

The STRAIGHT FORWARD



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FREE Press SM

WEEKEND GAZETTE

Volume 3 • Issue 18

Serving Stilwell & Adair County, Oklahoma

Friday November 3, 2023

Zion Jets Division 2 State Champions

Commentary by John Bankel

On a rain drenched Saturday, October 28, the Zion Jets took to the artificial turf field at Sequoyah High School in Tahlequah in search of their second consecutive Division 2 State title. The game had been originally scheduled to be played at Shawnee, but the heavy rains made that field unplayable, requiring a last minute change of venue. Zion's opponent was Moffett, a team they had ironically played and beaten in their first game. Now it was down to the last game. Moffett most likely had payback in their minds. Zion's bread and butter is a punishing ground game featuring an exceptionally talented trio of backs: 8th graders Noah Bailey at Fullback, Shayston Duncan at Running back and 7th grader Mikah Sawney playing the Quarterback role. The Jets zoomed to an undefeated season behind this vaunted offense and a stingy defense. Moffett probably knew, going in, that a win would require more than they had shown in their first encounter. Zion, with the rain pounding the

turf, pounded the Moffett defense with a relentless ground attack as they rolled to a 30-8 half-time advantage. The passing game was nearly forsaken. When the clock finally ran out, the scoreboard read: Zion 48 Moffett 14. Both teams are to be commended for outstanding seasons. Congratulations to Head Coach, Chance Price and Assistant Coach, Shane Ford for the hard work they put in for these stellar athletes. Is a 3-peat waiting in the wings?

Maryetta Falls Short In Their State Title Quest

Sequoyah High School was the scene of a second State Title game on Saturday, October 28. A Division 1 contest between Maryetta and Woodall. This would be their third meeting of the year. The first 2 games were won by Maryetta. The anticipation for a third win was high, yet beating a team 3 times in one season is a pretty tough task. The opponent knows too much about you and, with a strong sense of payback, has the moti-



vation to play at a higher level than ever. Such was the case this day as Woodall captured the State Title with a convincing trouncing of Maryetta. The final score: Woodall 46 Maryetta 16. Both teams deserve accolades for outstanding seasons.

Zion Championship game video highlight.



Special thanks to Jeremy Bailey.

FREE

THANKSGIVING
COMMUNITY
DINNER

November 11, 2023
11 am to 2 pm
Westville Community Building

Hosted by
Westville Chamber of Commerce



LOST & FOUND

Help Find Zeus

Zeus is a large, 75 lb lean muscled, solid red brown Rock/Pit. He was last seen a week ago south of Stilwell in Cherry Tree area. \$200.00 dollar reward for his return. Call please; Toni Behm 479-276-0028 leave a text if no answer.



PROVERB POWER

Proverbs 28:20 KJV

A faithful man shall abound in blessings:
but he that make the haste to be rich shall
not be innocent.

Ride 4 Life
AUTO REPAIR

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www.straightforwardfreepress.com
Check it out and enjoy!

They Risked It All/It's the Truth MEMORIES OF FARM AND FAMILY

Number 49

By Donna Boecher

What furry friend did you bring inside last night as the temperature dropped below freezing? None? I'm sorry you have allergies. When I was young there were no inside animals. Mother and Dad were reared that way, so that-was-that. It wasn't until 5 years ago that a three-quarters of a century

dream came true. My son and his wife gifted me with a kitten just beginning to drink milk. Her mother had run away, dropping her in our cavernous barn. Mee-mee lives inside now and sporadically I feel guilty, but ONLY momentarily. Once I was driven with her in my arms to see a vet for

a breathing problem. Vet waived her magic wand, and we returned home. That's her medical history. My explanation for our contented state– she's loved! Then again, that is the prescription for most any relationship – LOVE.



Amethyst Hudson, dressed as Wednesday Addams from The Addams Family, showing her Grandma Rose how to "kick up a heel"...

OLDER AND YOUNGER HAD A BALL

A fun time was had by all on Saturday, October 28 at the American Legion Fall Harvest Dance. The festivities began at 6 pm with a Chili Cook off contest. When the judging ended, Dan Butler was awarded first place for the "Spiciest" and Dan Niehausen won the "Overall Best" award. Niehausen said

that he had been trying to win for a long time and he finally succeeded after a secret tweak of his recipe. For \$7 at the door, each one received a ticket for a drawing and an all you can eat chili dinner. A costume contest was held for the kids and adults who came dressed up. Donna Niehausen won a \$10 gift card

in the adult segment. In the children's competition, Ally Sweet took home the prize. With DJ Bobbi Bonebreak Parris spinning the tunes, the dance floor got a good workout, especially from the kids. A ball was had by all.



Ricky van Syckle hands Ally Sweet her prize, a \$10 gift card, for winning the costume contest...



Bill Of Rights Day 2023 Friday, December 15 COUNT DOWN

In 42 days.....

Amendment 6

Right to Speedy Trial by Jury, Witnesses, Counsel.

In all criminal prosecutions, the accused shall enjoy the right to a speedy and public trial, by an impartial jury of the State and district wherein the crime shall have been committed, which district shall have been previously ascertained by law, and to be informed of the nature and cause of the accusation; to be confronted with the witnesses against him; to have compulsory process for obtaining witnesses in his favor, and to have the Assistance of Counsel for his defence.

The QR Code will explain why our Founding Fathers deemed the Sixth Amendment to be important.



If you would like to respond send comments to; straightforwardpress21@gmail.com

The **STRAIGHT FORWARD FREE Press**

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

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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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Vocabulary Word:

- qualm.** an uneasy feeling of doubt, worry, or fear, especially about one's own conduct; a misgiving:
- Ex. He had no qualm about turning in the cheater.

John 3:16

"For God so loved the world, that He gave His only Son, that whosoever believes in Him should not perish but have eternal life."

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

THE KIPLING KORNER

"... There is no gift like friendship... For your fate will turn on the first true friend you make."



STILWELL Sports Spot Light

Commentary by John Bankel

Stilwell Indians vs Broken Bow Savages

On Friday, October 27, the 2-6 Stilwell Indians took a 3 hour bus ride south to Broken Bow to tangle with the Broken Bow Savages, who came into this game with a 2-5 record overall and a 2-3 record in District play. Broken Bow still had a shot at qualifying for the playoffs. The Indians had no hope for making the playoffs, but that did not stop them from playing perhaps their best game of the year, albeit in a losing effort. Stilwell went into the locker room at halftime with a 20-19 lead. In the second half, the Savages ground down the Stilwell defense with their big backs' punishing inside running game. The score stayed close but Broken Bow took a 33-26 lead with a little more than 4 minutes remaining. They had the ball, so running out the clock was most likely on their minds. It was on an outside run

from their own 25 yard line that sealed Stilwell's fate. There was a flag on the play around the line of scrimmage which usually indicates an offensive holding call. As a matter of fact, every time the Savages ran outside, there was holding that was never called. At the other end of the play, Stilwell saw a yellow hanky drop to the ground when the runner was tackled with a clean shot. The referee saw something else and called a personal foul, of which there was no evidence. I thought these penalties should have been offsetting. But no, the ref walked off 10 yards for the offensive holding and then reversed his steps and walked off 15 yards against Stilwell. So, instead of 4th down and long, Broken Bow got a first down to keep their drive alive and run down the clock. Another flagrant

atrocious committed by the "home boy ref squad," in my opinion. Still, there were a few milestones achieved by Stilwell in this game. Freshman Brayton Carter eclipsed the receiving yardage record by a Freshman. Another Freshman record fell with Chase Benham marking a new rushing record as well as tackles and sacks. QB Juan Martinez set a school passing record for a Junior. Finally, the 26 points is the most that any Stilwell team has scored at Broken Bow. Broken Bow holds a lopsided 32-2 record in this rivalry's history. The last game of the season will be on Friday, November 3, where the Indians play host to the powerful Poteau Pirates, who are ranked #1 in State, Class 4A. It will be Senior Night, so come on down and wave our hardworking Seniors goodbye. Kickoff is 7 pm.

Stilwell Football History Anecdotes

Poteau 1982.....

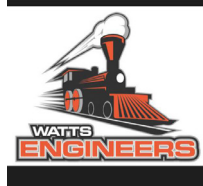
By Gregg Stilwell

These days Stilwell and Poteau enjoy a friendly rivalry on the football field. That wasn't the case. Beginning in 1982 until the 90s Poteau's hatred towards Stilwell boiled to the point of the Pirates petitioning to have the Indians banned from ever playing any sport ever again. It all started in 1982. On October 1, 1982 at Bradley Park. Poteau scored a TD with 1:45 left in the game to take the lead. The extra point banged off the goal post however to keep the score 13-10. Stilwell moved to the Pirate 15 yard line but with 25 seconds left in the game a 3rd down pass was intercepted by Poteau. The game seemed to be over with the Pirates QB needing to just take a knee. The snap was mishandled, resulting in what looked like a Rugby Scrum. When everyone was separated, Stilwell Defensive Lineman Brad Rutherford jumped up and ran off the field joyously holding up the ball for everyone to see. Head Coach Pat Martin sent out Senior Kicker Randy Holiman

who sent the game into overtime with a 36 yard Field Goal. Poteau got ball first but fumbled the ball over to the Indians on third down. Martin wasted no time, running Holiman out for a 27 yard Field Goal. The kick split the west uprights and gave Stilwell a 16-13 victory. The game was over but the tempers on the Poteau sidelines were boiling. Poteau coaches were angry about both fumbles and couldn't get the referees attention on the overtime kick were they where pleading to run their Special Teams unit onto the field instead of their defense. The quick field goal attempt had caught Poteau sleeping. On Sunday afternoon Stilwell was notified that the result of the game was being held up for investigation. Poteau claimed that the Referees had been paid off and the ending of the game was rigged. Part of their grievance claimed that Stilwell just grabbed the ball before the center could snap it when the Pirates were set to take a knee. There were a lot of

holes in the Poteau argument however. For example, why not call defensive pass interference to overturn the Pirate interception? The refs could have done many things to make sure Stilwell maintained possession. That would have made the "Stolen Snap" unnecessarily. Plus, what happens if Holiman misses the Field Goal that sent the game to overtime? Why allow Poteau to score with 1:45 left in the game? Later in the week the OS-SAA reviewed the film and found nothing wrong or suspicious. Poteau wasn't finished though. Their Administration contacted all of the NOAA Conference members and asked those schools to Blackball the Indians. The overall goal was to force the OSSAA to tell Stilwell that they were no longer allowed to play any sports at all. That is only the beginning of the story. I will discuss more another time. The 1982 Poteau at Stilwell game film can be viewed on my YouTube channel "Stilwell Sports History"

ADAIR COUNTY HIGH SCHOOL FOOTBALL ROUNDUP



Watts Engineers: 8 Man Football

On Friday, October 27, the Watts Engineers hosted the Wesleyan Christian Mustangs. Watts came into the contest with a 4-4 overall record and 3-2 in District play. The game turned out to be one-sided with the Mustangs stampeding the Engineers 49-0. The final game of the year will be played on November 3 when Watts travels to Wilson-Henryetta High School to take on the 8-1 Tigers, 6-0 in District play. On a historical side note, this is the high school at which former Dallas Cowboy star quarterback, Troy Aikman, played. Kickoff is 7 pm.



Westville Yellowjackets

The Cave Springs Hornets will wrap up their 2023 season with a home game on Thursday, November 2nd. The Hornets bring a 5-4 overall record to this contest and a 2-2 District record and a chance to qualify for the playoffs. Their opponent, Foyil High School, brings a 4-5 overall record with 2-2 in District play. On paper, these 2 teams should be evenly matched making for an exciting season exit. Kickoff is 7 pm.



Cave Springs Hornets: 8 Man Football

The Yellowjackets still find themselves struggling to get a win. On Saturday, October 28, Westville traveled to Kiefer to take on an undefeated, 8-0 overall and 5-0 District, Trojan squad. The Trojans proved to be too much for the Yellowjackets. Final score: Kiefer 60 Westville 28. The loss dropped Westville to 1-8 on the season with 1-5 in District play. The Yellowjackets close out the 2023 season in a home game on Friday, November 3, versus Kansas. Kickoff is 7 pm

Watts School Tours ICTC



Searching for a Word: scruples. To show reluctance on grounds of conscience.

Ex. Some of the class had scruples and refused to disrupt the classroom with laughter.



THE CONSERVATIVE VIEW

By Russell Turner

YOUNG SKULLS FULL OF MUSH

Many years ago, I heard the late Rush Limbaugh make the statement about young skulls full of mush. If there was ever a time that proved his point, the recent actions of many college students at our most prestigious universities put any doubt to rest. I can agree that there are many good young people in our country, I happen to have the privilege of knowing many in my own community. I do not want to paint all young people with a broad brush saying that they all support the barbarism that the people of Israel endured 10/07/23. I feel that any civilized person should be outraged by the actions of Hamas; there is no justification for the brutality and torture they committed against innocent people, including the murder and mutilation of babies. I am also outraged by students blaming the Israelis for the carnage and supporting a bunch of murdering thugs committing crimes against humanity.

We humans like to think that we have evolved beyond the barbarism of the past, but from what I have witnessed on our own colleges and universities I can say with all confidence that we have not evolved one bit, in fact some may have even slipped backwards. A huge part of the

problem is higher education, in the name of free speech, has kept tenured professors who indoctrinate our youth with leftist ideas and pure communism doctrine. Instead of teaching love for our nation, subjects such as critical race theory have done nothing but spread hate and discontent in our youth. People of my age will agree that some mistakes were made in our country, but our system is far superior than any other in the world. I have also found out that aging may be hard on the body, but the experiences of life tend to give us the perspective to look at life realistically. These young students who think they have all the answers need to be told that while they were still crapping their diapers, we of the older generation were fighting for conservatism and the founding principles of this nation.

In the Middle East, the big issue is the existence of the nation of Israel, yet the nation of Israel occupies a very tiny amount of land. The entire nation of Israel would easily fit in the state of Oklahoma 7 times. The other Arab states have over 600 times more than Israel. My question is simple, if all those surrounding countries are so concerned with the Palestinians, why can't they

incorporate them into their countries and be done with it. When Mark Twain was alive, he made a trip to the Holy Land and he made the comment that the whole country was nothing but a wasteland. With innovative techniques the Jewish people have made the desert bloom, that cannot be said about the Ottoman Empire that conquered the land centuries ago. Most of the Palestinians were not concerned with making improvements on the land, and they only became interested with the land when they found out that the Jews were wanting to live there.

We need to remember that the nation of Israel is our only true ally in the region. The terrorists often refer to the Israelis as being the little Satan and the United States as being the big Satan. Unlike the Hamas terrorists, we do not drag the body of naked women through the street and allow the onlookers to spit on them, when Osama Bin Laden was killed the Americans disposed of his corpse with all the customs his religion demanded. I just hope that over a little more time the students whose heads are full of mush today will overcome the indoctrination they have received.

WHAT'S SO PUNNY?

PUN FUN

Get ready for another round of rib tickling, side splitting, funny boning laughter. We have another load of puns for your insatiable hunger for humor. Today's puns are sure stitches.

1. Farm Boy: When one of my high school teachers asked me what I wanted to be? I told her, "I want to be a farmer." She asked me, "Why do you want to be a farmer." I replied, "So I can be outstanding in my field."
2. Moving Matrimony: It was an emotional wedding. Even the cake was in tiers.
3. Mum's The Word: He did not tell his mother that he ate some glue. His lips were sealed.
4. Battle Of The Bulge: My friends tell me I am getting fatter. In my defence, I have had a lot on my plate recently.
5. Not Uplifting: I tripped over my girlfriend's bra; seemed to be a booby trap.

Well now, this is a good time as any to say, "Aw, shucks. Do we have to stop so soon. My funny bone was just getting warmed up and my ribs feel like they could use more tickling." Do not worry. There will always be more puns where these came from. Until next time, pass these along to your friends and let them have some PUN FUN! So long!



Howdy all you Krypto Kravers! The ninth iteration of Krypto is upon us. The first 8 resulted in \$200 and 8 calculators being awarded to the winners. Most of the Prize money and calculators were donated to Mrs. Essary, math teacher supreme at Stilwell Middle School. Her students have benefitted greatly from the generosity of the winners. So, let's go get your pencil ready and jump in head first. The only way to win the prize is to play the game. Today's answer is 9. You are playing with: 4, 12, 8, 20, 5. Remember you must use all 5 numbers and any combination of addition, subtraction, multiplication or division to write an expression that equals the answer. It takes a little doing and a little playing with the numbers until you find a solution. Most of all, have fun! And keep your eye on the prize.

Send your solution to; themathguy@usa.com



OSU EXTENSION OFFICE - ADAIR CO.

918-696-2253




Adair County Cattlemen's Association Fall Dinner meeting was held Oct. 26th. Armstrong bank was the meal sponsor and they did great! The food and service where fantastic! We appreciate your continued support of our local producers. Thank you so much!

We also would like to thank Kayla Croley for the use of her beautiful facility. The Rustic Pearl venue is absolutely stunning. We appreciate how accommodating you were to our group.

Our special guests were Ross Roye, CPA and Tashina Kirk with NRCS. Thank you for the updates and information you shared with us! As always if you are interested in our Cattlemens group don't hesitate to call 918-696-2253. We would love to have you involved!!



WATTS STUDENT COUNCIL PRESENTS

ANNUAL VETERANS DAY Program

To honor the military men and women in our community that served for our country.

Featuring performance by our Pre-K through 4th grade classes.

FRIDAY
10 NOV 2023
1:30 PM

DOOR PRIZES FOR ALL VETERANS THAT SIGN IN

ON THE CAMPAIGN TRAIL

COMMENTARY BY JOHN BANKEL

Today's Trail Treks To.....

The Hardin Report: Trip To The Border

On September 28 thru September 30, District 86 State Representative David Hardin, along with 20 other Oklahoma State Legislators and 20 or so County Sheriffs took a trip, sponsored by the Federation For American Immigration Reform, (FAIR), to the Texas-Mexico border. All tolled there were 100 participants. There they met with Border Patrol agents as well as Texas Department Of Public Safety personnel to get a first hand look at what these agents are facing in trying to control the massive influx of illegal aliens. Mr. Hardin said that the Department of Homeland Security has tolled that 3.8 million illegals have crossed the border since Joe Biden took office. That number is more realistically double, according to Hardin. He said that the Border Patrol, a Federal agency, has been hamstrung by the Biden Administration in that they are under orders to "catch and release" all except those from Mexico. Those from Mexico are sent back. There are two main Cartels, whom Hardin describes as

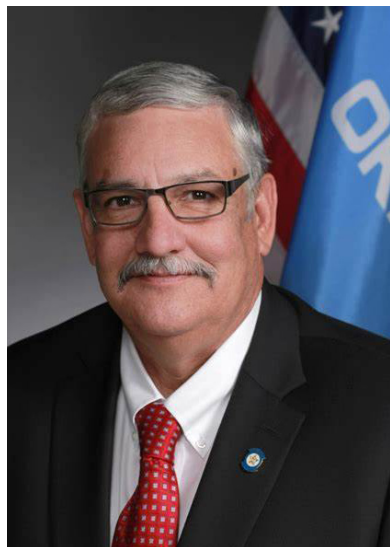
well organized criminal enterprises, that run the traffic. The illegals are promised jobs in various parts of the country; in return, they end up paying the Cartels for the rest of their lives. Texas has over 700 miles of border, some of which is walled off, yet there are plenty of places where no wall exists. Illegals gain easy access in the middle of the night. When I asked Hardin if this "invasion" is well orchestrated by the Democrat party for increasing their voter base, he believes that that is the case. One of the things he mentioned is that there are a number of states that are allowing illegals to have a driver's license. Once they obtain that, they are able to vote. He agreed that roughly 90% will vote Democrat. When asked what can be done to solve this problem, he said States will have to get involved since the Federal Government will do nothing about it. He said that he is going to run a Bill which will make illegal entry into Oklahoma a felony. Another Bill would seek to brand the Cartels a terrorist organi-

zation. Still, according to Representative Hardin, without a change of guard at the Federal level, the illegal invasion will continue and get worse. The cost of this invasion to the American taxpayer is enormous. For Oklahoma taxpayers, the cost in 2023 is a hefty \$782.9 million or \$521 annually per household. He concluded with this observation, "There may come a day, when the legal citizen in America will be in the minority."

Today's Trail has come to an end. May we meet around the bend again, 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 a retired High School Math teacher, football and wrestling coach who can be reached at: wright@journalist.com Copyright 2023. All Rights Reserved.

The Hardin Report



QR for the weekly Legislative Update - 5/26/2023. I'm honored to serve the great people of House District 86. Please feel free to call me with any questions, concerns, or to discuss issues. The best way to reach me is to either call or text me on my cell phone, 918-507-2811 or call my office at 405-557-7394.



**Masonic Lodge #11
Stilwell
& Adair Co. 4-H**

Annual Pancake Breakfast

Advance tickets available from any Flint Lodge Mason or Adair Co. 4-H Members.

**PROCEEDS SUPPORT THE
ADAIR COUNTY 4-H
PROGRAM**

Cost:
\$5.00 for children (12 & under)
\$7.00 for adults

**SATURDAY,
NOVEMBER 18, 2023**

5:00am - 10:00am

**CONTACT US FOR
MORE INFO**



Friday November 3, 2023

Stilwell

Christmas Bazaar

* * * * *

Vendors, food & Pictures with Santa Claus \$5 and will be put on a flash drive and immediately given to you

12 x 12 Booths Are Available To Vendors For \$25 , If you are interested in buying a space, please contact Diane Eubanks deubanks@stilwellk12.org or (918) 696-7001 ext (2241)

**SATURDAY
NOVEMBER 18TH**

From 9:00-4:00

Boys and Girls Club
The Armory (Next to the Football Field)
421 WEST PINE STREET
STILWELL, OKLAHOMA
74960

DEAR JOHN.....

Dear John,

Last year my mom broke her ankle and came to live with me while she recuperated. She and I love going shopping on Black Friday. We decided that a broken ankle would not stop our spendalishus good time. After all, we had a wheelchair and mom had two good arms. Her leg was supported and elevated by the leg rest, and she was a trooper. I pushed her through crowds of people like a battering ram. She hollered, "Watch out, coming through. Beep, Beep!" It worked like a charm. Mom had fun too. She held our shopping treasures as we plowed through the crowds, and they let us go right to the front. We had a good time and want to do it again this year. Mom is up for it, but my dad says, "We are being deceptive." I do not think that it's a sin to push mom through the throng. What do you think?

Wheel Her Deal Her

Dear Wheel Her Deal Her... well, it looks your shopping delight has turned into a shopping dilemma? Your Dad does have a point. On one hand, wheeling your Mom around when she could be walking smacks of deception. On the other hand, it is a clever idea for making your shopping experience more fun. There are some peccadillos that are excusable. This could be one of them. There is no harm in what you are doing. God only knows how many people use a wheelchair when they are fully capable of walking? Enjoy the front of the line.

Sincerely,

Dear John

Have you got a question for Dear John? email: dear-john@writeme.com Real Name Not Used. Copyright 2023. All Rights Reserved.



Watts Public Schools

The Elementary PK-4 grade student had a great trick or treating around the school, Stilwell businesses, and the Stilwell Memorial Hospital where they were able to get inside the helicopter.



Rocky Mountain Rockets



Thursday night November 2, in Shawnee Oklahoma at North Rock Creek High School. Rocky Mountain Rockets played against Darlington for the 2023 Oklahoma Rural Elementary Schools Division III Championship. Straight Forward FREE Press will have game out-



Fall sports Senior night. Thank you Seniors for all the years of being an Engineer Athlete.

4th - 8th grade Halloween Dance Costume Winners



1st place winner- Revolutionary War Zachary and Tenley Taylor



2nd place winner - Ghostbusters Kyra Decker, Chandler Nelson, & Laverie Hudgins



3rd place - Jakoby Beller

The Bus Driver

Monday morning has rolled around and another day of school. It's the day after Halloween and not really looking forward to school or seeing my classmates today.

I'm not interested in hearing their stories, or how much candy he or she got. Not even what great masks they wore. You may wonder why I had the sad look and not being interested in anything else. Well, I'll tell you, as I wait for the bus to get here. You see mom bought our masks for us and didn't ask what kind we wanted! I had seen some really cool looking scary masks when I was in town the week before. There were masks like the Wolfman, and skeletons, and some with bulging eyes with worms crawling out of their head. Some really neat ones! Those were the kind of masks I'd dreamed of getting! What did mom get us? Why those ultra, cool masks of Casper the Friendly Ghost and Yogi Bear! Who, is going to be scared of those two guys! Yeah, some friendly ghost and a bear wearing a tie and hat indeed! Plastic masks at that! My mind is still in a funk as, the bus pulled up and the doors opened for me to get on. I stepped up onto the bus and there in the driver's seat as usual is Dennis the driver. He wasn't anything special to look at kind of skinny and he had curly black hair, blue jeans and a cowboy shirt and boots on. Cherokee Indian of course. I found a seat and barely heard the hi and hey, how are you 's? Hey did you go to town and trick a- treating? What kind of mask did you have? Was it scary? Did you get a lot of candy? I mumbled something about yea some and kinda. I sat down and sunk lower in my seat. Dang ghost and bear masks plastic at that too! Dennis closed the bus doors and drove on down the road to Duck Lane and made his three other stops. With each stop kids got on and the same questions were asked again. Candy, masks, and did you have

fun? Dennis turned the bus off Duck Lane on down past Cherry Tree Church. This part of the route had no stops for Dennis to make just a mile of a dusty dirt road and a couple of bridges. At the end of this stretch of road is the ball field and here Dennis has to make a right turn. Now we're headed down a straight part of the road towards Chulio cemetery and Hanging Dog Bridge. then another mile and half we'll be at the school house. There is still some chatter going on but mostly quiet whispers. Dennis is a good driver no grinding of the gears as he shifts them. There's a rush of whispering of what is that on the road? Hey look at that! I'm looking out the window not interested in what is ahead so I don't see it a first. As more kids start asking questions I turn and look out the front widow of the bus. There on the road is a glorious sight! Rocks! Big rocks too! Some smaller ones are mixed in with the huge rocks! Some of the older boys like my brother have blocked the road. This is one of the more famous Halloween traditions. Yippee! I shout in my heart no school today! There's no way, Dennis can get through this rock field must be at least fifty or sixty feet long! Dennis stops at the edge of the rocks and looks at it for a couple of minutes. I'm thinking no way, no school today! Dennis looks up at the bus mirror and sees us standing up looking at the rocks and tells us to sit down. He surveys the rock field and come to a decision. He puts the bus in gear and slowly starts forward. I'm still thinking no way! Dennis turns the bus this way and that way. I hear other kids voicing the same no way, and no school today! Ever so slowly the bus moves back and forth through the rock field. Amid the cries of can't make it! Are I think he's going to get us through it! Smiles of anticipation are slowly sinking into frowns as Dennis maneuvers the

bus through the rocks. He somehow misses the big rocks. Now the frowns appear as we're almost at the end of the rock field. Once the bus is past the last of the rocks there's a shout of "he did it!" I'm not so impressed it only means we are going to make it to school today. Why couldn't the older guys have done a better job of blocking the road? Round the curve and on past the orchard we go. There up ahead is Dahlongegah pond and right past is Dahlongegah School. Dennis slides the bus to a stop at the front gate and some very dazed and disappointed kids file out. I remember talking about my past experiences with Halloween masks and my mask. My co-worker Mitchell spoke up saying "his mask was also one of the cheap plastic Lonely Ranger mask." One that had a rubber band to hold the mask in place. Guess we all have our one bad Halloween story. Our childhood memories good, bad, sad or silly are still very much alive even after forty or more years later. The bus driver Dennis didn't help by having such good driving skills. Dang ol bus driver.

Ron Vann



Dahlongegah Public School

Our TSA team competed in Roland today for their very first time! We are so proud. Here are a few pics but we have more to come! We are proud of all of the TSA and Robotics students!

Oklahoma Technology Student Association - oktsa



Dahlongegah TSA program Coleton accepted the Taking Flight Award for Dahlongegah Public School. They are bringing home the hardware!



Dahlongegah's TSA team who competed in Roland today! Lilly Sanchez, Coleton Green, Gracie Oosawee, Magi Hummingbird and Mr. Faddis. Congratulations!



The mission of Oklahoma TSA is to enhance personal development, leadership and career opportunities in science, technology, engineering, and math (STEM) through intracurricular activities, competitions, and related programs.

Peavine Public School

Shout out to our 4-H club for putting on a great Halloween contest and pumpkin contest!

The Strawberry Queen

The winners of the Halloween Trunk-O-Ween Costume Contest, sponsored by the Stilwell Fraternal Order of Police.



Kylee Laginess 2nd Runner up at 2023 Strawberry Queen pageant. Sponsored by Stilwell Kiwanis.



Ages 0-2:
1st Garrett Geneva - Mouse Trap
2nd Walker Littledeer - Airplane
3rd Kayne Pritchett - Police Car



Ages 3-5:
1st Dylan Sosa - Mad Scientist
2nd Emma Tullas - Robot
3rd Estella Zeighler - Medusa



Ages 6-10:
1st Kopelan Kirby - Headless man
2nd Charlie Townsend - Bigfoot
3rd Alivia Davis - Gynast



Ages 11-15:
1st Joshua Squirrel - Army man
2nd Kingston Boice - The Joker
3rd Scarlett Vizuetth - KISS

PHENOMENAL WOMAN

THAT'S ME
pageant Date
Saturday | April 6th 2024

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(contestant meeting held at Rowan's that evening)

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CROSS COUNTRY COMPETITION GIVE IT UP FOR 2 AMAZING ATHLETES!!!!



Congratulations to Emily Cruz for placing 7th at State today! She hitting a goal by being in the top 10 (7th place)! Her Senior year has been amazing in X Country for this young lady!

Congratulations Brayden George for coming in 41st at State today! This young man is a Junior with fierce commitment and determination! He will be back next year showing us all that competitive spirit he has! Congratulations Brayden! Great job!

Indian fans, these 2 athletes ran in crazy weather conditions! And still showed up and showed out!!

Congratulations Emily and Brayden!! Great job to our coaches on an amazing successful year! Head Coach, Nick Davis. Assistant Coach, Cody Willis.



Obituaries & Funeral Announcements



Kester
Family
Funeral
Service

Orren Delbert Wilhite Jr. the son of Orren Delbert Sr. and Lucy (Glad- den) Wilhite was born November 6, 1944, in Prairie Grove, Arkansas and departed this life on October 30, 2023, in Stilwell, Oklahoma at the age of 78 years, 11 months and 24 days.

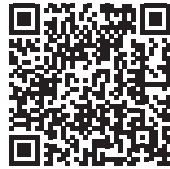


Delbert served his country proudly in the US Navy from 1967 to 1968 on the USS Valley Forge. He was a farmer and rancher and enjoyed being on the farm working. He enjoyed drawing and working on his antique cars. He cherished spending time with his son and his granddaughter Dayla aka "The Warden". When not working on a project, he would spend his time getting into mischief with his good friend Dale or taking a cross country trip with good friend and cousin Jeff. Delbert was a member of the Honey Hill Church. Delbert was a big part of the community and will be dearly missed by all who knew and loved him.

He was preceded in death by his parents; and his wife Donna Lynn (Murray) Wilhite.

He is survived by a loving family which includes his sons Derriek Wilhite of Stilwell and Orren Lee Wilhite of Siloam Springs; his sister Donna Clark and husband Darrell of Neosho, MO; his brother Roger Wilhite of Stilwell and his grandchildren Dylan, Darian and Dayla aka "The Warden". Several nieces, nephews, friends and other relatives also survive him.

Final arrangements were entrusted to the care of Kester Family Funeral Service



Betty Lou Davis, a resident of Westville, Oklahoma, went to be with our Lord on Saturday, October 28, 2023, at the age of 86 years. She was born on October 25, 1937, in Lenna, Oklahoma to Harley Jackson Lowry and Flora Whitson Lowry. Betty (Nanny) was preceded in death by her husband, Jack Davis; by her daughter Debbie Davis Small; by her brothers: Carl L Lowry, Donald Lowry and Balford Lowry; by her sisters: Jewel Eoff, Bay Hilton, Bernice Standridge, Beatrice Fowler, Lois Moore, Lou Brown and Bonnie Duron.



She is survived by her son, Keith and wife Dianne of Westville, Oklahoma. Granddaughter, Jamie Small Birdsong and husband Mark of Owasso, Oklahoma; Grandsons: Justin Small of El Dorado, Arkansas; Brian Davis and wife Erin of Westville, Oklahoma; Kyle Davis and wife Ashley of Westville, Oklahoma. Great granddaughters: Riley Davis, Morgan Davis and Macie Davis all of Westville, Oklahoma; Kyra Birdsong of Owasso, Oklahoma; Layla Small of El Dorado, Arkansas. Great grandsons Cade Birdsong of Owasso, Oklahoma; Jaxon Small of Miami, Oklahoma.

Betty was a member of the Westville First Baptist Church. Betty (Nanny) loved the simple farm life: raising chickens, gardening, checking on her cows, grandkids and great grandkids. You probably can't count how many chickens she killed and dressed or pieces of chicken she fried. During haying season, you didn't have to worry about going hungry because she had food on the table (brown beans included). She will be dearly missed by her family. We can strive to meet her in heaven. We love and miss you, Nanny.



Juanita Fourkiller – Teehee of Stilwell Oklahoma was born February 11, 1942, and went home to be with the lord on October 23, 2023, at the age of 82 years old. She was born to Lizzie Christie Fourkiller and Charlie Fourkiller. Juanita married Woodrow Teehee and together they raised 5 children Juanita, Christopher, Angie, Adrienne, and Andrea. She was a member of Fairfield Baptist Church and was a faithful and strong prayer warrior. Who was always ready to go to church or go on a mission trip when her health permitted. Juanita was employed at CNI for 30 plus years where she was a lead operator and made many friends while her employment there. She was well known for her homemade raisin pies and as the family calls them "skilly bread".



Juanita is preceded in death by her parents, Charlie and Lizzie Fourkiller, her husband Woodrow Teehee, two brothers Ned Christie and Richard Fourkiller. Three sisters Christine Flores, Betty Sam, and Ollie Fourkiller. Three grandchildren Adrianna Leach, Jacob Bunch, and Junior Chavez. One great grandchild Benjamin Merchant. She is survived by her children Juanita Sanchez, Christopher Leach, Angela Bunch, Adriane (shorty) Ross and husband Red Ross, Andrea Gonzales and husband Ross Gonzales (Doxie) and her big blessing of 18 grandchildren and 45 great grandchildren. She is also survived by her two sisters Ruby Hall and Katie Francis and several nieces and nephews.



Ronnie Johnson, 80, of Stilwell, Oklahoma, passed away on October 25, 2023, surrounded around his family. Ronnie was born on February 13th, 1943, to John and Martha Bell (Harrison) Johnson in Miami, Oklahoma. After Ronnie graduated high school, he went on to enlist in the Army. He served his country for two years and received an honorable discharge in January of 1969.



In 1969, Ronnie met and married the love of his life Fern Olive. They went on to blissfully live hand and hand for fifty-one beautiful years. Ronnie and Fern would have three children, Belinda, Ronnie Jr., and John Johnson. Ronnie was the youngest in a family of twelve children. His calm nature resulted in everyone he met feeling included and special. He was the family jokester, constantly cutting up and giving a hard time to whoever fell victim to his fun-loving antics. Ronnie attended Baron Baptist Church with his daughter Belinda. On any given day, Ronnie could be found watching a good ole Western or at one of his beloved grandson's activities. He has left a hole in the lives of his family and friends who loved and cherished him. Ronnie will be greatly missed. Ronnie was predeceased by his wife Fern (Olive) Johnson, and son Ronnie Jr. Johnson. He is survived by his daughter Belinda Johnson of the home, son John Johnson, and Wife Jodi of Tahlequah, Oklahoma. Four Grandsons Ranger Johnson, Sawyer Henderson, Logan Henderson, and Frankie Glenn Jr.



Services were held at Roberts Reed Culver Funeral Home October 28th. Burial was at Stilwell City Cemetery.

Elizabeth Joanna "Jo" Simpson was a caring and loving wife, mother, grandmother, sister and friend. She left this world on October 30, 2023, at age 79.



Jo was born to Milton and Betty Finley on September 9, 1944, in Lincoln, Nebraska. She attended high school in Lincoln and from there went on to the University of Colorado. She eventually graduated from the University of Tulsa. She worked for many years in the pipeline industry in both sales and administration before she finally retired. In her younger years, Jo was a competitive ice skater and an outstanding pianist and artist. She loved her family, music, fishing, canning and baking. In her retirement years she was an avid reader, and you could always find her with a crossword puzzle in her hand. Jo had a sharp sense of humor and a quick wit. Those who knew her best were often on the receiving end of comical birthday and holiday cards. She was extremely charismatic, she never met a stranger or a conversation she would not have, was genuinely interested in all those that she met, and she was quick to befriend and quick to love. Jo was preceded in death by both of her parents and survived by her husband, Jeff Simpson of Stilwell, her brother (Pete Finley of Austin, TX), a son Kyle Hennessee of Tulsa (and wife Carrie), a son Sean Hennessee of Tulsa (and wife Kara), a daughter Angela Raleigh of Wagoner, a daughter Andrea Medley of Catoosa (and husband Mike), eight grandchildren (Liam Hennessee, Aiden Hennessee, Andrew Hennessee, Will Hennessee, Cara Arneecheer, Adam Raleigh, Melissa Medley, and Matt Medley), and two great grandchildren (Emmalyn Arneecheer and Mason Raleigh).

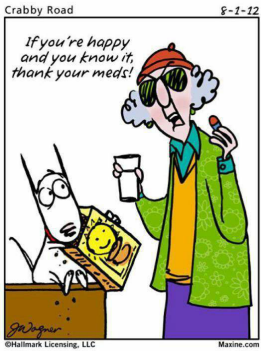
A funeral service is scheduled for 2 pm today November 3, 2023, at Roberts Reed Culver Funeral Home in Stilwell, Oklahoma. In lieu of flowers, please donate to St. Jude Children's Research Hospital.



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Joel 2:1 KJV

2 Blow ye the trumpet in Zion, and sound an alarm in my holy mountain: let all the inhabitants of the land tremble: for the day of the Lord cometh, for it is nigh at hand;

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