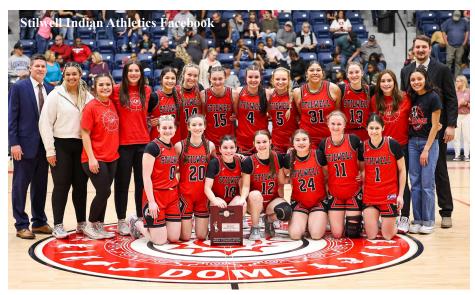


# **STILWELL SPORTS SPECTACULAR SEQUEL** The Road To A Championship Continues



**Stilwell Indians AREA II Consolation Champions** 





## **Indians and Lady Indians: STATE BOUND**

#### by John Bankel

The Indians and Lady Indians will be boarding a bus to Oklahoma City this week to compete in the Class 4A State Basketball Championship Tournament. They each are one of eight teams still standing. After the Indians lost to North Rock Creek, 63-49, in the Regional Final, they found themselves in the Area 2 consolation bracket, faced with the difficult task of winning 3 games in 3 days or face elimination. In the first consolation bracket game, on Thursday, February 29, the Indians faced the Bethany Bronchos, a team they had defeated in 5 overtimes at the Lincoln Christian Tournament. This time they won in regulation, 49-42, to move on into the semi-finals. There they took on The Fighting Irish of Bishop McGuiness high school. The Indians got onto a roll early and kept up the pressure throughout the game to come away with a convincing 56-41 victory. Two down and one to go. On Saturday, March 2, the Indians found themselves in the Consolation Bracket finals, playing the Newcastle Racers. A win here would punch their ticket to state; a loss would send them home. In a low scoring affair that went back and forth, it was Stilwell's domination of the boards that saved them in the end. They had trouble scoring both from the floor and, most of all, from the foul line. The Racers got themselves into foul trouble midway thru the 4th Quarter where

every foul resulted in 2 shots. The Indians missed most of those opportunities and allowed the Racers to hang around. Newcastle took the lead, 35-34, with about 30 seconds left. With Freshman Brayton Carter handling the ball, he did a "dipsey-doodle-dosey-dough" and left his defender behind as he went to the hoop uncontested with the go-ahead bucket, Stilwell 36 Newcastle 35. There were 18.3 seconds left as the Racers brought the ball down looking for the winning points. The Indians forced them to go outside where they kicked-out to the corner for a clean look at a 3 pointer. The shot bounced off the rim into the waiting arms of Tyrus Teehee, who cradled the ball as the buzzer sounded. Stilwell had punched their ticket. In the earlier game, which saw the Lady Indians play the Wagoner Lady Bulldogs for the 3rd time in two weeks, with the last game going down to the wire and won by Stilwell, 45-44, for the Regional Championship, Stilwell was primed for a win. When the score hit 44-22, one could feel the ticket getting punched. At the end, the scoreboard showed 53-32. The Lady Indians will take a 22-5 record to the first round of the State Tournament where they will face Lincoln Christian. The Indians, also at 22-5, will play Weatherford. The Gold Ball is within reach as the Road To A Championship continues.

**Stilwell Lady Indians AREA II Consolation Champions** 

Spectacular action shots of the games.....

Amazing photography

**Stilwell Indian Athletics Facebook** 



Indians

Lady Indians





**PROVERB POWER** 

Isaiah 54:17 KJV

No weapon formed against you shall prosper...

The Straight Forward FREE Press is now ONLINE on Google! www.straightforwardfreepress.com Check it out and enjoy!

### Page 2-The Straight Forward Free Press OHCE Donates \$300.00 to Special Services Special Olympics



On March 4th, the Zion-Stilwell club of Oklahoma Home and Community Education (OHCE) donated \$300 to Stilwell Public Schools Special Services (SPSSS) to help send Special Olympians to the State Summer Games in May. From left to right: Tina Martinez, SPSSS; Karen George, Treasurer, Zion-Stilwell OHCE; Fionna Moldrup, SPSSS.

# WHAT'S SO PUNNY? PUN FUN

Ready for a new assortment of puns? There is no limit to how many puns there are so running out of puns is never a problem. These are bound to make you split a gut, slap your knees, tickle your ribs or jostle your funny bone and keep you laughing all day long.

- 1. Quiet Time: He did not tell his mother that he ate some glue. His lips were sealed.
- Noiseworthy: If a judge likes the sound of his own voice, expect a long sentence.
   Book Bust: A man died today when a pile of books fell on him. He only had his shelf to blame.
- 4. Ins and Outs: Shout out to people who do not know what the opposite of in is.
- 5. Limping Along: I used to be a shoe salesman until I got the boot.

Now you can make like an owl and give these a hoot. Or take them to the bank and try cashing them in for what they are worth. The bank may be having a special on laughs for cash. Or they may laugh you all the way out of the bank. More PUN FUN to come next time...Adios!

The greatest evils in the world will not be carried out by men with guns, but by men in suits sitting behind desks

C. S. Lewis



### July 1868

Since Bart had returned, there had been many visits between the families. Bart had trapped a wild young piglet that hadn't run as fast and straight as his family. I could hear it squeal all the way to our house from the four-foot pit-trap. He couldn't jump out. Now kept in a sturdy pen of five-inch saplings cut four-foot tall, Bart's maw Sadie could feed it up for a first-frost slaughter. Fed scraps and peelings from most all the vegetables - excludin' onions and tomatoes - would ensure a year's supply of lard. Martha remembered that smell of the cracklins frying as the lard

was rendered from the animal fat. All that was needed was a pinch of salt. What a "boucherie" that would be! Maybe a few people she and Bart had befriended in Chester would come to help. It would be a whole day affair. First the Killing with what some called an "Arkansas toothpick"; the bleeding as it hung awhile from a tree limb; the scrapin' of hair off the skin, removin' the innards, fryin' up the skin for lard and cracklins, and makin' "hogshead cheese." Thank goodness Bart had built a small smoke house to cure the salted meat. Yet another day of blessings.



Episode 5 of 8

Hello Krypto fans. Here we go again with a new set of numbers for your Krypto enjoyment. Today's answer is 5. You are playing with 3,17, 8, 23,9. Remember, you must use all 5 numbers, but each one only once, along with any combination of addition, subtraction, multiplication or division, to write an expression that equals the answer: 5. The prize of \$25 cash and calculator is still up for grabs, so go ahead and jump in and see if you can come up with a solution.

Email your solution to: themathguy@usa.com or snail mail to: Krytpo Kontest POB 885 Stilwell 74960.

## Proverbs 2:6

## For the Lord gives wisdom; from His

TRAIGHT		
FREE	Press	SM

The

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

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Donna Boecher	Editor
John Bankel	Co-Editor/Journalist
Stephanie Cullinane	Čomposer

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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The Straight Forward FREE Press Logo is the exclusive property of The Golden Mind Learning Foundation Inc. Registered Trademark pending. Wocabulary Word:
banter. An exchange of light, playful, teasing remarks.
Ex. The children exploded in banter as the school bell rang and
THE "Politic"

- they headed for their
- home room.

mouth come knowledge and understanding.

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

# THE KIPLING KORNER

"Politics are not my concern.... They impressed me as a dog's life without a dog's decencies."

# ON THE CAMPAIGN TRAIL

COMMENTARY BY JOHN BANKEL

Today's Trail Treks To..... How Not To Solve A Problem

Life comes with problems so you might as well learn to solve them. There has been many a beginning Algebra student who asked, "When am I ever going to use this?" As their Algebra teacher, I would tell them, "Probably never." The reply to my answer was the usual, "Then why are we studying this?" I would explain that Algebra is a good teacher of solving problems in an orderly and logical fashion and that life comes with problems that require thinking things through. The students now had a logical reason for their studies. No more squawking was ever heard. Mankind is always working on solving a myriad of problems in its search for the ideal. In the area of health, cures for diseases such as diabetes, cancer, Alzheimer's, etc. have been on the forefront of research for many years using conventional wisdom as the guide to achieving success. So far a breakthrough has remained

elusive. One has to wonder why this is the case in light of all of the efforts and money that has been thrown at these problems? Is it possible that a solution would be detrimental to the ones supposedly seeking it? "How so?" one might ask? Well suppose all these diseases would be eliminated from our society? What impact would that have? It would certainly benefit all of us by not having to confront any of these health issues. On the other side of the coin, we have those who have a vested financial interest in prolonging the problems. We might want to look at the COVID "pandemic" as an example. We have gotten through it, no thanks to those who were put in charge of this "threat to public health." The main culprit in this scenario was the masked man Anthony Fauci who pretended to be following the science when in fact no science was involved, only paid political propaganda announcements under the guise of scientific inquiry. People bought the charade. Those in charge made oodles of money. It is now commonplace to "follow the money."

Cures stop the money flow. The ones in charge of solving the problem have learned how "not to solve the problem" and keep the charade going and the money flowing.

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



#### Dear John,

I recently went on a flight to another state. It had been a while since I went on a commercial airline. First, I paid for the ticket with my credit card. When I got to the airport, I found out that they would charge me more for the weight of my suitcase. I waited in line for the TSA search for an hour and a half. They took my sack lunch away and threw it in the trash. I went to a coffee place to get some breakfast and overpaid for a banana. I waited three hours for the flight, and it was late. When I finally boarded the plane my overhead was already full and I had to go three rows down to find space for my carry on. My seat was xx small, and the arm rest hurt my hip. The girl in front of me leaned back and her head was in my face. She needs dandruff shampoo. When we landed I got to the luggage pick up and they lost mine. I know now why they have people going temporarily insane at airports. I think next time I will just drive across the border and walk back in as a guest to the USA and tell them what state I want to fly to. I hear they get better "Red Eye" flights. What do you think?

#### Red Eye

Dear Red Eye...there is no doubt that traveling by plane often entails extreme torturous tests of patience.

Your story punctuates that point. In today's rapidly declining U.S. citizenship status, outsiders, i.e., illegals, are given carte blanche with a red carpet rollout. While your facetious proposal of temporarily migrating over our border and coming back as an illegal in order to get preferential treatment might work, consider the hardship of having to endure the process of getting on that free flight? No picnic, for sure. I would suggest that you stick with any inconveniences that may come your way and pray that you at least land safely at your destination.

Sincerely,

#### Dear John

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

# **STILWELL SPORTS SPOTLIGHT**

Commentary by John Bankel

## **Stilwell Youth Softball**



Carson Park was the scene on Saturday, March 2 for a full day tournament of youth softball. The tournament was dubbed "Saved By The Ball" and featured local teams as well as teams from other areas over various age groups. One such team

Hunters team 2nd Place finishers...

was Hunters, who play out of Keys and are coached by Haylee Robinson, who is on the Stilwell Library staff, and her husband Jake. Their 2 daughters, Cora and Mayvis, play in the 10 and under division. Hunters started at 9 am and played their way into the final game for first place. The sun had set and the lights were on when they took the field. Their opponent had the advantage of having started at noon. As Haylee told this reporter that Hunters' players were pooped, "too pooped to pop" as the old saying goes. They ended up taking home a second place trophy and a great time on a warm and windy day.



# ROBERTS-REED-CULVER



**Phyllis Jeanete Smith** June 2, 1948 - Feb. 29, 2024 **Bunch** 

Phyllis Jeanete Smith, beloved farm wife, took her final rest at her residence on February 29 2024, leaving behind a legacy of love and cherished memories. She was born in Corpus Christie to Walter Eldon Pike and Vivian Grace "Covey" Pike. Phyllis was a devoted mother, known for her unwavering dedication to her children and grandchildren.

In her early years, Phyllis graduated from high school and went on to achieve her Associates degree, demonstrating her commitment to education and personal growth. She was a woman of many talents and interests - from fishing to riding horses, she found joy in simple pleasures and the great outdoors. Known for her sharpshooting skills with a rifle, Phyllis's adventurous spirit led her to explore new horizons, including memorable trips such as a cruise to the Bahamas and Mexico.

Phyllis found immense pride in building a big, wonderful family were she created a loving home filled with laughter and warmth. Phyllis's caring nature extended not only to her immediate family but also to her 16 grandchildren and great-grandchildren, whom she adored deeply.

Among Phyllis's proudest accomplishments was being there for her grandbabies whenever they needed her. Her kind heart and selfless actions touched the lives of all who knew her. Phyllis will be fondly remembered for her love of reading - particularly works by her favorite author, Danielle Stelle - and her passion for travel.

Phyllis is preceded in death by her father Walter Pike and mother Vivian Pike, husband Bobby Smith, two brothers Curtis Pike and Earl Pike, and son in law Larry Boston.

In addition to her surviving family members - daughter Melinda Sue Boston of Joshua, TX: Vivian and Charles Ketcher of Stilwell, OK; Rebecca and Terrance "TJ" Williams of Springfield, MO; Clint Smith of Benkleman, NB; Mahalie Smith; brother Wayne Pike and wife Petunia; brother Richard Pike; sister Patricia "Patty" Pike; sister Suzi Besgrove and husband John - Phyllis leaves behind a rich tapestry of memories that will be cherished in the hearts of all who had the privilege of knowing her.

Phyllis Jeanete Smith's life serves as a testament to the power of love, family, and cherished moments shared together. May she rest in peace knowing that her legacy lives on through the love she shared with those fortunate enough to have known her.

## THE CONSERVATIVE VIEW By Russell Turner IT DON'T FEED THE BULLDOG

At one time I had faith in our judicial system but, as time has crept on, I have become much more cynical about what our system has evolved into. Several years ago, I was elected to political office and, in retrospect, I guess I was a little naïve in my belief at the time that other elected officials would honor their oath of office and try their best to obey the laws of the land and to be fair and honest in their decisions. Boy did I get a huge education on the lack of integrity of many of our elected officials. While my experience was limited to county government. from what I am seeing across our nation our system is deteriorating to that of third world dictatorships.

Our system is becoming a means to destroy political opponents instead of searching for truth and justice. As I watch the complete circus surrounding former President Trump and the bogus charges levied against him, I am convinced if we do not do something our nation will completely collapse because of a two-tiered justice system. Today, unscrupulous prosecutors can file any kind of trumped-up charge against anyone; even if the prosecutor knows the charge is phony, the person being charged will have to spend huge sums of money just to defend

himself. Also, if the case is in certain areas, there is the chance the person being charged will be ruled against. Because of this, some people will take a plea deal even if they are innocent just to avoid the ridiculous legal costs. In the case of Donald Trump, the liberals are trying to bankrupt him and consume all his time so that he cannot campaign; along with a corrupt mainstream media they are also trying to assassinate his character. Fortunately, the American people are seeing through their third-world system of justice, but while the appeals process is something we are all guaranteed in our system, the monetary costs can be above the means of most Americans. Under our current system, if the defendant is successful in their appeal the unscrupulous prosecutor has been successful in draining the defendant of resources and valuable time. I might note that the prosecutor has no skin in the game, and it had cost him nothing to do a hatchet job on an innocent man. Recently I had a conversation with a congressional field man for one of our congressional representatives; in the conversation I made a suggestion that could help get our country out of the mess we have allowed to happen.

If a person is wrongly

convicted of any crime or civil issue and that person appeals the decision and is successful in that appeal, the person wrongly convicted should be reimbursed for all legal expenses and any other damages that might have occurred. Under the current system, a person can bankrupt themselves and have their career destroyed because of having to defend themselves in a totally trumped-up case. Winning the appeal is a great thing, but like the old saying, "Winning the appeal is great, but it don't feed the bulldog." These unscrupulous prosecutors are elected by the people in their area and really, they are just a symptom of a much bigger problem; the real problem is the people who elect them. If the people in those areas had to reimburse someone who had to appeal an unjust decision, they might find they would not have as much money in their local treasury for some of their social programs. Having to come up with a reimbursement just might make them take a better look at the people they elect to public office. If we do not get our system of justice back to where it was intended to be we all are at risk, my suggestion of reimbursement would at least get their attention.



## Searching for Word.....

badinage. A humorous or witty conversation.

Ex. Our badinage at breakfast kept me smiling all day.



# STILWELL SCHOOLS PERFORMING ARTS

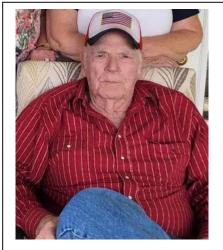


We took four vocalists who had never been before to the district competition and three of them received superior ratings, advancing to the State competition in April! As William Shakespeare said, "If music be the food love needs sing on!"

#### Page 5–The Straight Forward Free



Kester Family Funeral Service



**Frank L. Workman** Aug. 7, 1939 - Feb. 29, 2024

Franklin Leo Workman the son of Clyde and Nellie (Walls) Workman was born August 7, 1939, in Stilwell, Oklahoma and departed this life on February 29, 2024, in Stilwell, Oklahoma at the age of 84 years, 6 months and 22 days.

Frank enjoyed life and he loved his family. He enjoyed the outdoors, especially camping at Deep Fork, hunting and fishing. He enjoyed sports of all kinds and going to auctions, junk hunting. He was a talker and would talk to anyone about any of these activities and their grandparents. He told Dad jokes before Dad jokes were a thing. He stayed very active up until his battle with cancer. Frank gave his life to the Lord many years ago and had affirmation just hours before his passing. Frank touched many lives over the years and will be dearly missed by all who knew and loved him.

He was preceded in death by his parents; and his brother Charles Ray Workman.

He is survived by a loving family which includes his children Angela Asbill and husband Kevin and Christina Palmer and husband Dewayne all of Stilwell; his brothers Thomas Workman and Cleburne Workman and wife Rose all of Stilwell; his sisters Joyce Radtke and husband John and Francis Essary and husband James all of Stilwell; his grandchildren Sydney Rodriguez and husband Randy of Stilwell, Dillon Davidson and wife Eva of Tahlequah, Betty Palmer and fiancé Hunter Sobralski of Stilwell, Makayla Massey and husband Daniel of Drumright, Franklin Davidson of Fayetteville, and Christian Asbill of Wilmington, NC; and his greatgrandchildren Madison, Casyn, Maizie, and Mavis. Several nieces, nephews, friends and other relatives also survive him.

#### **Memorial Service**

Sunday, March 10, 2024 2:00PM - 3:00PM

Rock Springs Baptist Church Hwy 100 E Stilwell, OK 74960



Roni Jan. 3, 1953 - Feb. 27, 2024 Ronald Moritz "Roni" Teders was born on January 3, 1953, in Enid, Oklahoma, to Lewis Moritz & Fern Maxine Kilian Teders; he departed this life on February 27, 2024, at his home in Edmond, Oklahoma, surrounded by his family. Roni attended St. Mary's Catholic School and later graduated from Medford High School in 1971. After college, he went to work for Conoco. Wanting to return to his love of agriculture, Roni began his long-tenured Grain career for the Clyde COOP Association and WB Johnston Grain Company. After leaving Johnston's, he worked as a rural mail carrier for the United States Postal Service in Medford until his health required him to retire, but the job he enjoyed the most was raising cattle on his farm West of Renfrow. Roni was united in marriage to Marcia Tompkins in Wellington, Kansas. They spent 37 years together and raised their four children, Amy

Brooke, Sara Christine, Nicholas Dean, and Molli Clare. Roni loved his family and enjoyed every moment he spent with his grandchildren. Before he and Marcia moved to Edmond, he could be found every morning at Margie's, drinking coffee and shooting the breeze with the guys. He was a member of the St. Mary's Catholic Church in Medford.

Roni is survived by his wife Marcia of the home, daughters Amy Jernigan and her husband Shawn of Enid and their daughter Kynlee, Sara Nichols and her husband Jeremy of Edmond and their sons Jake and Atley, son Nick Tompkins and his wife Christin of Tecumseh and their son Grayson, and daughter Molli McKee and her husband Brock of Carrier and their children Aspen, Stella, and Brooks; sisters Patti Fortmeyer and her husband Joe of Wichita, Roxi Hatfield and husband Mark of Edmond, and Jonella Schuermann and husband Don of Pond Creek; sister in law Vicky Shay and her husband Randy of Winfield, brother in law Robby Smith and his wife Janine of Lawerence and numerous nieces, nephews, relatives and friends. He was preceded in death by his parents and his mother and father-inlaw, Robert and Karen Smith. Memorials may be made in Roni's name to the St. Mary's Catholic Cemetery P.O. Box 8 Medford, OK 73759.

# ROBERTS & HART



**Campbell G Carter** Dec. 12, 1941 — Feb. 18, 2024

It is with heavy hearts that we announce the passing of Campbell G Carter, who departed this world on February 18, 2024. He was born on December 12, 1941, to Jeff and Verna Carter.

Campbell lived 82 years filled with happy moments in his hometown of Westville, Oklahoma. Leaving a lasting mark on the lives of those fortunate enough to know him. He was a genuine, kind, and loving soul who was known for his rose garden, giving a weekly bouquet to another member of the First United Methodist Church. He was an avid baseball fan, Campbell followed several professional teams, and he was a lifelong fan of the Chicago Cubs. Campbell was most known for his frequent walks down main street with his beloved Dachshunds. More than anything, Campbell loved sitting down with his family for a meal.

Campbell is preceded in death by his parents, Jeff and Verna Carter. One brother, Kenneth Dean Carter, (and his three dachshunds; Rodeo, Augie, and Knoxie.)

Campbell is survived by his niece Regina Weaver and husband Tim, nephew Jason Carter and wife Veronica, niece Robin Carter and partner David Juarez; Great nieces and nephews, Randi, Camillia, Jordan, Jacob, Ashlee, Dustin, Austen, and Taylor; Great-Great nieces and nephews; Ariadne, Leith, Arelia, Knox, Bryson, DJ, and Aubree.

Per Campbell's request, he will be cremated, and his ashes will be spread in the Pacific Ocean off the coast of California.

# ROBERTS-REED-CULVER



Adam Ryan Harris May 13, 1979 — Feb. 29, 2024 Westville

Adam Ryan Harris,, departed this world on February 29,2024, at

passing, we also recognize the light he brought into the lives of those who remain. Adam is survived by his beloved partner in life and love, Irene Kramer of Westville; his mother Carol Ann Harris of Westville; his daughter Kaycee Harris of Jonesboro, AR; his son Brian Harris of Carrolton, TX, brother Anthony Harris and wife Charlesa of Westville, OK; as well as a special niece Gabby Harris of Stilwell and niece Emma Harris of Westville.

As we reflect on Adam's journey through life, let us remember him for his unwavering zest for life, his boundless love for others, and the treasured moments he shared with his family. May he find eternal peace in the embrace of fond memories that will forever linger in the hearts of those who had the privilege to know him.

his residence. Born in Batesville, AR, Adam's spirit was as free as the open road he so often traveled. He embraced life with a profound love for people and a kind heart that touched all who knew him.

Adam's loving personality was evident in his deep appreciation for the outdoors, motorcycles, and stunning scenery. His greatest joy, however, came from spending cherished moments with his family. Among his proudest accomplishments was the creation of a loving family that brought him immense happiness. In the circle of those who preceded Adam in death are his paternal and maternal grandparents and Buck Harris. While we mourn his



