, waffles, French toast and omelets for breakfast.

Lunch features sandwiches, burgers and open-faced sandwiches. Dinner items include chicken fried steaks, grilled chicken and hamburger steaks. Lighter meals are available for any ages.

Following the meal, the Haigler Cafe has a variety of desserts. Choices include deep fried ice cream, Bunuelos, strawberry crepes, sundaes and root beer floats.

The Haigler Cafe is open from 5 a.m. to 8 p.m. on weekdays. Saturday and Sunday hours are from 6 a.m. to 2 p.m. It is located on the north side of U.S. 34. The phone number is 308-297-3330.

"We're a mom and pop operation," Mrs. Wolf said. "We look forward to seeing you."

## Club Clips

### Cheyenne County Historical Society

"Gusts to Dust" was the topic of the program given by Lucille Rossbach for the January Cheyenne County Historical Society meeting on Tuesday, Jan. 10.

"I had this deep desire to not only teach my students how to write, but also how to research the history of their community," Mrs. Rossbach said.

She had promised her superintendent (of the Idalia School system) that it wouldn't cost the school any money and he gave her the permission to proceed. Her students wrote the first book that year called "Gusts to Dust." Mrs. Rossbach told about the pride the students felt when they were invited to "The Tattered Book" store, in Denver, to do a signing of their books. She said the community helped with expenses. Mrs. Rossbach told about the grants she had written to also help cover costs.

For three years different students wrote a book. They have "Gusts to Dust," volume I, II, III.

### Newsletter

The current Historical Society newsletter sent to members contains events that are happening as well as some history taken from old newspapers. However, some of the board had been approached by several people who wanted the newsletter to have only the upcoming activities and events happening now. If anyone was interested in the history from old newspapers, they could read about them in *The Herald* or *Bird City Times*. Even though not everyone has access to the old newspapers nor do they have time, the group voted to take the history out of the Society's newsletters.

### Memberships

In the last quarter of 2005, nine new members joined the Historical Society.

Memberships for 2006 are now due. Any donations of over \$25 will receive a membership for one year. Those joining yearly will pay \$7.50 per person or couples can join for \$12.50. Lifetime memberships are \$200.

### In other business

In other business:  
• A check-out system for books at

the museum to be set up.

• A clean-up day will be held starting at 8 a.m. on Feb. 7. Everyone should bring a sack lunch.

• There are plans to purchase a new copier for the museum.

### Meetings

The board will meet at 4 p.m. before regular meetings. Bills are to be presented to the board at this time. In the future at a special meeting, the board will be looking at the bi-laws.

### Ramblers Club

#### Ramblers Club December

Ramblers Club met at the lovely home of Rose Mary Bierig on Sunday afternoon, Dec. 11, for a delicious Christmas dinner and visiting.

Members were happy to welcome Shirley Sherlock as a new member.

#### Ramblers Club January

Ramblers Club met at the home

The next meeting will be at 5 p.m. on Feb. 14 at the museum. Tobe Zweygardt, local historian, will be giving the program on the Cherry Creek Encampment.

The April meeting will be changed to 2:30 p.m. on April 23. Everyone is welcome to attend as the Historical Society members visit county cemeteries. Following the tour, an evening potluck will be held at the Kurt Bucholtz farm.

of Sondra Bracelin on Wednesday afternoon, Jan. 11, with 12 members and one guest present. Members enjoyed a very interesting and informative update on the airport, presented by Robert Grace, followed by roll call "my destination on my last airplane flight."

The next meeting will be a noon luncheon on Feb. 8 with Gordon Orth presenting the program on guitars.

## Famous Quotes

• Never does the human soul appear so strong as when it forgoes revenge, and dares forgive an injury. -E.H. Chapin

• The human body is an instrument for the production of art in the life of the human soul. - Alfred North Whitehead.



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PAST REFLECTIONS



Home of  
**George & Minnie Lawless**

*Photo courtesy of Tobe Zweygardt*

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