

# The STRAIGHT FORWARD

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FREE Press<sup>SM</sup>



Volume 1 • Issue 33

Serving Stilwell & Adair County, Oklahoma

Thursday, March 3, 2022

## Special Feature:

### ADAIR COUNTY ARTIST VIBE

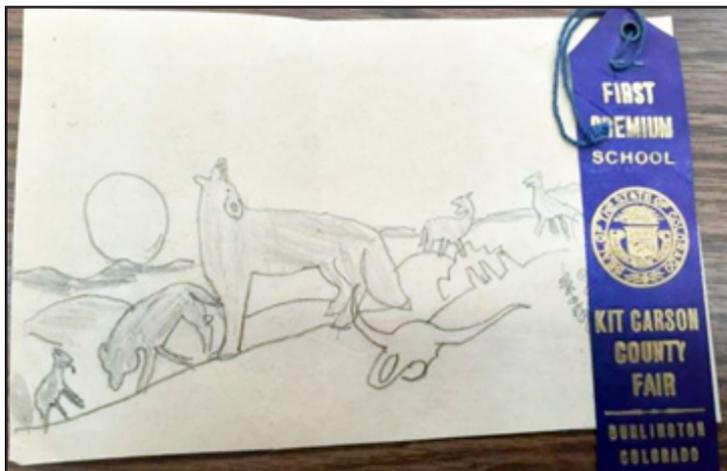
There is a plethora of artistic talent within the confines of Adair County. The Straight Forward FREE Press seeks to discover and herald some of those artists. The first issue of each month is dedicated to highlighting one of them. In this issue we will meet **Joe Wolf: The Artist In Portrait.**

By John Bankel

Artists are invariably a different sort, bent on paddling their canoes out of the mainstream. They tend to march to the beat of a different drummer. They tend to dance to the tune of a different piper. Joe Wolf, the artist, is such a man.

He showed his artistic abilities at a young age, when he lived in Colorado, where he won a blue ribbon for his sketch. (See photo.) He was born in Stilwell but his folks moved to Colorado, where his father first worked in the broomcorn fields; his Dad ended up finding work as a ranch hand until about 1960, when the federal government undertook a program to move "Indians" to large population centers, ostensibly so they could find work.

As a result, Joe's family moved to Chicago when he was 10. There he lived in a neighborhood not far



from Wrigley Field. He began High School at an all boys school, perhaps the largest school in the city: Lane Technical High School. Lane had 6000 boys. As an aside, this writer went to Lane's archrival, Schurz

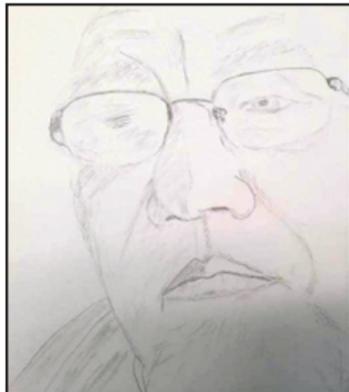
High School, which was about 1 1/2 miles down the road on Addison Ave., and had 5000 students, but 4000 were girls! Needless to say, Lane had the upper hand when it

## SPLFS to Host Cherokee Storyteller

By Regina McLemore,  
SPLFS Secretary

Cherokee Storyteller Robert Lewis will be the featured speaker at the March meeting of the Stilwell Public Library Friends Society (SPLFS). They will meet Thursday, March 10, 5:00 p.m., in the Stilwell Public Library meeting room. Since this meet-

ing is sponsored by the Cherokee Nation, attendees are required to wear masks, and seating is limited. Please call or text Grace at 918-315-4279 if you plan on attending or email Regina McLemore at reginamc1953@gmail.com. Come and share an enjoyable evening of Cherokee culture and fellowship.



## Merriott has Served as Dedicated Stilwell Public Schools Board Member for Past 20 Years

Jess Merriott has served as a dedicated Stilwell Public Schools board member for the past 20 years. During his tenure he has helped guide district decisions to purchase a Boys and Girls Club building, purchase land for later expansion, guide a FEMA grant in order to build a new Tornado Shelter/Fine Arts building for the district, update facilities with new HVAC, windows, doors, asphalt and much more. He has helped establish programs such as Cherokee I and II for dual enrollment, support the efforts of the SHS College and Career Resource Center, expand the STEM program, and helped solidify community partnerships such as NSU, BGCA, faith based partners and more! Jess Merriott has been a part of many improvements and construction adding on to the current 500 building as well.

Furthermore, Jess Merriott has been named to the All-State Board of Education for the State of Oklahoma and awarded the Buddy Spencer Leadership Award through the Oklahoma State School Board Association for his dedicated service as a leader in our school, our community, and our state. He stands out as a christian leader in his church and our community willing to step up and help when needs are presented at school and in our community. He makes a point to be involved and supports the efforts of the Stilwell Public Schools Fellowship of Christian Students Associations as well as other clubs and organizations found within the SPS district.

Mr. Merriott has been and continues to be a leader willing to serve in many capacities whether that is helping to coach a soccer team when a coach is unavailable, judging Future Chef contests for years, continually participating in



Jess Merriott receiving the Buddy Spencer Leadership Award.

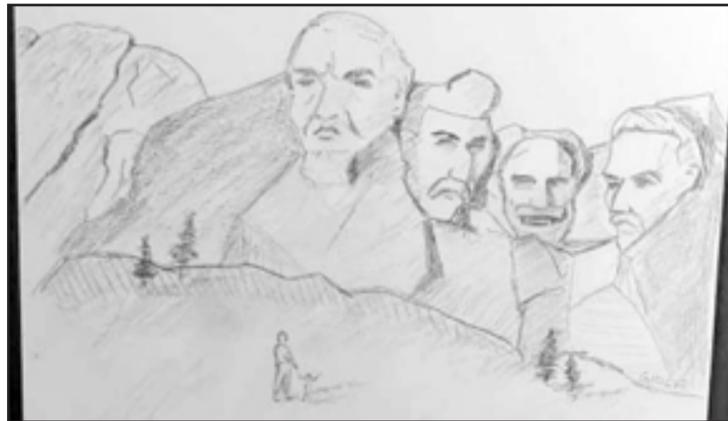
club officer interviews, packing and passing out meals to families during the COVID pandemic and donating personal equipment when social distancing was needed to keep students safe and honestly much, much more. He simply has done it all and continues to strive to serve the staff and students at Stilwell Public Schools.

There is no better choice for the Stilwell Public Schools Board of Education than Jess Merriott. He has been an unwavering, proven leader who holds much respect for Public Education and the Stilwell District teachers and staff that he serves. He values the hard work that goes into the education of our young people and has a great desire to see every student prepared for a successful future. Mr. Merriott has aided in the approval of and implementation of the programs that helped the Stilwell Public School District attain the merited National Post Secondary Award (NPSI) last year for the college and

career readiness of their students—again this was a NATIONAL Award setting SHS apart from other rural districts for college and career readiness prompting a visit from the State Superintendent of Schools Joy Hofmeister. The accolades and school district improvements credited to Mr. Merriott are many. He values the input of all stakeholders and readily expresses their thoughts and opinions in order to make innovative improvements for the SPS district.

This 20 year veteran school board member has the foundational knowledge of what a school board member is, how a school board functions as he has attended years of state and national conferences that train members in school law and above all he knows how to move a school district forward for the success of all children that it serves.

(Submitted by Friends of Jess Merriott for Stilwell School Board.)



came to sports, but the Schurzites were more adept at more important things.

While Joe was at Lane, he majored in Commercial Art. At 17, he also began his career as a chef, flipping burgers at a well known burger joint, Kings Castle. Through the years, his love for cooking kept him employed. And today, it keeps him well fed. However, his art career

languished on the back burner.

After 22 years in the Windy City, Joe packed his bags and moved back to his birthplace: Stilwell, Oklahoma. Many more years passed before Joe got back into art. In 2021, two of his 3 children gave their Dad very meaningful and inspiring Christmas presents: one

(See Artist Vibe on Page 3)



### Stilwell Sports Spotlight

Commentary by John Bankel

## Stilwell Boys and Girls Basketball Teams Reach Regional Finals

After a winter storm forced the postponement of the regularly scheduled Thursday night Area 2 Regional Basketball Tournament at the Oologah High School Sports Complex to Saturday, both the Indians and Lady Indians were ready to climb the next rung of the State Tournament Ladder.

The Lady Indians started the action by taking the mettle of the Locust Grove girls squad by a fairly close score of 52-47. The Indians followed that victory with one of

their own as they took down the host school, Oologah, by a convincing 58-48 margin.

Both Stilwell teams advance to the Regional Final on Tuesday, March 1 at Verdigris. The girls will play Verdigris. The boys take on Hilldale. The Lady Indians enter the contest at 17-5. The Indians are crackling at 21-1. The next rung awaits! Come on out and rally Stilwell's teams to victory!

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## Stilwell Places 2 in the Class 4A State Wrestling Finals

The Oklahoma High School State Wrestling Tournament was held this past weekend at the OKC State Fair Arena. The Stilwell Indians managed to get 2 wrestlers into the Finals: Jayce Caviness at 126 lbs. and Cutter Sheets at 145. Of the two, Caviness emerged as the Class 4A State Champion by narrowly beating his opponent, Brody Gee of Skiatook, 2-0. Caviness is only a Junior so there is a very good possibility that he can return to defend his Title next year. Cutter Sheets fell in the final match, in a very exciting and hectic tussle, by a score of 8-6 to Reese Davis of perennial powerhouse Tuttle. Tuttle ran away with the tournament having placed 9 wrestlers into the finals, with 5 emerging as champions. Tuttle finished with 210 team points, well ahead of runner-up Heritage Hall who scored 77. Stilwell

finished with a respectable 8th place finish out of a field of 27 schools with 39.5 points. Adam Brown, 182 lbs. made it to the semi-finals where he lost by major decision to Schmidt, Tuttle, 12-2. After he lost in the Consolation Quarterfinals, Brown ended up not placing.

The 2022 Stilwell wrestling season had its great moments and some heartbreaking disappointments due to injury and wrestlers leaving the team. All in all, with wrestling being an almost pure individual sport, kudos belong to Jayce Caviness, 1st Place, Cutter Sheets, 2nd Place and Adam Brown, a semifinal qualifier, for their performances in the State Tournament. Performances well worth celebrating!

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### PROVERB POWER

“But they that wait upon the LORD shall renew their strength; they shall mount up with wings as eagles; they shall run, and not be weary; they shall walk, and not faint.” – Isaiah 40:31 (KJV)

The Straight Forward FREE Press is now **ONLINE** on Google!  
[www.straightforwardfreepress.com](http://www.straightforwardfreepress.com)  
Check it out and enjoy!

# THE CONSERVATIVE VIEW

By Russell Turner

## THE SOVIET UNITED STATES

Being a little older may have some disadvantages, such as a loss of hair and the remaining turning grey, but it does have some advantages. I have found that life's experiences do give us the insight to see the trends that are happening in our country today. I can remember vividly the actions of the old Soviet Union; they were masters of propaganda. They controlled the media and they totally controlled what the people of their empire were told about world events. Most of the time the people bought the line of garbage that was fed to them; sadly, I see the same thing happening in our country. Basically, in the old Soviet system, you had two classes of people. You had the elite class and the poor worker class, former Russian leader Joseph Stalin referred to them as being useful idiots. If anyone had the gall to challenge the status quo, they would find themselves in a cold dark place somewhere in Siberia. When you look at history this is nothing new, humans have a bad tendency to delude themselves that they are superior and more intelligent than their fellow humans and will do anything to dominate, intimidate, and create a class system where they will rule over the masses.

Just recently special counsel John Durham's investigation was released concerning the spying against Donald Trump before and during his term as President of the United States. On several occasions Trump made the accusation that he had been spied upon, each time he was ridiculed and the mainstream media portrayed him as being a liar and conspiracy buff. One example was a 60 Minutes piece where he told Leslie Stahl that he was spied upon, and immediately she told him and the American people that Trump was essentially making the whole thing up; as far as I am concerned Leslie Stahl owes Trump and the American people a huge apology. I have also noticed that the mainstream media is remaining completely quiet about the Durham investigation; I would bet you if Trump had been the one

accused of spying, they wouldn't be quiet.

President Trump and the American people were subjected to a fabrication of the Russian Collusion story for Trump's entire term, it is proving to be nothing but a political dirty trick orchestrated by the leaders of the Democrat party. Now those same people, in my opinion, are leading this country down a path to destruction. While resident Biden is talking tough about the Ukraine border, he is totally oblivious to the debacle happening on our own southern border, and his reckless economic policies are costing all of us when we go to the gas pump or the grocery store. He is a total joke when it comes to being the leader of the free world; because of the Afghanistan debacle our enemies no longer fear us and our allies cannot trust us. All of these issues have one thing in common, the mainstream media refuses to hold Biden's feet to the fire, all they seem to be interested in is still attacking Donald Trump. Some people may call me a conspiracy buff, but I ask you how much proof do you need to see the conspiracy of deception that has been used on the American people?

You have one political party that is willing to lie and make false accusations in an attempt to destroy someone who has a different opinion on how our country is to be run. You have a media that is clearly biased and ignores news stories that the American people need to make an intelligent decision on who is to run our country. You have social media that is censoring anyone who dares to have a different opinion than the liberal left. These people are no different than the leaders of the old Soviet Union, they feel superior to the rest of us common citizens and believe wholeheartedly that we should be their useful idiots. I am sure that the old people responsible for the Soviet system would be proud of the current crop living and thriving in the United States.

# The Lady in the Blue Sari

Part 33

By Donna Boecher

Lydia was proud of her niece Ann's casitas for destressing. Being with family after being in India for many years was heart-warming. She hoped she could entice Ann to bring her ideas to south India. India could use the technology of solar panels, compostable toilets that didn't require electricity, and small homes that could help many young families to become independent. Lydia's stateside family was secure and growing; it was time for Lydia to

fly home to India.

She missed the flavors and vegetables unique to the India subcontinent. There was the spiciness of chilies in the northern Punjab, and the sweet fruits of the south. Oh, those mangoes! She was ready for a mango lassi. So simple; mango and yogurt. Plus, she was ready to return to the freedom and coolness of the Salwar Kameez and Sari. Indian-cotton was so soft. Tonight, she would cook the family an India-style vegetarian meal, and tomorrow she would fly to Delhi.

## THE KIPLING KORNER

Character named Kim in the book of the same, The Kim was, as Rudyard Kipling wrote, "(the) Little friend of all the World." We all should have the curiosity of Kim and a moral compass that made him a friend and hero.

## SCRIPTURE

"But my God shall supply all your need according to his riches in glory by Christ Jesus. Now unto God and our Father be glory for ever and ever. Amen." — **Philippians 4:19-20 (KJV)**

Scripture sponsored by:

## Faith Tabernacle

Corner of Hwy. 51 & Piney Road • Stilwell, OK

## Health Tips from Larkin...

By Larkin Fouse, CHHP

### Stress Busters—Tea, Part 2:

There are many kinds of tea that are relaxing and peace giving to the mind, so I will list a few this week and a few other tips that help with the art of Zen tea. Chamomile, Lavender, and Peppermint are all relaxing teas and are the most popular, however it is not only the tea that makes you relax, it is the format in which you drink it and the means of brewing that really add in the full inner peace feeling to it. When making tea, use an organic brand if possible and drink it from a decorative cup that

makes you simply feel relaxed and spiritual. Avoid sugar as a sweetener as it makes the nervous system more active, which is the opposite of what you want to do. Instead, try honey or agave nectar as they have the sweetness but without the hyper inducing factor. When drinking your tea, the most soothing direction to face is the south and the best times to drink relaxing teas are at 6 am, 10 am, and 6 pm as this aligns with your 24 hour body cycle. So go have fun mastering the art of Zen tea!

Larkin Fouse is a certified holistic health practitioner.



## Mullin It Over:

# Energy Independence is Critical to National Security

By Congressman Markwayne Mullin

The Biden Administration's refusal to protect American energy independence has rendered our country incapable of standing firm against Russia's aggression towards Ukraine.

It's no secret President Biden set out to diminish American energy independence from the start. From killing the Keystone XL pipeline and rejoining the Paris Climate Agreement, to enacting his anti-fossil fuel agenda while simultaneously begging OPEC+ to produce more oil, the Biden Administration has weakened our energy industry in every way. Now, we are experiencing the consequences of this weakness in real time.

President Biden lost his leg to stand on. He emboldened Putin in weaponizing European energy by waiving sanctions on the Nord Stream 2 pipeline and lobbying against having these sanctions reinstated. The President of the United States helped Putin in his effort to control the entire energy market which is a dangerous situation if he succeeds. In 2009, Russia single-handedly created an energy crisis by cutting off gas flow to Ukraine following a supply contract dispute. Why would he not do this again elsewhere?

President Biden's refusal to prioritize American producers makes the

United States reliant on our adversaries, like Putin. The United States currently imports an average of 694,000 barrels of crude oil and petroleum from Russia per day. This is a 34 percent increase from when President Trump was in office and costs our country \$22 million more per day. The Keystone XL Pipeline was expected to import roughly 830,000 barrels per day, which would have more than covered what we are importing from Russia. President Biden announced he was placing economic sanctions on Russia. If he is serious, he would stop these imports too and end his anti-fossil fuel rhetoric.

Oklahomans are already feeling the consequences of these international tensions. Due to the decrease in oil supply and disruptions in the flow, gas prices are the highest they have been in eight years. Further, there is a real threat of inflation rising as high as 10 percent if the conflict continues to escalate.

We are seeing a worst-case scenario play out in real life. Unfortunately, it did not have to be this way. America could be energy independent if we had a president that stood behind our energy suppliers and prioritized production here at home. What we are suffering is the direct consequence of President Biden's bad policy.



**Daniel Wayne Garrett**, 48, passed on Thursday, February 17, 2022. Memorial services will be held at 11 am on Saturday, March 5, 2022 at Roberts/Reed-Culver Chapel, Stilwell, OK.

**Ronnie Johnson, Jr.**, 50, passed on Thursday, February 24, 2022. Graveside services to be held at 2 pm on Friday, March 4, 2022 at Stilwell City Cemetery, Stilwell, OK. Roberts/Reed-Culver Funeral Home, Stilwell, OK.

## Read A Little Kipling

By Donna Boecher

Do you like to read? Do you like spy stories? Do you like exotic settings in far-away countries? You'll like the story of an orphan named Kim. Rudyard Kipling wrote the novel *Kim* in 1901; it's still the best spy story in which a youth was a spy extraordinaire. Fifty-two years later, Ian Fleming wrote "impossible" spy stories for the character James Bond. Both Kim and Bond lived seemingly impossible lives of adventure. Kipling wrote *Jungle Book* (1894) about a boy reared by animals in India's jungle; Edgar Rice Burroughs in 1912 wrote *Tarzan* stories about a youngster reared by animals in Africa. They say that similar stories are retold in different locations and different characters over the centuries. All-in-all, "imitation is the sincerest form of flattery." So read a little or a lot of Rudyard Kipling, you'll enjoy the sound, rhythm, and emotion in his words. Read *Kim* and live the life of a spy without leaving your chair. The words may be unfamiliar or hard to read in the beginning, but living the story is worth the energy expended.



Dear John,

I've never been much of a joiner in social events. I get invited to attend parties. I don't mind watching others enjoy games but I really don't like joining in. A friend said that I am a party pooper. I don't think that make me a pp. I should have stayed home. Do you think there is something wrong with me?

Party Pooper

Dear Party Pooper, parties are intended as joyful events, yet not all parties are created equal. Some are just more fun than others. If you find yourself being invited to parties that you find to be dull or uninviting, then you should consider politely excusing yourself shortly after you arrive. Not only that, but you may just be the kind of person that finds alone time more rewarding than a social gathering. For someone to call you a "party pooper" is a very insensitive thing to say but it says more about the person who said it than about you. In the future, try to become more selective in joining a "party" by considering who the company will be. An invitation is not a mandate. It is ok to refuse it.

Sincerely,

Dear John

Got a question for Dear John? Email to: [dearjohn@write.me](mailto:dearjohn@write.me). com...Real Names Not Used.

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Vocabulary  
**WORD**  
of  
the  
**DAY**

**Moral Compass**  
Example: James' moral compass led him to ask Victoria's father if he could marry her. He loved her with all his heart.  
• used in reference to a person's ability to judge what is right and wrong and act accordingly.

The  
**STRAIGHT FORWARD**  
**FREE Press**™

Truth is Our Target

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Donna Boecher.....Editor  
John Bankel.....Journalist  
Joy Coleman.....Composing

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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# Obituaries

## Jimmy D. Hawk

February 28, 1948 – February 13, 2022

Jimmy D Hawk was born on February 28, 1948, in Stilwell, OK, to Sam B. Hawk and Mary Edith (Wilden) Hawk. He went to be with the Lord, his Savior, on February 13, 2022, in Oklahoma City, OK.

He was a graduate of Cave Springs High School, went on to complete trade school in California, and spent his career as an electrician. He retired as a Maintenance Boss from Whirlpool Corporation in Fort Smith, AR and spent the remainder of his years as a devoted Father and Grandfather, a dedicated Senior golfer, and avid Oklahoma Sooners fan.

In 2018, he reconnected with his childhood crush, Wanda Hatfield of Midwest City, OK, with whom he enjoyed traveling, attending OU and Thunder games, watching sports events for the grandchildren, and hosting pool weekends with family.

He was preceded in death by his parents; brothers: Marlin and Richard Hawk, and sister: Mary Lou Hummingbird.

Jimmy is survived by his favorite daughters: Tashina and Jason Foster of Greenwood, AR; Kayla Hawk and fiancé Brandon Shown of Fort Smith, AR; grandchildren: Coleton Payton, EllieGrace Foster, and Lillyan Foster of Greenwood, AR; sisters: Louise and Ron Byrd of Stilwell, OK, Rebecca and Michael Morton of Stilwell, OK, and Virginia Hawk-Clouser and Justin Clouser of Nevada; brother: Carl Hawk of Van Buren, AR; niece, Tina Johnson of Stilwell, OK, and many other relatives and friends.

Special recognition to Wanda's daughter: Tasha and Michael Privett of Oklahoma City, OK, and their children: Kinley, Jarvis, and Ali Privett for opening their family to include ours.

Honorary Flower Girls: EllieGrace Foster, Lillyan Foster, Kinley Privett, and Ali Privett.

Honorary Pallbearers: Members of the River Valley Pro/Am Golf Association, Coleton Payton, and Jarvis Privett.

Visitation was held at Roberts Reed Culver Funeral Home on Thursday, February 24, 2022 from 4-8 pm. A private, family graveside inurnment will be performed at a later date.

## Luther Donald Thomas

February 11, 1943 – February 12, 2022

Luther Donald Thomas, son of Luther A. Thomas and Olie "Mable" Thomas, was born February 11, 1943 in Stilwell, Oklahoma. He departed this life on February 12, 2022 in Omaha, Nebraska at the age of 79 years.

Throughout his life, Luther embraced a love of cars, and was a Ford man. For years, he worked on racecars with his brother Leon Thomas, and on many weekends, they could be found at the racetrack in Crawford County. Later, he would also restore classic cars with his brother Otis "Gene" Thomas. Together, they restored a black and white 1957 Ford Fairlane 500, which would go on to become Luther's signature hot rod. He loved to attend car shows and cruise nights with his friends and family. Luther started work in the poultry industry with Keyton Farms in 1965, and would go on to work with Pillsbury, Hudson, Simmons, and finally Tyson as a chicken-catcher, forklift operator and foreman, before retiring in 1998. Throughout his career, he made a great many friends. He was known to be a man who knew how to work hard on the job, and have a good time at home. He never hesitated to help anyone in need, and in his last years he spent as much of his time as he could with his '57 Ford, going fishing, and being the best papa in the world to his grandkids.

He is preceded in death by his beloved wife of 38 years, Anita Gail Thomas, his mother and father, his brothers Leon Thomas and Gene Thomas, one granddaughter Brandy Thomas, and many close friends and other family. He has missed them all and so goes to be with them in Heaven.

He is mourned greatly by those he leaves behind, which includes his children Melvin Thomas and wife Rosie Thomas of Tahlequah, OK, Terry Thomas and wife Christy Thomas of Hampton, GA, and Amanda Thomas and husband Brandon Gilbert of Bellevue, NE; 6 grandchildren, Clay Morton, Deanna Johnson and husband Matthew, Amy Poor, Madison Burnett and husband Denton, Soren Gilbert and Alaric Gilbert; 8 great-grandchildren, Hunter, Gavin, and Ithyan Johnson, Pearce, Legend, and Maverick Poor, and Luke and Anna Gail Morton; siblings Dorothy Snowden, Sue Kellar, Carol Hames and husband Don, Betty Shirley and husband David, Johnny Thomas and wife Helen, and Larry Thomas, along with several nieces, nephews, and other relatives and many, many friends.

Services were with Roberts/Reed-Culver Funeral Home in Stilwell, Oklahoma. Viewing was held Friday February 25th from 2-8 pm. Funeral services were held at 10 am Saturday February 26th to be followed by interment and graveside service at Piney Cemetery.

# The ROVING REPORTER

## In, Around, and Out About Town

### Stilwell, Thursday, Feb. 24, 2022 at 3 PM



County Courthouse...Closed



Post Office...Open

And as someone once famously said: "Neither rain, nor sleet, nor snow...the mail must go through!"

Photos by The Roving Reporter

## Artist Vibe

(Continued from Front Page)

gave Joe an art instruction video for drawing; the other gave a video for learning painting. Joe has been on an artistic tear ever since. He got this writer's attention when he began posting his self-portrait pencil drawings on Facebook. What made his self-portraits so intriguing was his interpretation of himself in various contexts. For example, examine how Joe incorporated himself into Mount Rushmore? Another fascinating depiction was Joe as the 8th Snow White Dwarf. He has an uncanny knack for capturing a certain mood, a certain smile or grimace and bringing the countenance to life. So far, he has completed 54 self-portraits! And more to come? Yet he



doesn't stop there.

He studies many of the famous artists and their paintings and then draws their likenesses. Most recently, Joe has branched out to include landscapes, one of which is shown here. His plan is to continue working



on his drawings while trying his hand at painting with oils and acrylics and some watercolor using the gift video as his guide along with the gift that God gave him.

One must consider that Joe Wolf has an exciting art future ahead of himself. We will most likely hear about his progress. Meanwhile, in his words, "I'm just having fun." The artist in portrait. By the way, one can follow Joe on his Facebook page.

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## Free Tax Prep To Be Offered At Westville Library

The Cherokee Nation, in partnership with the IRS, is offering free tax preparation at the John F. Henderson Library on Thursday, March 24 and Thursday, April 7 from 9:00 a.m. to 2:30 p.m. The library is located at 1152 North Williams in Westville. **By Appointment Only—Call 918-453-5536.** (The library will not be able to make an appointment for you.)

This free service is for low to moderate income families (under \$58,000). Volunteer Income Tax Assistance (VITA) tax preparation sites prepare your income taxes for free, file electronically, and your refund can be deposited in your bank account in ten days or less!

If joint return, both parties must be present. You are required to have photo ID and the Social Security cards for each person on tax return (no copies) and the previous year's tax return. Bring your W-2, 1099, award letter, plus any other documents needed to complete your return correctly.

If you can't make the Westville dates, you can find a free tax preparation site nationwide by calling 800-906-9887 or at <http://irs.treasury.gov/freetaxprep>.

## Puzzle Page

### KRYPTO KONTEST 3.0 WEEK 1

Hey, all you Krypto fans...The Kontest is back with a new iteration: Krypto Kontest 3.0! It is still the same intriguing game with a new set of numbers with which to work. This go round will last for 8 issues, so everybody has a good chance to win the prize: \$25 in cash and a calculator.

The prize for the first two Kontests was captured by David West. Is it time for someone else to step-up and dethrone the champion?

Remember, a successful Krypto requires you to use all 5 numbers,

the numbers being between 1 and 25, along with any combination of multiplication, division, subtraction or addition, to write an expression which equals the Answer. For this round, the Answer is 3. You are playing with 6, 9, 13, 22, and 2. P.S. There is no magic formula...it is mostly a game of trial and error to try your patience? Give it a try? Just for the fun of it and maybe a prize?

Mail your solution to: **Krypto Kontest Manager, c/o The Straight Forward FREE Press, POB 885, Stilwell, OK 74960...** be sure to include your name and return address.

## ON THE CAMPAIGN TRAIL

### Commentary by John Bankel

**Today's Trail Treks To Twist Mountain...**  
(A story as told by Terry Rose, a local Westville historian, and reprinted for educational purposes only.)

### TWIST MOUNTAIN-FACT AND FICTION, PART 1 OF A 3 PART EXCURSION

On a recent trip to the Post Office in Westville, I was asked if I could possibly write an article on Twist Mountain. I knew where Twist was, but I had never been to or on the mountain, which, by the way, is about 8 miles southwest of Westville. Twist Mountain starts just east of Piney and runs south for about 4 miles and ends in the Oak Grove community. I was told that it is known as Crittenden Mountain on that end. As I talked to various old timers in the area, I heard many interesting and varied stories of the mountain and its early settlers.

According to the Adair County History book, the first settler on the Mountain was a full blood Cherokee named Tichahutyohu, which is old Cherokee for "Twist." He and his small band were being forcibly moved from the Elijah, Georgia area. The others were his mother Nancy; his white wife, Rachel and Smokehouse, his cousin and two sons. The oldest son, about 5 years old, was named Little Beaver. His name was later corrupted to Toyunese, Toneat, or just Tony. Three year old John was the other son.

As the story goes, the group stopped at Dutch Mills, Arkansas to rest. There they were told that the Mountain just to the west was in Indian Territory. When they got to the top of the beautiful mountain, they found no one living there. It was a long way from the soldiers at Fort Gibson and close to the mill and the village of Dutch Mills, (for necessities) so they decided to stay on that mountain that today bears their name: "Twist."

The Twist land lies almost in the middle of the mountain. To the North, where E.J. Davis had an orchard in the 1970's, was the Mack Messer farm. There is a J.M. Messer (1839-1922) buried in the Twist cemetery. To the South of the Twists was the Buster Rogers farm where he had a large orchard in the early days. (To be continued as Part 2 next week.)

Today's Trail and tale, has come to an end. Hope to see you again

around the bend my friend. May your Trail end up on the right side of the fence.

John Bankel is a freelance journalist and retired High School Math teacher and can be reached, for questions or comments, by email: [writewright@journalist.com](mailto:writewright@journalist.com).

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## A YOUNG WRITER'S STORY

A story about Jack part 4 By Keegan Hummingbird Age 11 Zion School

Water finally fell! It was so cool. Like bathing in the creeks, it felt so good. The water just poured, you couldn't see very far. If you tried you would just see blurry gray. The sound was just exquisite. A sound I took for granted during the spring, because the heat came I got the privilege to have my eyes opened.

However, I don't guess tall humans like it very much. All I heard all day from all the tall humans was lots of bad mouthing about the water. Someone Jacob called "Mom" wouldn't let him even play with us. Mom said Jacob would catch a "cold" whatever that is.

Oh, and Mac, he is back to normal. You know what, he seems even more energetic than usual. I guess he is just happy about nice water falling from the sky. (I wish there was something shorter I could call it hm m m.)

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**WHAT'S SO PUNNY?  
PUN FUN**

A girl said she recognized me from her vegetarian club but I'm pretty sure I've never met herbivore. I've always had an irrational fear of speed bumps, but I'm slowly getting over it. What word becomes shorter when you add two letters to it? Short.

**IF YOU GOT A STORY?**

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