

COMMUNITY

Dreamstar Connections 2024 Strawberry Host & Miss Spring Teen was presented to Preslee Hammer, Saturday April 6th.

# CHOIR

SPRING CONCERT WITH YOUTH CHOIR

### TUESDAY, APRIL 23 - 7:00 P.M.

### STILWELL FIRST UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

FREE ADMISSION



Dreamstar Connections Photo Album Page 3,

### PROVERB POWER

Psalm 19:1 KJV

The heavens declare the glory of God; and the firmament sheweth his handiwork.

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

#### Friday April 12, 2024

# **1st Annual Adair County** T.RA.I.L. Walk

### You are invited to join us in our first annual community T.R.A.I.L. walk at Stilwell Middle School Track Field in Stilwell OK.

There is no entry fee for the T.R.A.I.L. Walk. Mr. T.R.A.I.L. Berry is the official mascot for this event. If you have any questions, please contact Karen Hooper, T.R.A.I.L. Coordinator at 918-507-0637, Janice Clinton, T.R.A.I.L. assistant, and Rosita Gallardo, Boys and Girls Club Native Services Teen Coordinator, at 918-575-6281.

### WHEN: Saturday, April 20, 2024, 10:00 am – 12:00 pm

WHERE: 841, West Olive Street, Stilwell, 74960

https://runtrack.run/track/stilwell-middle-school

### https://bgcofadaircountyschools.com/Email

### Join Boys and Girls Clubs of Adair County Schools' Mission:

Together, we can create positive change. Support our cause and help: us make a lasting impact on the youth of our community.

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

Weeks just keep flying by. It seems like only yesterday that PUN FUN came along to jangle your funny bone, get your knees slapping and your ribs tickling. Here we go again. A new set of puns guaranteed to give you a new round of laughter, or your money back. Dads have a reputation of coming up with some good cornball jokes and PUN FUN has a bunch of Dad Jokes for your mirth experience.

1. Down The Drain: Singing in the shower is fun until you get soap in your mouth. Then it becomes a soap opera.

2. Tiny and Tall: What does a tick and the Eiffel Tower have in common? They are both Paris sites.

3. Footsies: Why can't a nose be 12 inches long? Because then it would be a foot!

4. Squirrelly: How do you get a squirrel to like you? Act like you are nuts.

5. Candy Coated: Did you hear about the guy who invented LifeSavers? They say he made a mint!

How sweet it is to laugh at funny puns. Nothing better than to walk around with a tickled funny bone. May that tickling last until the next episode of PUN FUN! A smile on your face puts your best face forward! So long!





It was early Spring, and around mid-day, when suddenly the sky turned dark, and a cloud seemed to have crossed in front of the sun. Martha's mother suddenly went into the house, motioning Martha to follow. She hugged Martha, cautioning her not to look up toward the sun. What was happening? Not to scare Martha, she told her about the Solar Eclipse that had happened in November of 1834 when she was young. Thankfully, this

time it turned out to be a dark, blustery thunderstorm. They gave a sigh of relief as the first rain drops came. In 1834 the people, like Martha's mom, thought it was the end of the world. Yet no families had been raptured. The next paper from Fort Smith indicated it had just been a solar eclipse! It was the same this time according to the paper. Nothing much - a short period of darkness and a chill to the air. Thank you, Lord.



"... Down from her beaten path she softly slips, And with her mantle veils the Sun's bold eyes, Then in the gloaming finds her lover's lips. While far and near the men our world call wise See only that the Sun is in eclipse."

> A Solar Eclipse By Ella Wheeler Wilcox (1850-1919)



Hello all you Krypto fans. By this time next week a winner will be declared for Krypto Kontest 10.0. Stay tuned to find out who gets the \$25 Cash and Calculator

FREE Press SM Truth is Our Target P.O. Box 885 • Stilwell, OK 74960 straightforwardpress21@gmail.com The Straight Forward Free Press is sponsored by <u>"The Golden Mind Learning Foundation Inc."</u> ,	Vocabulary Word:	In God is my salvation and my glory; the rock of my strength, and my refuge, is in God.
a non-profit, faith-based, community outreach organization. Publisher: Golden Crown Publishing LLC	<b>broken-down</b> –Not in working order.	Psalm 61:7
Donna BoecherEditor John BankelCo-Editor/Journalist Stephanie CullinaneComposer	Ex. The tractor was bro-	Scripture

ken-down and couldn't

plow the field.

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



Dreamstar Connections

Miss Spring Teen Preslee Hammer, crowned by Judge Jennifer Boecher.



Dreamstar Connections Dreamstar Connections Director's Choice winner Kyara Cora.



Aiyana Ketcher winning HEAD Chef in the 9-12 year old division of "something in kitchen." Strawberry contest held online through Dreamstar Connections.

**Dreamstar Connections 2024 Strawberry Prom Queens** 



Left at end in red dress Neveah Small -back row Mia Vizueth, Aylssa Larson, Preslee Hammer, and Braeli Byrd. Front row left red dress Jobbee Goldman, Jabrie Leach, Aiyana Ketcher, Alyssa Einsele, and Neveah Garcia.

### **Strawberry Delight & Strawberry Spring Hosts**



Left to Right: Heidi Canada, Delilah Turner, Jobbee Goldman, Akela Goldman, and Anastasia Turner.

Dreamstar Connections Miss Spring Time Teen Court





ns and fo



Strawberry Spring Princess, Braile Byrd, crowned by Judge Janice Clinton.



Ariel Teehee & Cruz Vizueth Dreamstar Connections Lil Miss & Mister Berry



Dreamstar Connections Strawberry Delight Supreme & Strawberry Choice Finalist Remington Ritchey.



Dreamstar Connections Strawberry Blossom Hospitality, Ella Dalrymple. Dreamstar Connections Miss Spring Time Teen Court left to right: Neveah Garcia, Spring Time Princess, Neveah Small, Spring Time Queen, Miss Preslee Hammer is Miss Spring Time Supreme, and Mia Vizueth, Spring Time Sweetheart.



Alyssa Larson, in the white gown, is Dreamstar Connections Strawberry Host & Overall Top Model & Most Photogenic & Miss Spring-Time Prom Queen. Pictured with her is her older sister Dreamstar Connections Model Aliyah Larson.



#### **Stilwell Soccer Roundup**

Skiatook High School sent its boys and girls soccer teams to tangle with the Stilwell squads on Tuesday, April 9, at Carson Park. Both the Indians and Lady Indians came away with victories. The Indians fought the Bulldogs tooth and nail in an exciting match that went down to the wire with the Indians nailing a 4-3 win. Soccer does not get any more exciting than this kind of contest. Meanwhile, in an equally thrilling nail biter, the Lady Indians came out on top, besting the Lady Bulldogs 2-1. The Indians rebounded nicely after a heartbreaking 2-1 overtime loss to Tulsa McClain at which the Lady Indians took home a convincing onesided victory over the McClain girls team, 4-0. Stilwell soccer is always an exciting affair. Come on out and see for yourself. The next home game at Carson Community Park will be on April 16, when Catoosa comes to town. The girls play at 5:30 and the boys follow at 7:30.

#### Adair County OHCE Celebrates Success at 2024 NE District Meeting



Megan Langley, Beth Woods, District Officer presenting award, Kathrine Rackcliff, Karen George, Barry George, and Naomi Fuson.

Adair County's Oklahoma Home and Community Education (OHCE) group is basking in the glow of success after a wonderful turnout at the 2024 NE District OHCE Meeting. Not only did they participate with enthusiasm, but they also clinched the top spot for the most growth in 2023, marking a remarkable achievement for the community.

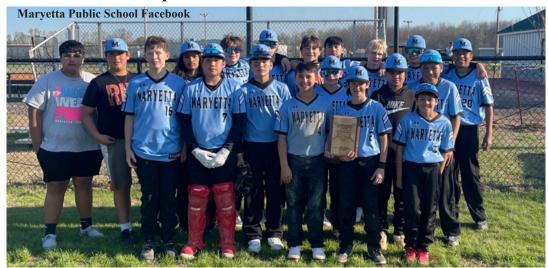
The event, which drew members from across the district, showcased the dedication and passion for OHCE. Their commitment to learning, community engagement, and personal growth has evidently paid off, earning them well-deserved recognition.

"We are incredibly proud of this achievement," remarked a spokesperson for Adair County OHCE. "It's a testament to the hard work and dedication of our members, as well as the support we receive from the community."



# Maryetta Public School

#### Raiders Win 1st place at the Westville Baseball Tournament



# **Congratulations Raiders!**

# ON THE CAMPAIGN TRAIL COMMENTARY BY JOHN BANKEL Today's Trail Treks To.....

TIPPACANOE WITH TWENTY TWO

Polls are an integral and vital part of the political landscape. Not all polls are equal. Some are more reliable than others yet all are subject to skepticism. Thus, margins of error are built into the results. Today's polls have the advantage of using more sophisticated analytical models than those conducted in the pre-computer era. In any event, polls are here to stay. In a recent poll that asked the question: "Are you better off today than you were 4 years ago?" the result was a rather firm and stark repudiation of the biden regime. The most important segment of the answers was the

percentage of respondents who said they were better off. That number came in at an abysmal 22%. The democrats may try to sugarcoat that number or simply sweep it under the rug. Yet this reality is hanging heavy over their heads. How they will handle getting this yoke off their necks should be fun to watch. Democrat chicanery will have to step up to a new level to overcome this "catch 22." In a fair election, the democrats have little chance of keeping blathering biden in office. It is apparent that the people will want what they had under Donald Trump: prosperity and peace. Let us hope that this twenty two will tip the biden canoe.

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

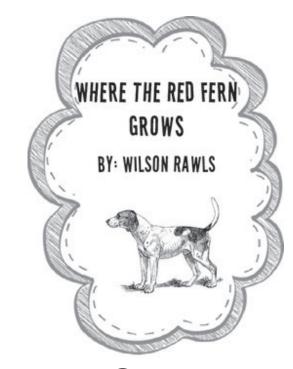
### **Congratulations to the Lady Indians Golf Team**



Adair County OHCE welcomes new members with open arms. With three different clubs across the county, they offer something for everyone. Whether you're interested in learning, community service, or simply being part of a vibrant network, Adair County OHCE offers opportunities for everyone.

For more information on how to get involved, interested individuals are encouraged to contact Adair County OSU Extension.

Monday, April 8th, the Lady Indian Golf team participated in the Kansas High School Girls Golf Tournament, coming away with 2nd place as a team. Finishing 5th as an individual was Haven Ketcher.



# Quote

"I have never been back to the Ozarks. All I have left are my dreams and memories, but if God is willing, some day I'd like to go back-back to those beautiful hills. I'd like to walk again on trails I walked in my boyhood days. Once again I'd like to face a mountain breeze and smell the wonderful scent of the redbuds, and papaws, and the dogwoods. With my hands I'd like to caress the cool white bark of a sycamore. I'd like to take a walk far back in the flinty hills and search for a souvenir, an old double-bitted ax stuck deep in the side of a white oak tree. I know the handle has long since rotted away with time. Perhaps the rusty frame of a coal-oil lantern still hangs there on the blade. I'd like to see the old home place, the barn and the rail fences. I'd like to pause under the beautiful red oaks where my sisters and I played in our childhood. I'd like to walk up the hillside to the graves of my dogs. I'm sure the red fern has grown and has completely covered the two little mounds. I know it is still there, hiding its secret beneath those long, red leaves, but it wouldn't be hidden from me for part of my life is buried there, too. Yes, I know it is still there, for in my heart I believe the legend of the sacred red fern."

- Wilson Rawls, Where the Red Fern Grows

# 16th Annual Red Fern Festival

April 26 - 27 Downtown Tahlequah

# THE CONSERVATIVE VIEW By Russell Turner CHOOSEY BEGGAR

If someone came to your home, knocked on your door, and when you answered it they claimed that they were starving and asked for food, most people would try to find them something to eat; a lot of people would take food from their own dinner table and offer it to them. We Americans have always been some of the most generous people on the planet, but if that starving person declined the offer because it was not good enough for him, most reasonable people would tell them to hit the road and not to come back. It is one thing to be generous and sharing, but it is quite another thing to be taken advantage of. Right now, the American taxpayer is being taken advantage of because of the current administration's lack of enforcement of our nation's borders.

A little over a week ago I watched a video where some illegal aliens stormed the border in Texas, knocking over several National Guard troops while illegally trying to cross the border and come into our country. Later I learned that those individuals were arrested, but a judge ruled that they had to be released into our country. I would bet a one-hundreddollar bill that if I did what those illegals did I

would not be put in jail but under the jail. The action of that judge proves even more to me that our judicial system is totally broken, these liberal judges do not have the ability to use any common sense. The liberals all have the same talking points, they often say that this country was built by immigrants. I agree that immigrants in the past were a huge asset, but there was a huge difference in previous years. For one thing they did not sneak into our country, they went through the process to become Americans. They assimilated into our culture, learned our language, were craftsmen, had the ability to provide technology, and had the ability to contribute to society. Today, many of the illegals only skill is that of procreation.

Another problem that is arising is the illegals moving into vacant houses and living there without the owner's permission, they are simply squatting in places they have no right to. There is even a you-tube where an illegal alien from Venezuela is telling how to squat on someone's property and get away with it. From what I have heard, in some states the landowners cannot simply evict these individuals, and the legal costs are

horrific just to get someone out who has no business in their property in the first place. In some of the larger cities the illegals are receiving loaded debit cards, cell phones, and room and board at taxpayer expense. From what I have seen there are some very nefarious reasons for all this stupidity.

We have an election this year and the left will do anything to win. They will do anything to make it possible for these illegals to vote in our election, they are using our tax money to rig the election against we the taxpaying citizens. It has been revealed that the Biden administration has transported over 325 thousand illegals from their country of origin and dumped them into our nation. According to some research, most of these people have been dumped into Texas and Florida; their goal is to turn those states blue instead of red. If they are successful in flipping those two states, it will become impossible for any future Republican presidential candidate to win the presidency. People, what is going on is very serious. It is easy to believe that our freedoms and way of life will always be there, but if the left is successful our once free America will be no more.

# **Oklahoma 4-H Volunteers and Parents**



"One of my favorite events is our yearly community giveback. Mrs. Clawson finds someone in need and we fund raise and collect items for Christmas. Over last five years we have given supplies to the homeless, care packages to the nursing home and foster grandparents, as well as sending gifts to our Military members."



Dally D., 4-11 Members

Tiffany Clawson Adair County

### Searching for Word.....

**ramshackle** – so poorly constructed or kept up that disintegration is likely.

Ex. The ramshackle ladder had three missing rungs and I was afraid to use it when checking the roof.



Research shows the better you feel about yourself, the more likely you are to have a positive view of life and future goals. Compared to people who have never volunteered, the odds of being very happy rose 7% among those who currently volunteer monthly and 12% for those who volunteer every two to four weeks.

**National Volunteer Week** is celebrated annually during the third week of April and this year it will be observed from April 21 to 27. This week-long celebration is about placing a spotlight on inspiring figures whose invaluable seeds of kindness through volunteering are bettering the community and our world in general. This significant celebration which was established in 1974 provides the perfect opportunity to say thank you. It also challenges us to do better and look for ways to be active participants, joining hands to impact our local communities and calling for more support.



Kester Family Funeral Service



**Earl Joey Clinton** Sept. 12, 1962 - April 4, 2024

Earl Joey Clinton was born September 12, 1962 and passed from this life April 4, 2024.

Joey was born to Earl Herschel (Joe) Clinton and Gladys Virginia (Thompson) Clinton and grew up at Rocky Ford community. He was preceded in death by his mother and father, siblings Regina Mann, Jimmy Clinton, and Romelle Clinton. He is survived by his lifelong companion Karen Dye of Welling, son Angus Clinton, wife Kristin, and granddaughter, Avery of Tahlequah, son Dalton Clinton of Welling and his siblings Herschel Clinton of Peggs, Virginia Crow of Tahlequah, Gordon Clinton of Welling, Mike Clinton of Briggs, Rhonda Clinton of Rocky Ford, Camille Clinton of Rocky Ford, Bronwyn Siefers of Prairie Grove, and many loving nieces, nephews, and cousins.

Joey was a master craftsman, carpenter, and artist. He spent most of his life on Spring Creek near Rocky Ford where he enjoyed hunting arrowheads and other artifacts. He was an avid Ford man and had many projects he loved working on, both cars and trucks. Joey loved his dogs, cat, and his many different breeds of game chickens. Joey had a strong belief in God. He was an avid reader of the Scriptures and enjoyed discussing the things he learned.

Joey was greatly loved and will be dearly missed. He can't come back to us but we will go to him.



**Bobbie Jean Wilson** March 19, 1947 - April 4, 2024

Bobbie Jean Wilson the daughter of George and Lottie (Poor) Leach a family gathering, and that was part of her way of taking care of the family. Bobbie touched many lives over the years and will be dearly missed by all who knew and loved her.

She was preceded in death by her parents George and Lottie Leach; her son-in-law Jeffery Jones Gonzales and her siblings Shirley Barnhart, Anna Mae Lay, George Leach Jr., Sam Leach, CJ Leach, RD Leach, Maudie Raleigh, Gladys Leach, Lucinda Anderson, Brenda Phillips, and Betty Richmond. She is survived by a loving family which includes her children Teddy Gregory of Stilwell, Cynthia Wilson of Stilwell, Amanda Denton and husband Kenny of Westville, and Justin Wilson of Stilwell; her sister-in-law Wanda Leach of Keota, Oklahoma; 18 grandchildren and a host of great-grandchildren. Several nieces, nephews, friends and other relatives also survive her.

# ROBERTS & HART



**Christa Carlton** Dec. 25, 1921 — April 8, 2024

Christa Carlton, a remarkable individual, passed away on April 8, 2024. Christa led a life that was defined by her unwavering dedication to education and community. Born on December 25, 1921, Christa Carlton's passion for learning led her to pursue higher education after graduating from Parthenon, Arkansas. She earned a bachelor's degree in math from Northeastern State University, followed by a master's in business education from Oklahoma State University. Her quest for knowledge also extended to studies at the University of Arkansas and the University of Southern California.

Christa's passion for teaching led her to positively influence generations of students during her career, which began at Chamberlin and concluded upon her retirement from the Kansas Schools in 1986. Her commitment to education did not end in the classroom; she continued to be involved in various educational boards and organizations throughout her life.

Aside from her professional achievements, Christa was deeply

#### involved in her community and church. As a charter member of Westville Assembly of God, she made history by becoming the first woman to serve on the church's Trustee Board for 6 years. Her spirit of service extended to various community organizations including FOLIO (Friends of Library of Oklahoma), Friends of Library (Kansas), Eastern Oklahoma District Library System Board, United Way, Chamber of Commerce, Flint Ridge Property Owners, and Markoma Christian School Board.

Christa was preceded in death by her parents Samuel and Minnie (Lackey) Carlton, as well as three sisters; Elva Chapman, Velma Carlton, Vergie Casey, and two brothers; Walter Carlton and Lawrence Carlton.

She is survived by special friends Harold and Sharon Hannon, Ruth Hicks (goddaughter) and husband G.W., along with their son Gregory. Her surviving family also includes niece Colleen Kuehn and her son Jerome Kuehn, three nephews; Junior Carlton and wife Shirley with children Shelton and Shannon, Shelly Carter and Sherry Nelson; Jerry Carlton and wife Brenda with children Jill Stoles and Jon Carlton; and Carey Casey, and wife Kathy with their son Gabriel Casey.

In closing this chapter of a life well-lived, let us carry forward Christa's legacy of kindness, dedication, and passion for education. May she rest eternally in the hearts of those who were touched by her grace.





was born March 19, 1947, in Stilwell, Oklahoma, and departed his life on April 4, 2024, in Stilwell, Oklahoma at the age of 77 years and 16 days.

Bobbie enjoyed life and she loved her family. She enjoyed going to the flea markets and yard sales. Hitting the casino every now and then was always a great time, and she also enjoyed playing cards and fishing. Most of all, Bobbie loved her family. She enjoyed cooking, always ready to cook for

Congratulations Tracy Ford. Tracy is the monthly VFW 50/50 drawing winner. This is Tracy's 2nd win. Congratulations Tracy, and thank you for your support.

If you would like to participate contact me at 918-575-7965, or see any VFW member. Good luck next month.

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### **Ecclesiastes 12:14 KJV**

For God shall bring every work into judgment, with every secret thing, whether it be good, or whether it be evil.

Page 8-The Straight Forward Free Press

Friday April 12, 2024





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"Though we are incomplete, God loves us completely. Though we are imperfect, He loves us perfectly. Though we may feel lost and without compass, God's love encompasses us completely. ... He loves every one of us, even those who are flawed, rejected, awkward, sorrowful, or broken." ~ Dieter F. Uchtdorf

