

# The STRAIGHT FORWARD FREE Press<sup>SM</sup>

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Value: Priceless!

Volume 2 • Issue 23

Serving Stilwell & Adair County, Oklahoma

Thursday January 12. 2023



## Feature: District 4 Senator Tom Woods: Taser Tested...Taser Tough... Journey To The State Senate

It was not all that long ago when newly elected District 4 Senator Tom Woods paid a visit to the Delaware County Sheriff's office. The Senator is a staunch supporter of Law Enforcement so he thought reaching out to the Sheriffs would be one way to show his sincerity. He had no idea what awaited him. As he was being shown the various "tools of the trade", one of which was the taser, a high voltage weapon used to subdue an unruly suspect with an electric shock of 5 second duration, Woods, in a bold and daring move, asked if he could be tased? Little did he know what he was getting himself into but he got the go ahead. He got tased. He put the video on Facebook. It shows Senator Woods going down for the count, but more important getting up again. Whew! What other politician would go to this length to "engage" with Law Enforcement. He probably made points with the Sheriffs yet more than that, he showed that he is willing to go well beyond where other politicians have gone to cement (or maybe "weld" may be a better term) his relationships. I asked the Senator what compelled him to get into politics, considering his background as a Farmer and small business owner? Here is what he said, "Fear

for my generation not having a chance for the American Dream, wiped out by Socialism." I asked him what his definition of "Socialism" is? He said, "Getting something for nothing." It was in the Spring of 2021, after Biden got into office, and Covid hit, that Woods' fear became reality. Tom Woods has always been a man of action. He knew he had to do his part to preserve the American Dream. He decided to run for office. It was on January 9, 2022, that Tom Woods, a complete unknown to the local political landscape, launched his campaign and then, remarkably, almost miraculously, a year later to the day, on January 9, 2023, he would gather with 47 other State Senators and together they would attend the swear-in ceremony at the State Capitol! The amount of time and effort he put into his campaign is indicative of the amount of time and effort he will put into his work as a representative of his District 4 constituency. He knows no other way. Indeed, he has already made an impact on his colleagues by garnering 5 committee assignments including the vice-chairmanship of the General Government and Transportation (as an owner of a trucking business) Appropriations committee. In addition, he has al-

*Commentary By: John Bankel*

ready filed 5 bills. Senator Woods has gotten it done all his life, from the time he was 12 years old when he got his first cow and started milking and making money. He ran on the slogan, "A Farmer Can Fix It" and he is fixin' to go to work for all District 4 citizens. February 6 marks the day that Tom Woods will make his first appearance on the Oklahoma Senate floor. The next step of his journey will commence. As Paul Harvey always so famously said, "Stay tuned for the rest of the story."

**Roving Reporter  
IN AND OUT AND  
ROUND ABOUT  
STILWELL**



Why not start your New Year with a delightful hot cocoa made with love by Alyssa Love with a yummy cherry turnover at Rowans?..Happy New Year!



The Old Roberts Funeral Home in the death grip of demolition.



Vultures roosting outside the door...roosting place will be...nevermore.



Senator Tom Woods addresses Stilwell Chamber Of Commerce



State Rep David Hardin making a point at January Stilwell Chamber Of Commerce meeting...

## Stilwell Lady Indians Wrestling Spotlight

*Commentary by John Bankel*



Adrianna Chronister and Joseline Blevins wrestled themselves into the Spotlight at the recent Inola Tournament. Chronister scored a huge 6-4 upset against a previously undefeated past State Champion as she battled her way to a second place finish. Blevins joined Adrianna in the limelight at the top of the podium also scoring gold. Remarkably, it was

Joseline's third consecutive first place tournament finish; plus, she has gone undefeated in every dual meet this year! All in all, 13 wrestlers competed. Coach Wood is looking forward to seeing Chronister and Blevins, as well as others, in the State meet. More preparation is underway. Come on out and support Indians Wrestling.

## PROVERB POWER

Psalm 23:4 NKJV

Yea, though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death, I will fear no evil; For thou art with me ; Your rod and your staff, they comfort me.

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

# MOMENTS WITH MARIE

By Donna Boecker

Serial No. 18

Marie and Michael decided to scout the area around Las Cruces – checking the post offices. Miles would have wanted some way to communicate with his wife. After several little towns, they hit pay dirt. ORGAN, N.M. The postmaster, Joshua, said Rachael Campbell had a box. Though he couldn't tell them much else, he did say she had been in to check the box a few weeks back. Agitated with the

contents of a letter, she'd dropped the letter as she rushed out. He'd set it aside for her next return. 'Course, he couldn't help reading the unfolded note. Handing it to Marie, she read it out loud, "They know!"

## December

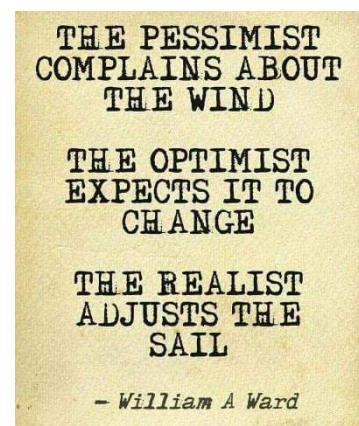
### Senior Citizen of the Month



**Wanda Gilliam** is enjoying a tasty fajita lunch with all the trimmings at the Stilwell Senior Nutrition Center.

In December, Wanda was selected as the "Senior Of The Month" for which she received a \$20 gift certificate and a moment in the spotlight. The Center is located in the Community Building and offers a nutritious lunch M-F at 11:30 for only a \$1.75 dona-

tion! Not only that, there is a full menu of recreation such as cards, dominoes, puzzles, pool, crafts, Tuesday Bingo, live music with Gospel on Thur. and good ol' country and rock 'n roll on Fri. from 10:30-11:30. Come on down for some food and fun!



Dozen Farm Fresh Eggs.. Will trade for 2015 or newer JEEP.  
Don't try to low-ball me.. I know what I got.



**Vocabulary word – spore** – a small single-cell reproductive body capable of growing into a new organism . . . .

Ex. A mushroom is spore bearing, the fruiting body of a fungus.

The  
**STRAIGHT FORWARD**  
**FREE** Press<sup>SM</sup>

Truth is Our Target

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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 Boecker.....Editor  
John Bankel.....Co-Editor/Journalist  
Stephanie Cullinane .....Composer

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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Dear John,



Dear John

I work in a job that requires all employees be vaccinated with COVID shots. I know it's a controversial subject and not funny. I have family members who have had adverse reactions, one had a heart attack the same day after getting the shot. People I work with have continued to get COVID and have been very sick. Coworkers have had serious illnesses cancer, stroke, and clots in their legs. These people are young and were healthy prior to the mandated vaccinations. I understand if you can't answer this in your paper, because it seems we can't tell the truth anymore. Many young people are having heart problems such as the football player. I think it is time people start asking questions and our government needs to stop forcing these shots what do you think?

Pin Cushion

Dear Pin Cushion...the controversial Covid vaccine conversation is a powder keg, to be sure. The contentions this subject spawns are epic. The truth of the matter is certainly hard to come by. Getting to the bottom may never happen. One has to decide for themselves what what the risk/reward ratio is. For Dear John the bottom line is: if you are mandated to get the "jab", your best line of defense is still maintaining a healthy lifestyle. Meanwhile, enjoy life in all its ephemarality.

Sincerely,  
Dear John

Got a question for Dear John? send it to:  
[dearjohn@writeme.com](mailto:dearjohn@writeme.com)  
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## They Risked It All/It's the Truth MEMORIES OF FARM AND FAMILY

By Donna Boecker

#8

My first remembrance of the farm is sitting on the back of a big white horse by the ricks of wood that fed Granny's cook stove. The oaks on the front driveway have quadrupled in size and the moss on the northside has a lush velvety thickness since those post-WWII days. One can un-

derstand that my vision as a youngster was influenced by what I DIDN'T KNOW. I'd only been read poems and stories from The Mother Goose book of 1941. Going forward I think the horse was one of two giant white mules that Granny and Grandpa plowed with. Their names are immortalized in the Adair County Book. Several years back

I purchased a 17 hands mule locally. I dreamed of having him trained to ride, but I changed my mind when I viewed all the rocks on the farm. Dick, who was named after my grandfather, is enjoying the good life on a ranch in Missouri as a lady's "yard art." He makes her smile!



Thank you to Ross and Sue Roye for donating the Crypto prize calculator and money to Stilwell Middle School Math Teacher Beth Essary. The money was used for hot chocolate and donuts to celebrate the top multiplication students for the month of December. Allison Wilson has been the number one multiplication student for the past four consecutive months and was the recipient of the calculator.



Allison Wilson



Krypto Kontest 5.0  
Game Number 1 of 6.

All you Krypto fans, put your thinking cap on, grab a pencil and paper and get ready to go with Krypto 5.0. The numbers are randomly chosen between 1 and 25. Here are the numbers you will be playing with: 3,6,17,22,5. The answer is 2. Remember you must use all 5 numbers and any combination of addition, subtraction, multiplication and division to write an expression that equals 2. Give it a try. It is not hard to do but can challenge your noodle. Oh, by the way, there is a prize for the winner: \$25 cash and a brand new calculator when the Kontest ends in 6 weeks.

Please submit your solution to: Krypto Kontest 5.0 POB 885 Stilwell, OK 74960 or email: themathguy@usa.com

## THE KIPLING KORNER

*How the Rhinoceros Got His Skin*

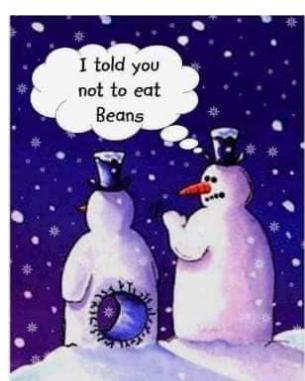
*"Them that takes cakes*

*Which the Parsee-man bakes*

*Makes dreadful mistakes."*

*(Read it all to understand the*

*Importance of manners.)*



# BOARD OF EDUCATION

## GENERAL ELECTION ANNOUNCED

The Adair County Election Board announced today that the Board of Education General Election will be held on Tuesday, April 4, 2023. Following is a list of school districts with elections and candidates that will be on the ballot:

Stilwell Public School, office # 3 - Sandy Ritter, Gordon Chronister  
Zion Public School, office #1 - Robert Patterson, Justin Spear  
Voters who are registered and reside at an address within the geographical boundaries of the Stilwell, and Zion Public School District are eligible to vote in the Board of Education General Election. If you have questions about eligibility, contact your County Election Board at 918-696-7221 or adaircounty@elections.ok.gov. You can also find your district information using the State Election Board's OK Voter Portal at oklahoma.gov/elections/ovp.

Unopposed School Board Members were:

Dahloneah Public School, office # 3 - Clarissa Wofford  
Peavine Public School, office # 3 - Deanna Hummingbird  
Cave Springs Public School, office # 3 - Stephanie Ross. Office #1 (unexpired) Ricky Sam. Office # 2 (unexpired) Corrie Stanley  
Rocky Mountain Public School, office # 2 - Ava Brannon  
Maryetta Public School, office # 2 - Kevin Stuhmer  
Watts Public School, office # 3 - Brigitte Beavers  
Westville Public School, office # 3- Paula Vaughan

Due to only two candidates filing for the same school board office there will not be a Board of Education Primary Election.

## STILWELL SPORTS

### SPOTLIGHT

*Commentary by John Bankel*

### Indians and Lady Indians Basketball

Over the past weekend, both Stilwell basketball squads traveled to Tulsa Lincoln Christian High School for the Winter Classic 8 Team Tournament. The Lady Indians dropped to the consolation bracket after losing to Ft. Gibson, 51-44, in the first round. They fought back with 2 consecutive wins to take home a 3rd place trophy after a dominating victory

versus Tahlequah Sequoyah in the 3rd place game, 69-43. After taking first place in the Vinita Tournament in December, the Indians once again found themselves in the championship game. Going against a talented 5A Tulsa Edison Prep squad, ranked #6 in the State, Stilwell soon found out that they had their hands full and then some. At the half, the Indians still had a shot,

but that chance soon evaporated as Edison poured it on to take a resounding 94-62 on their way to the first place trophy. With a second place finish, the Indians can be proud of that accomplishment and take the experience to continue their successful ways for the rest of the season. Both the Indians and Lady Indians next face Muldrow in a January 10 home game.



#### Easy Shepherd's Pie

##### Ingredients:

- 1 pound ground beef
- 1 small onion, diced
- 1 carrot, peeled and diced
- 1 cup frozen peas
- 1 tablespoon tomato paste
- 1 tablespoon Worcestershire sauce
- 1/2 teaspoon dried thyme
- Salt and pepper to taste
- 2 cups mashed potatoes
- 1/2 cup shredded cheddar cheese

##### Instructions:

Preheat your oven to 375°F (190°C).

In a large skillet, cook the ground beef over medium heat until it is browned and fully cooked. Add the onion, carrot, and frozen peas to the skillet and cook for an additional 5 minutes, or until the vegetables are tender.

Stir in the tomato paste, Worcestershire sauce, thyme, salt, and pepper.

Transfer the beef and vegetable mixture to a baking dish and spread the mashed potatoes over the top.

Sprinkle the shredded cheddar cheese over the mashed potatoes.

Bake the shepherd's pie in the preheated oven for 20-25 minutes, or until the cheese is melted and the edges are bubbly.

Serve the shepherd's pie hot and enjoy!

# ON THE CAMPAIGN TRAIL

COMMENTARY BY JOHN BANKEL

## Today's Trail Treks To..

### THE REAR VIEW MIRROR: Part 2 What Watts Once Was

This story comes from the 1988 Watts High School yearbook as told by the 1984 Watts HS valedictorian, Lynette Langley.

The town of Watts, Oklahoma, was born when the Kansas City Southern (KCS) needed a new division halfway between Pittsburg, Kansas, and Heavener, OK. The railway officials purchased a tract of land exactly at the half-way mark, 100 miles from each town, and in 1912 construction of the future town of Watts was begun. By August of that same year, the KCS Railway Co. had the constructing of the town well underway, with a \$14,000 eating-house, a \$7000 de-

pot, and the largest turn-table and coal chute on the entire system. The turn-table was a large rotating platform laid with a section of track, adjacent to the main railway and used to reverse the direction a locomotive was headed. Two hotels were needed to house the railway crews, and eventually a third was added. A large area of land was reserved for employees of the railroad company to build homes on, and the rest of the 900-acre tract was laid out into plots, and sold in public auction on August 23-24, 1912. Ads were circulated to encourage prospective residents to come and place bids for a homesite in the future flourishing

town, where, according to an old auction flier, "the climate is delightful, the water is almost as soft as rainwater, and fuel is plenty and cheap."

And the plot thickens. More to come in Part 3, next issue.

Today's Trail has come to an end. Til we meet again around the bend my friend. May your Trail end up on the right side of the fence.

John Bankel is a freelance journalist and a retired High School Math teacher who can be reached at: [writewright@journalist.com](mailto:writewright@journalist.com)

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## Community Bulletin Board

**Stilwell Community Choir** meets Tuesday, January 24th at First United Methodist Church, 7 pm. For more info contact Mary Catherine 918-696-9061.

**Bethel Church Service:** 1st Saturday of the month and last Saturday of the month, service at 5 p.m.-? Rodney Chuculate.

**Adair County Litter-Free & Green** Adair County Litter-Free & Green will change its location for the Recycle Day event beginning January 21st, 2023. The new site will be behind Vonnies Pawn Shop at 101 West Walnut Street in Stilwell. Patrons will enter from 1st Street, proceed into the alley directly behind the pawn shop, and exit onto 2nd Street. "We believe that this location will work better for our volunteer workers and the public since it is centrally located," says Cathy Unger, Co-Chair.

The hours of operation and types of recyclable items that are accepted will remain the same: paper, cardboard, glass, plastic #1 and #2, metal, plastic grocery bags, aluminum, and clothing that is clean and in good condition. You can find a more detailed list on our Facebook page under Adair County Litter-Free & Green. Below is a list of projected recycle dates which will only change if there are inclement weather conditions that day. For more information, you may contact Cathy Unger at 918-696-1178 or Joyce Radtke at 918-696-7316.

Dates for 2023:

Jan 21, Feb 18, March 18, April 15, May 20, June 17, July 15, Aug 18, Sept 16, Oct. 21, Nov 18, Dec 16

**Flint Lodge Monthly Breakfast** from 7 a.m. to 10 a.m. the first Saturday of each Month. Flint Lodge is located at 83705 Hwy 59 South, Stilwell. 12 & Older: \$8.00, Children: \$4.00 and under 5 Free  
**10:00 Sunday Morning Service Bethel Church** Everyone Welcome

## WHAT'S SO FUNNY?

### Pun Fun

Howdy all you PunFunners. Here is the latest arrival of a new batch of puns, sure to give you something to laugh about.

As the Proverb says, "Laughter doeth good, like medicine." Not a bitter pill to swallow in this bunch. Cheers!

1. Finger Licken Chicken: Why did the bubble gum cross the road? It was stuck to the chicken's leg.

2. Case Open, Case Closed: What happened to the guy who sued over his missing luggage? He

lost his case.

3. Diving Deep. What lies on the bottom of the ocean and twitches? A nervous wreck.

4. Got No Kicks: What do you call a lazy kangaroo? A pouch potato.

5. Bad Banana: Why did the banana go to the doctor? It wasn't peeling well.

Well, there you have your PUN FUN fix for the week. Hope it lasts till the next time when there will be more rib-tickling PUN FUN to come.

### ADAIR COUNTY HIGH SCHOOL BASKETBALL ROUNDUP

Commentary by John Bankel

Westville Yellowjackets Boys

On January 6, in a non-district home game, the Yellowjackets defeated the Howe High School squad 59-48. Westville next plays at Vian on January 10 at 6 pm. The boys are now 2-4 overall and 0-2 in District play.

Lady Yellowjackets

On January 6, in a non-district home game versus Howe, the Lady Yellowjackets absorbed a loss by a score of 81-45 to go 0-2 on the season. Next game will be away at Vian. Game time 6 pm.

Watts Engineers Boys

The Engineers are paddling upstream after suffering 3 consecutive losses to start their season. In their last game, on 12/6, they came up on the short end of a 71-46 score versus Welch. Well

what do you know? Watts takes on a 5-5 Welch squad once again on January 10. Game time is 6 pm.

Lady Engineers

On January 10 at 6 pm, the Lady Engineers travel to Welch to take on an 0-2 Welch squad.

Cave Springs Hornets Boys

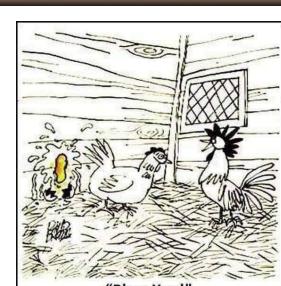
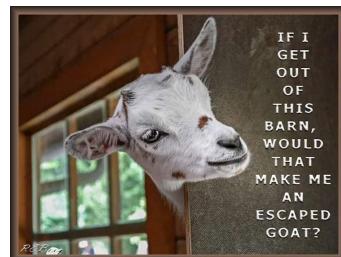
On January 6, the Cave Springs boys basketball team lost a squeaker to Oaks Mission, 55-54, in an away game. Next the Hornets bring a 2-4 season record, 0-1 in District play, to a home game on Thursday January 12, versus a 4-6 Bokoshe team at 8 pm.

Cave Springs Hornets Girls

The Lady Hornets square off with Bokoshe on January 12. Game time is 6 pm.



**Just found out the company that produces yardsticks won't be making them any longer.**

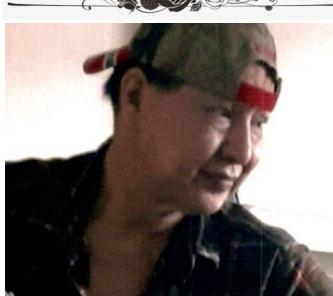


**Searching for a Word – sporadic, occurring at irregular intervals, or scattered places, no pattern or order.**

**Ex. The sporadic re-seeding petunias plants came up all over the front yard.**



# Obituaries.....



Henry Gene Teehee, was born on June 20th, 1972 in Tahlequah, Oklahoma. He went home to be with his Lord on Wednesday, December 28th, 2022 in Stilwell, Oklahoma.



Mrs. Katherine "Kathy" Ketcher was born January 24th, 1955 to Ted Holmes and Annie Ruth Holmes (Buzzard). She passed this life on December 27th, 2022 in Tahlequah, Oklahoma.



Claire Virginia Dickson, daughter of Clyde and Virginia Plummer, was born May 3rd, 1938 and died December 25th, 2022 at the age of 84.



Jackson Aultman, 17, of Huntsville, died on December 28, 2022, while visiting family in Oklahoma. He was born on October 10, 2005 in Albuquerque, NM.



## THINGS TO PONDER

I Might Be Funny

1. If the No. 2 pencil is the most popular, why is it still No. 2?
2. Why do we drive on parkways and park on driveways?
3. Why do "fat chance" & "slim chance" mean the same?
4. Why do people say "heads up" when you should duck?
5. Why are there no "B" batteries?
6. Why are you "in" a movie, but "on" TV?
7. Why is a "pair" of underwear one item?
8. Why do we press harder on a remote control when we know the batteries are getting weak?

I Might Be Funny

Psalm 28:7

7 The Lord is my strength and my shield; my heart trusted in him, and I am helped: therefore my heart greatly rejoiceth; and with my song will I praise him.

### SCRIPTURE

Psalm 28:7 KJV

Scripture sponsored by:

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Corner of Hwy. 51 & Piney Road  
Stilwell, OK

# THE CONSERVATIVE VIEW

By Russell Turner

## REAP WHAT YOU SOW

We humans have a bad habit of making the same mistakes time after time. I have found that one of the biggest problems we have is using restraint and common sense when it comes to spending our money. According to much of the information I have read recently, 2023 is poised to be a year full of financial hardships that few people have ever experienced. Throughout my life I have seen good economic times and some not so good; sadly, too many of our younger people have never experienced a financial downturn. One of our best defenses against economic downturns is saving some money for a rainy day. When someone has a good paying job, it is easy to get into a habit of spending all of your paycheck as soon as you get it; many have the mentality that next week there will always be another one, but it doesn't always work out that way.

In 2008 our country was plunged into a severe recession, at the same time the American people seemed to go on a spending spree. Mortgage debt, auto loan debt, and credit card debt all skyrocketed,

and so when the economy finally crashed all of a sudden there were millions of Americans drowning in bills that they were unable to pay. According to the Federal Reserve Bank of New York, during the third quarter of 2022 household debt increased at the fastest pace that we have seen since the first quarter of 2008. One of the biggest sources of debt is credit card debt. Credit cards are very convenient, I have had a card for many years but I exercise strict guidelines when using it. Very seldom do I ever carry a balance, usually I pay the entire balance off every month. I recently read an article that revealed a disturbing trend. In America today there are 555 million open credit card accounts, but only 329 million people live here. It was also reported that many large companies such as Amazon are planning to lay off several thousand well-paid employees. Even Jeff Bezos was quoted as saying, "Put off expenditures for big-ticket items such as new cars, televisions and appliances, noting that delaying big purchases is the surest way to keep

some "dry powder" in the event of a prolonged economic downturn. Meanwhile, small businesses may want to avoid making large capital expenditures or acquisitions during this uncertain time".

Our country is still in an inflationary cycle, the Federal Reserve is continuing to raise interest rates while at the same time our government is spending money like a drunken sailor. Excessive government spending is a main driver that causes inflation, and interest rate hikes can be a huge job destroyer. We Americans have become accustomed to a comfortable lifestyle; by not preparing for a financial downturn, many middle-class Americans will end up losing almost everything. Our nation and us personally cannot continue to spend recklessly, we also need to stop listening to politicians who tickle our ears with forecasts of a booming economy when all of the trends point to a severe downturn in 2023. We all need to remember that we do reap what we sow.

## Pearls of Wisdom

A pastor asked an older farmer, decked out in bib overalls, to say grace for the morning breakfast.

"Lord, I hate buttermilk", the farmer began. The visiting pastor opened one eye to glance at the farmer and wonder where this was going. The farmer loudly proclaimed, "Lord, I hate lard." Now the pastor was growing concerned.

Without missing a beat, the farmer continued, "And Lord, you know I don't much care for raw white flour". The pastor once again opened an eye to glance around the room and saw that he wasn't the only one to feel uncomfortable.

Then the farmer added, "But Lord, when you mix them all together and bake them, I do love warm fresh biscuits.

So Lord, when things come up that we don't like, when life gets hard, when we don't understand what you're saying to us, help us to just relax and wait until you are done mixing. It will probably be even better than biscuits. Amen."

Within that prayer there is great wisdom for all when it comes to complicated situations like we are experiencing in the world today.

Stay strong, my friends, because our LORD is mixing several things that we don't really care for, but something even better is going to come when HE is done with it. AMEN!

# The Straight Forward Press

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Seek the Light  
Isaiah 9:2  
Luke 2:32

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Be ye strong therefore, and let not your hands be weak.

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My family's Coat of Arms ties in the back ~ is that normal???

When the cake recipe says put one whole egg in it  


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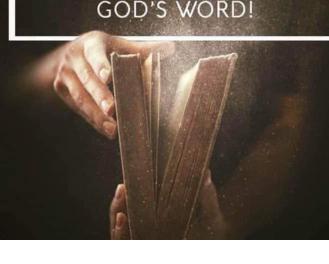
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