

obituaries

Ruth Elliott

Ruth Irene (Wilkins) Elliott, 84, a St. Francis homemaker, died Monday, Feb. 3, 2003, at St. Francis.

She was born Oct. 26, 1918, in a sod house in Cheyenne County, the daughter of Anthony G. and Katherine E. (Bockhold) Wilkens. She was baptized Jan. 19, 1919, at St. Joseph's Catholic Church in Benkelman, Neb.

Mrs. Elliott attended Walnut Grove School and graduated from the eighth grade. She worked on the farm with her dad and brother, Leo, raising sheep and Hereford cattle and riding horses. She was a member of the Bird City Saddle Club.

She married William H. Elliott Nov. 4, 1957, at the Sacred Heart Catholic Church in Atwood.

Mrs. Elliott enjoyed music, baking, gardening and sewing. She spent a great deal of her life doing for others — cooking, cleaning, making quilts, afghans and lap robes, wrapping bandages for veterans, baking rolls and making noodles. No one ever left her home hungry or empty handed.

She was a member of St. Joseph Catholic Church in Bird City, the Christian Mother's Altar Society and the American Legion Auxiliary.

Preceding her in death were her parents; her husband; a brother, Leo Wilkens; a sister, Delores Queen; a granddaughter, Kinsey Rietcheck; and a great-grandson, Lyndon Olson.

Survivors are three daughters, Lori (David) Rietcheck of Goodland and Kathy (Robert) Sanders and Kay (Dan) McFee of

Holcomb; a sister, Marie Hardwick of Tempe, Ariz.; two sisters-in-law, Ruby Mueller of Bird City and Helen Wilkens of Phoenix; and six grandchildren.

A funeral mass was held Friday, Feb. 7, 2003, at the church with Father Beryl Gibson as celebrant. Burial followed in the Bird City Cemetery.

A parish wake and rosary were held Thursday. Memorials may be made to the church, 300 N. Bird Ave., Bird City, Kan. 67731, or the Cheyenne County Hospital, 210 W. First, St. Francis, Kan. 67756.

Anna Baldwin

Anna M. Baldwin, 72, a 1949 Goodland High School graduate, died Tuesday, February 11, 2003, at her home in Parachute, Colo.

She was born Jan. 25, 1931, at Goodland, the daughter of Marjorie (Moran) and Glen J. Colburn.

She married Gerald Baldwin on Sept. 16, 1950, at the Goodland First Christian Church. With Mr. Baldwin's career in the Air Force, the couple lived in many places all over the world before moving to Parachute six years ago.

Preceding her in death were her parents; a brother, James Colburn; and a sister, Norma Jane Walters.

Survivors include her husband; two sons, Andrew (Vonnice) Baldwin of Tucson, Ariz., and Matthew (Peggy) Baldwin of Yampa, Colo.; and a granddaughter.

Services will be at 2 p.m. Saturday, Feb. 15, 2003, at Koons Chapel in Goodland with Pastor Loren Strait officiating. Burial will follow in the Goodland Cemetery.

Visitation will be from 11 a.m.

until the service Saturday at the funeral home.

Memorials may be made to the Anna M. Baldwin Memorial in care of the funeral home at 211 N. Main, Goodland, Kan. 67735-1555.

Dean Zollinger

Paul "Dean" Zollinger, 81, an Edson High School graduate, died Monday, Feb. 3, 2003, in Hemet, Calif.

He was born in Carlton and later moved to Edson. He moved to California in 1940, where he worked at North American Aviation. Zollinger served in the Army air force from 1943-45 as a tail gunner on a B-24, flying 35 missions over Germany during World War II.

He returned to California in 1945 and was hired by Northrop Aircraft, where he worked for 35 years, the last 14 as a program planner. He retired and moved to Hornet in 1981.

Zollinger lived in the Sierra Dawn North community and was an avid horseshoe player. He played in the Hemet league and was inducted into the Southern California Horseshoe Hall of Fame in 2000.

Zollinger participated in pool leagues and was one of the original committee members to organize the Oldlympics in which he also competed.

Survivors include his wife of 59 years, Norma; two daughters, Judy Murphy and Debra Nansen, both of California; a son, Russell Zollinger, of California; a brother, Ralph Zollinger of Goodland; five grandchildren; and two great-grandsons.

Services were held at 11 a.m. Saturday, Feb. 8, 2003, at the Presbyterian Church in Hemet. Miller-Jones Mortuary handled the arrangements.

John Johnson

John O. Johnson, 71, a retired railroad worker, died Tuesday, Feb. 11, 2003, at his home in Sharon

Springs.

He was born Feb. 3, 1932, at Minden, Neb., the son of Eva Isabelle (Jacobs) and Olaf John Johnson, and grew up in Minden.

In June 1951, he began working for the Union Pacific Railroad and he moved to Sharon Springs in February 1952. He was a telegrapher at the depot until October 1952, when he joined the Army. After serving in Korea, he returned to Sharon Springs in October 1954.

He married Marsha L. Wigton on Jan. 16, 1955, at the Sharon Springs United Methodist Church. A few months later, they moved to Wa-Keeney to work at the depot. In the spring of 1956, they returned to Sharon Springs, due to a seniority move on the railroad. He retired in August 1992. In 1960, he became a bookkeeper at Hennick Lumber and Supply and continued working there until his death.

He was a member of the United Methodist Church, the Goodland Elks Lodge and the Veterans of Foreign Wars.

Preceding him in death were his parents, three brothers and four sisters.

Survivors include his wife; three daughters, Eva (Lonnice) Siebert of Sharon Springs, Gina (Roy) Hoffman of Coldwater and Jana (Dennis) Gfeller of Winona; and seven grandchildren.

Services will be at 2 p.m. Friday, Feb. 14, 2003, at the church, with the Rev. Robert Winters officiating. Burial will follow in the Sharon Springs Cemetery.

Visitation was from 3-7 p.m. Thursday and from 10-11:30 a.m. today at Koons Funeral Home in Sharon Springs.

Memorials may be made to the Church Building Fund or to the Sharon Springs Public Library in care of the funeral home in Sharon Springs or Koons Funeral Home, 211 N. Main, Goodland, Kan. 67735-1555.



Jack tried hiding from the giant, but got caught anyway. The Wichita Children's Theater Professional Touring Company will perform the play Thursday in Sharon Springs.

Photo by the Wichita Children's Theater

Play set for Thursday

The Wichita Children's Theatre Professional Touring Co. will present "Jack and the Beanstalk," at 7 p.m. Thursday at the Sharon Springs High School Auditorium.

The production, an adaptation of the classic fairy tale by Kevin Reese, tells the tale of Jack's troubles.

He sells the family's cow for beans, gets caught trying to steal the giant's golden goose and has trouble finding his way back home. In the end, the giant teaches Jack and

the audience a lesson about dealing with others.

Admission to the program is by Western Plains Arts Association season passes or at the door. Children through sixth grade are free if accompanied by an adult.

The company will also perform the play at 8:30 a.m. Thursday at the Atwood Elementary School, 12:30 p.m. Thursday at Colby Elementary School, 8:30 a.m. Friday at Hoxie Elementary and 12:30 Friday at Winona Elementary.

Parents who used drugs as teen-agers need to be prepared for children's questions

Are you prepared? Among the most common drug-related questions asked of parents is "Did you ever use drugs?"

Unless the answer is "no," it's difficult to know what to say because nearly all parents who used drugs don't want their children to do the same thing.

Is this hypocritical? No. We all want the best for our children.

Today we have more information, and we understand the hazards of drug use better than we did when we were their age and thought we



cris lovington

• prevention center

were invincible.

To guide our children's decisions about drugs, we can now draw on credible real-life examples of friends who had trouble as a result of their drug use: the neighbor who

caused a fatal car crash while high; the family member who got addicted; and the teen who used marijuana for years, lost interest in school, and never really learned how to deal with adult life and its stresses.

This doesn't mean that parents need to recount every moment of their experiences. As in conversa-

tions about sex, some details should remain private, and you should avoid providing more information than is actually sought by your child.

Ask clarifying questions to make sure you understand exactly why and what a child is asking before answering questions about your past drug use, and limit your response to that information.

This discussion provides a good opportunity for parents to speak frankly about what attracted them to drugs, why drugs are dangerous, what they know now that they didn't know then and why they want their children to avoid making the same mistake.

There's no perfect way to get this message across, only approaches that seem more fitting than others. Be prepared to answer if your child asks, "Did you ever use drugs?"

Here are some possible responses to your child's questions:

• "I took drugs because some of my friends used them, and I thought I needed to in order to fit in. In those days, people didn't know as much

as they do now about all the bad things that can happen when you smoke marijuana or do other drugs. If I'd known then what I know now, I never would have tried them, and I'll do everything I can to keep you away from drugs."

• "Everyone makes mistakes, and when I used drugs, I made a big one. I'm telling you about this, even though it's embarrassing, because I love you, and I want to save you from making the same stupid decision that I made when I was your age. You can learn from my mistakes without repeating them."

• "I did drugs because I was bored and wanted to take some risks, but I soon found that I couldn't control the risks; they were controlling me. There are much better ways of challenging yourself than doing drugs."

• "At your age, between homework, friends, sports, and other interests, there are a lot of fun things going on. If you get into taking drugs, you're pretty much giving up those other things, because you may stop being able to concentrate, con-

trol your moods or keep to a schedule. You'll miss out on all these great experiences, and you'll never get those times back."

• "You don't know how your body will react to drugs. Some people can get addicted really quickly or can get really sick or even die using a drug for the first time."

• "I started drinking/doing drugs when I was young, and I've been battling them ever since. They made me miss a big part of growing up, and every day I have to stay positive so they don't make me miss more of my job, my relationships, and my time with you. I love you too much to watch you fight a similar battle."

Some parents who used drugs in the past choose to lie about it, but they risk losing their credibility if their children discover the truth. Many experts recommend that when a child asks this question, the response should be honest.

If you would like more ideas on how to discuss these types of issues with your kids, call the prevention center at 785-899-3848.

matters of record

Goodland Police

The following crimes were reported to the Goodland Police Department:

Jan. 31 — Opal Callahan reported \$250 criminal damage to a wooden gate and hinges at 813 Washington.

Feb. 2 — Darren Hickson was arrested at 12th and Clark for driving under the influence, transporting an open container and illegal registration.

Feb. 5 — Rusty D. Robinson reported a burglary and the theft of a CD player, speakers and amplifier,

total value of \$725, from a vehicle at 509 Caldwell.

Feb. 6 — Sight and Sound reported the theft of two Playstation games rented and not returned to 1224 Main.

Elizabeth Perez and Portis J. Perez reported phone harassment and disorderly conduct at 1003 Cherry.

Feb. 7 — Drennan's Shoes reported a burglary and \$3,000 criminal damage (water damage) to 158 pair of shoes at 1006 Main.

Accidents

The following accidents were reported to the Goodland Police De-

partment:

Jan. 31 — Crystal G. Linsner was backing out of her garage in a 1999 Chevy truck and hit a gas meter at 217 W. Seventh.

Feb. 3 — Beatrice Driver backed out of a parking spot in a 2001 GMC pickup and hit a parked 1996 Toyota owned by Merlyn Stasser at Maple and Willow.

Feb. 7 — Mylis A. Boyce turned off Harrison onto 13th too sharply in a 1994 Pontiac and hit a 1999 Dodge driven by Kyle J. Schmidt. Schmidt was stopped at a stop sign westbound on 13th.



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