

# The STRAIGHT FORWARD



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**FREE** Press<sup>SM</sup>

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## STILWELL SPORTS SPOTLIGHT

*Commentary by John Bankel*

### PAYBACK IS PRICELESS

On Friday night, January 27, the Stilwell High School gymnasium was packed full on the home side and pretty near full on the visitors' side. But these days a full house is the usual. The Indians came into this contest sporting a 15-2 record and a #7 ranking among all Class 4A schools, having moved up from #10 after claiming first place in the Fort Gibson Old Fort Classic the week before. Yet on this night there was an extra buzz in the air. The Roland Rangers were in town with their perfect 7-0 District record. Not only that, but the Rangers were responsible for one of the 2 Indian losses, having beaten them rather handily in a previous meeting in Roland's backyard, 72-55. Payback was in the air. The Lady Indians also had payback on their minds as they started the evening off against the Lady Rangers, who blasted off to a 15-4 lead that was trimmed to 15-7 on a 3 pointer with 7 seconds left in the first quar-

ter. At the half, Roland led 19-13. In the second half, the Lady Indians came out with greater intensity tying the game at 29 apiece with a Snowda Waitie steal and lay up to start the 4th quarter. From there the score seesawed and the crowd sat on the edge of their seats; some were seen biting their nails. The game went down to the wire. With 10.6 seconds left and the score tied 38-38, Stilwell in bounded the ball under their own basket. With the clock winding down, the ball was passed around; it landed in the hands of Shannon Catron at the baseline. A defender was right there. With her back to the basket and 2 seconds on the clock, Catron launched a picture perfect turnaround fade away jumper that caught nothing but net and caught the defender defenseless. The buzzer sounded. The Lady Indians celebrated wildly on the court as the crowd stood on its feet in thunderous applause. The stage was now set for the

sequel. It was now the Indians' turn to exact payback. The Indians wasted no time to show that they meant business, taking command of the first half with a half-time lead of 32-23. Yet, the road did not prove to be an easy one. With 60 seconds left, the score was knotted at 60. The Indians had the ball, passing it around keeping it out of Roland's reach waiting for the last second winning basket. With seconds ticking away, Roland had no choice but to foul. Twice the Indians went to the foul line in a 1 and 1 situation. Twice the Indians calmly converted both ends. The score now stood at 64-60 with victory all but assured. The Rangers never got the ball back as the Indians added a field goal as time expired. Final: Stilwell 66 Roland 60. The Indians and the crowd went wild. One could not imagine a more exciting Friday night at any price. After all, payback is priceless!

## SNOWSCAPE: ADAIR PARK



Ducks take to water as the snow's splendor surrounds them...captured by Frankie Duncan at Adair Park...



"Snowbirds" at Adair Park...this is when feathers really come in handy...



Catron Cans  
Buzzer Beater  
QR Code



### PROVERB POWER

James 4: 7,8 KJV

Submit yourselves therefore to God. Resist the devil, and he will flee from you. Draw nigh to God, and he will draw nigh to you. Cleanse your hands, ye sinners; and purify your hearts, ye double minded. knoweth us?

The Straight Forward FREE Press  
is now ONLINE on Google!  
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## EXTRA! EXTRA! READ ALL ABOUT IT!

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Rep. David Hardin, R- Stilwell, supports Oklahoma sheriffs who will not enforce the unconstitutional U.S. Department of Justice firearm regulation.



# MOMENTS WITH MARIE

By Donna Boecher

Serial No. 21

Rachael walked south from the grocery store. It would take her two days to reach the summit of the Organ Mountains. IF there were no difficulties with the scrabbly soil! It uplifted the heart to see the geological

strata ahead that looked like many praying hands. The first night she had spread a towel, put her backpack under her head, and wrapped herself in the foil survival blanket she'd bought at the grocery. The second night found her on the summit where there was a "com-

fort station" for both men and women. Now she had a roof over her head and sanctuary until she could determine where to go and wait for Miles. Somehow, she'd get a secure note to him. Oooh, Miles. Find me!

## ON THE CAMPAIGN TRAIL

COMMENTARY BY JOHN BANKEL

### Today's Trail Treks To Looking Ahead To... The Epilogue: What Watts Will Be

In the past 4 columns, we took a look in the rear view mirror to see "What Watts Once Was." The story was told by Lynette Langley, 1984 Watts High School valedictorian and appeared in the 1988 Engineer year-book. We learned that Watts sprang up and into prosperity as a key Kansas City Southern railroad stop, in the day of the steam locomotive. The KCS still operates but now runs on diesel so there is no more need to stop. Passenger trains also quit running. And so did Watts' businesses. Today the town of Watts still exists as a conglomeration of various styles of dwellings nestled in the hills and

hollers along OK 59. In November 2022, a brand new Dollar General, one of the largest in the area, opened its doors. Perhaps this business signals the beginning of a renewal and revival for the town. At this writing, the word on the street is that a Casey's may also be coming. Indeed, there is room along the highway and plenty of traffic which makes Watts a promising location for growth. The town itself, with its 300 or so denizens, will most likely stay the same, but there is no telling how many shops may open up in the next 5 or 10 years along the highway? There is one more thing

that needs to be considered: the completion of the Water Park on Lake Francis, just north and east of Watts is sure to have an impact on the economic future of Watts. It remains to be seen "What Watts Will Be."

Today's Trail has come to an end. Perhaps we will meet again around the bend my friend. May your Trail end up on the right side of the fence. Vaya con Dios!"

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)

**Vocabulary word – chaos – a condition or place of great disorder or confusion.**

**Ex. The college student's room was in total chaos with her unmade bed and clothes piled high.**



The **STRAIGHT FORWARD FREE Press**

Truth is Our Target  
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Donna Boecher.....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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## Chuckles

Life is like a bowl of spaghetti—every once in a while, you get a meatball.

Sharon Creech

If you read a lot of books, you are considered well read. But if you watch a lot of TV, you're not considered well viewed.

Lily Tomlin

The odds of going to the store for a loaf of bread and coming out with only a loaf of bread are three billion to one.

Erma Bombeck



Dear John,

My husband and I have had material problems. We live in a small town and rumors spread like wildfire. I have friends who tell me what they hear about us, and the stories are ridiculous. I learned that some of the rumors have been coming from a man I work with. My friend and I decided to set a trap for the purveyor of fake news. Our mission impossible was named Operation bed of roses. I bought flowers and wrote spicy cards to myself. My friends would take the flowers and note to my desk leaving them unattended. Just as we suspected the rumors started including the flowers and tidbits from my notes. After a month of weekly flowers, the last note explained how we knew what he was doing. He hasn't spoken to us since, things have been kind of boring around here. Needless to say, my ability to work with him has been damaged and I'm afraid of getting fired. Do you think I should tell my boss what happened?

Bed of Roses Backfire

Dear Bed Of Roses...you no doubt find yourself in a thorny situation and may have to back pedal. Sometimes leaving well enough alone is better than making yourself a bed you can't sleep in. Obviously your co-worker feels like some kind of sap caught in a trap. His anger toward you and your cohorts is appropriate. Now it is up to you to find a way to ameliorate this mess. Since this all started with writing notes, perhaps another note is in order, only this time hand him a sincere note of apology. A rose by any other name is still a rose and smells just as sweet.

Sincerely,

Dear John

Have you got a question for Dear John? email: [dear-john@writeme.com](mailto:dear-john@writeme.com) Real Name Not Used.  
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## THE KIPLING KORNER

“He who can reach a child’s heart  
Can reach the worlds heart.”

## CIVILIZATION’S BEGINNINGS

A student once asked anthropologist Margaret Mead what she considered to be the first sign of civilization in a primitive or ancient culture. Fishhooks? Clay pots? Grinding stones?

No, said Mead. The first sign of civilization in an ancient culture is evidence of a healed femur.

Animals who break their legs usually don’t recover. They simply die. They can’t run from danger, or hunt for food, or make their way to a source of water like a river or a lake. They just become victims of other beasts. Animals don’t survive broken legs long enough for the femur to heal.

A broken bone that has healed demonstrates that someone has taken the time to help. They stayed behind, bound up the bone, took the person to safety, provided food and water, and took care of the person as he or she recovered.

Helping someone through difficulty is where civilization begins, Mead said.



Game 4 of 6.

Krypto Kontest time is here again. The first 3 games have brought forth several successful entries. But be of good cheer. There is still time to get involved and maybe even emerge as the winner of the \$25 cash and calculator prize. The worst thing that can happen is you will have some puzzle fun. Today's Krypto uses the following numbers:

9, 12, 5, 23, 17. The answer is 9. Remember, you must use all 5 of the numbers and any combination of addition, subtraction, multiplication and division to write an expression that equals the answer. Give it a go; you just may end up with a Krypto!

Submit your Krypto answer to: [themathguy@usa.com](mailto:themathguy@usa.com) or snail mail to: Krypto Kontest 5.0 POB 885 Stilwell, OK 74960

Searching for a Word – **pandemonium** – wild uproar or disorder; tumult.

Ex. There was such pandemonium in the rodeo arena; we thought the cowboy might get hurt.



John 15:13

Greater love hath no man than this, that a man lay down his life for his friends.

### SCRIPTURE

John 15:13 KJV

Scripture sponsored by:

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# THE CONSERVATIVE VIEW

By Russell Turner

## AVOIDING WATERLOO

Throughout history there have been wars that were won by powers who were considered to be the underdog. One example is the defeat of Napoleon at the battle of Waterloo. Many factors contribute to the outcome of conflicts, but I believe that the biggest factor is that of arrogance. You can see the same thing happen in sporting events, many times a top-rated team will let their guard down and a huge upset can happen. Who would have thought that a group of goat herders in Afghanistan could humiliate the United States and send us running with our tail between our legs and, to top it off, we left the Taliban a huge cache of military hardware bought and paid for by the taxpayers of this country. We must never forget that a determined group of people willing to risk life and limb can achieve huge successes on the battleground.

Our nation is a very powerful nation, but we have lost sight of the purpose of our military. Instead of promoting woke agendas we need to concentrate on breaking things and killing our enemies. As the war between Russia and Ukraine drags on, we are step by step becoming more involved. We have supplied

the Ukrainians with some of our most advanced military hardware, but by doing so we have depleted our inventories to an alarming level. I recently read an article which explored the problems we would face if we were to get into a shooting war with China over their possible invasion of Taiwan. The report, titled “Empty bins in a Wartime Environment” examines how the United States has depleted key arms reserves by supplying Ukraine’s resistance against Russian invasion, and warns how a similar situation could negatively impact the nation in a wartime scenario. According to the report, the United States would run out of long-range anti-ship missiles early in the conflict, which would result in massive losses in men and equipment. The United States has rapidly depleted the nation’s stockpiles of Stinger surface-to-air missiles and Javelin anti-tank missile systems. The United States has sent more Stinger missiles to Ukraine in the last year than have been built for all non-U.S. customers over the last 20 years. Likewise, the nation has delivered more than 1 million 155-mm artillery rounds to Ukraine, and only placed orders to replace

a fraction of that amount. The Stinger surface-to-air missile system requires a production lead time of approximately 30 months; after the order is made, it would take more than two years before they were in the hands of the military.

The current policies coming out of Washington are putting us in a very dangerous situation. The only way for our military to win a huge conflict is to have plenty of ammunition and supplies stockpiled. At this time the U.S. defense industrial base—including the munitions industrial base—is not currently equipped to support a protracted conventional war. For political purposes our so-called commander in chief has depleted our Strategic Oil Reserve. While selling off our oil that was meant for emergencies, his administration has declared war on oil production in our country. With his policies, he has made us dependent upon China for batteries for electric vehicles and solar panels. We Americans need to realize that the Chinese are devoted to becoming the super power of the world; if we don’t start wising up to that fact, we might be facing our own Waterloo.

## They Risked It All/It’s the Truth

### MEMORIES OF FARM AND FAMILY

By Donna Boecher

#11

Depression Brings Change There were hardships in the 1930s. My mother’s diary spoke of those times in 1936. Curious, I checked out her generation’s thoughts on dating from her diary. Honest and forthright, my mother wrote about admirers she was dating. In March of 1936, she wrote of the nice guy that she’d met in church. He was living in Skiatook

(Tulsa suburb to the north). As any young woman of then or now, she worked her plan to see more of him. In late December, after attending Baptist Training Union and church with him, they wed in Melissa, Texas on the front porch of her married sister’s rural home. It was a relief! Why you ask? Well, the plot thickens, her two older sisters had married two brothers and the guys had another

single brother. She wanted her own choice. The Dust Bowl would, however, continue to change things. The two married sisters would move to Texas for jobs, and my father would take an oil refinery job in the Middle East to ensure his job and provide for his family which included his parents and siblings in Missouri and his immediate family in Oklahoma.

Gratitude unlocks the fullness of life. It turns what we have into enough, and more. It turns denial into acceptance, chaos to order, confusion to clarity. It can turn a meal into a feast, a house into a home, a stranger into a friend.

Melody Beattie



## Senator Markwayne Mullin

# MULLIN IT OVER

## Oklahoma Energy Should Be A Model for Our Nation

Oklahoma, as your Senator I am committed to bringing our state's innovative, low-cost all-of-the-above energy solutions to the forefront of energy policy in America.

Oklahoma has proven its ability to provide affordable, reliable energy solutions to our nation.

Undoubtedly, our state's all-of-the-above energy approach has led to a cleaner environment and the most robust economy our country has ever seen. This success is a testament to the generations of Oklahomans who have lent their skills to the industry, proving the best of American ingenuity. I am confident our state can serve as a future model for the nation.

Oklahoma has the capacity to produce millions of barrels of crude oil annually and is home to 14 of the nation's 100 largest natural gas fields. Our state drove our country to become the world's highest exporter of natural gas, creating competition with our adversaries while helping our allies along the way. We are the birthplace of fracking and a hub for renewable energy, holding fourth in the U.S. for our wind energy capabilities. Our workforce is determined and loyal, and

it's for their innovation that Oklahoma has made the most of the God-given resources under our feet.

Restoring American energy independence is one of my top priorities in the United States Senate.

I like to say: American energy independence brings global stabilization. Energy independence is one of the most important pillars in strengthening our nation against threats from any adversary, lowering the cost of living, and producing cleaner carbon emissions. We are a stronger country when we are energy independent. We've done it before, and we can do it again. We just have to get the federal government out of the way.

This week, I am introducing a three-bill package to help us get there. From exploration to transport, my energy legislation will streamline the permitting process, reduce the burden of federal regulation, and empower states to have more authority over their energy production.

The Promoting Cross-Border Energy Infrastructure Act, Fracturing Regulations are Effective in State Hands (FRESH) Act, and the Federal Lands Freedom Act will elevate states to do what is

best for their own territory. This goal seems obvious, but it's clearly not to the Biden Administration.

Joe Biden began his attack on the energy sector on day one of his administration. He gave up our energy independence with the stroke of a pen, and has conceded to radical Green New Deal activists at every turn. Over the past two years, Biden has crippled our producers with burdensome regulations and begged adversaries like Saudi Arabia and Venezuela for more oil when we were once an energy superpower. He made our country reliant on bad actors, those whose energy practices are dirtier by environmental and moral standards.

Oklahoma has the ability to lead the nation in securing American energy independence. It's time to restore domestic production to its glory and put a stop to the federal government's crushing overreach of our energy industry. As your Senator, I will ensure that Oklahoma has a seat at the table in our fight to lower energy costs and make life more affordable for all Americans. Let's get started.

### Forgotten Appalachian Memories



"Washing Clothes Recipe" - imagine having a recipe for this !!! A grandmother gave the new bride the following recipe:

This is an exact copy as written and found in an old scrapbook, spelling errors and all.

#### WARSHING CLOTHES

Build fire in backyard to heat kettle of rain water. Set tubs so smoke wont blow in eyes if wind is pert.

Shave one hole cake of lie soap in boilin water.

Sort things, make 3 piles

1 pile white,

1 pile colored,

1 pile work britches and rags.

To make starch, stir flour in cool water to smooth, then thin down with boiling water.

Take white things, rub dirty spots on board, scrub hard and boil, then rub colored don't boil just wrench and starch.

Take things out of kettle with broom stick handle, then wrench, and starch.

Hang old rags on fence.

Spread tea towels on grass.

Pore wrench water in flower bed. Scrub porch with hot soapy water.

Turn tubs upside down.

Go put on clean dress, smooth hair with hair combs. Brew cup of tea, sit and rock a spell and count your blessings.

## WHAT'S SO PUNNY?

### Pun Fun

There are always more puns to come and that means more PUN FUN. Here is the newest array of punny stories for your laughing pleasure and to make your heart glad. In the old days we called them "funny bone ticklers." Today's jokes are of the "knock knock" variety.

1. Knock Knock. Who's there? Roach. Roach who? Roach you a letter and I'm putting it in the mailbox today.
2. Knock Knock. Who's there? Leash. Leash who? Leash you could do is answer the doorbell.
3. Knock Knock. Who's there? Radio. Radio who? Radio or not, here I come.

4. Knock Knock. Who's there? Witches. Witches who? Witches is the best way to get out of this neighborhood?

5. Knock Knock. Who's there? Noah. Noah who? Noah place I can spend the night. (I am being kicked out of my house for printing these Knock Knock jokes. LOL)

Well now. Maybe these funnies knocked your socks off but as they say in some parts of the country, "Don't knock it until you've tried it." And as Smiley Lewis sang in one of his greatest hits, "I hear you knocking, but you can't come in." Until the next time, keep your hearts light.

## ADAIR COUNTY HIGH SCHOOL BASKETBALL ROUNDUP

Commentary by John Bankel

### Westville Yellowjackets

On Thursday, January 26, the Yellowjackets played host to Colcord and came away with a resounding 57-37 win. Next game will see Westville traveling to Howe in a non-district contest. Game time is 7:30 pm.

The Lady Yellow jackets did not fare well against Colcord, taking it on the chin, 53-37. They will join the Boys at Howe on February 2. Game time is 6 pm.

Cave Springs Hornets

There were no scores to report at press time. The next game is a non-dis-

trict contest at Hulbert on February 2. Game time is 8 pm.

The Lady Hornets will join the Boys at Hulbert on February 2. Gamet time is 6 pm.

Watts Engineers

The Engineers are scheduled to travel to Webbers Falls on February 2 in a non-district tussle. The Lady Engineers will play at 6 pm to kickoff the evening. Boys start at 8 pm. There were no scores to report at press time.

**OKLAHOMA HIGHWAY PATROL  
SEASONAL DRIVING TIPS**

**PREPARE FOR WINTER DRIVING**

- Get updates from TV, radio or social media.
- Check brakes, wipers, fluids and tire pressure.
- Pack warm clothing, blankets, flashlight, ice scraper, sand or cat litter (for traction) and jumper cables - also non-perishable food and drinking water.
- Charge your phone before you go, and take a charging cord with you.
- Let others know your planned route and expected arrival time.

**WHEN YOU'RE ON A SNOWY/ICY ROAD**

- Allow extra time for your drive, slow down, and allow plenty of space between you and other vehicles.
- Brake gently to avoid skidding.
- Avoid distractions when driving - particularly important when driving in inclement weather.
- Make sure everyone in the car is buckled up.

If you find yourself in an emergency situation, call 911. Be aware that first responders may be delayed by weather conditions and a large volume of calls.

# MEMORY

An elderly gentleman waited in a doctor's office to have some stitches removed from his thumb. He told the receptionist that he was in a hurry because he had another appointment soon.

A doctor took him in to evaluate the wound. Seeing that it was well healed, he started to remove the sutures and redress his wound.

The doctor asked if he had another medical appointment he was in a hurry for. The gentleman said no, he had to go to the nursing home to eat breakfast with his wife.

The man said that she had been there for years and was a victim of Alzheimer's disease. The doctor asked if she would be worried if he was a bit late.

He replied that she no longer remembered him.

The doctor asked, "And you still go every morning, even though she doesn't know who you are?"

He smiled. "She doesn't know me, but I still know her."



## Community Bulletin Board

**Stilwell Community Choir meets** 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



Oklahoma House of Representatives

Communications & Public Affairs

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

Contact: Rep. David Hardin  
Phone: (405) 557-7394

Hardin Supports Oklahoma Sheriffs after Recent ATF Ruling

OKLAHOMA CITY – Rep. David Hardin, R-Stilwell, supports Oklahoma sheriffs who will not enforce a recent U.S. Department of Justice firearm regulation.

This month the Justice Department announced a new gun control proposal that would regulate pistols with stabilizing braces. The rule was developed after a directive from President Biden. According to the National Firearms act, a weapon classified as a short-barreled rifle will need a federal license.

"Every Oklahoman has the right to keep and bear arms, and I applaud these sheriffs for their decision to defend our second amendment rights," Hardin said. "I will always stand against unacceptable attacks on our freedoms."

The following law enforcement officials have spoken out, clarifying that they will not violate the second amendment rights of citizens with any enforcement of this ruling:

Sheriff Tommie Johnson of Oklahoma County  
Sheriff Damon Devereaux of Logan County  
Sheriff Vic Regalado of Tulsa County  
Sheriff David Dean of Ottawa County  
Sheriff Eddie Verdon of Osage County  
Sheriff Jim Mullett of Garvin County  
Sheriff Darrin Varnell of Pawnee County  
Sheriff Chris Amason of Cleveland County  
Sheriff Joe Harper of Payne County  
Sheriff Steve Kelly of Kay County  
Sheriff Adam Woodruff of Latimer County  
Sheriff Andy Simmons of Muskogee County

This is an ongoing list; additional officers may sign on after this release.

Rep. David Hardin, a Republican, serves District 86 in the Oklahoma House of Representatives, which covers Adair, Cherokee, Delaware and Mayes counties.

Maddy Hague  
Deputy Press Secretary  
House Republican Caucus  
Cell (972) 510-8067  
Work: (405)-962-7632  
Madelyn.Hague@okhouse.gov



Rep. David Hardin

# The Straight Forward Press

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Fax: 918-696-2728

**Hodge Podge Resale Shop**

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918-863-9370



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

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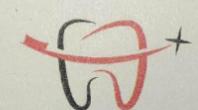
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- \* Grab & Go Deli Items
- \*Fuel - Beer
- \*Local Vender Items
- \*Wingman Pizza = By the slice or Whole Pizza - Dine-in or Carry - out

5 miles South of Westville or 9 miles North of Stilwell  
918-930-9321 Baron, Ok.

Visit us on Facebook 5S Baron Station



**CATRON FAMILY DENTISTRY**

Chad A. Catron, D.D.S.  
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