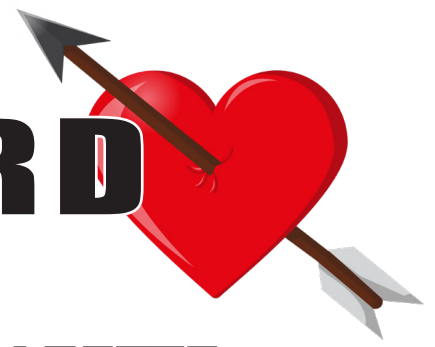


# The STRAIGHT FORWARD



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WEEKEND GAZETTE

Volume 3 • Issue 31

Serving Stilwell & Adair County, Oklahoma

Friday February 9, 2024

## STILWELL BASKETBALL



## SENIOR NIGHT SPECIAL:

### Indians and Lady Indians Score Big Wins

### A Snowda Storm:

#### Snowda Watie Unleashes An Avalanche Of Points.

Senior Snowda Watie, who recently reached a milestone of 1000 career points, saved her best performance of the year for Senior Night versus the Muldrow Bulldogs on Tuesday, February 6. With a flurry of baskets scored from the top of the key for three, or in the paint with deft floaters, or breathtaking reverse lay-ups along with steals that she took the length of the court in breakneck speed, Snowda's amazing performance buried the Lady Bulldogs in an avalanche, call it the "Snowda Storm". From the very first possession, in which Snowda swished the net from the top of the key for three, one could sense that she was feeling it. In the first half, Watie put up

21 points; however, Muldrow managed to keep the score close with the Lady Indians leading 27-24 at the half. The second half is when the avalanche went into full tilt. The Lady Indians came out with a relentless suffocating stifling full court press that created many a turnover. Snowda was in the thick of things. She found the open shooter time and time again while also adding to her final total of 36 points. The Lady Bulldogs were left panting when time ran out and the scoreboard showed Stilwell 60 Muldrow 47. In my opinion, I have never seen a better High School Girls Basketball player than Snowda Watie. The Lady Indians take their 16-4, 6-2 District record to

a Friday home game with Sallisaw and then travel to Roland on Saturday. Tuesday, February 13 finishes the regular season with a non-conference game at Wagoner.

Coach Nick Davis and his assistant, Matt Leah, are optimistic about the Lady Indians making a deep run into the state playoffs. Keep the "Snowda Storm" coming. Bring home the Gold Ball.

Story continues page #2



Foto by John Bankel

### Swish for Snowda...

## SHOP LOCAL

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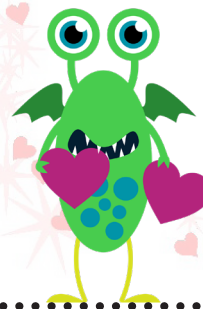
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## PROVERB POWER

Romans 3:10 KJV

As it is written, There is none righteous, no, not one.

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Stilwell High School Senior Snowda Watie



COME JOIN US FOR  
*A Holiday of Love*

# Valentine's Day

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Foto by John Bankel

Hitcher hits it...

## Indians Find Payback

Earlier this season, in a game at Muldrow, the Bulldogs nipped the Indians 53-47. On Tuesday, February 6, the Indians had payback on their minds. They paid it back with interest. For the Indians it was Freshman Brayton Carter who set the pace toward victory. He not only scorched the net with 27 points from all angles of the court, but ripped down rebounds, played relentless defense and masterfully ran the offense. One could say he was the Boys' answer to the "Snowda

Storm." Brayton had a tough assignment to fulfill, having been asked to step into the shoes of Braden George, whose season ended with a terrible injury, and Brayton stepped into it with aplomb. Carter's ball handling skills are beautiful to watch; he shoots with deadly accuracy and he has a knack for finding the open shooter. His supporting cast for this game was Keller Hitcher who dropped in 18 points and the stalwart Tyrus Teehee who had 11. It was not close at the end

**Continued from page #1** as the scoreboard showed: Stilwell 65 Muldrow 45. Payback, with interest, completed. The Indians take their 16-4, 8-0 District, to battle Sallisaw at home Friday night with another payback game looming at Roland on Saturday. Wagoner on Tuesday, February 13 finishes the regular season. From my perspective, the Indians are in good position to make a deep run into the state playoffs. The Gold Ball is the goal.

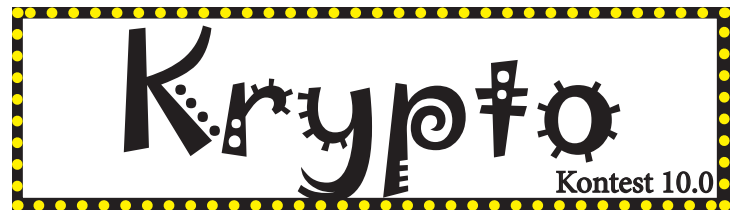
# Into the Hills

Chapter 1, Episode 4

By Donna Boecher

Tuesday, April 21, 1868 I was safely home again. It had taken the rest of Monday to pick up and return Simon's body to Chester. Only with the Sheriff's help and a buckboard had I been able to get Simon into Chester and arrange to have him buried in "boot hill." I didn't have funds to pay for a plot in the local church cemetery. Chester had its share of fatal gun-fights, so one more body to bury there was insignificant. The Sheriff and I

wanted to delve more into Simon's death, but I had to get home before Maw started worryin'. Thank goodness I had Turko, and I could get home quickly. As we passed by the place where I'd found Simon's body, Turko snorted and did a little side step or two. It was as if he remembered the spot . . . Maybe he recollected a smell? Would he recognize the killer?



Episode 1 of 8 Episodes

Hello all you Krypto Kontest fans. Here we go with Krypto 10.0! A brand new Kontest for all who have participated before and for those who have not. Krypto is a lot of fun; but not only that, there is a prize at the end for the one with the most korrek kryptos: \$25 Cash and Calculator.

All you need to play is to give it a try. Today's answer is 13. You are playing with 4, 7, 19, 23, 6. Remember that you must use all 5 numbers and any combination of addition, subtraction, multiplication or division to write an expression that equals the answer. So go ahead and grab a pencil and paper and see if you can write a solution. Have fun! Send your solution to: [themathguy@usa.com](mailto:themathguy@usa.com) or mail to: Krypto Kontest POB 885 Stilwell 74960.



## WHAT'S SO PUNNY? PUN FUN

Another week has come and gone; that means another PUN FUN is here. There is never an end to puns. Just when you think you have run out, along comes another one or two or three or four or more. So stick around; more puns to come. Here are a bunch of the Valentine food variety. May they tickle your heartstrings.

1. Say Cheese: Will you brie mine, valentine?
2. Chick Pea: Words cannot express hummus I love you.
3. Rare Breed: You are one in a melon.
4. Hot Doggy: I relish the time we spend together.
5. Tutti Frutti: It takes two to mango.

There we have it! Enough puns to make a pun salad. Don't forget the catsup or is it ketchup? I suppose it depends upon from which part of the country you come? Well, I hope these valentine food puns did not drive you bananas; maybe just a little nuts. Happy Valentines Day; may this day lift your heart!

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Donna Boecher.....Editor  
John Bankel.....Co-Editor/Journalist  
Stephanie Cullinane.....Composer

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:** clean. Free from dirt or pollution.

Ex. I clean my kitchen tile floor at least once a week or more.

**Psalm 51:10.**  
Create in me a clean heart, O God,  
and renew a steadfast  
spirit within me.

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## THE KIPLING KORNER

"It does not matter what people  
Think of a man after his death."





# STILWELL SPORTS SPOTLIGHT

Commentary by John Bankel

# ADAIR COUNTY SPORTS ROUNDUP

## Boys and Girls Basketball

By John Bankel

### Stilwell vs Locust Grove

The Lady Indians got the action started Saturday afternoon, February 3, as the Locust Grove Lady Pirates came to town. The Lady Indians had a score to settle with Locust Grove. In a December 19 game at Locust Grove, the Lady Pirates got the best of Stilwell by a score of 69-59. This time the Lady Indians were not to be denied. Snowda Watie set the tone in Stilwell's first possession, as she dribbled the ball down court, stopped at the top of the key and sent a high archer toward the basket and swished a three! The Lady Indians never looked back as they overwhelmed the

Lady Pirates, 74-47. Stilwell executed a relentless full-court press the entire game, a press that produced turnover after turnover, for which Locust Grove had no answer. This win left the Stilwell girls with a record of 15-4, with 7-0 in District play. Muldrow comes to town on Tuesday, February 6 for a Senior Night District contest. Tipoff 6 pm.

In the boys game, the Indians rolled to their 15th win of the year, 62-40. With the absence of one of their key players, point guard Braden George, who is reported to be out with a season ending injury, the Indians were

able to fill the gap left by George, with fine performances from two outstanding Freshmen, Brayton Carter and Chase Benham, along with timely shooting from Juan Martinez, Kason Doughty, Keller Hitcher and their big man, Tyrus Teehee. With a record of 15-4, 5-2 District play, the Indians will entertain the Muldrow Bulldogs on February 6, in a Senior Night District game. The Bulldogs beat the Indians earlier in the year on Muldrow's home turf. Time to settle the score. Tipoff 7:30 pm.



Photo from Watts Public School Facebook

#### Watts Public School Senior Night 2024

Thank you to our seniors that have played many years for Watts School! You will be missed. Once an Engineer, always an Engineer!

#### Watts Engineers and Lady Engineers Update

Starting on January 23, the Engineers have run into a rough patch on their season with the only bright spot coming in the game versus Cameron which Watts won 51-46. The next 3 games did not go the Engineers way. On January 26, in a home game with Oaks Mission, Watts was crushed 74-42. Then on January 30, at Cave Springs, the Engineers fell 53-28. Webbers Falls came to town on February 1 and took Watts down by a score of 42-35 leaving the Engineers with a 5-7 season record and 0-4 in District play. Meanwhile, the Lady Engineers during the course of those four games, did not fare any better, losing to Cameron 57-33; Oaks Mission prevailed by a score of 50-32; Cave Springs overwhelmed Watts by a score of 49-7; Webbers Falls also took the Lady Engineers to task by a score of 49-21. A forfeit by Bokoshe on February 2 added to the Lady Engineers win total where their season record stands at 3-10, 1-3 in District play. Watts next plays at Welch on February 5 to close out the regular season.

#### Cave Springs Hornets and Lady Hornets Update

The Hornets, over their last 4 games came out with a 2-2 record. On January 25, the Hornets took care of Keota, winning by 67-61. On January 26, Braggs proved to be too much for the Hornets as they fell by a lopsided 61-29 margin. January 30 brought forth a victory over Watts by 53-28. On Friday, February 2, Gans gunned the Hornets down by a score of 57-35. The Hornets are now 9-9 on the season with 1-2 in District play as they head into the final regular season game on February 6 versus Oaks Mission at home. Meanwhile, the Lady Hornets, over the same stretch of games, won 2 and lost 2, bringing their season mark to 10-8, 3-0 in District play. At Keota, the Lady Hornets lost 34-24. They beat Braggs handily by a score of 43-18. Against Watts it was no contest for the Lady Hornets as they overwhelmed the Lady Engineers by a score of 49-7. At Gans it was a different story as Gans took it to the Lady Hornets by a score of 34-18. Oaks Mission comes to town of February 6 for the final regular season game. Tipoff 6 pm.

#### Westville Yellowjackets and Lady Yellowjackets Update

The Yellowjackets, over their last 5 games, recorded 2 wins and 3 losses. On January 23, Keys came to town and took the Yellowjackets down by a score of 65-25. At Colcord, on January 25, the Yellowjackets lost a heartbreaker by the narrowest of margins, 58-57. On January 26, they traveled to Central where they lost 64-40. Howe, at home, proved to be a winner, 42-32. On the road to Vian gave the Yellowjackets another win, 53-47, improving their season record to 7-11, 6-4 in District play. The Lady Yellowjackets, over the same stretch, lost to Keys, 38-30, Colcord, 59-54, Central 61-36, and Howe, 64-39 with the Vian score unreported. The Lady Yellowjackets are now 2-12 on the season with 1-7 in District play. Stigler comes to town on February 9. Tipoff 6 p.m.

### Dahlonega Lady Indians ORES Division III Area Champions



Photo from Dahlonega Athletics Group Nate Bunch

Congratulations! Dahlonega Lady Indians

### Zion Lady Jets Advance to

### Oklahoma State ORES Tournament



Photo from Zion Public School Facebook

Congratulations! Lady Jets



Photo from Zion Public School Facebook

Congratulations!

The Zion Jets advance to the ORES State Basketball Tournament





Dear John,

I wanted to comment on the email from Nerdy Gurdy. Your answer took me back to my sister's life. She was a beautiful woman inside and out. My sister had a big heart and she loved people. Day after day she would go to the park for lunch. She met a man there who played his guitar and preached. They became friends and it happened like clockwork every day at noon she would take him lunch and he would sing to her. You see this man was homeless. I was concerned about their relationship, but my sister had no reservations about him. She would light up when telling me about his adventures, and she would cry because of his losses. Winter came and this man was living in an old camper without heat. My sister with a big heart asked him to come to her house. He moved in and slept on her couch. I was not very happy about this turn of events, but eventually I got to know him. He was well educated and a loving man. In the spring they got married and this man made my sister very happy for the first time in her life. My sister enjoyed every minute with the love of her life until she passed away from cancer. So it might not be so shocking that a person would take in a homeless person, he or she might be God sent. I have no question mine have all been answered. Thank you for your answer to Nerdy Gerdy.

Big Sister.

Dear Big Sister...thank you for your very tender portrayal of love's reality. Love blooms wild and you are its only seed. I have a question for my readers: How many of you ended up marrying someone whom you could not stand when you first met? Please respond using the mailing addresses below. Thanks.

Sincerely,  
Dear John

Have you got a question for Dear John?  
email: dearjohn@writeme.com or mail to:  
Dear John POB 885 Stilwell 74960. Real Name Not Used. Copyright 2024. All Rights Reserved.

### CONGRATULATIONS

**Rockets and Lady Rockets! Both teams are the ORES Division 2 North Area Champions!**

Photos from Rocky Mountain School Facebook



### Searching for Word.....

**sanitize** – To reduce or eliminate bacteria on the surfaces of something.

Ex. I sanitize my kitchen floors by using my electric mop which heats the mop water to 212 degrees Fahrenheit.



## ON THE CAMPAIGN TRAIL

COMMENTARY BY JOHN BANKEL

### Today's Trail Treks To..... Left Holding The Bag: Successful Secession

The way things are shaping up under the Biden regime, it is starting to look more and more like, not only a disaster, but an irreparably divided country. There is a chasm between the left and the right, politically speaking, or between the sane and the insane, mentally speaking. The Biden fueled border invasion is the poster child for Democrat lunacy. What is left of America is rapidly dwindling down in a maelstrom of illegals crossing the border. Is there a solution? That is the million dollar question? I just heard this morning that a California secession movement is underway? That move-

ment happens to intersect with what I have in mind, an idea which has already been bandied about, in times past. However, now may be the time to put secession into action. There are 27 RED states. Of those 27, 26 are united with Texas Governor Gregg Abbott in stopping the border invasion. Only Vermont balked. How about those 26 states forming a New Union, call it the "New America?" What would that look like? Without going into all the logistical details, on paper the RED states would come out smelling like a rose, a red rose! In a world that runs and thrives on energy, oil is still the King. The RED

states have most of the oil; need more be said? Let the left be left holding the bag.

Today's Trail has come to an end. May we 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 retired High School Math teacher, football and wrestling coach who can be reached at: [writewright@journalist.com](mailto:writewright@journalist.com)

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## THE CONSERVATIVE VIEW

By Russell Turner

### STEP UP AND STEP IN IT

The more I hear from elites of the world it convinces me that they live in some kind of alternate universe. A few years ago, at the World Economic Forum, a statement was made by one of the main elitists to the effect that they should run the world and the rest of us would own nothing but we would be happy. I have run my own business and farming operation for the majority of my working years, and I have found that in the case of farming a person has to step in a pile of cow manure every now and then to understand what work is all about. It has been my experience that the vast majority of people who accumulate property have made sacrifices that most people are unwilling to do, and just because someone may have some property does not put them on some kind of gravy train. In today's world more and more people are having a difficult time weathering the financial storms from unexpected expenses.

In a recent article I read where 56 percent of all U.S. adults do not have enough money to handle an unexpected expense of \$1,000... and one-third (35%) said they would have to borrow the

money somehow to pay for it. More than half the country is literally living on the edge of financial disaster. Another alarming fact, nearly half of Americans have \$500 or less in their savings accounts, an amount that leaves them vulnerable to unexpected expenses. While the government and the crooked politicians claim that inflation is under control, the average citizen knows otherwise. In my farming operation the cost of necessary supplies such as vaccines and replacement parts have gone through the roof, in my other business HVAC equipment and parts have also gone ballistic. Far too many of our fellow Americans are having to live paycheck to paycheck, many Americans would be financially wiped out by just one major accident or emergency. When many of these people hit rock bottom, they are forced to go to the government to apply for some kind of financial aid; the sad fact is they are having to rely upon the very people who, because of their mis-management of government funds, have created the problem in the first place. The sad fact is when people get into bad situations like I have outlined, they are

willing to sacrifice their freedom and liberties just to survive. Many of our citizens today do not have anything and they are far from happy.

The answer is simple, get the government out of our lives and let us live as free people. In today's world anyone who wants to start a small business is often overwhelmed at all the regulations and hoops they must go through just to start a business. I am a firm believer in the right of private property use. When people have property, they are more engaged in our political system. They keep track of what our elected officials are doing. Politicians will become more willing to listen to what their constituents are telling them. When it comes to the property I have accumulated through my career, I am proud of the accomplishments of a lifetime of hard work; but what really makes me happy is the freedom and liberty that comes from having property of my own. All these global elitists need to step up and learn how the real world works, and it might help if they happen to step in it once or twice.



# ROBERTS-REED-CULVER

FUNERAL HOME

Danetta Gail Smith, a beloved member of the community, has passed away at the age of 68. Born on February 7, 1955, in Rocky Mountain, Danetta lived a life filled with dedication, compassion, and love. Danetta's career was defined by her unwavering commitment to serving others. For an impressive 40 years, she dedicated herself to the Wilma P Mankiller Clinic. Her unwavering commitment to providing care and support to those in need touched the lives of countless individuals. She will be remembered fondly by her colleagues as a compassionate and dedicated individual who went above and beyond to make a difference in the community she loved. Beyond her professional accomplishments, Danetta found joy in simple pleasures and cherished moments spent with loved ones. Horses held a special place in her heart, and one of her favorite pastimes was going to horse sales with her brother Levi, and riding horses in her free time.



**Danetta Gail Smith**  
Feb. 7, 1955 — Feb. 2, 2024

However, Danetta's true source of happiness was found in her role as a devoted grandmother. Her two grandchildren, Cali and Gavin Stilwell, were the light of her life. She showered them with love and doted on their every milestone. Whether it was attending school events or creating lasting memories, Danetta embraced each moment spent with her beloved grandchildren. Danetta's warm and loving nature extended far beyond her immediate family. She touched the lives of

many friends who will forever be grateful for having known her. Her infectious laughter, genuine smile, and compassionate spirit lit up any room she entered. Those who had the privilege of being in Danetta's presence were forever changed by her kindness and generosity. She leaves behind her loving mother Loretta Stacy. In addition to her mother, Danetta is survived by her two brothers Levi and Tony Dickson, and two grandchildren: Cali and Gavin Stilwell. As we bid farewell to Danetta Gail Smith, let us remember the legacy she leaves behind – one of kindness, dedication, and a genuine appreciation for life's simplest joys. Her impact on the community will never be forgotten, and her memory will continue to inspire all those whose lives she touched.

Teresa Lynn Cannon, a beloved wife, mother, and dedicated employee at Gates for 14 years, has sadly passed away on February 5, 2024, at Washington Regional Hospital. She was an exceptionally kind-hearted individual who touched the lives of all those around her. Her loss is deeply felt by her family and friends.



**Lynn Craig Teresa Lynn Cannon**  
June 18, 1959 — February 5, 2024

Born on June 18, 1959, in Tulsa, Oklahoma, Teresa was a shining star from the moment she entered this world. She carried herself with grace and dignity throughout her life. Teresa's compassionate nature and unwavering love for her family defined her character. She took immense pride in being a devoted mother and wife; these roles were at the center of her existence. During her time at Gates, Teresa demonstrated incredible dedication and commitment to her work. Her professionalism shone through in every task she undertook. Her colleagues remember her as someone who went above and beyond to assist others without hesitation. Through her hard work and perseverance, Teresa left an indelible mark on her workplace. Teresa's passing leaves a void that can never be filled. She was preceded in death by her parents, son Christopher Cannon, sister Lavina Cantrell, brother Robby Shrum, and step-mom Georgia Shrum. Their absence weighs heavily on the hearts of those left behind to mourn their loss. Left to cherish Teresa's memory are the love of her life and husband of 47 years, Ricky Cannon. Together they built a life full of love and shared experiences. Her children Ricky Leon Cannon of Westville, Oklahoma; Tasha Dawn Willyard and Floyd of Owasso, Oklahoma; Kandis

and Markus of Summers Arkansas. Her nurturing spirit will forever guide them as they navigate life without their pillar of strength. In addition to immediate family members, Teresa leaves behind step-brother Chris and Patty McAll of Biloxi, Mississippi. Teresa's legacy is also carried on through the generations she leaves behind. Her grandchildren and three great-grandchildren will be forever blessed to have had such an extraordinary woman as their ancestor. By sharing her values and teachings, they will carry forward Teresa's spirit of love, kindness, and generosity. Although we mourn Teresa's passing, it is important to remember the incredible life she lived. She taught us all the true meaning of unconditional love and selflessness. Her resilience in the face of hardship was an inspiration to everyone who knew her. As we bid farewell to Teresa Lynn Cannon, let us celebrate her legacy and honor her memory by embracing the values she held dear. May her soul find eternal peace, knowing that she made a difference in the lives of countless individuals.

## Kester Family Funeral Service

Paul Buford Wall the son of JB and Irene (Bowen) Wall was born June 23, 1929, in Amarillo, Texas, and he departed this life on January 30, 2024, in Stilwell, Oklahoma at the age of 94 years, 7 months and 7 days.



**Paul Buford Wall**  
June 23, 1929 - Jan. 30, 2024

Paul was born and raised in Amarillo, Texas where he graduated High School in 1947. He married his High School Sweetheart Bettye Jho Nance in 1948, in San Diego, California, while serving in the Navy. Paul loved living in Amarillo, but he also loved the mountains of New Mexico; where he would fish for trout in the streams, rivers and lakes. More than his love for New Mexico was his love for his wife Bettye of over 73 years, and his children, grandchildren, great grandchildren and great-great grandchildren. He loved God, and his savior Jesus Christ. Paul served the Lord at Bolton Street Baptist Church for many years. Today we can rejoice knowing that he is in the arms of God in Heaven.

grandchildren Christopher Wall and wife Paige of Anderson, SC, Joanna and husband Keith Conway of Clyde, TX, Nancy Wall of San Antonio, TX, Mark Wall and wife Christina of Asheville, NC, Matthew Villandry and wife Brittany of Chiang Mai, Thailand, Levi Cash Bridges of Tulsa, OK, and Landon Cade Bridges and wife Laura of Prairie Grove, AR; 13 great grandchildren and 8 great-great grandchildren.

He was preceded in death by his parents and his wife Bettye Jho Wall.

He is survived by a loving family which includes his son Doug B. Wall of Amarillo, TX; his daughter Diana Bridges and husband John Lance Bridges of Westville, OK; his

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

Linda Juanita Allen the daughter of John and Linda (Cole) Kinsey was born June 5, 1944, in Oneota, New York, and she departed this life on February 2, 2024, in Tahlequah, Oklahoma at the age of 79 years, 7 months, 28 days.



**Linda Juanita Allen**  
June 5, 1944 - Feb. 2, 2024

Linda had a huge heart, and she loved her family deeply. She loved going to the river and swimming in her horse tank, which is what she called getting tanked. She was great at arts and crafts, and she was an awesome cook. She enjoyed meeting people, and everyone she met loved her. She always looked for the sparkle or the rainbow, she had prisms everywhere. Linda was a peacemaker; her heart was huge, and love poured out over all of her family and friends. Linda touched many lives over the years and will be dearly missed by all who knew and loved her.

James (Crystal) Sanborn, Mark Tablante, Matthew, Christopher Loveall, Nicholas Loveall, Dearly (Kaley Jo) Carter, Ashley Gresham, and Tymber (Chris) Dinoia; her siblings Sheila Alderson, Kent (Anna) Kinsey, John (Phyllis) Kinsey, Denise Kinsey Griffin and Cindy Kinsey; 22 great-grandchildren and 2 great-great-grandchildren. Several nieces, nephews, friends and other relatives also survive her.

She was preceded in death by her parents; her brothers Scott Kinsey and James Kinsey; and her grandson Chase Puffinbarger.

She is survived by a loving family which includes her children Christine Hobson and husband Kenny, Laurie Houglund and husband Charles, Tom Thele and wife Pam and Allan Thele; her bonus children Jimmy Jo Sanborn and Tina Louise Thele; her grandchildren Jessica Sanborn, Cassie (Brandon) Sanborn,

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