

# Obituaries

## Karen Beecher



Karen Beecher

Karen Marie Beecher, of Yates Center, passed away Sunday, Aug 31, 2025 in her home at the age of 87.

Karen was born Aug. 25, 1938 to Guy and DeMoy Pate, in Stillwell, OK. The family moved to several places before settling in Arcadia, OK where she graduated from high school. July of 1956 Karen married William Stevens and had two daughters – Deanna and Debbie. They later divorced. Karen met Edgar “Buddy” Beecher, in Oklahoma City, OK and were wed Feb. 2, 1962 and had three children – Dustene, Dale and Daryl.

In 1967 the family moved from Okarche, OK to the farm in Yates Center. Karen was a homemaker for most of her life before she started working at Gates Rubber Company in Iola, from where she retired. In 2001 they sold the farm and moved to town.

Karen loved her family and spent many days as a 4-H leader and going to livestock shows with Dustene, Dale and Daryl; and later to the fairs watching her grandchildren and great-grandchildren showing livestock. She also loved babysitting her grandchildren and great-grandchildren and also many other children in town.

She was preceded in death by the love of her life, Buddy; daughter Dustene; her parents and in-laws; one brother Johnny; and three sisters: Patty, Emma and Erma.

She is survived by her children Deanna Johnson, of Yates Center, Debbie Stevens, of Edmond, OK, Dale Beecher and Stacey, of Iola, and Daryl Beecher, of Yates Center and Aileen Blackwell, of Yates Center; five grandchildren, Shawna Johnson, Josh Weston, Dallyn Beecher (Brett) and Shandell (Aaron) Skillman and Jacob Keiter; eight great-grandchildren, Rhylan, Jordynn, Conway, Daxton, Bellamee, Carson, LeDoux, and Dally; one sister, Nita Aldrich, of Tyler, TX; brothers, Pete Pate, of Temple, TX and Richard Pate, of Weatherford, TX; and sister-in-law, Maxine Masquelier of Kingfisher, OK. And many nieces and nephews and other family and friends.

Donations in her memory can be made to Friends for Life, Yates Center.

Visitation will be Friday, Sept. 12, 2025, from 6 to 8 p.m. at Campbell Funeral Home, Yates Center, KS. Graveside services will be Saturday Sept. 13, at 10:30 a.m. at the Yates Center Cemetery.

## Earl Miller

Earl Lester Miller, of Benedict, died Sunday, Aug. 31, 2025, at Morningstar Care Homes. in Neodesha, at the age of 91.

He was born May 7, 1934.

A proud graduate of Benedict High School, Class of 1952, Earl dedicated his career to various roles that showcased his expert knowledge and love for agriculture. He worked as a lifelong farmer, worked at the Benedict Rock Crusher, and the Alfalfa Mill. Additionally, he served as a ranch hand for well-respected figures Doc Davies and Max Farwell Sr., where his skills in bull dozing and mechanics were indispensable.

He was united in marriage to Barbara Lou Faulkner June 30, 1954, she preceded him in death on Oct. 3, 2020.

He is survived by his son, Steven Earl Miller and wife Jan’ of Benedict; his daughter, Kathy Claiborne and husband Kenton, of Coyville; his sister, Arline Guenther, of Benedict; as well as his grandchildren: Travis Miller and wife Robyn, Kim Thompson and husband Corey, Nathan Miller and wife Jaci, Keith Compton and wife Audrey, Kebra Panko

and husband Ryan, Kyla Baker and husband Devin, and 14 great-grandchildren, Andrew, Noah, and Seth Miller, Brody, Carter and Wyatt Thompson, Ali, Kloe and Leah Miller, Arcadia and Caydence Compton, Ila Panko, Sage and Bowen Baker, and numerous nieces and nephews.

He is predeceased by his beloved wife of 66 years, Barbara Lou (Faulkner) Miller; his parents, George Kenneth “Kack” and Virgie Mae (Cain) Miller; and his brothers, Bob, Dewayne, and Wayne Miller.

He was a member of the Benedict Masonic Lodge, and a past member of the Benedict and Fredonia United Methodist Church.

He will be honored and remembered with the signing of the register book Wednesday, Sept. 3, from 1 to 4 p.m. at the Wickham Family Funeral Home, in Fredonia, and a graveside service with Masonic Rites will take place the following day, Thursday Sept. 4, at 10 a.m. at the Coyville Cemetery.

Memorials may be sent to the Coyville Cemetery and the Alzheimer’s Foundation, may be left at or mailed to Wickham Family Funeral Home & Cremation Service, 510 N. 7th Fredonia, Kansas 66736.

## Willis “Jim” Hall

Technical Sergeant Willis “Jim” Rozelle Hall, was born Aug. 9, 1927, in Rose, to Albert E. and Carlie Puckett Hall. Willis was (MIA) on March 11, 1968, in Houaphanh Province, Laos. He lived a life of dedication and service to his country, family, and community. His legacy is marked not only by his military achievements but also by the warmth of his character and the love he shared with those around him.

He was a proud member of the Merchant Marine, Air Force, Kansas Air National Guard, Army then finished his service with the U.S. Air Forces, serving with Detachment 1, 1043rd Radar Evaluation Squadron. His remarkable service was recognized with numerous awards, including the Purple Heart, the Bronze Star, and the Bronze Star with a V for Valor. Additionally, he received Honorable Service Awards from both the Army and the Air Force. A graduate of the Army’s GED program, Willis furthered his education by taking college courses during his service, specializing in teletype maintenance and repair and cryptography.

He began his education in a rural one-room schoolhouse. Willis was known for being a mild-mannered individual who never raised his voice. His home was an open-door haven, welcoming to friends and family alike, and he became a mentor to many of the young Airmen with whom he worked. A true Christian man, Willis instilled strong values within his family, raising them with love and kindness.

He was united in marriage to Mary Catherine (Kate) Wolf in 1953, and she passed in December of 1998.

Among his proudest accomplishments was the love of his family. He is survived by his son, Steven Rozelle Hall, and daughter-in-law, Vicki, as well as four grandchildren and nine great-grandchildren, and son in law Fred Press, who carry forward his legacy. He was a proud father to his daughter Laura Jean (Hall) Press she passed away in December of 2004.

March 11, 1968, he made the ultimate sacrifice during a sapper attack by North Vietnamese soldiers against a U.S. Air Force Tactical Air Navigation system in Laos. He was one of eleven Air Force personnel killed in that tragic incident. Though his remains were not recovered at the time, the military has since accounted for Technical Sergeant Hall, and his service and sacrifices have not gone unnoticed.

His repatriation will be Thursday, Sept. 11.

Visitation will be held Saturday, Sept. 13, from 9 to 11 a.m., followed by a memorial service at 11 a.m. at Verdigris Valley Christian Fellowship Church, in Altoona. He will then be laid to rest at Altoona Cemetery.



Courtesy Photo

**CHAD AND VICKY ALTIS**, of Commerce Yard of the Month. They Toronto, are the winners of the received \$50 Chamber Bucks courtesy of Kevin and Cindy Stuber.

# Toronto News

By Kathy Cummings

As nice as the fall like weather has been, warmer temps are back later this week. The temps could stay like they’ve been throughout the fall and winter months. We’ve been having some really pretty sunsets lately, also. The sky has had such vivid colors.

What does “librocubicularist” mean? And are you one?

I know there are many things to like about fall and winter, but what are some of your favorite things? Some of mine are hot cocoa, soups and casseroles. And speaking of hot cocoa and chocolate what is your favorite way to fix it? I like to make it from scratch with powdered cocoa, sugar, a half gallon milk, pinch of salt, and teaspoon of vanilla.

When I want just a cup of cocoa I use the one and a half instant packets and heat milk in the microwave for three minutes. It’s not as good a scratch cocoa, but it is still really good.

Hello! to all in area nursing and assisted living facilities. Hello, also, to all in area hospitals and rehab centers. Wade is still in Burlington. I think he will be coming back home soon, he is getting around really good.

We offer our sympathy to all who lost loved ones this

## Public Notice

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### Special Notice/Hearing

Woodson County Solid Waste is having a hearing on Thursday, September 11, 2025 at 6:00 P.M. This hearing will take place in the Woodson County Ambulance Building, 114 N Main, Yates Center, KS. Discussion will take place concerning the Woodson County Solid Waste Management Plan Annual Review.

past week. May they all rest in peace. One family is getting some much needed closure this week as technical sergeant Willis “Jim” Hall’s remains are coming home from Vietnam. He was an uncle to Carlene Hall and Shirley Fishel.

Answer: Someone who reads in bed. Is that you?

The moon, either last Thursday or Friday, was sure a really dark red as it was rising. Did you get to see it? There was a full lunar eclipse Sunday night that was blood red, but it wasn’t visible for us. It could be seen in Europe, Asia, Africa, Australia, and New Zealand.

The Toronto Booster Club’s Farmer’s Market was held Saturday morning. There weren’t very many vendors. Along with the few vendors Saturday morning, Harley Wayne, provided some musical entertainment for all.

I thought it was pretty cool when they had one last year the first Saturday in December. There were lots of vendors at the gym for that one and lots and lots of people showed up. Many buying gifts for Christmas.

It would be nice to have one again this year.

If you’ve been noticing activity on the south side of the gym, that is the construction crew working on rebuilding the bathrooms. They have completed some dirt work and some plumbing. The labor for this job is all volunteer.

Our librarian, Jessie Hoag, was recently presented the “Award of Excellence for Library Director”. She has done so much good for, and is still doing good for our local library.

Quote: “My doctor told me that jogging could add years to my life. I think he was right. I feel ten years older already,” Milton Berle.

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