

Obituaries

Bonnie Lynn Eller Pottorff

June 19, 1957 - July 15, 2013



Pottorff

Bonnie Lynn Eller was born on June 19, 1957, at the Cheyenne County Hospital in St. Francis. She joined the family of Gene and Eunice (McGriff) Eller, to the delight of 3-year old sister Connie Gene.

The family lived in Bird City, Kan., where Gene worked for Eunice's uncle, Leonard Mast, at the Mast Repair Shop, and Eunice was a stay-at-home mom. Bonnie was a happy little girl, and loved to follow her big sister everywhere she went as a tag-a-long.

During summer time, the family enjoyed spending weekends at the area lakes with family and friends. Bonnie loved playing and wading in the water. Connie and Bonnie spent many hours with their great uncles and great aunts, Melvin and Dorthy Mast and Leonard and Wilma Mast and their families, during their childhood.

Gene and Eunice were very family oriented, and their family usually spent holidays at the home of Eunice's parents, Lawrence and Clara (Mast) McGriff in Seibert Colo., or Gene's parents, Loyd and Fern (Loudner) Eller in Gaylord. There were many, many cousins and they all loved getting together for family reunions.

Bonnie was baptized as an infant in the St. John Lutheran Church by Pastor Radloff, and started making Sunday school friends by the age of 3. She started kindergarten in the fall of 1962 at the Bird City Grade school with Mrs. Boersma as her first school teacher.

After working as a city employee for a time, Gene started working for the Cheyenne County road crew in the early 1960s. In the summer of 1967, the family moved to St. Francis.

Bonnie started fifth grade in a new school and made many new friends. They would spend many hours after school and in the summer playing on the school playground, since it was only a half block from home.

In the fall of 1969 Gene again changed jobs and moved the family to Burlington, Colo., where he began working at McArthur's John Deere Implement. Bonnie finished the second semester of seventh grade in yet another new school.

In the spring of 1969, she was confirmed at the St. Paul Lutheran Church in Burlington and became involved with

Luther League. She supported the Cougars, and was involved in band and pep club during her high school years, graduating from Burlington High School with the class of 1975.

Bonnie enjoyed working at the local Sonic Drive In and Dairy Queen as well as other jobs she found along the way.

After three failed marriages, Bonnie and her partner, Dave Padgett, became parents on Nov. 13, 1984, of a sweet baby girl they named Angela Marie. They were living in Midland, Texas and, when the relationship failed soon after Angie was born, Bonnie brought her baby back to Burlington.

After being a single mom for several years, she reconnected with a young man from her past who became the love of her life, and on Aug. 2, 1992, Bonnie became the bride of Arthur Lee Pottorff in Burlington. The family continued to live in Burlington where Lee worked with his father-in-law at McArthurs.

On March 28, 1995, Angie became a big sister when Travis Lee was born, and she was always willing to help her mother with her little brother.

The sudden death of her mother on March 27, 1997, was a huge shock for Bonnie, and one from which she never completely recovered. Another blow came a three short years later when her dad died on Aug. 12, 2000.

Lee and Bonnie moved to Grand Junction, Colo., in 2003. Though there were trials, failures, and heartache in Bonnie's life, she was always able to find joy and happiness by surrounding herself with animals, people and especially her family.

Because she loved people and animals, she was always willing to help anyone down on their luck, or an animal that needed a loving home. She was a loving and caring wife, mother and friend, and her death will leave a huge void in the lives of those who knew and loved her.

Bonnie died July 15, 2013, in Grand Junction after a short illness. She was preceded in death by her parents Gene and Lydia (Stickel) Keller. Elsa graduated from St. Francis High School in 1940.

She married Dale Potter on Oct. 3, 1943, in the Immanuel Lutheran Church in Northwest Kansas. While living in Stratton, she had attended the Methodist Church since 1960. Elsa served in the VFW and the United Methodist Women.

She worked at the Stratton Public Schools for a number of years; she loved to travel and wintered in Florida for many years. She loved her friends, family and her quilting hobby.

Surviving family are her loving husband of 20 years, Lee; her daughter Angela and husband Michael Rivera of Arvada, Colo., and their children Dakota, Cheyenne and Julie; her son Travis of the home; sister

She enjoyed gardening, piano, and her precious kittens. Nora will be sadly missed by all who knew and loved her.

She is survived by her husband Terry Wilson, her brother Neil Carsten, her niece Kimla, her sister Marla Starns and husband Russ, her nieces Kaitlyn and Madison Starns, and; uncle Howard Carsten, aunt Velma Kruse, aunt Irma Deeds and their families.

Memorials may be contributed to Thanksgiving Lutheran Church, Santa Rosa, Calif., 1225 Fulton Rd. 95401 or charity of choice.

Memorial service Saturday Aug. 17th 11 a.m., St. John Lutheran Church in Bird City. Potluck immediately follows the service.

Connie and husband Pat Rooney, of Stratton, Neb.; nephew Chad Miller, of St. Francis, and niece Gena and husband Matthew Olson of Junction City; sister-in-law Vivian (Clyde) Kingsbury of Clifton, Colo., brothers-in-law Sam Miller of St. Francis, Wayne (Patty) Pottorff of Security, Colo., Lynn (Sally) Pottorff of Burlington; niece Monique (Tony) Hummrick and their children Riley, Tristin, and Levin, nephews Shawn (Amber) Hawkins and their children Tyler, Zac, Greg and Addison of Grand Junction, Adam (Torrie) Pottorff and their children Keegan and Kohyn of Northglenn.

Also Surviving are two great-aunts, Dorthy Mast of Bird City and Wilma Mast of Bixby, Minn.; four aunts, Ruth Gallaway of Colby, Joy Brownsen of Sacramento, Jean McGriff of Stratton, and Florence McGriff of Seibert, and many many cousins and friends, including two best friends throughout the many years, Connie Bernath and Nancy Morris.

Funeral services for Bonnie were held Saturday, July 20, at Love Funeral Home in Burlington with burial in the cemetery at Seibert where her parents are buried.

Ernest Leroy Kilpatrick

Dec. 15, 1948 - July 17, 2013

Ernest Leroy Kilpatrick, 64, died Wednesday, July 17, 2013. He was born Dec. 15, 1948, in Oklahoma City Okla., to Junior Ernest and Vera Violet (Young) Kilpatrick. He spent his childhood in Oklahoma City, and as a teenager, moved to WaKeeney. He was a 1967 graduate of WaKeeney High School.

While attending Northwest Kansas Technical College, he and Mary Ann Clark were married. To this union were born Elaine, Michelle and Jeremiah.

Ernest served in the U.S. Army with the 101 Airborne, stationed in Germany, for two and a half years.

Following the service, he was employed for 10 years as an auto mechanic at Zimbelman Chevrolet in St. Francis. He then moved to Tennessee to be a fishing guide while holding other part-time jobs. Most recently, he had been working for Murfin

Drilling. Ernest was an avid hunter and fisherman all his life, spending as much time at a lake as he could.

He is preceded in death by his parents.

Survivors include: his wife, Mary Ann; son Jeremiah (Kimberly) Kilpatrick, Tullahoma, Tenn.; daughters: Elaine (Kevin) Sparks, Nolensville, Tenn., and Michelle (Keith) Riley, LaVergne, Tenn.; sister Peggy (Dick) Wright, Dupont, Colo.; grandchildren: Colby Hardaway, Trevor and Chole Sparks, and Dylan Riley; mother-in-law, Helen Clark, Hill City.

He will be sadly missed by his family and friends.

A graveside service was held on Monday, July 22, at the Kansas Veterans' Cemetery in WaKeeney. The officiant was Rev. Randy Gibbs.

Elsa (Keller) Potter

July 22, 1921 - Aug. 7, 2013

Elsa Potter, 92, of Stratton (McCook), Neb., died Aug. 7, 2013, at the McCook Community Hospital. She was born July 22, 1921, in Cheyenne County, Kan., to Jacob Keller and Lydia (Stickel) Keller.

Elsa graduated from St. Francis High School in 1940. She married Dale Potter on Oct. 3, 1943, in the Immanuel Lutheran Church in Northwest Kansas.

While living in Stratton, she had attended the Methodist Church since 1960. Elsa served in the VFW and the United Methodist Women.

She worked at the Stratton Public Schools for a number of years; she loved to travel and wintered in Florida for many years. She loved her friends, family and her quilting hobby.



Potter

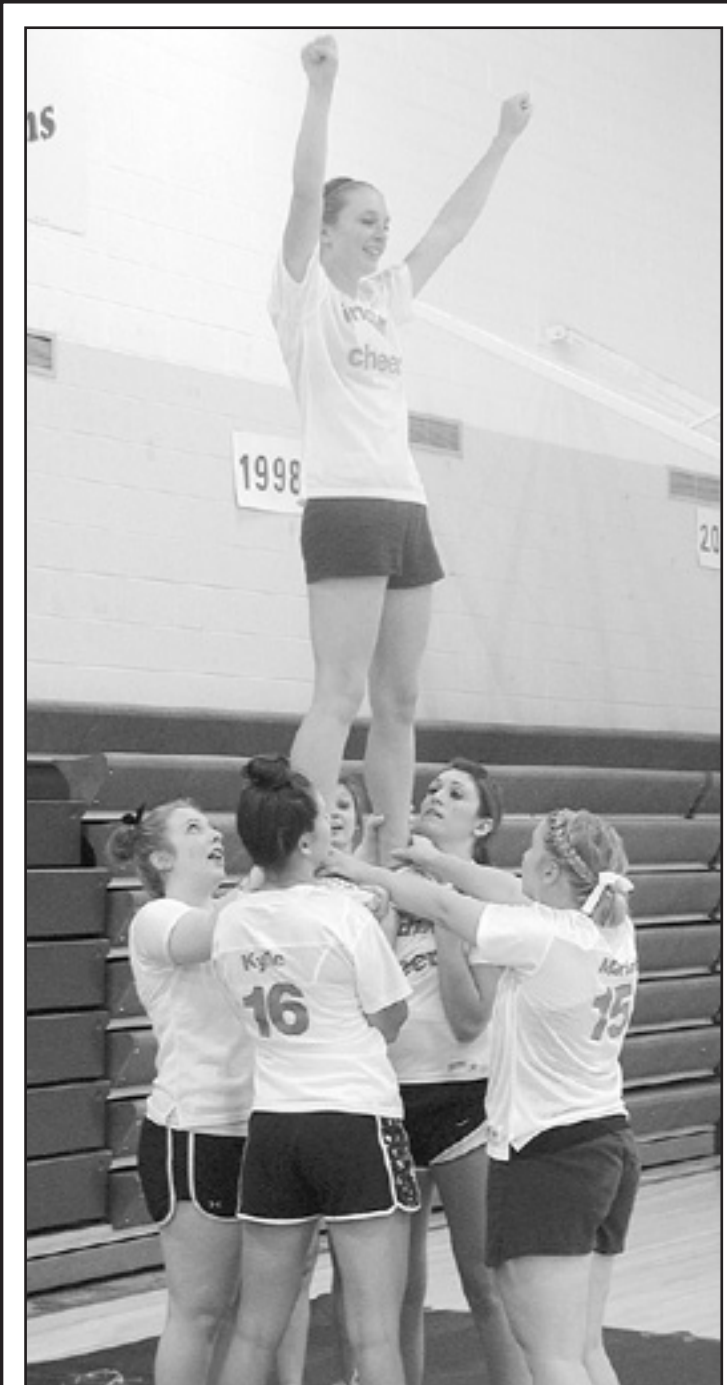
She made all 20 great-grand kids baby quilts when they were born. During the summer months, she volunteered at the Grandview Senior Center in Stratton.

She is preceded in death by her husband, Dale Potter, and her brother Roland Keller.

Survivors include her siblings Esther Callahan of Lodi, Calif., and her brother Arnold Keller of Sacramento, Calif.; her children Karen Miles, Lincoln, Neb., Norma Lammel and Gerald, Yuma, Ariz., Donna Loop and Roger, McCook, Randy Potter and Shelly, Moyock, North Carolina, eight grandchildren and 20 great-grandchildren.

Funeral services were held Tuesday, Aug. 13, at the Stratton United Methodist Church, Stratton, with Pastor Sheila Taylor officiating. Burial was in the Benkelman Cemetery, Benkelman, Neb., immediately following the services.

A memorial has been established to the Stratton United Methodist Church or the Stratton Senior Center.



ST. FRANCIS cheerleaders attended a cheer camp with Bailey Foster from Barton Community College to learn new routines for the coming sports season. Emily Elfers tops the pyramid; left to right, Rande Grover, Kylie Sherlock, trainer Bailey Foster, Aly Schlepp and Mariah Beikman.

Hole-in-one achieved at golf tournament

The 35th Annual Riverside Rendezvous was held the weekend of August 9, 10 and 11. Fifty Riverside golf members and their non-member quest enjoyed the fun filled weekend.

Many teams consisted of family members which makes for a great time and tons of memories.

Friday Night Par 3 Tourney Results:

Championship Flight: First place: Devin Dinkel / Dean Dinkel; tie for second and third places: Dale Crabtree / Derek Crabtree; Gerald Lauer / Greg Lauer; Mike Frewen / Mark Zimbelman

First Flight: First place: Mark Roesener / Keith James; tie for second and third places: Troy Burr / Doug Sager; Terry Rieger / Larry Hawks

Second Flight: Tie for first, second and third places: Darren Workman / Ricky Sawyer; Gary Rogers / Steve Johnson; Tom Roelfs / Fred Roelfs

During the Friday Night Par 3 Tourney, Keith James from McCook, Neb. hit a hole-in-one on hole two. It was an exciting evening.

Tournament Results: Championship Flight: Tie for first and second places:



Gerald Lauer/ Greg Lauer and AJ McAtee and Neal McAtee; third place: Wade Quiggle / Branson Real; fourth place: Matt Smull / Dax Hayden

First Flight: First place: Matt Raile / Joel McAtee; tie for second and third places: Cale Rieger / Jonathan Roelfs and Rodney Bracelin / Keith Bracelin; tie for fourth place: Troy Burr / Doug Sager and Andy Richards / Tyler Chamberlain

Second Flight: First place: Marvin Zimbelman / Steve Burr; second place: Terry Rieger / Larry Hawks; third place: Gene Kincheoloe / Christopher Kincheoloe; tie for fourth place: Bob Brenner / Larry Larsen and Gene Dodd and Jerry Arnesdorf

Third Flight: First place: Darris Keller / Nick Raile; second place: Keith Zwegygart / Drew Zwegygart; tie for third and fourth places: Mike Workman / Kevin Gertsner and Bill Wilger / Tracy Tillman

Nora Jean (Carsten) Wilson

July 13, 1953- July 30, 2013

Nora Jean Carsten was born July 13, 1953, to Maynard and Mabel Carstens.

She celebrated her 60th birthday on July 15 in Bird City with friends and family.

God blessed us with this special time as she was so suddenly taken on July 30 in Santa Rosa, Calif.

Nora was known for her genuine personality and contagious smile. Very quiet and compassionate she touched the hearts of many. She was a very positive and strong person which was apparent to everyone surrounding her.

Nora was the pianist for the Thanksgiving Lutheran Church in Santa Rosa. Her strong faith and love for God was her motivation through tough times.

She enjoyed gardening, piano, and her precious kittens. Nora will be sadly missed by all who knew and loved her.

She is survived by her husband Terry Wilson, her brother Neil Carsten, her niece Kimla, her sister Marla Starns and husband Russ, her nieces Kaitlyn and Madison Starns, and; uncle Howard Carsten, aunt Velma Kruse, aunt Irma Deeds and their families.

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1313 N Cheyenne Street, Benkelman, NE.
Friday, August 23rd
2 to 5 pm (MT)

Attend our free check point inspection of your child's car seat with one of our Child Passenger Safety Experts who will be able to answer your questions and make sure you are using your child safety seat correctly.

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St. Francis USD 293 School District

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Notice to Parents: This notice is provided to inform you of the enrollment process for the 2013-2014 school year. Please contact the school district for more information.

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