

The STRAIGHT FORWARD



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Press SM

WEEKEND GAZETTE

Volume 3 • Issue 28

Serving Stilwell & Adair County, Oklahoma

Friday January 19, 2024

Three Lady Indians Wrestlers Turn In Stellar Performances

Adair County OSU Extension

Welcomes Naomi Fuson 4-H/FCS Extension Educator



Josaline Blevins is on number 2 for second place.



Adrianna Chronister on number 2 for second place.



Xaxvel Piedra on number 2 for fourth place.



The 3rd Annual Newton Tournament Of Champions was held at Newton High School in Newton, Kansas on January 12 and 13. Newton is about a 6 hour car ride from Stilwell. This tournament is renowned for its exceptional competition. Both Joselyn Blevins and Adrianna Chronister wrestled into the finals. Both wrestlers came away with silver medals. Wrestling to an also impressive 4th place finish was Xaxvel Piedra. The culmination of the season is not too far away and ends with the Oklahoma State Girls Wrestling Championship Tournament. Blevins, Chronister and Piedra could be in the hunt for a medal. Stay tuned...



Naomi Fuson

Adair County OSU Extension has a BIG announcement! We would like to welcome Naomi Fuson as our new 4-H/FCS Extension educator. Naomi has been in our office for nine years and has worked her way up to this position. She knows our programs inside and out and is a familiar face to our community. Her long term goal was to serve Adair County in an educator role. Welcome Naomi! We are proud of your accomplishments and know you will do great things in our county!

Congratulations!
Naomi

PROVERB POWER

Isaiah 40:31 KJV

But those that wait upon the LORD shall renew their strength; they shall mount up with wings as eagle; they shall run and not be weary; and they shall walk and not faint.

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NEW LOCATION

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ON THE CAMPAIGN TRAIL

COMMENTARY BY JOHN BANKEL

Today's Trail Treks To..... Barnum & Bailey

The circus used to come around, mostly in rural small-town America, about once a year. It was a big deal. The two big circuses were Ringling Brothers and Barnum & Bailey. They brought their show under the BIG TOP, the colossal tent that had 3 rings and a charismatic ringmaster, with his booming voice reverberating throughout the tent and beyond: "Ladies and Gentlemen" he would bellow and that got everyone's attention. P. T. Barnum was such a ringmaster. He could sell sand to a desert nomad. His slogan was, "There is a sucker born every minute." He put on quite a show for lots of dough. But the circus does not come around anymore, not like it used to. In 2017, both Ringling Brothers and Barnum & Bailey shut down be-

cause of weak attendance and high operating costs, with perhaps some added pressure exerted by animal rights activists. Yet, Barnum's slogan lives on. Take the 2020 election, for example. Biden became the heir to P.T. Barnum when he suckered a bevy of voters into voting for him under the pretext of uniting the country and his "Build Back Better" slogan. It is now 3 years after his snow job. America is more divided than ever with everything boiling down to "racism." Not only that, but America is still wondering when we will "build back better" as the economy flounders under the yoke of high inflation. The suckers that voted for P.T. Biden are starting to realize the con job foisted upon them. With the election loom-

ing just 10 months away, will the voters fall for the bamboozle again if the bamboozler-in-chief, aka, P.T. Biden, is on the ticket? The circus is still around, it just moved to D.C. town, with Obama as the ringmaster and P.T. Biden as the head clown. Barnum & Bailey would be proud.

Today's Trail has come to an end. Perhaps we will meet again around the bend, my friend. Meanwhile, may your Trail end up on the right side of the fence. Happy Trails to you!

John Bankel is a freelance journalist and a retired High School Math teacher, football and wrestling coach who can be reached at: writewright@journalist.com Copyright 2024. All Rights Reserved.

Into the Hills

Chapter 1, Episode 2

By Donna Boecher

Entry Friday, April 17, 1868 – Paw was still not back by twilight on Thursday. I figure he decided to drink at the saloon in Chester, then sleep it off at the boarding house. This wasn't the first time he'd stayed away two whole days. Slipping into the tree shadows, I walked along the sheep trail that was grooved between the rocks through the grasses. Paw had a Judas sheep named Henry that yearly led our sheep to sale and slaughter in Chester. I found Henry's path and started my new life. It took me west toward the morning light that had begun to rise on the western treed horizon. I walked quickly. Once it was noon the light would be overhead, and I wouldn't be able to easily find my way through the woods. Knowing that Paw always kept to the hardpacked rock road that the hill people used, I would be shielded from

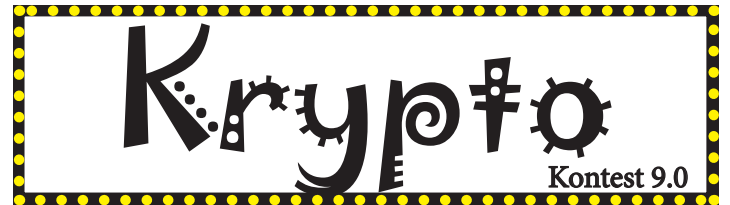
his sight. Simon was riding his mule "Turko". I liked Turko. He had a story behind his name. A Mexican had made it north into the hills as he ran from the war that was overrunning parts of Mexico. Simon traded him a month's worth of "staples" – beans, flour, cornmeal, and coffee, along with a small coffee pot, metal plate, cup, fork, knife, and spoon. Didn't cost Simon nothin'. He just "swiped" the "cost" from Maw's cabinet. Made me sick to my stomach. Simon got the best of the deal; Turko, which the Mexican said meant "stubborn" was a fine, roan colored mule that stood 17 hands high and was broke to ride. I chuckled as I walked 'cause occasionally Turko would let go with rear-legged kicks and send Simon off onto the rock. Those thoughts made my spirit lighter and my step quicker. Life was good!

WHAT'S SO PUNNY? PUN FUN

One way to stay warm on a cold winter's day is to enjoy some laughter. Laughter is known to warm the heart and lift the spirit. To that end, we have a new batch of rib tickling, knee slapping, funny bone jangling jokes of the PUNNY KIND. Here are some jokes about the sun to brighten your day.

- 1. Moove Over: What does a cow make in the morning when the sun rises? A shadow...
2. Round & Round: What is the one free thing that everyone gets from the sun? A free trip around the sun!
3. Burnt: What will reading sun jokes under the sun make you? Well red...
4. A Yolk Joke: How does the sun like its eggs for breakfast? Sunny-side up...
5. Nutty: What is brown, hairy and wears sunglasses? A coconut on a summer holiday...

Well my dear punfun friends, that is all she wrote this time around. Keep the laughter going and keep the warmth flowing, until next time. Have a sunny punny day!



This Kontest is officially over. Any solutions received after the date of this issue will not be counted. Look for the announcement of the winner in the next issue.

Isaiah 40:31

They who wait for the Lord shall renew their strength; they shall mount up with wings like eagles; they shall run and not be weary; they shall walk and not faint.

Scripture sponsored by: Faith Tabernacle Corner of Hwy. 51 & Piney Road Stilwell, OK

THE KIPLING KORNER

"Winter life on a farm does not mean the comparative idleness that is so much written of. Each hour seems to have its sixty minutes of work; for cattle. . . eat eternally; . . . and the ice broken for them if necessary." by Rudyard Kipling



Truth is Our Target P.O. Box 885 • Stilwell, OK 74960 straightforwardpress21@gmail.com

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Donna Boecher.....Editor John Bankel.....Co-Editor/Journalist Stephanie CullinaneComposer

PROVERBS 29:2-"When the righteous are in authority, the people rejoice; but when the wicked beareth rule, the people mourn."

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Vocabulary Word:

- snow. Frozen precipitation in the form of white or translucent ice crystals that fall in soft, white flakes.
• Ex. The snow started at dusk and was six inches deep by morning.



STILWELL SPORTS SPOTLIGHT

Commentary by John Bankel

Indians and Lady Indians Basketball Update

After the Girls and Boys teams competed in the Lincoln Christian Winter Classic Tournament, with each team garnering a third place trophy along with All Tournament honors for Snowd Watie and Tyrus Teehee, the two teams got back into league play. On Tuesday, January 9, they took a road trip to take on the Muldrow Bulldogs, in a District game. The Indians came into the contest with an 7-3 record. The Bulldogs, who came in with a 5-5 record, got the best of the Indians, winning by a score of 53-47. The loss left the Indians with an 7-4 season record and 2-2 District. On Friday, January 12, the Indians got back on the winning track when the Sallisaw Black Diamonds came to town. The Indians showed their prowess with Bradon George leading the way with 22 points. With 3 minutes to go in Q3, Stilwell had a one point lead when Hitchens hit a downtown 3 pointer that ignited the Indians to a runaway

final score of 71-53. On Tuesday, January 16, the Indians will get a repay rematch with the Roland Rangers on Roland's turf. It was in the season opener that Roland nipped Stilwell 55-52 on Stilwell's court. The Rangers sport a 13-1 season record. Game time 7:30 pm. For the Lady Indians, the going was a bit easier as they continue to display dogged defense and timely shooting in dismantling the outclassed Lady Bulldogs, 52-39, and the Lady Black Diamonds by a score of 76-33. The Lady Indians are now 10-2 on the season, 5-0 District. An away game at Roland is next. The Lady Rangers were demolished 68-44 in the first game of the season at Stilwell. Look for a tight contest as the Lady Rangers have put up a 10-2 season record, having lost only to Stilwell and Muldrow. Tipoff is at 6 pm on January 16.

Adair County Middle School Basketball Tournament

There are 10 Adair County middle schools that will be vying for Adair County basketball supremacy. The tournament is set to start at Stilwell on Thursday, January 18, with an 11 am Girls matchup between Stilwell and Bell. The conclusion is set for Monday,

January 22 with the Girls Championship game at 7 pm and the Boys playing at 8 pm. Boys play for 3d place at 6 pm; Girls at 5 pm. This tournament is always fun to watch, so come out, if you can.

ROBERTS-REED-CULVER

FUNERAL HOME



Christopher "Bubba" Ryan Bunch Dec. 22, 1983 — Jan. 13, 2024

Christopher "Bubba" Ryan Bunch was born on December 22, 1983, in Tahlequah, Oklahoma to Gina Barnoskie and stepfather Jimmy and passed away on January 13, 2024, in Tahlequah, Oklahoma at the age of 40 years and 22 days.

Bubba loved to spend time with his kids. He also enjoyed playing with horse-shoes, marbles, looking for arrowheads, and riding his bike. He could bring a smile to anyone's face and brighten anyone's day. He will be missed dearly by everyone who knew him.

He preceded in death and greeted in Heaven by his grandparents Ben and Oleta Bunch, Jimmy Barnoskie and Alice Barnoskie, uncles Robert, Ben Jr., Benny Ray, and Ronald Bunch, aunts Karen Bunch and Nancy Reynaga.

He is survived by his children, Ryan, Koda, and Brody Bunch and longtime friend Shonda Turner his mother Gina Bunch – Barnoskie one brother Jordan and wife Lora Turner 3 sisters Jackie and husband Clint Duncan, Kendall and husband Brandon Cochran and Kari Grigsby all of Stilwell Oklahoma one grandparent Jim Barnoskie Jr. of Vian Oklahoma. He also leaves behind many nieces, nephews, cousins, and a host of family and friends.

Funeral Service

Friday, January 19, 2024

10:00 - 11:00am

Roberts Reed Culver Funeral Home 801 W Locust St, Stilwell, OK 74960

THE CONSERVATIVE VIEW

By Russell Turner

HOW MUCH PER MILE

It never ceases to amaze me the ends government will go to relieve us of more of our money. All of us who must drive an auto to go to the grocery store or to operate a business knows the expense to keep that auto on the road. Many times, when I go to the station to fill my cattle feeding truck, it seems like I am making a sizable payment on the national debt. It is a fact that all of us know the more you drive the more it will cost you. We also know that a percentage of the fuel cost includes taxes on each gallon of gas or diesel; it is very simple the more gasoline you purchase the more money you are paying to the government. In 2021 the Oklahoma legislature passed the Oklahoma version of the Road User Charge plan (RUC) – a pilot program and a task force established by House Bill 1712– which is already in motion.

Under this proposed plan, Oklahomans would be monitored on every mile they drive, and pay a tax for each of these miles. This plan would give government more control of our lives, and those of us who live in rural areas would have a bigger burden because of the distances all of us have to travel to operate our businesses and get the supplies we need. Our country was founded upon the idea of government not being involved in all aspects of our lives; sadly, too many of our current politicians can only see dollar signs and are all too ready to come up with another scheme to get more in the public treasury to waste. Fortunately, we Oklahomans have a state legislator who has the ability to understand government overreach and is willing to fight against it.

Rep. Tom Gann, R-Inola, has filed what he called "a pivotal bill aimed at safeguarding Oklahomans' freedom and privacy." "It's

quite inconceivable to me that in the near future, motorists might face variable-rate, per-mile fees for driving beyond a government-approved limit," Gann said, highlighting his concerns about the recommendations' potential to put government in charge of every motorist's driven mile. Gann also raised alarm over the suggested requirement for surveillance infrastructure to track mileage. He said he fears this system could be exploited by state and federal authorities for various oppressive purposes, including targeting individuals with differing political views. Gann said the first stage of the Oklahoma version of the Road User Charge plan – a pilot program and a task force established in 2021 by House Bill 1712– is already in motion. He said the next phase – voluntary participation – has been recommended by the task force for legislative consideration in 2025. He said he believes a third phase – mandatory participation – may soon follow. Gann's bill seeks to repeal House Bill 1712, halting any future advancement of this initiative. Gann's bill is House Bill 2970; his bill seeks to repeal House Bill 1712, halting any future advancement of this initiative.

While Representative Gann is not in my district, I applaud his effort to ensure our freedom and way of life. I urge everyone to contact their Representative and Senator to voice support of his bill. I also believe that we as citizens need to be involved in politics and hold our elected officials to task. House Bill 1712 is just another thing that chips away at our freedom and our right to be left alone by the government.

Stay Safe During Winter Weather

Alert - Warning

- Avoid carbon monoxide poisoning. Only use generators and grills outdoors and away from windows. Never heat your home with a gas stove top or oven.
- Stay off roads if at all possible. If trapped in your car, then stay inside.
- Limit your time outside. If you need to go outside, then wear layers of warm clothing. Watch for signs of frostbite and hypothermia.
- Reduce the risk of a heart attack by avoiding overexertion when shoveling snow and walking in the snow.

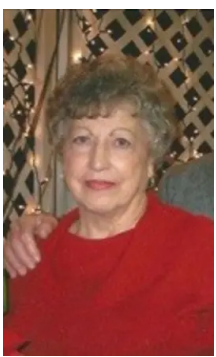


Daniel James Kirk
Dec. 30, 1981 - Jan. 3, 2024

Daniel James Kirk the son of Billy Dean Kirk Sr. and Marilyn (Jordan) Hopkins was born December 30, 1981, in Tahlequah, Oklahoma and he departed this life on January 3, 2024, in Stilwell, Oklahoma at the age of 42 years and 4 days. Daniel enjoyed life and he loved his family. He was a true horseman. He loved breaking and training horses. He spent many hours in the saddle, and he enjoyed connecting with the horses. If he wasn't riding horses, he enjoyed hunting, fishing and just being outdoors. Daniel was so proud when he was blessed with his son Weston. Weston meant the world to him, and he wanted to pass on his love for horses and the outdoors to him. Daniel loved children, if there were any children around, he was always picking at them. Daniel worked at the food distribution center in Jay, and they specialized in

health food, but Daniel would always hide Little Debbie's under the counter and give too all the children that would come in. He was an active member of the Sycamore Springs Baptist Church in Jay, Oklahoma. Daniel touched many lives over the years and will be dearly missed by all who knew and loved him. He is preceded in death by his daughter Carly Kirk. He is survived by a loving family which includes his wife Ashley Kirk of the home; his parents Billy Dean Kirk Sr. and special friend Amy Vann of Stilwell and Marilyn Hopkins and husband Glen of Stilwell; his children Weston Kirk of Stilwell and Hayden Wolfe of Jay; Austin Guinn, whom he thought of as his own, of Stilwell; his brothers Billy Dean Kirk Jr. and special friend Jessica Williams of Stilwell, Connor Colston of Westville, Logan Colston and Landon Colston both of Stilwell; his sister Jazlynn Jordan of Stilwell; Stepbrothers David Hopkins and wife Amanda of Tahlequah, and Travis Hopkins of Philadelphia, PA; and his Stepsisters Candace Neal and husband Jared of Stilwell and Felicia Hopkins of Siloam Springs. Numerous aunts, uncles, friends and other relatives also survive him.

Kester Family Funeral Service
1704 W. Young Ave
Stilwell, OK 74960



Mary Helen Carlton
Jan 3., 1938 - Jan. 9, 2024

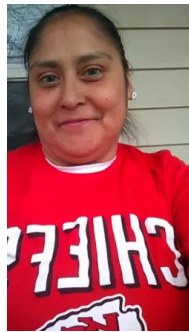
Mary Helen Carlton the daughter of Rex and Christine (Stevens) Bailey was born January 3, 1938, in Stilwell, Oklahoma and departed this life on January 9, 2024, in Siloam Springs, Arkansas at the age of 85 years and 6 days. Mary was a life-long resident of Stilwell. She worked many years at the Bank of Commerce as an Executive Vice President. Outside of the bank business Mary enjoyed working in her flower garden and sitting in the sunroom watching the birds.

Mary was a lady of faith and she enjoyed going to church and loved her church family. Mary touched many lives over the years and will be dearly missed by all who knew and loved her.

She was preceded in death by her husband Stanley Carlton; parents Rex and Christine; and her brothers Bob Bailey and Vernon Bailey.

She is survived by a loving family which includes her children Steve Carlton of Stilwell and Lorie Henson and husband Jason of Rogers, AR; her sisters Midge Lofton of Tulsa, Alice Carlton and husband Don of Stilwell and Paula Worley and husband Jock of Stilwell; her brother Joe Charlie Bailey and wife Sharon of Stilwell; and her grandchildren Steven Carlton of Pennsylvania and Halee Henson of Rogers, AR. Several nieces, nephews, friends and other relatives also survive her.

Kester Family Funeral Service
1704 W. Young Ave
Stilwell, OK 74960



Ignacia Hokeah-Chavez

July 31, 1978 - January 7, 2024

Ignacia Hokeah-Chavez, a beacon of love and faith, passed away peacefully on January 7, 2024, at the age of 45 in Stilwell, Oklahoma, after a courageous battle with colon cancer. Born on July 31, 1978, in Lawton, Oklahoma, she was a cherished daughter, mother, grandmother, sister, and friend whose optimistic spirit touched the lives of all who knew her. Family was the cornerstone of Ignacia's world. She is survived by her two children and a son-in-law, who made up the entirety of her world; Kyle Chavez, Kaleah Chavez-Martinez, and husband Misael Martinez Rivas. Her role as a grandmother to Keenan Chavez, Ismael, Nayeli, and Adriel Martinez-Chavez was one she cherished with every fiber of her being, infusing their lives with the same love and optimism that defined her own.

Besides her children, she is survived by her mother Virgilene Hokeah-Chavez and her siblings, Oscar Hokeah and Regina and Chris Phillips, along with their families, whom held a special place in her heart. She loved her nieces and nephews—Jasper Lynn Hokeah, Joseph Setimkia Hokeah, Jaxson Hokeah, Sadie Jade Hokeah, Apollo Hokeah, Hadley J Hokeah-Hitcher, Jordan Mercer, Autumn Phillips, Taylor Mercer, Jordie Phillips, Payton Mercer, and Mia Phillips. Her relationship with them was one of admiration and unspoken understanding. Ignacia's presence will be profoundly missed but forever felt in their lives.

An avid fan of the Kansas City Chiefs, Ignacia's enthusiasm for football was infectious. She found joy in the excitement of the game and the act of cheering on (or cursing) her favorite team, surrounded by loved ones. Her interests extended to the quieter pleasures of life as well, such as losing herself in a good book or becoming engrossed in her favorite shows and movies. She was a woman of great faith and often found solace and inspiration in the works of Joyce Meyer, whose words guided her through the joys and challenges she faced, leaving a legacy of love and resilience. These simple moments were treasured, providing her with relaxation and contentment. Ignacia's spirit was characterized by her loving nature, her

optimistic outlook, and her faith-filled heart. She liked to be a little cantankerous here and there to keep you on your feet. She navigated life's journey with grace and an ever-present smile, embodying the belief that hope and love are the greatest of virtues. Her memory will be cherished and she was destined to inspire those who were fortunate enough to feel the warmth of her presence. She wanted those around her to know that no matter what life throws your way, you should handle it with self-confidence and keep pushing forward. As we bid farewell to Ignacia Hokeah-Chavez, we celebrate the profound impact she made in the lives of those around her. Her love was a sanctuary, her optimism a guiding light, and her faith a source of strength for all. She leaves behind a beautiful tapestry of memories that will be held close by her family, friends, and all who were touched by her extraordinary life. In the words of Terri Guillemets "Those we love and lose are always connected by heartstrings into infinity." Ignacia's love and spirit have indeed become a part of us, and her legacy will be carried forward in the hearts and lives of her family and friends for generations to come.

Kester Family Funeral Service
1704 W. Young Ave
Stilwell, OK 74960



William Dee Leatherwood

April 12, 1966 - Jan. 9, 2024

William "Dee" Leatherwood, II was born April 12, 1966 to Bob, and Pat Reed, Leatherwood and departed this life on January 9, 2024 at the age of 57. Dee attended Stilwell Public Schools, graduating in 1984. He attended Connors State College in 1985-1986. Dee was a skilled carpenter that could build anything he put his mind to. He used his skills in building pole barns,

remodeling Wal-Mart stores and various other projects. Dee never met a stranger, he could strike up a conversation with anyone and you would have thought he had known that person for years. He had a passion for hunting of any kind, whether it could walk or fly and he enjoyed fishing through the years. There were probably times he couldn't publicly acknowledge his harvest, but in early years he provided families that were low on or out of meat with plenty to feed their family. He always had a giving heart. He is preceded in death by his father Bob Leatherwood, his paternal grandparents, William Dee (Bill) and Joanna (Miles) Leatherwood, maternal grandparents, D. W. and Ruth (Ward) Reed, uncles, J.D. Leatherwood, Sam Reed, Tom Reed,

Frank Reed, Bobby Reed. Special cousin John Dee Wewers. He is survived by his mother Pat Leatherwood of the home, son, Justin Leatherwood, wife Sasha of Stilwell, OK, daughter, Lessli Long-Leatherwood and Fiance' Bailey, of Herndon, VA., granddaughter Peyton Long-Leatherwood and grandson, Mason Leatherwood. Brothers, David Leatherwood and wife Kris, and Bobby Sanders. Sister Bobbi Gail Rosini and husband Jim of Newark, NJ, Aunts, Retha Gunsaulis and husband Lennie, Gerri Hurley, Shirley Reed, Glenda Reed. Cousin, Kris Leatherwood that was like a sister to him. Many cousins, family and friends.

Kester Family Funeral Service
1704 W. Young Ave
Stilwell, OK 74960

Prepare for emergencies:

Be prepared for weather-related emergencies, including power outages. Stock food that needs no cooking or refrigeration and water stored in clean containers. Ensure that your cell phone is fully charged. When planning travel, be aware of current and forecast weather conditions. Keep an up-to-date emergency kit, including: Battery-operated devices, such as a flashlight, a National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) Weather Radio, and lamps.





Elizabeth Pearl Gaches

April 11, 1937 - Jan.12, 2024

Elizabeth Pearl Gaches, known affectionately as Pearl by her loved ones, passed away peacefully due to natural causes on January 12, 2024, at the age of 86. Born in Stilwell on April 11, 1937, Pearl's life was a rich tapestry woven with love, dedication, and service to her family and community.

Pearl was a proud graduate of Stilwell High School, where she completed her studies in May of 1954. Her academic achievements were only the beginning of a life marked by hard work and commitment. Pearl dedicated 40 years of her life to the Allen Canning Company, where she excelled as a Floor and Lab Supervisor until her retirement in 1996. Her diligence and professionalism left a lasting impact on her colleagues and the company. Beyond her professional life, Pearl was a woman of many passions. She found joy in the simple pleasures of life such as sewing, cooking, and baking. Her hands lovingly crafted garments and decorations, and her kitchen was a place of warmth where delicious meals and cakes were made not just to feed but to delight her family and friends. Her talents in decorating cakes were especially renowned, making every family celebration a memorable one. Pearl's heart was always fullest when surrounded by her beloved family. Keen. She was a cherished matriarch to 17 grandchildren, 33 great-grandchildren, and 2 great-great-grandchildren, all of

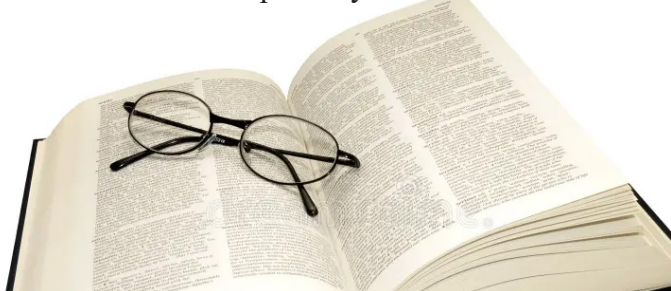
whom brought immense joy and pride to her life. Pearl was the embodiment of loving kindness, and her thoughtful nature touched everyone she encountered. Her words and actions consistently reflected her caring spirit, leaving an indelible mark on the hearts of those she met. Her unwavering support and selfless love will be dearly missed but will continue to resonate through the generations of her family. To describe Pearl as loving, kind, and thoughtful is to capture the essence of a life well-lived. She was a beacon of light in the lives of her family and all who knew her. Her legacy will live on in the values she instilled in her children and the countless memories cherished by her family and friends. As we bid farewell to Elizabeth Pearl Gaches, we celebrate a life that was filled with purpose, kindness, and an abundance of love. Her spirit will forever remain in the hearts of those who were fortunate enough to know her. Pearl's life was a testament to the beauty of giving, the strength of family bonds, and the enduring power of a kind heart. Pearl's journey on this earth has come to a gentle close, but her story will be told for generations to come. She has left this world richer for her presence, and her family takes comfort in knowing that her love will continue to guide them from above. A life so beautifully lived deserves to be beautifully remembered. Sweet mother, we cherish every moment spent with you, and we honor your memory with lives lived in the same loving spirit you shared with us. Rest in peace, dear mom, until we meet again.

Kester Family Funeral Service
 1704 W. Young Ave
 Stilwell, OK 74960

Searching for Word.....

precipitation. Any form of water, such as rain, snow, sleet, or hail, tht falls to the earth's surface.

Ex. The weatherman called for precipitation ranging from rain to sleet and possibly snow.



Lucille Wilson

January 7, 1930 - January 11, 2024

Lucille Fourkiller Wilson departed this life on January 11, 2024, in Stilwell, Oklahoma. She celebrated her 94th birthday just four days before, surrounded by dozens of friends and family. Lucille was born on January 7, 1930, the daughter of Grant and Mary (Hogner) Fourkiller, in the Chalk Bluff Community where she attended a one-room schoolhouse and lived her entire life. She may have been small in stature but was a giant in her community, leaving an enormous impact and gaining profound respect across generations. A revered Cherokee tribal elder, Lucille was a prayer warrior who loved the Lord. Her Christ-centered service was a beacon of inspiration and comfort. Lucille was not only a cherished mother, grandmother, and great grandmother – and she prayed for us all, but also an embodiment of her rich heritage. She understood her role as a keeper of traditions and the Cherokee language, ensuring their continuity for future generations. She taught Cherokee language classes in her home to the New Tribe organization student missionaries. On January 12th, the Cherokee Nation rang a solemn bell to honor the passing of this Native speaker, distinguished by the Cherokee Nation as a National Treasurer. Lucille honored the past while also looking toward the future. She was a pioneering businesswoman whose determination, work ethic,

and entrepreneurial spirit led her to be one of the first Cherokee business owners. Lucille and her husband, Andrew Jay Wilson, established Jay's Lunchbox, the first of four successful restaurants they operated for more than 25 years. The restaurants were more than a way to support their family; Lucille and A.J. created places where neighbors and those passing through would find nourishment and friendship - where culture, good conversation, and great food came together over an Indian Taco or a slice of pie. And anyone who tasted her homemade piecrust left with more joy in their hearts. Watching her small hands flutter in a mound of flour to make biscuits or frybread was to witness unrivaled culinary magic. Lucille loved singing Cherokee Hymns. As a member of the Native Praise Choir for 25 years, she traveled the world, sharing blessings of faith and Native heritage to audiences in London, Washington DC, and the Grand Ole Opry, just to name a few notable places she visited. A meaningful highlight was singing in Hawaii and visiting Pearl Harbor in honor of her brother Joe, a Navy Veteran who served in the South Pacific during WWII on an aircraft carrier. Throughout her life, Lucille was active in the Cherokee Baptist Association, Women's Missionary Union, and Sunday School Conventions. She treasured singing, teaching, and cooking for RA/GA and Indian Falls Creek Family Camps. Lucille was a faithful member in many Indian Baptist Churches, including her final membership at Chuculate Baptist Church, and held trusted leadership roles as Treasurer and Secretary. As a Granny at Maryetta Schools for 16 years, children felt her love and the love of God. Well into her eighties, Lucille told her family that she couldn't leave town because she needed to take care of the older people back home. Although Lucille's family

shared her with many, they never doubted that they were most important to her. She gave her love unconditionally – sometimes gentle and sometimes fierce. When one of the grandkids felt down, she reminded them not to forget the trail and ancestors they came from - and to have a cup of coffee which she thought could solve a lot of problems. She and A.J. attended hundreds of basketball, football, baseball, and track events across generations of kids and grandkids. Preceding Lucille in death were her parents; her husband; her children Richard Fourkiller and Trudy Lowry; and her siblings Joe Fourkiller, Anna Ketcher, Betty Hummingbird, Janie Fourkiller, Georgia Glass, and Margaret Fourkiller. Her life was a miracle grounded in faith, service, and resilience. Lucille's legacy lives on through her loving family, including her children Darrell Fourkiller and wife Sue of Eufala, Mary Fourkiller of Stilwell, Terri Fourkiller of Stilwell, Gordon Wilson and wife Linda of Stilwell, Starla Wilson and husband Benton McClelland of Stilwell, and Mark Wilson and wife Alison Anthony of Sand Springs; 27 grandchildren, 59 great-grandchildren and 4 great-great-grandchildren. Several nieces, nephews, friends and other relatives will miss her dearly. Whether we knew her as Mom, Grandma, Aunt Lucille, friend, sister - or as A.J. called her, "Go Lucille, Go Go Go" - we carry her love and lessons with us. We honor her remarkable life by living and grieving as she taught us – as a community in faith, unyielding in our dedication to family, our traditions, and love for one another. Donadagohv'I . . . until we meet again.

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Sandra Morris

April 16, 1947 — Jan.15, 2024

Sandra Morris, a beloved wife, mother, and grandmother, passed away on January 15, 2024, at the age of 76. She touched the lives of many with her kind heart, unwavering faith in Jesus, and her deep love for her family.

Born on April 16, 1947, Sandra was destined to be a mother. Nothing brought her more joy

than caring for her loved ones, especially her grandchildren. Her nurturing nature was evident in every aspect of her life as she selflessly dedicated herself to ensuring the happiness and well-being of those she held dear. Sandra's family was truly blessed to have had her in their lives.

Deeply devoted to Jesus, Sandra found solace in her faith. Her unwavering belief provided strength during difficult times and served as an inspiration to those around her. Sandra's spiritual journey shaped her character, allowing her kindness and compassion to shine through in every aspect of her life.

Beyond her family and faith, Sandra had a deep appreciation for the wonders of nature, particularly the mountains. The great outdoors held a special place in

her heart, and she found solace in the tranquility of nature's beauty.

Sandra is survived by her loving husband, Lonnie Morris, children Stacy Morris and Lonnie Morris Jr., and her three cherished grandchildren. Sandra will be dearly missed by her family, friends, and all who had the privilege of crossing paths with such a remarkable woman. Her selflessness, love, and unwavering faith will continue to be an inspiration for years to come.

Funeral Service

Friday, January 19, 2024

2:00 - 3:00pm (Central time)


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Revelation 1:7
7 Behold, he cometh with clouds; and every eye shall see him, and they also which pierced him: and all kindreds of the earth shall wail because of him.
Even so, Amen.

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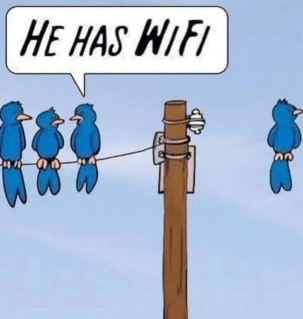
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