

STILWELL HIGH SCHOOL Indians Take 3rd Place In All Tournament Lincoln Christian Winter Classic Tournament Commentary by John Bankel

With a 65-61 first round win over Edison, the Indians advanced to the semi-finals to face Bethany, where they lost a heartbreaker by a score of 67-65. Stilwell found itself playing for 3rd place. In the 3rd place game versus Tuttle, the Indians were able to bounce back with another close one, this time winning 63-59. Stilwell is now

7-4 on the season, where their 4 losses have come by a combined total of 9 points. Those 9 points separate the Indians from an undefeated season. There is still more season to come before we head into the playoffs where the Indians should be in position to make a good showing. The quest is still the Gold Ball.



Congratulations Lady Indians! Supergirl: Josaline Blevins

The Supergirl 64 wrestling tournament was held at the Union (High School) Multipurpose Activity Center in Tulsa on January 4, 5. A total of 46 teams took part in this girls high school wrestling extravaganza. Each weight class could have as many as 64 entries. The girls from Broken Arrow High School emerged as team champions, scoring 173 points. One of the toughest weight classes was at 125 lbs. Stilwell's Josaline Blevins was entered in that class. She wrestled her way to the finals where she faced Bixby's Brissa

Bernal. Bernal, who ended up receiving the Outstanding Wrestler Award for the lower weights, took charge from the outset and won the match by Fall in the first period. To achieve a second place in this showcase tournament is quite an achievement. Josaline Blevins and Stilwell Wrestling can be very proud.



Stilwell Indians Snowda Watie, and Tyrus Teehee!



Congratulations Snowda, and Tyrus for being named "All Tournament" at the Winter Classic LC tournament.



Congratulations Indians!



PROVERB POWER

Psalm 37:7 KJV

Rest in the LORD, and wait patiently for him. Fret not thyself because of him who prospereth in his way, because of the man who bringeth wicked devices to pass.

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Congratulations to Josaline Blevins who placed 2nd at 125 lbs at Supergirl 64 and earned her second All-American recognition. STILWELL HIGH SCHOOL FACEBOOK PAGE.

CONGRATULATIONS INDIANS!

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

Bottom Of The Barrel

Election tampering, election rigging, election interference has recently reached its nadir when the biden/obama regime, using the Colorado Supreme Court as surrogates, ruled that President Trump is not eligible to appear on the Colorado primary ballot. The court, which has a majority of liberal democrat judges, used the U.S. Constitution to arrive at its decision. Since when do democrats adhere to the document they so despise? The biden/obama regime has established itself as being in abrogation of the U.S. Constitution, to wit, biden's failure to live up to his oath of office when it comes to securing America's borders. That alone is a treasonable offense. Plus, biden thumbed his nose at the Supreme Court's decision

which declared that biden's hare-brained student loan forgiveness ruse is unconstitutional. Not only that, the biden/obama democrats are sold out on abolishing free speech for anyone not in alignment with their marxist agenda. Plus, when it comes to the second amendment, disarming the people is their aim. Obliteration of the U.S. Constitution and establishment of a totalitarian state is their end-game. All opposition must be stamped out along with the usurpation of the people's will. When it comes to election interference, using the U.S. Constitution to ban President Trump from the ballot is the bottom of the barrel. There is one caveat. The U.S. Supreme Court has agreed to make a ruling on the Colorado decision along with a similar

one handed down by the State of Maine Secretary of State. Unless the U.S. Supreme Court strikes these decisions down, we will truly find ourselves at the bottom of the barrel. Heaven help us!

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

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WHAT'S SO PUNNY? PUN FUN

Hello all you Punfunsters. Get ready for a new batch of rip roaringly hilarious jokes of the punny kind. There is no end to mirth and laughter. It is what all of us are really after. When it is all said and done, there is nothing like a good pun. So, get your funny bone, your ribs and your knees ready for some good old PUN FUN. Here come a bunch of everyday life puns:

- 1. Stun Gunnery: I knew a woman who owned a taser. She was stunning!
- 2. Timeless: I meant to look for my watch but I could never find the time.
- 3. Aye, Aye: What do you call a fish with a missing eye? A fish, probably?

4. Fearless, fearmore: I was going to buy a book on phobias, but I was afraid that it would not help me!

5. Such A Deal: Broken puppets for sale. No strings attached.

Such is life. One never knows where the next curve ball is coming from, so better learn how to hit the curve. It takes a little verve and a lot more nerve. Laughter always helps to get over the rough spots. Pass a pun or two along. Until the next What's So Punny? PUN FUN...





Entry Wednesday, April 15, 1868 – Why am I writin' this down. My mother Debra told me to write about my life after I got outa the hills. Said, "You gotta git outa here, now!" I knowd she was right. The hills would be my death accordin' to her. She'd given me a loaf of bread and a canteen of water. There would be fallout for the missing canteen.

My own paw had died from typhoid. Maw handfasted Simon when I was eight, guess she was lonesome and tired of doing all the chores. Now she's afraid he'll marry me off to some "old" friend for money. He's greedy and selfish. Maw considered

15 too young for me to marry and start a family. I asked God's protection for maw and me every day. I keep knowin' I'll find a farm family that needs help or I'll get a job in town. I don't know what I'll be doing but I can read and write 'cause my maw is educated. She'd lived on the Arkansas River when she was young. Her dad was a river boat captain makin' good money. Her mama made sure she could read and do sums. She'd done the same for me, course I picked up Simon's lingo to stay in the shadows. Soon those shadows would disappear. Thank goodness.



9.0 is now officially over. The winner of this Kontest will be announced in the next issue. Stay sharp. Stay tuned.

Webbers Falls Consolation Champs!



Great win Cave Springs Boys Basketball! 52-48 in double overtime! Versus Webbers Falls.

Photo by Frankie Duncan

Psalm 103:8 The Lord is merciful and gracious

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The Straight Forward Free Press is sponsored by <u>"The Golden Mind Learning Foundation Inc."</u> , a non-profit, faith-based, community outreach organization. Publisher: Golden Crown Publishing LLC Donna Boecher Editor John BankelCo-Editor/Journalist		Scripture sponsored by: Faith Tabernacle Corner of Hwy. 51 & Piney Road Stilwell, OK
Stephanie CullinaneComposer PROVERBS 29:2-"When the righteous are in authority, the people rejoice: but when the wicked beareth rule, the people mourn." Contents of this publication are protected by copyright. Reprint for educational purposes only. The Straight Forward FREE Press Logo is the exclusive property of The Golden Mind Learning Foundation Inc. Registered Trademark pending.		THE KIPLING KORNER "I worked like a horse and I ate like a hog and I slept like a dead man."

THE CONSERVATIVE VIEW By Russell Turner

VETERANS OR ILLEGALS

While I have never served in the military, I can see what a great asset they have been to this country. We often take for granted the freedoms that we Americans enjoy, we have those freedoms only because of the sacrifice that our fighting men and women have made in the past. There is an old saying that says freedom is never cheap and I could not agree more, our freedoms have been bought by the sweat and blood on many battlefields across the planet. Many soldiers have sustained injuries that require life-long care, the VA hospital system was created to supply the needs of those soldiers. In my opinion the VA system is for the veterans only, and should not be siphoned off to any other agency. While I share that opinion along with most Americans, there are those in the current administration that do not share that view.

A report from the U.S. Department of Homeland Security (DHS), which said VA resources have been used to process claims for medical care of illegal immigrants since 2020, is causing backlash from several legislators and veterans' agencies. In fiscal year 2022 alone, the VA processed health care claims for illegal immi-

grants totaling more than \$63.6 million in medical services; when all the claims are totaled for 2023 the number is expected to be even larger. As people become aware of the mis-management of VA funds, we are seeing a backlash from all sectors of our country. Rep. Mike Bost (R-III.), who has introduced legislation to block VA funds from being used to aid illegal immigrants, was quoted as saying, "As a Marine, I believe any dollar taken away from a veteran is a promise broken to those who served." He went on to say, "Joe Biden's failed border policies have created a humanitarian and national security crisis. Now it appears he is taking resources away from our veterans to facilitate healthcare for illegal migrants."

All I seem to hear from the Biden administration is that our immigration system is broken and it needs to be fixed. We all need to remember, previous Congress members and former presidents passed laws concerning immigration. We have laws on the books and they are being ignored by the current administration. When Joe Biden took the oath of office, he swore to uphold the laws of this nation and he has failed

miserably. It is not up to him to decide what laws he will and will not obey. The Republican controlled house has formed an impeachment inquiry to investigate the shady deals of the Biden family, and those deals should be investigated, but his disregard of federal law concerning the southern border is just as big of an issue as bribery and other crimes.

Our country's debt has surpassed the 34 trilliondollar mark, and we have worthless politicians making promises to the illegal aliens. The governor of California has promised that the state will provide medical care to all illegals, I wonder if he has ever thought where that money will come from to provide that care? Our country is committing suicide, we cannot provide health care to our fellow Americans, we are diverting funds from the VA, and we are rewarding people who violate our laws and are put in front of the line for the services paid for by the hardworking people of this nation. There is a cure for this insanity, we all need to get serious about voting out the current regime that has infected our federal government.





Billy Joe Eaton May 9, 1935 -January 8, 2024

Billy Joe Eaton known to many as "Papa Bill" passed away on January 8, 2024, at the age of 88. Bill was born on May 9, 1935, in Stilwell, Oklahoma to Raymond and Effie Eaton. He graduated from Stilwell High School in 1956. On June 20, 1959, Bill married his high school sweetheart Patricia Colburn. He was a butcher by trade and spent many years working in town at Brigg's and Margraft's grocery stores until he opened his own butcher shop in 1978 called Eaton's Custom Processing.

Papa Bill taught us all the real meaning of love. He gave it freely to everyone. Whether you

were family, friends of the family or a stranger at a basketball game, you were worthy of love. He also taught us that true love never runs out. Love he extended to another never took away from the love of those he held close. His love didn't subtract. It multiplied.

Kester Family Funeral Service

And it will continue to multiply through the lives he's touched. We all have a Papa Bill story. From jeep rides and country songs, to random hugs anytime you came across him. From his bright, big smile, to the free of charge deer processing fee. He had no desire to leave this world with anything. He came into this world poor. Yet he lived his life in such a way that we are all better because of him. Papa Bill understood the good life consisted of generously loving those on your path, and he lived his 88 years of life doing just that.

Bill was preceded in death by his daughter, Jody O'Neal, his parents and 14 siblings. Bill is survived by his wife of 64 years, his daughter Dian and husband Greg Walker, grandchildren, Rylan (Kelly) Gregory, Breanna (Cody) Brumley, Amy (William) Edgmon, Jobi (Matt) Lipkovitch, several great grandchildren and numerous nieces and nephews. He is also survived by a very special family he loved as his own Craig, Liz and Seth Brown.

In lieu of flowers the family asks that you contribute to the Stilwell High School Scholarship Foundation





Watts Public Schools

Junior High boys basketball team the S.E.A.C. Champions Junior High girls runners-up!



S.E.A.C Junior High Champions Congratulations Engineers!

Junior High Lady Engineers

WELL SPORTS SPOTLIGHT Commentary by John Bankel

On January 4, the Lady Indians basketball team took a long bus ride to Tulsa to play in the prestigious Lincoln Christian Girls Basketball Tournament. The Lady Indians played their way to a 3d place trophy in an 8 team tournament. After winning their opening round game, the Ladies would face Lincoln Christian in the semi-final game in what would be a rematch. Stilwell had captured the Vinita Tournament title by beating Lincoln Christian in a wild final game finish, 50-47. Lincoln had pay back on their minds. That night, Stilwell could not muster enough firepower to overcome an ambitious Lincoln Christian squad. Stilwell came up short in a final

score of 55-35 to the eventual tournament champion. In the 3d place game, the Lady Indians faced an old time rival: the Fort Gibson Lady Tigers. It is Fort Gibson that has had a stellar history in Class 4A girls basketball and is usually regarded as a state champion contender. However, Stilwell was up to the task as they remained focused on the game at hand. They took down the Lady Tigers in a defensive struggle, 32-27. Stilwell's star point guard, senior Snowda Watie, was named to the "All Tournament Team." Congratulations Lady Indians on your fine performance!

Searching for Word.....

handfast. Early form of marriage - clasped hands and spoke vows.

Ex. Couples wanting to marry in the 1800s might simple handfast if no clergy was available.

ADAIR COUNTY HIGH SCHOO BASKETBALL ROUNDUP

Commentary by John Bankel

Watts Engineers and Lady Engineers

On Jan. 4, in a home game, the Engineers battled Battiest only to fall by a score 65-44. The next day, Watts took on Webbers Falls in an away game. Webbers Falls prevailed by a score of 59-46. The Engineers take a 3-4, 0-1 District, record to Welch on Jan. 9. Tipoff 7:30 pm. The Lady Engineers' record dropped to 2-5, 1-1 District, as they got steam rolled by Whitesboro by a scary score of 80-7, on Thursday, Jan. 4. Their next game will be at Welch, Jan. 9. Tipoff 6 pm.

Westville Yellowjackets and Lady Yellowjackets

On Jan. 5, the Yellowjackets improved their season record to 2-5, 2-1 District, by beating Howe H.S. by a score of 56-51. On Jan. 9, Vian comes to town. Tipoff 7:30 pm. The Lady Yellowjackets bring their 1-6, 0-3 District, record to take on Vian at home. Tipoff 6 pm.

Cave Springs Hornets and Lady Hornets

The Hornets, with a season record of 5-5, 0-1 District, are riding a 2 game winning streak, with wins over Whitesboro, 55-45, and Webbers Falls, 52-48. They will play back-to-back away games with Bokoshe on Jan. 11, tipoff 8 pm. The next night Webbers Falls is the opponent. Tipoff 7:30. The Lady Hornets, with a record of 6-4, 1-0 District, will be looking to get back on the winning track, after 2 consecutive setbacks, having lost to Whitesboro 56-26 on Jan. 5, and Webbers Falls, 44-26 on Jan. 6, when they will face Bokoshe on Jan. 11. Tipoff 7:30 pm.

ROCKÝ MOUNTAIN **ORES 2023 DIVISION 3 STATE CHAMPIONSHIP** FOOTBALL RING PRESENTATION



Rocky Mountain students pose for



ROBERTS-REED-CULVER



Carlos Wayne Daugherty May 27, 1962 -January 2, 2024

Carlos Wayne Daugherty, a beloved husband, father, and grandfather, passed away on January 2nd, 2024. He was born on May 27th, 1962, to Wyley and Peggy Daugherty. Carlos was an exceptional individual who touched the lives of many with his kind heart and warm spirit. His passing has left a void in the hearts of all who knew him.

Carlos will be remembered for his many passions and accomplishments throughout his life. He had an innate talent for fixing things and could often be found tinkering as a shade tree mechanic and was always willing to lend a helping hand to anyone in need.

Family was of utmost importance to Carlos, and he cherished every moment spent with his loved ones. His grandkids and great grandkids held a special place in his heart, he was the best Duda, and he treasured the time they spent together.

One of Carlos's proudest accomplishments was on December 3rd of this past year, when he gave his life to the Lord. Furthermore, on December 27th, Carlos married Stella, the love of his life, after being devoted partners for an impressive 42 years.

Carlos is preceded in death by his parents, Wyley and Peggy Daugherty, as well as the following: Wyley Daugherty Jr., Margie Guevara, Jennie Acorn, Brian Alan Medina, and Byron Fields.

Carlos is survived by his loving wife Stella Daugherty, daughters Kim Daugherty and fiancé Mike Caviness, Alicia "Shorty" Bishop and husband JJ, Cassie "Goobie" Daugherty and companion Jake Eagleton, Kristi "Sissy coo" Cheromiah and husband Brad, son Christopher "Chud" Daugherty all of Stilwell, Oklahoma, and Angelia Barrios of Tulsa, Oklahoma, sisters Karen Daugherty, Debra McGee and husband Avery McGee, Ronetta Romero and husband Rafael Romero, Rhonda Martinez, brothers Rodney Daugherty, Jackie Daugherty, and Jimmy Daugherty all of Stilwell, Oklahoma, brother-in-law Mauricio Guevara of Kansas, and his children by heart Jackie Velazquez, Amber Vaughn, Marvin Shell, Alan Gann, and Jeremy Flute all of Stilwell, Oklahoma, Angel Eligio of Tahlequah, Oklahoma, and Phyllis Nuno of Mesquite, Texas. Furthermore, he will be dearly missed by numerous grandchildren, great-grandchildren, nieces, nephews, and a host of other relatives and friends.





Eddings of Stilwell, Oklahoma, grandchildren, nieces, nephews, cousins, and friends.

Jimmy loved to hunt, fish, and spend time with family and friends. He loved to watch OU football, wrestling, and served time in the Army National Guard. He always had a story to tell and never met a stranger. He was willing to help anyone in any way he could.

Jimmy Eddings'

ROBERTS & HART

FUNERAL HOME



Lonnie Combs October 20, 1934 -January 2, 2024

Lonnie Combs, a beloved husband, father, and grandfather, passed away on January 2, 2024, at the age of 89. Born at home on October 20, 1934, to Frank and Mamie Combs, in Crosses, Arkansas. Lonnie's life was filled with love, laughter, and a deep commitment to his family and community.

Lonnie's career began as a barber and spanned several decades. He owned and operated his own barber shop for many years in Siloam Springs, Arkansas. Alongside his work as a barber, Lonnie also contributed to the Oklahoma transportation department and served as county foreman in Muskogee County and later transferred to Adair County before finally retiring. It was through these roles that Lonnie left an indelible mark on the lives of those he encountered.

However, Lonnie's proudest accomplishment was undoubtedly his marriage to his beloved wife, Mary



Combs. On January 9, 1981, Lonnie and Mary embarked on a journey together that spanned an incredible 43 years. Their union was filled with love and devotion that grew stronger with each passing day. Their unwavering bond was an inspiration to all who witnessed their deep connection.

Lonnie is preceded by his parents Frank and Mamie, 3 sisters, 1 brother, and 2 sons. Lonnie is survived by Mary, his loyal and dedicated wife and constant companion for many years, and children; Deborah Jordan, Melvin Combs, Sharilyn Combs, Doreen Combs, Cheryl and husband John Ethridge. He is also survived by his 15 grandchildren and 27 greatgrandchildren, who he absolutely adored and brought newfound joy and laughter to his later years. In addition to his children and grandchildren and great grandchildren, Lonnie is survived by a host of family and friends.

Lonnie Combs may have left this world, but the impact he made during his time here will never fade. He will forever be remembered as a loving husband, a devoted father, an adoring grandfather, and a loyal friend.



a wonderful heart. He helped many people in his time on earth and will continue to save and help many more even through his passing. He prayed harder than many people even knew. Charles was baptized at Saint Michael's Anglican Church in Broken Arrow, Oklahoma in 2021. This was something he was very proud of. Stilwell is where Charles called home and he had many family and friends which he loved deeply. Charles' favorite people on this earth were his siblings. He was the most amazing big brother.

Charles is survived by his father Charles Whisenhunt, his mother Amber Hall and husband Kermit Hathcoat, his siblings Alexzander Whisenhunt, Freedom Robinson, Bentley Whisenhunt, Ruby Hathcoat, Nicholas Whisenhunt and Rowdy Hathcoat, his grandmothers Rennetta (Jackie) Whisenhunt and Georgie Hogner, his grandfather James Hall and many, many aunts, uncles, cousins and friends.



Jimmy Carl Eddings August 25, 1954 -January 4, 2024

Jimmy was born on August 25, 1954, and passed from this life on January 4, 2024, at the age of 69 years, 4 months, and 10 days.

Jimmy was preceded in death by his parent: Joe Clark (Jake) Eddings and Juanita Cothren Eddings, an uncle: Junior Cothren; two brothers: Johnny Eddings and Bobby Cothren. Jimmy is survived by his son Justin Eddings and fiancée Kendra Phillips of Prairie Grove, Arkansas; daughter Cassie McVey and husband Edward of Kansas; one brother Joe Memorial Service Service will be held at a future date

Roberts Reed Culver Funeral Home 801 W Locust St, Stilwell, OK 74960





Charles Alvin Whisenhunt January 3, 2000 -December 31, 2023

Charles Alvin Whisenhunt was born January 3, 2000 at 11:27 am at Hastings Indian Hospital in Tahlequah, Oklahoma. He died December 31, 2023 at 2:46pm in Stilwell, Oklahoma. His life was short but it was full. Charles got to live life on his terms which is an opportunity few can achieve. He had a smile that would warm hearts and always brought anyone a smile. Charles had

Charles was preceded in death by his grandfather Henry Whisenhunt and great grandmother Ruby Hogner.



