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Friday March 1, 2024

STILWELL SPORTS SPECTACULAR



Regional Champions Lady Indians

The Road To A Championship

Part 1: Lady Indians Basketball Regional Champions

By John Bankel

There is an old saying, albeit not heard much anymore, yet nonetheless still true: "Champions are made; not born." Many a gifted athlete has been born that never became a champion. The halls are full of them. By the same token, many an "average" athlete, through dedication, perseverance and plain old "hard work," the blood, sweat and tears kind, has risen to the top of the heap in their sport. The Lady Indians basketball team recently captured the Regional Championship. With grit and

determination and a spark provided by Sophomore Piper Blackburn, the Lady Indians showed a bigger Wagoner squad the door by winning a nail biter, 45-44. What made this win especially sweet was that 12 days earlier, Wagoner had taken Stilwell to task on their home turf. Payback is always sweeter when a championship is on the line. After standout point guard Senior Snowda Watie fouled out with 3:30 left in the game, the Ladies remained unruffled and continued to exercise their game plan, relentless

pursuit of the ball, to perfection. It was when Wagoner committed its fifth foul in the fourth, that the Lady Indians took advantage at the foul line. With the score tied at 38, it was the foul shooting that paved the way to victory. When Senior Sloan Sweeney calmly sank two to make the score 45-41 with 4.3 seconds on the clock, the thrill of victory could be felt. As the buzzer sounded and the 45 foot heave by the Lady Bulldogs rippled the net, the scoreboard read: Stilwell 45 Wagoner 44. The road now leads to the

Area competition where the Lady Indians will face the number one Class 4A team in the state, the Bethany Lady Bronchos, who won their Regional by lopsided scores and now come in with a 22-4 record. Stilwell is 21-5. The Lady Indians will face their toughest challenge on their road to a championship. The game is Friday, March 1 at 6 pm at the Mvskoke Dome in Okmulgee. Come on out!

Part 2: The Lady Indian Wrestlers

Fifty-five Oklahoma High Schools competed for individual and team tournament girls wrestling championships over the past weekend. Stilwell had two wrestlers who had qualified for the state tournament: Junior Joseline Blevins at 120 lbs and Junior Adrianna Chronnister, wrestling at 135 lbs. Both girls had recently achieved a remarkable milestone in their high school careers. Blevins had reached 100 career wins with Chronnister notching 88 victories. Both added to that total during their state competition since both had reached the finals where the Gold and Silver medals were up for grabs. Blevins,

winning by Fall, took home the Gold. Joseline is the first Lady Indian wrestler to earn a State Championship. Chronnister, who wrestled well yet came up short, took home a Silver medal. As a two person team, the team points that these outstanding athletes earned, put the Lady Indians in 5th place! Out of 55 schools! Ain't that something? Champions are made, not born. The season that these two had will go a long way to marking the road for another run at a state championship in 2025. Congratulations Ladies on your accomplishments!



Adrianna Chronnister, and Joseline Blevins

PROVERB POWER

Psalm 46:10 KJV

Be still and know that I am God.

The Straight Forward FREE Press is now ONLINE on Google!

www.straightforwardfreepress.com Check it out and enjoy!

Story continued on page 2

The Road To A Championship

Continued from page 1

Part 3: Stilwell Indians Boys Basketball

After dispatching Stigler in the opening round of the Regional tournament at Stilwell on Thursday, March 22, 61-49 behind Keller Hitcher's 22 points, the third ranked North Rock Creek High School Cougars stood in the way of a Stilwell sweep of Regional Championships. On March 24 at the Stilwell High School Sports Arena, the Indians quickly found out what they were up against. With the Cougars' superior 3 point shoot-

ing, an opportunistic defense and numerous Indian offensive cold spells, Stilwell found itself behind by 11 points midway in the 3rd quarter. A spark was needed. In came Juan Martinez. He wasted no time in draining a 3 pointer. The Cougars came up empty in their possession. Keller Hitcher nailed a follow-up 3 pointer, trimming the lead to 5. The Cougars responded with a 17-0 run to put no doubt on the outcome. With

the final score of 60-46, the Indians moved to 21-5 on the season and will now play in the consolation bracket Thursday at 2:30 at the Mvskoke Dome in Okmulgee where they will face Bethany, a team that the Indians defeated in 5 over times in the Lincoln Christian Tournament. Their road to the championship just got harder. Yet, it is still one game at a time.



Stilwell Indians

WHAT'S SO PUNNY? PUN FUN

To all the punsters in PUN FUN land, Greetings! Time to get your funny bone jostled, your ribs tickled and get some good knee slapping in to boot. You will find these puns to be just what you are looking for: a real hooty hoot hoot! A gag is a gag but somebody should have gagged the ones who wrote the following actual newspaper headlines.

- 1. Ahoy Mate: Panda Mating Fails; Veterenarian Takes Over
- 2. We Meet At Last: Two Sisters Reuntied After 18 Years In Checkout Counter
- 3. Get A Lard Of This: New Study of Obesity Looks for Larger Test Group
- 4. Only Half The Story: Local High School Dropouts Cut In Half
- 5. It Was A Gas Gas Gas: Gas Cloud Clears Out Taco Bell
- 6. Goin' To Kentucky? Fried Chicken Cooked In Microwave Wins Trip

Mistakes are a part of life; when they appear in Newspaper headlines we call them "Bloopers." Makes one wonder if the editor fell asleep at the switch or just had a zany sense of humor for the readers' enjoyment? There you have it! Six of one or half dozen of another should do it until the next PUN FUN!

Into the Hills

By Donna Boecher

June 1868

I was sittin' under Mabel with both hands on her teats when Bart came home. He'd slipped silently into the open door of the barn and laid his hand on Mabel's hip. She'd tried to move, but the "kickers" on her hind legs held her rooted in place. His first words, "Martha I'm so glad you're here helping out Maw and Paw." "I'm glad to help." What opening words! Couldn't I have said something more grown up! I felt like I was still nine years old. Clearing my throat, I tried again. "Maw and I are in a tough situation. Thankfully, your parents are using me for the milking." That was better. Now I sounded like an adult. Young women

my age in the hills usually didn't marry until twenty UNLESS there was necessity – poverty or "in the family way." Well, we were at the top of the poverty list. Finishing the milking, Bart took the now heavy milk bucket and walked-it into his parents' back porch. She'd pour it into several Mason jars until the cream rose to the top. Mason jars had been around before the War, but Maw hadn't had money to purchase any. Metal buckets had worked. Jars filled, Martha said good-bye to the family; skipping down the steps and quickly disappearing into the woods toward home. What a day! Blessed again.

Krypfo Kontest 10.0

Episode 4 of 8

Hello all you Krypto fans! This Kontest is now at its halfway point. If you have not yet joined in on the Krypto fun, there is still time to enter and have a shot at the \$25 Cash and Calculator prize. In case you missed the previous Episodes, you can catch up by going on the website: www.straightforwardfreepress.com for the first three episodes. Today we have an answer of 25. You are playing with: 4, 8, 21, 9, 15. Remember, you must use all 5 numbers, but each one only once, and any combination of addition, subtraction, multiplication or division to write an expression that equals the answer 25. Give it a shot and have some Krypto fun.

STRAIGHT FORWARD (P) FREE Press

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Donna BoecherEditorJohn BankelCo-Editor/JournalistStephanie 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: management – The act of handling, supervision, or control. Who control or direct.

Ex. The management of the taxicab company was excellent; my cab arrived in five minutes.

Romans 10:9

If you confess with your mouth, "Jesus is Lord," and believe in your heart that God raised Him from the dead, you will be saved.

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

THE KIPLING KORNER

"When the honey is eaten we leave the empty hive." (the event becomes the past)



Dahlonegah Public School



Congratulations to Coleton and Christopher for receiving the build award. The "Build" award is presented to a team that has built the most durable and robust robot. The robot is reliable on the field and holds up under rigorous competition. The robot design shows attention to safety and detail.



Dahlonegah Public School would like to thank @ deadcentereducation for donating film equipment to our students. The students received a new camera, microphones, tripod, clapboard and lighting. This will enable them to continue learning about the art of filmmaking and telling their own stories.



Dahlonegah School was able to give back! We were able to donate old computer equipment to ICTC students to use in their work studies!

March 1st In History

1845 US President John Tyler signs a resolution annexing the Republic of Texas.

1937 US Steel raises workers' wages to \$5 a day. 1961 US President JFK establishes the Peace Corps.



Immediate Release: February 26, 2024

Woods Weighs in on Friday's Remarks

OKLAHOMA CITY - Sen. Tom Woods, R-Westville, released the following statement about comments he made at a town hall meeting on Friday.

"Firstly, I want to say that a child losing their life is horrible. They were a victim of bullying and that is never okay. It is always a tragedy when someone loses their life. I said that Friday and I mean that still today. I hope anyone struggling in a similar position gets the help they need as soon as possible.

"I also want to say that I stand behind what I believe in. The groups and individuals who push gender reassignment on children in our schools, and anyone else who is trying to normalize behavior that shouldn't be tolerated, is unacceptable in my mind.

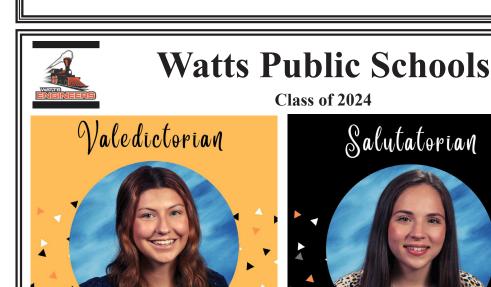
"This is an agenda that is being forced on Oklahoma kids. My voting record speaks for itself. I supported legislation to keep men out of women's sports and to protect children from being mutilated by transition surgery before they can make an informed decision.

"I will continue to push for a day when kids can be kids again and be free from the pressure of conforming to radical ideologies."

-END-

For more information, contact Sen. Tom Woods at 405-521-5576 or email Tom. Woods@oksenate.gov

Class of 2024





Sarah Lea

Brooklyn Kev

Congratulations!

Stilwell Indian Athletics

Congratulations to the Stilwell Powerlifting team!



Checotah Powerlifting Meet February 1st & 2nd

Taya Ross 1 st place, Jarrett Eagle 1st place, Jerimiah Scott 3rd place, and Cole Grimmett 4th place. Overall, boys team finished 5th out of 13 teams and there were multiple PR's.

Page 4–The Straight Forward Free Friday March 1, 2024



Dear John.

My husband and I live in the country very close to a major highway. We have always dealt with people needing help on the road, anything from accidents, vehicle breakdown, to running out of gas. We never thought much about helping people until the last few months. Now we have a dramatic increase in people needing help. They want gas, diesel, rides to other towns, food, and money. More alarming is the fact that they do not speak English. They communicate with us using their smartphone to interpret what they want. We have always helped people when we can, but this increased traffic of people seems to be a targeted event. They are very pushy and insistent that we help them. I have always believed that we should help those in need, but this is different. I feel threatened on my own property. I called the sheriff and they suggested we just ask them to leave, but they cannot do anything because there is no crime. What can we do?

Just Say No?

Dear Just Say No...with the current rampant influx of unvetted foreigners, discretion is needed more than ever when encountering a stranger at your door. A charitable heart can be stretched thin to the breaking point. Many help-seekers today are playing the reckless abandonment of the federal government's laws for all that it is worth. They have been given licenses of entitlement and have become pushy in the process. The best thing one can do is to firmly let the help-seeker know that you cannot help them. Just say no! and send them on their way.

Sincerely,

Dear John

Have you got a question for Dear John? email: dearjohn@writeme.com Real Name Not Used.

The promise of spring's arrival is enough to get anyone through the bitter winter,

-Jen Selinsky

Searching for Word.....

providence, preparation in advance, foresight; the care exercised by divine direction.

Ex. It was providence that the homeless man was provided both with a job and an apartment.



THE CONSERVATIVE VIEW

By Russell Turner

A TIME FOR A DIVORCE

It is always sad when a couple reaches a point in their lives where there seems to be no other alternative than a divorce. There can be many reasons for separating, but the biggest cause is the changing of attitudes. When one or both partners start thinking in opposite directions it is not long until something must give, usually the marriage ends in divorce. While we think of divorce being between two people, it can also apply to our nation as well.

Like many other conservative citizens across our nation, I was appalled by the court decision in New York concerning President Donald Trump. What we are seeing is the complete corruption of our judicial system; instead of a system of justice, the New York system is no better than a system you would find in some third-world dictatorship. There have been several instances where foreign companies would go into some country and enter into a contract with that government to build an industry, only to have a political power change in that country and have all their assets nationalized. In the case of Trump there was no victim; all

the lenders to the Trump organization were paid in full and were ready to do more business with the Trump organization, but on the whim of a liberal judge he was fined and penalized for doing nothing wrong.

If I were a business man in New York I would get my assets out of that state and city and I would not let the door hit me in the rear while I was leaving. What we witnessed in Judge Engoron's court would have made Joe Stalin cheer. When I look at New York, I will always look at it the same way I look at some communist country. I can remember when we Americans shared a belief in justice and the rule of law; I am sure that there have always been those who secretly had other beliefs, but they tried to conceal it, but in today's world that garbage is in open view for all to see. Instead of putting our faith in God, we have those who openly worship at the altar of big government and doing what will gain the most political power. One of the greatest strengths of our nation was having a common set of values and the will to defend each other; from what I witness in New York if that city was invaded, I would be reluctant to do anything to protect or help them. Our once-great city has become nothing but a cesspool of crime and liberal ideology.

The elites of New York are so full of themselves that they cannot see how close they are to driving this nation to the point of a civil war; already many wealthy people are cutting ties with that city, there is currently a "truckers" strike underway because they are outraged by the injustice against Trump. The average working person in this nation is not stupid, and we are getting tired of the corruption of our system of justice and law. While I am not a fan of divorce, I do realize that when a man and woman get to a point where they are completely diametrically opposed in their views, divorce can become the only option. Maybe it would be good if we Americans could divorce New York and let them become their own country, and let them create their liberal utopia without the help of us conservatives.

Watts Public Schools

Powerlifting Team Are Making Great Strides!





Watts Powerlifting Team competed @ the 8 Man State Meet. Coach Sam Kingcade said, "After the dust settled from 50 teams and over 500 lifters our team made great strides from last years meet and look to continue the trend."

Outstanding lifts by Engineers were:

Kaiden Burrous with a 4th place lift in bench @ 300lbs Brian Lee with a 4th place lift in squat, 5th place lift in deadlift, and 6th overall total weight lifted @ 655lbs for his class.

Friday March 1, 2024 Page 5-The Straight Forward Free

Roberts & Hart

FUNERAL HOME



"Dick" Wilson

Feb. 3, 1942 — Feb. 25, 2024 Audrey "Dick" Leonard Wilson, born on February 3, 1942, in Stilwell, Oklahoma to Leonard and Mable (Cole) Wilson; was a remarkable individual who touched the lives of many. Dick led a life filled with love and cherished moments.

Dick was known for being a great husband, father, and grandfather. He had a diverse range of interests, and a mischievous side to him which shone through as he loved to pester people in good humor. He loved operating tractors, and backhoes, going for leisurely drives, and most importantly, spending quality time with his family, especially the grandchildren.

Dick is now reunited in heaven with his parents Leonard and Mable, brothers Dale, Don, and Darrell Wilson; sisters Connie Wilson and Juanita Hays; as well as his great grandson and great-great grandson.

On February 25, 2024, Dick passed away, leaving behind a legacy that will be cherished forever. His passing has deeply grieved his surviving family members including his beloved wife Oleta and their five children: Charlie Wilson, Woodrow Wilson, Butch Wilson, Reené Arnold and husband Larry, and Becky Wilson-Collins, sister Sheila Buckner, and brothers Ronnie and wife Helen Wilson, Larry Wilson, and Doyle and wife Sue Wilson. Additionally, he is survived by 17 grandchildren, 31 greatgrandchildren and one great-great granddaughter along with numerous nieces, nephews, and friends.

With heavy hearts but also grateful for having shared in the life of such a remarkable individual, we bid farewell to Audrey "Dick" Leonard Wilson. May his legacy of love and joy live on in the hearts of those who were fortunate enough to know him.

DOG LESSONS FOR PEOPLE

Enjoy the simple pleasure of a walk Run and play daily Be loyal, faithful, and quick to forgive Always drink plenty of water Sometimes it is best to sit close and listen Follow your instincts Keep digging until you find what you want Avoid biting when a growl will do Accept all of life's treats with gratitude

Love unconditionally

"It was one of those March days when the sun shines hot and the wind blows cold: when it is summer in the light, and winter in the shade." - Charles Dickens

ON THE CAMPAIGN TRAIL

COMMENTARY BY JOHN BANKEL

Today's Trail Treks To.....

The Memory Bank: Not For 55 and Older Only

If you think you are suffering from memory loss, French Professor Bruno DuBois, Director of the Institute of Memory and Alzheimer's Disease (MMA), has a reassuring take on the subject. The Professor says, "If anyone is aware of their memory problems, they do not have Alzheimer's." For example: they forget the names of family members or they forget where they put things. It often happens in people 60 or older, yet it can happen to anyone. This is temporary forgetfulness. Half of people 60 or older have some of these symptoms that are due to age rather than disease. Many people are concerned about these oversights; hence, the importance of the following statements from the Professor:

- 1. "Those who are conscious of being forgetful, have no serious memory problem."
- 2. "Those who suffer from a memory illness or Alzheimer's

are not aware of what is happening." (Joe Biden anyone?) Professor Bruno DuBois, Director of MMA, reassures the majority of people concerned about their oversights when he says, "The more we complain about memory loss, the less likely we are to suffer from memory loss sickness."

That is all for today. Now where did I put my keys?

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.



Immediate Release: February 23, 2024

Bullard comments on elimination of state grocery tax OKLAHOMA CITY – Sen. David Bullard, R-Durant, released the following statement after the Senate approved eliminating the state portion of the grocery tax Thursday.

"It was an honor to carry and coauthor a bill to bring tax relief to Oklahomans. The Senate voted to cut the state portion of the grocery tax where so many Oklahomans have been hit hard with Biden's reckless inflation. It is important to understand that governments don't have revenue problems, they have spending problems and the taxpayers suffer the most. Today we did what is best for the people of Oklahoma."

-END-

For more information, contact: Sen. Bullard: (405) 521-5586 or David.Bullard@oksenate.gov

Two blondes were driving to Disneyland. The sign said: Disneyland Left... So they started crying and headed home.

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Galatians 6:9 KJV

9 And let us not be weary in well doing: for in due season we shall reap, if we faint not.



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