

The STRAIGHT FORWARD

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Volume 1 • Issue 27

Serving Stilwell & Adair County, Oklahoma

Thursday, January 20, 2022

What's In A Tractor



Stilwell High School FFA students are shown with the tractor that belonged to long time Vo-Ag instructor, Mr. Colbert Starr. The students, with the help of their FFA teacher/instructor, Mr. Gilstrap, will restore the tractor and prepare to sell it later this spring.

By Donna Boecher

What's in a tractor, a 1948 Farmall H? History is the answer – one hundred years of it. This year the FFA group at Stilwell High School will be solidifying this tractor's history as they tear down, rebuild, and sell Colbert Starr's tractor. Mr. Gilstrap, their FFA teacher/instructor will help them through the long day and night hours until the town sees its glory at the Strawberry Festival; the reconstruction will be a cherished memory for them all.

The story began in Starr Valley. As you drive down E. 850 Road (originally Zion Rd.) going west, each home seen rebuilds the puzzle of Colbert Starr and his family in Zion Community. Drive and remember; tomorrow or next year it will

have changed, and its puzzle pieces removed. One hundred years takes a toll. Colbert Starr who lived with his wife Geraldine north of Zion School, has passed but the legacy of his life will be reflected in this tractor - a gift to the students from Lyle Starr.

If you find it hard to follow the lineage of the Starr's, open your copy to page 627 of the History of Adair County or use the library's copy. It's easy for me; my family has been on the land since 1928 - about a mile west of Colbert's home. Colbert's history is out there (38 ½ years - '49-'88) given to the community's children.

My mother, whose sister Eunice married into the Starr family, was best friends with Colbert's sister Juanita from high school onward. I

have a rare photo of them in jodhpurs – so chic! If you're not familiar, jodhpurs are those funny riding pants that have big hip bulges (actually the

English named them after the baggy pants that were native worn in Jodhpur, India.

Today, Colbert's son's James and

Jon own the land next to me which is rented out to another member of the Starr family. My hope is that Colbert's tractor will remain in Stilwell or at least in Adair County as a memorial to teachers who spent their lives educating and supporting future residents of the county. Teachers make a difference; let's keep the tractor in Stilwell; it's important.

Celebrating 100 Years of Agriculture Education

By Kaylee Stewart,
Stilwell FFA Reporter

The Stilwell Agriculture Education Program is celebrating its 100th year anniversary. Stilwell High School implemented its agricultural education program back in 1922, that's 6 years before the National FFA Association was even established in '28. Agriculture Education has always been a source of pride and tradition for the Stilwell community, and the marks of its advantageous

(See Celebrating on Page 3)

Leap Of Faith

Story by John Bankel

Faith Phillips, notable raconteur, author, publisher and moviemaker held a group of people, at a meeting of the Stilwell Public Library Friends Society on Thursday, January 13, in the palm of her hand as she told her story about how she took a "leap of faith" when she left the security of her job as a corporate attorney in Tulsa to the uncertain and uncharted waters of becoming a writer of books. She tells about how scary it all was to forsake a steady paycheck and trade it in for the uncertainty of not knowing from where her next morsel of food would come? At that time, her son, who was about 13, wondered along with her. Thank God, as she puts it, Faith had the full support of a loving family along with the encouragement of many friends. Above all, she had resolve, for she knew that within her spirit dwelt a writer and a raconteur.

Her "leap of faith" took place about 10 years ago. What struggles Faith would face will one day make a compelling story. Her first self-published work, "Ezekiel's Wheels," a book that this writer could barely put down, set the stage for her writing theme: a deep dive into the darkness of the human soul. She gave that theme a name: "okienoir." We all know what "okie" means, but, perhaps, not many know "noir?" It comes from the French language and literally means "black."

Her third book, "Now I Lay Me Down," catapulted Ms. Phillips into a new realm: Film. This book, a documentary, awakens the story of the murder of 3 girl scouts back in the 1970's, whose bodies were found in a ditch along a remote rural road near the town of Waleetka. It was a crime which had never been



Faith Phillips, noted local author, is shown chatting with Regina McLemore, herself a noted local writer, author of the historical fiction Cherokee Clay series.

solved. The book received attention and enough acclaim to attract moviemakers. Soon Faith found herself "in the movies."

Yet, perhaps, the most remarkable part of her journey, besides landing her "trophy husband" along the way, that beats closest to her heart would be the 2 years she spent teaching English/Creative Writing at her alma mater, Stilwell high school, in 2019-20 and 2020-21. She tells about how her students embarked on a journalistic project that would eventually blossom into a National Public Radio journalism contest winner. The theme of the project was debunking a Washington Post article which had declared Stilwell to be "The Death Capital Of The U.S." This article had been reprinted loud and clear on the front page of the Democrat Journal. The students set out to disprove the article's claim. In a remarkable piece of

investigative journalism, the students succeeded in their quest to debunk the article and restore Stilwell's reputation. The Washington Post later retracted the article. Ms. Phillips left such a positive mark on her young writers. Two of them, Gerry Daugherty and Kayla Sawney, have gone on to self-publish their own works.

Faith Phillips has traveled many miles, to many destinations, with Hollywood and its glitz, glitter, and glamour being one of the most recent, yet she maintains that Adair County will always be her home. Her "leap of faith" is creating ripples of inspiration throughout the Adair County community.

What next for Faith? Besides continuing her work on her films, she has her sights set on a Stilwell/Adair County Arts Council and it is coming soon. Stay tuned to the Faith Phillips channel of "excellent expression."

The ROVING REPORTER In, Around, and Out About Town



Folks have been curious about what this building will be? The Roving Reporter has uncovered the "mystery"?

The owner of Movie Town, on South 2nd St., is building a permanent location for his Fireworks business. The tent has went.

By The Roving Reporter

PROVERB POWER

"Watch and pray, that ye enter not into temptation: the spirit indeed is willing, but the flesh is weak." – Matthew 26:41 (KJV)

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THE CONSERVATIVE VIEW

By Russell Turner

AN OUT-OF-CONTROL MONSTER

I have noticed that most people that work for a salary seldom understand what sacrifices small business owners have to deal with just to stay in business. Being a small business owner for the majority of my life I do understand the slim profit margins that most small business owners have. A few years ago, I was talking to one of my suppliers about the problems that we face just to stay in business. Her response to me could not be improved upon; she said, "Small business owners should be able to make a living in the first place, secondly they should be able to purchase some health insurance, and finally should be able to put some money back for retirement in the future." She went on to say that most of the small contractors she supplied were not able to fund the things she just listed. Too many people look at small business owners and make the assumption that they are getting rich, that assumption is often based upon a lack of knowledge of basic business principles and ignorance. Today the small business sector is facing a monster that they don't fully know how to deal with; that monster is called inflation.

All of the people that have good salaried jobs that aren't concerned about the plight of the small business owners had better start being concerned. Small business is the foundation of our economy, roughly 80% of all new jobs are created in that sector. A recent survey released January 11th shows that 22 percent of small business owners reported that inflation was their single most important business problem, the highest reading since 1981. A year ago, a mere one percent of owners said inflation was their chief worry. Surging inflation, which in the 12 months through November, climbed to its highest

level in 39 years. Besides impacting businesses, high inflation has also become a pain point for American families, whose purchasing power has been eroded by prices rising at a faster pace than wages.

We Americans have always had an abundant supply of food at the local supermarket; even though we might have griped about the price, that price was among the lowest in the world when you factor the cost to the percentage of income. I and my family have been in the agriculture business my entire life. The cost of operation is growing so fast that something is going to have to happen. We are facing increased costs in replacement parts and fuel, but one of the biggest increases is the cost of fertilizer. Just a year ago a ton of urea fertilizer was a little less than 400 dollars per ton, now the price today is around 900 dollars per ton with it expected to rise to 1200 dollars per ton by spring. It is very simple; farmers cannot absorb that kind of increase. Many farmers will not fertilize their land and thus there will be a huge drop in the supply of food, that alone will cause huge increases of food prices because of less supply. If some farmers do fertilize, they will have to have more money for their product or simply go out of business.

In recent reports the inflation rate has risen to 7%, it is a cruel tax that also robs us of our purchasing power. Maybe you have been saving for some better furniture or something else, now you find out that your saving won't cover the cost. Many Americans have been living on stimulus checks and other government programs, but remember they won't last forever. Inflation, the out-of-control monster, if not checked will destroy all of us.

Thank You for Your Time and Generous Donations!

The Stilwell Nursing Home wants to thank everyone for their time and generous donations for the residents of the Nursing Home during the holidays. The smiles from the residents were a joy for all employees to see. The thoughtful gifts for all the residents made the holidays a joy for all.

The Lady in the Blue Sari

Part 27

By Donna Boecher

One day in Jaipur. Lydia was salivating for the flavors of lamb curry - onion, ginger, garlic, coriander, cumin, paprika, and cayenne; Jaipur could fill the bill at the Rajput Room. She had the Haveli concierge make a reservation for 7 p.m. Although many Hindus were vegetarians, others ate meat - as

long as it wasn't beef. The cow was sacred in India because she gave so much . . . milk, buttermilk, yogurt, and cheese. Refreshed with a chilled mango lassi laced with saffron and cardamom in place of brunch, Lydia took a tuk-tuk to get fabric on Indira Bazar Road and then to Johari Bazaar for jewelry. So much to purchase, so little time. Last stop, she bought a "saiwai", drop

pendant in English. She'd phoned New Orleans and found that Ruby, one of her best friends, was jittery about her upcoming wedding. Lydia would bring her back a trousseau if she could visit the tailors by noon. She'd select the style and fabric, and by closing time, Ruby would have half-a-dozen outfits. Nothing was impossible for the tailors. Plus, Lydia was flying stateside tomorrow. What an eventful day!

Health Tips from Larkin...

By Larkin Fouse, CHHP

Stress Busters: Part 1—Medical research has been going on about this for over a century now and all the evidence suggests that about 90 percent of disease these days is stress induced, thus stress reduction is of key importance to healing and this is in fact the most focused part of my work as a natural healer. My biggest hurdle with clients is teaching them how to de-stress which is no easy task as usually the clients that come to me are stressed out of their minds and that is usually the reason that they are sick in the first place. So this little series will all be about busting stress naturally without sedatives, alcohol

or other unhealthy ways. So let us begin with a simple one, music. One of the best ways to keep your stress levels down is to keep soft relaxing music going on in your work place all day. This will subconsciously keep you grounded and if you start to stress out too much, just relax, breathe and listen to the music for a bit. Then get back to work. This will greatly improve your health. I promise!

Larkin Fouse is a certified holistic health practitioner, operator and owner of Crescent Clinic in Stilwell. See advertisement in this paper for more information.



Dear John,

My neighbor's dog is doing his job in my yard. I go out and clean up after the pooch every day. When I saw the husband outside one day, I told him about the care packages his dog was depositing. I very politely asked the man to keep his dog in the back yard where they at least have a fence. He said "when you stop letting your cat come into mine". Well! I told him "I don't have a cat". He said that I was lying. So I started picking up the dog poop and throwing it in their yard. What would you do John?

Up To Here In Doggie Doodoo

Dear Up To Here, I hate to say it, but you have a pretty lousy neighbor. Your reclamation projectiles sound like a pretty fair response on your part for his inconsiderate and, frankly, irascible behavior. I am fully on board with you and I am awaiting his ultimate behavior change. In your case, no doubt, actions speak louder than words. Keep me posted on the outcome.

Sincerely,

Dear John

Got a question for Dear John? Send it to: dearjohn@writeme.com.

Real names are not used.

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WHAT'S SO PUNNY? PUN FUN

These 3 Book Titles must be in high demand at the Library for they are truly hard to find...at least in Stilwell!

"How To Write Big Books" By Warren Peace

"The Lion Attacked" By Claude Yarmoff

"The Art Of Archery" By Beau N Arrow

Maybe it is just as well that these books are hard to find but at least, for today, their titles tickled your funny bone. More PUN FUN to come next week.

MTech Cave is now a UPS Access Point

MTech Cave is now a UPS Access Point. We are located at 713 N. 2nd St. in Stilwell.

We offer the following services: Package Drop Off, Package Pick Up, Package Shipping, and Insured Package Shipping. These services are available to use anytime our store is open.

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Mullin It Over: New Year, Same Democrats

By Congressman Markwayne Mullin

Many enter the new year with a renewed sense of purpose and drive. January is welcomed with promises of possibility and hope for the best versions of ourselves as we reset the calendar year. Unfortunately, we know for Democrats in 2022 this will not be the case.

2021 was a year filled with countless crises, bad policy, and reckless spending. With a Democrat controlled White House, Senate, and House, there is nowhere else to place the blame. Instead of legislation to help hard-working Americans, the past year was filled with messaging bills to appeal to the radical Left and check off socialist wish lists.

There is no doubt that 2022 will be the same. Democrats are still pushing their Build Back Broke bill as inflation continues to skyrocket. The President has shown us that he reaches for emergency oil and gas reserves in times of energy crisis, yet his anti-fossil fuel, Green New Deal agenda remains the same. Fentanyl

has killed more Americans ages 18-45 than COVID, but Democrats still refuse to stop the temporary extensions and place the substance under a schedule one order for good.

It is our job to fight for Americans' ability to put food on their tables, heat their homes, and power their cars. We are meant to be their voice in Congress, championing legislation to improve quality of life and create opportunities for every American to support themselves and their families. There are many whose lives depend on it.

I've never seen a record-breaking presidency quite like this one and I do not mean that in a good way. It is time Washington reigns it in and gets back on track with governing our country the way the American people deserve.

Want to stay up-to-date on what I'm doing in Oklahoma and Washington on your behalf? Sign up for my newsletter by visiting Mullin.house.gov/newslettersignup.

Community Announcement: STILWELL NUTRITION CENTER

is again **CLOSED**

EXCEPT for CURBSIDE LUNCH PICKUP

between 10:30 a.m. & Noon.

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The STILWELL LIBRARY FRIENDS will be having a



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Thursday and Friday
9-5
and Saturday 9-1

Lots of Westerns, Mystery, Christian Romance and Children's.

• 25¢ Table •

Vocabulary
WORD
of
the
DAY

Desperate
Example: Their kitchen cabinets were falling apart; they were desperate to find a good carpenter.
• (of a person) having a great need or desire for something.

The **STRAIGHT FORWARD**
FREE PressSM

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

The Straight Forward Free Press is sponsored by
"The Golden Mind Learning Foundation Inc."
a non-profit, faith-based, community outreach organization.

Printed by: **FREE Press Printing Co.**

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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Don't Be Desperate

By Donna Boecher

I once thought of myself as a “Desperate Housewife.” But I was rescued from desperation by another housewife! But we no longer use that word “housewife.” We are **HOMEMAKERS**. The modern woman is multi-faceted; she fulfills many rolls. “Multi-faceted” is not a disorder. Rather, it is several “definable aspects” of someone. This is the story of discovering my facets, curing my despair, and why I write.

It was 1979. The youngest of my two children was six months old and I was tired of repeating any-and-all words “three times.” I was desperate! I was a college graduate with a teaching degree in English Speech and Drama who was now housebound. I wanted to speak to other adults during my stay-at-home days! I was new to New Orleans; I had no friends yet except for the wife of my husband’s employee – and she worked during the day and lived miles away across the Mississippi River. My desperation must have shown on my face because a pre-teen

boy on my block – who had stopped to pet our dog – offered to babysit one day. Hallelujah!

Next thing I knew his mother came to my home which was five houses from hers. She said, “Would you like to join me at my Homemakers’ Meeting next week? My son can babysit if your husband is at work or has other plans.” She had thrown me a lifesaver buoy; that was forty-three years ago. *The buoy was established in 1914 by the Smith-Lever Act (It was the Extension Service created to inform women and others about information available to educate them on agricultural technology, etc.*

Since that time, I have gained and improved my many facets. I became: an independent adult, a homemaker, a mother, an employee, a writer, an entrepreneur, a subcontinent traveler, and a widow of six years. All of us have information to share with others; this information can be **VITAL**. If you don’t write, then speak up! Communication is important. Don’t despair.

THE KIPLING KORNER

THE FEMALE OF THE SPECIES

But the Woman that God gave him, every fibre of her frame
Proves her launched for one sole issue, armed and engine for the same,
And to serve that single issue lest the generations fail,
The female of the species must be deadlier than the male.

She who faces Death by torture for each life beneath her breast
May not deal in doubt or pity – must not swerve for fact or jest.
These be purely male diversions – not in these her honor dwells –
She, the Other Law we live by is that Law and nothing else!
She can bring no more to living than the powers that make her great
As the Mother of the Infant and the Mistress of the Mate;
And when Babe and Man are lacking and she strides unclaimed to claim
Her right as femme (and baron), here equipment is the same.

She is wedded to convictions – in default of grosser ties;
Her contentions are her children, Heaven help him, who denies!
He will meet no cool discussion, but the instant, white-hot wild
Wakened female of the species warring as for spouse and child.

Unprovoked and awful charges – even so the she-bear fights;
Speech that drips, corrodes and poisons – even so the cobra bites;
Scientific vivisection of one nerve till it is raw,
And the victim writhes with anguish – like the Jesuit with the squaw!

So it comes that Man, the coward, when he gathers to confer
With his fellow-braves in council, dare not leave a place for her
Where, at war with Life and Conscience, he uplifts his erring hands
To some God of abstract justice – which no woman understands.

And Man knows it! Knows, moreover, that the Woman that God gave him

Must command but may not govern; shall enthrall but not enslave him.
And She knows, because She warns him and instincts never fail,
That the female of Her species is more deadly than the male!

(Part 3 of 3) – Rudyard Kipling

The Woman at the Well Speaks

By Carol Hoke

“Speed Bumps”

We use to live in Rocky Mountain and would pass by the Rocky Mountain school most every day. Then one day, we watched as they started preparing the road for a ‘speed bump’ (actually two) to be laid in front of the school. Well, we all know that the purpose for speed bumps are to create an environment of safety in the area, to slow drivers down, to wake them up if they’re going to fast.

We observed the completion of the ‘speed bumps’, and as we attempted to cross them, it was apparent that it was not always a pleasant trip. If you were going too fast, you hit them (or they hit you) with a resounding force which shakes you and everything in your vehicle up and out of their place. If you comply with the speed limit, you can safely and somewhat smoothly cross over the bump with minimal discomfort.

However, as time passed, we began to see where some drivers were merely driving around the bumps to avoid contact with something that would slow them down, all the while creating more issues of ruts and large mud puddles.

Let’s look at this in the spiritual way of thinking. There’s been a lot

of “speed bumps” lately that have been laid down in our lives. We may not recognize them as such, but hasn’t God been trying to get our attention lately. Instead of running around like a “chicken with its head cut off” (only country folk might get that comment), we’ve had a speed bump thrown in our way to stop us in our tracks and shake us up a little. It most certainly shakes us and makes us take notice of what’s real and precious in our lives. Speed bumps are to protect us, not break us. They are to sharpen our senses of seeing, hearing, and feeling.

Unlike the person who drives around the bump, creating more issues, let’s embrace the speed bumps of our lives, give it up to be shaken, and awakened to the next journey God has for us to walk. You can trust Him. Bumps can be glorious.

Hebrews 12:25-26 “See that you do not refuse Him who speaks. For if they did not escape who refused Him who spoke on earth, much more shall we not escape if we turn away from Him who speaks from heaven, whose voice then shook the earth, but now He has promised, saying “Yet once more I shake, not only the earth, but also heaven.”

offerings can be seen all over the county and the state. Through the years this program has impacted countless students by teaching them valuable life skills that have supported them in endeavors from all walks of life. This program has helped produce doctors, lawyers, teachers, and congressmen, not to mention the hundreds of past, present and future agriculturalists that dot the landscape and help feed the world. One of the major contributors to the success and productivity of this program has been the men and women who have led the program through its 100 year journey. Stilwell Ag-Ed has had 30 instructors, each of which in their own way, have left behind a legacy. One instructor stands out among the rest as having led the program for nearly half of its existence. Mr. Colbert Starr served as a chapter advisor for 39 years. In that time Mr. Starr left a legacy that will not soon be forgotten. In the late 70’s and early 1980’s the Stilwell Agriculture Education program was breaking records right and left. From speech contests to career development events, and livestock exhibitions the program was hard to beat. The program also boasted some of the highest enrollment numbers in the state calling for additional instructors to be hired, this program was in desperate need of more room.

Mr. Starr, and his co-teacher Mr. Bob Doyle, had no idea at the time but in the early 80’s they were establishing their legacy.... the “new” agriculture education building.

Mr. Starr spearheaded the design of the classrooms and the animal science lab. While Mr. Doyle took point on the design of the shop facility, and the greenhouses. These men championed their plans until their dream came to fruition in 1982 when the building was completed. Mr. Starr retired in 1988 and the district dedicated the building in his honor. To this day the Stilwell Agriculture Education building is the envy of districts across the state and has been repeatedly copied by districts wanting to improve their own facilities.

How A Successful Life Can Be Measured

Sometimes one has a tendency to think that success is measured by wealth, a prestige career or a large fan base. The following poem, entitled “What Is Success?”, written in 1904 by Bessie Anderson Stanley, gives one a deeper look at what is success?

To win the respect of intelligent people and the affection of children;

To earn the approbation of honest critics and endure the betrayal of false friends;

To appreciate beauty;

To find the best in others;

To give of one’s self;

To leave the world a bit better, whether by a healthy child, a

On Wednesday, January 12, the Stilwell FFA chapter held their monthly chapter meeting at the Agricultural Education building at Stilwell High School. At this meeting, the current advisors unveiled a special project that students will be working on for the next few months. Mr. Gilstrap was discussing the chapter’s 100 year history with members of the Starr Family in Stilwell and they generously donated Colbert Starr’s 1948 Farmall H tractor to the chapter. This tractor is a significant piece of agricultural history, and is an important symbol of our chapter and the community because of the legacy and impact Mr. Starr left behind. The Stilwell FFA shop classes have agreed to restore Mr. Starr’s tractor as a tribute to his contributions to the program and in celebration of the chapter’s 100 year history. The completed tractor will also be used to compete in the National Delo Tractor Restoration Fall competition as well as being exhibited at local and state fairs and shows. Stay tuned for more details....

The following are statements from current students in the AG mechanic classes that will be part of the restoration process:

“Restoring this tractor means so much to me. I am a history buff and this tractor represents a lot of history for our chapter. I cannot wait to get it done.” - **Hayden Thomas, Stilwell FFA Chapter President 21-22**

“I truly am honored to be able to restore this tractor. I hope when we are done it will honor Mr. Starr’s legacy and be a source of pride for the community. This opportunity means a lot to me.” - **Chandler Trentham, Stilwell FFA Chapter Vice President**

“I’m honored to be restoring a part of the Stilwell FFA’s heritage. I believe this will be a good accomplishment for the chapter and the town.” - **Riley O’Neal, FFA Greenhand**

“I’m extremely excited to be restoring this tractor with my friends. We have already learned so much and this tractor means a lot to our chapter, so we want to do a good job.” - **Evan James, FFA Greenhand**

garden patch, or a redeemed social condition;

To have played and laughed with enthusiasm and sung with exultation;

To know even one life has breathed easier because you have lived:

This is to have succeeded.

Celebrating (Continued from Front Page)



Oklahoma Bigfoot Sym-posium, March 12-13, 2022, CC Camp near Stilwell. Keynote speaker: Ken Gerhard, noted author, TV star and Cryptid investigator.
* * *

First Saturday Night and Last Saturday Night of Every Month, Bethel Church, Stilwell, OK, 7:00 p.m., Rodney Chuculate.
* * *

Adair County Litter-Free & Green monthly Recycle Day is from 9 am to noon at the Adair County Commissioner District 2 Barn located on Hwy. 59 N and Fairfield Road. You may contact Cathy Unger at 918-696-1178 or Joyce Radtke at 918-696-7316 if you have questions or comments. Below is a list of projected recycle dates and will only change if there is inclement weather conditions that day.

February 19th, March 19th, April 16th, May 21st, June 18th, July 16th, August 20th, September 17th, October 15th, November 19th, and December 17th.
* * *

Deadline to enter the **2022 Strawberry Queen Pageant** is **Monday, January 31**. Pageant will be held Saturday, April 2 at the Stilwell High School Fine Arts Building. For more information or to print off an application, log on to the Stilwell Kiwanis Club website at: <https://strawberrycapital.com>.
* * *

Vendor Applications for the May 14, 2022 Strawberry Festival are being accepted now. ALL applications and payments must be received by **5:00 p.m. on Thursday, May 5**, to meet Oklahoma Tax Commission requirements. NO late entries can be accepted. For more information or to get an application, log on to the Stilwell Kiwanis Club website at: <https://strawberrycapital.com>. If you have questions, please call 918-797-5097.
* * *

Ham and Bean Supper, Monday, February 7, at 6:00 p.m. at the Hope Center Inc., located at 829 W. Elm St. in Westville. Come enjoy some ham and beans with some dessert and drink for \$5.00 while supporting your local food bank.
* * *

The best and most beautiful things in the world cannot be seen or even touched—they must be felt with the heart.—**Hellen Keller**



Stilwell Indians Sports Spotlight
Commentary by John Bankel

Boys and Girls Varsity Basketball Update

The Stilwell Indians Boys Basketball team is on a roll. They are a perfect 8-0. Included in that tally is a Holiday Tournament Championship. Their record in District play is 5-0. In their most recent contest, January 11, the Indians took down the Poteau Pirates at home by a score of 64-37. Their January 14 away game versus Checotah, was re-scheduled due to COVID concerns.

The Lady Indians are not far behind the Boys when it comes to winning. They are sporting an outstanding 7-2 record along with an unblemished 4-0 in District play. Their

nemesis so far has been the Tulsa Lincoln Christian squad who have administered both of their losses. In the Lady Indians’ most recent game, the girls took the ladies from Poteau to task with a resounding win. As with the Boys, their game with Checotah was postponed.

It remains to be seen how far the two teams will go this season, yet at their current paces, the rest of the year promises to be very exciting. Could we see a gold ball being placed into the Trophy Case? Perhaps, but there is still a lot of season left. Stay tuned!

ATTN: Adair County

Let us know if you have any news items, pictures and/or upcoming events you would like announced in

The Straight Forward FREE Press.

You can e-mail them to: straightforwardpress21@gmail.com.

ON THE CAMPAIGN TRAIL

Commentary by John Bankel

Today's Trail Treks to the Treacherous Path Set By Joe Biden...

GO LOW JOE

Mitt Romney, long time Republican Senator from Utah, recently said that Joe Biden was elected to unify the country, and bring us back "to normalcy", not "transform the country." He further said that "Biden and the democrats have had a bad year and need to re-set." By "re-set" he means that Biden needs to get back on track consistent with his now vacuous campaign promises. Indeed, GO LOW JOE, has gone from one debacle to another. It all started when Biden took out his pen and scribed the XL Pipeline into oblivion along with the livelihoods of 11,000 decent human beings. No skin off Biden's nose. But that was only his first salvo in undoing what makes America great.

Next came the insidious storming of our Southern border, when Biden hung out the "Welcome" sign to hordes of unvetted, unvaxxed, illegal aliens invading our land creating a monster crisis the effects of which have not yet been fully

felt. At last count, there have been 2+ million, many of whom are full-on criminals seeking sanctuary within our borders.

Let's not forget GO LOW JOE'S abysmal bungling of the Afghanistan withdrawal, where he left countless Americans to fend for themselves behind enemy lines, many of whom are still trapped there in mortal danger. To top it off, Biden handed the enemy an arsenal of weapons that will keep them in the driver's seat plus allow them to proliferate their agenda worldwide. The implication for America is our nation's security has been compromised. Biden has, wittingly or unwittingly, become an accomplice of the Taliban.

Next, we have his dictatorial unconstitutional attempt at mandating vaccinations for all who dwell in our free land, a potential debacle which, thankfully, was truncated by a 6-3 Supreme Court decision.

Although he was able to garner bi-partisan support for his \$1.2 Trillion

infrastructure bill, as of this writing, passage of his attempt to federalize all elections, which would give democrats the green light to forever commandeer election outcomes and assure their hold on the seat of power, all this under the guise of "voting rights legislation," looks like it is about to fail. In addition, the so called "Build Back Better" bill is also headed for the "killed bills" coffin. Republicans will owe Kyrsten Sinema, (D-Arizona) and Joe Manchin (D-WVA) a deep debt of gratitude for their fortitude in leaning to the side of rationality instead of insanity.

On top of all of Biden's failures are the empty grocery store shelves and the exorbitant prices of everything we buy. Because of all that, GO LOW JOE has sunk to a 33% approval rating. Even Stacey Abrams, a vociferous progressive democrat who lost her bid for the Georgia governorship in 2018—yet still maintains she won?—and who is running once again in what she calls a "re-election?" has distanced herself from GO LOW JOE. She recently stood Biden and Harris up. She claimed a "scheduling error" for the mishap, but it may be better translated as "I had more important things to do with my time than to be seen with losers like all y'all." Can't blame her. She was just trying to protect her political career. She fancies herself as someday occupying the Oval Office.

How LOW can JOE GO? A sinking stone almost always finds rockbottom...

SCRIPTURE

"But God, who is rich in mercy, for his great love wherewith he loved us, Even when we were dead in sins, hath quickened us together with Christ, (by grace ye are saved:)"

And hath raised [us] up together, and made [us] sit together in heavenly [places] in Christ Jesus: — Ephesians 2:4-6 (KJV)

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