## The STRAIGHT FORWARD Price: \$0.00 Value: Priceless!

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Serving Stilwell & Adair County, Oklahoma

Thursday May 25. 2023

## LOCAL FARMERS' MARKETS

## **SPECIAL FEATURE:**

"Buy fresh, buy local" has Dylan are understandably become more and more popular each year since that slogan was first coined. Indeed, there is nothing better than fresh picked, "home grown" produce, jellies, jams, bread, along with local honey fresh from the hive that can't be beat. Besides all that special goodness is the knowledge that your purchases support your community enterprisers. A win-win for sure. Last Saturday, my collaborator, Stephanie, and I stopped by the Westville Farmers Market, located at the Mid-County Community Center, just north of Barren Fork Creek. There were several vendors there with offerings ranging from potted flowers and succulents, fresh produce, fresh baked bread, homemade jellies, jams, apple and pear butter, local honey, (Is your mouth watering yet?), and one vendor who had an assortment of pens, key chains and sundry phone gadgets. We bought from each vendor. And then, on to the quest for strawberries. We had heard that Jeff Collyge had berries galore at his farm in Westville, located a mile west on 62 and then north on 4370 Road. Jeff and his son, Dylan, have been growing berries over the last 8 years. This year their harvest brought in an admirable 4th place Festival auction finish. Even better, was their flat garnered the highest price of over \$3000. Jeff and

proud of that distinction. While we were there, a handful of field hands were picking fresh batches of berries. A stack of picked flats sat under the tent. With an attractive price of \$30/flat and \$5/QT, these beautiful berries beckoned to be bought. Jeff told us that his field is state-ofthe-art. He is positioned to produce prize winning berries for years to come. Collyge Farms also grows watermelon and cantaloupe. Of course, the proof is in the pudding. My first bite of a Collyge berry told me all I needed to know: sweet, juicy and delicious. It be would hard to find a better strawberry this side of heaven. Finally, when I asked Jeff how much longer his berries will be available, he replied, "Until the end of June." Come on down and get you some!



## STILWELL HIGH SCHOOL **CLASS OF 2023 GRADUATION**



Seth Brown with his parents Craig and Liz Brown.

## **PROVERB POWER**

Psalm 14:1 King James Version 14 The fool hath said in his heart, There is no God. They are corrupt, they have done abominable works, there is none that doeth good.

## The Straight Forward FREE Press

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## **Psalms 20:4**

4 May he give you the desire of your heart and make all your plans succeed.



Commentary by: John Bankel

May 19 brought ideal weather to Stilwell, perfect for an outdoor graduation ceremony. Friends and family gathered with the happy graduates at James Bradley Memorial Stadium to celebrate this cherished annual event. As is customary, the Valedictorian gave the keynote commencement address. That speech was delivered by the class of 2023 Valedictorian Seth Brown. It is an address well worth hearing, The attached QR code allows one to do that. Congratulations to all the graduates!



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

Number 25

By Donna Boecher

Thinking back over quotes from Mark Twain, I'm beginning to understand why he kept his autobiography unpublished until 100 years later. Truthful thoughts in a diary may cause anguish to a reader. There are always two sides to a situation. Taken out of context or without all the details, feelings can be hurt. At age 10, I would have spent two summers with my granny on the farm. I had probably finished 4th grade. My mother in later years, voiced Granny's pride in me when she said, "'It' can do anything." Meaning of course that I enjoyed doing all the different chores on the farm – gathering eggs,

the outside metal lines, getting the mail from the roadside mailbox, drawing water from the well, watching Granny cook, learning to make yeast bread and corn bread, and helping to strain the cottage cheese. Why did Granny use "it?" She spoke that way because her mother had passed, and she was reared by a lovely woman who had little formal education. However, the lady had high standards of behavior. She taught Granny certain quips that I remember to this day. "Whistling girls and crowing hens all come to some bad end," and "Sunday angels and everyday devils." My grandmother would hanging clothes to dry on only have another year or

two of formal education after her mother's death; she took over the household until her father remarried years later. However, her education was sufficient to rear 9 children, one a grandchild, while doing farm chores which includgardening, canning, milking, and selling cream and eggs in town or to neighbors. Like the folktale that came out of the 1930's, she believed in "The Little Engine That Could." There wasn't anything she couldn't do. As Lily Tomlin playing 5 1/2-yearold "Edith Ann" on TV would have said, "AND THAT'S THE TRUTH."

# Dear John,

Dear John,

My husband thinks he is funny. He tells red neck jokes. Usually, my family is the butt of his jokes. I showed him a picture of my great niece and her prom date; he said "wow, did she get him at a family reunion?" I know his jokes are old as the hills, but really it is irritating. My cousin was showing us pictures of her daughter. After the visit my husband said "she is a cute little girl. I bet with those buck teeth she could eat grass through a picket fence." I thought it was time to turn the tables. So, the other day my husband asked me where I had been. I said, "I went on a pleasure trip." He said, "What did you do?" I told him, "I took my mother-in-law to the airport." He said, "You don't like your mother-in-law?" I said, "I love your mother-in-law I'm just not crazy about mine." My husband got upset and said, "Why are you being so mean to my mom?" I said, "I'm not being mean. I just want you to know how it feels to hear jokes about your family." Then he says, "Where did my mom go?" I said, "She didn't go anywhere it was a joke." He wouldn't drop it and he is still mad at me for making jokes about his mom. I don't think he is mad about the joke. I think he is mad because my jokes are funnier than his. Do you think my jokes are funnier than his? Funny Girl

Dear Funny Girl...... In the game of love, turnaround is fair play, but the play sometimes ends up on the wrong side of the fence and turns into serious business. One man's joke can ignite the flames of war leaving scorched earth behind. One thing you may have learned from your turnaround ploy is that a joke ceases to be funny when you pick on your hubby's mummy. In the comedic world that is known as foul territory. So, the next time you pull the turnaround ploy stick with jabbing your pokes at lesser members of your husband's family. Meanwhile, you may want to tune in on some of the red neck comedians to see how they do it. And as a final thought your husband will eventually come back around and then you can start a new battle ground.

Sincerely, Dear John

Have you got a question for Dear John? Send it to; dearjohn@writeme.com Real name not used. Copyright 2023. All Rights Reserved.

Ephesians 1:16-17

16 Cease not to give thanks for you, making mention of you in my prayers;

17 That the God of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of glory, may give unto you the spirit of wisdom and revelation in the knowledge of him:

## **SCRIPTURE**

Scripture sponsored by:

Faith Tabernacle Corner of Hwy. 51 & Piney Road Stilwell, OK

## Stilwell High School Athletic Booster Club



Tyler Davis and Lawrence Fourkiller

A huge Thank You to Stilwell High School for allowing us to host our annual sport banquet! A wonderful meal provided by the best High School cooks! Our Emcee for the night Tyler Davis who did a wonderful job! Stilwell athletes and coaches had an amazing year! We as the club just followed and enjoyed being a fan.

Lawrence Fourkiller



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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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Lee Greenwood

"And I'm proud to be an American, where at least I know I'm free. And I won't forget the men who died, who gave that right to me."

## THE CONSERVATIVE

By Russell Turner

## **MODERN DAY NAZIS**



**Lana Gass Reaches 100 Hit Milestone** 



Commentary by: John Bankel

The Rogers State Universitv Hillcats were not able to repeat as NCAA Division II Champions this season. Nonetheless, they played their way to a fine 49-14 record. Along the way, Stilwell's Lana Gass, a starting outfielder, reached a significant career milestone with 100 hits. The 2024 season will be her finale where she will be able to add to her hit total and perhaps a second National Championship. Congratulations Lana!

Haylee Robinson works at the Stilwell Public Library. As a former soft-

ball player, she has her two daughters, Mayvis, 8, and Cora, 6, fully involved in the game. They play for the Keys Hunters in the Tahlequah Sports League. In the recent Morgan Nick Classic Tournament at Fort Gibson, the Hunters played their way into the final game with Mayvis leading the way with her stellar play. The Hunters found themselves on the short end of a 19-18 score, winning the 2nd place trophy. Yet Mayvis received Tahlequah Sports League the ultimate accolade when she took home the Most Valuable Player award. Congratulations Mayvis!



**MVP Mayvis Robinson** 

I remember talking to an individual several years ago and the subject of Nazi Germany came up. I remember making the comment that surely there were some good people in Germany that could have stood up and opposed the thugs that took over that country. As I watch the current news and the mainstream media's biased reporting, I now understand the dilemma that good, sane Germans faced in their time. The Nazis were a group of self-important narcissists that would use any means that would further their twisted ideas. Lying and cheating were always on the table for the Nazis, even Hitler was quoted as saying that if you tell a lie long enough the people will accept it as the truth. They would use laws and regulations to target their political opponents. They were like a hungry wolf pack that would single out an individual and completely destroy him. They were also a bunch of environmental freaks that were incapable of using common sense when it came to environmental issues. The Nazis were also very good at casting blame for societal issues on groups such as the Jews; in their twisted minds it gave them the right

In a previous column I wrote about the lack of truth in our political system. Our

to kill millions of them.

once great system of government has been corrupted by a bunch of narcissists that only want to control the rest of the country. Just a few days ago the muchanticipated Durham report came out, and it should alarm all freedom-loving people in this nation. The DOJ and the FBI have become so political that we do not have an equal system of justice. In other countries that existed when our nation was founded, there were penalties for committing crimes again common folk and different penalties for committing crimes against the upper crust. The founders of this nation were appalled with those kinds of systems, they created the best system ever developed by man and it was based upon the Judao Christian belief system. Sadly, today we have a fresh crop of environmental freaks. Along with their twisted beliefs they have destroyed energy independence in our nation, they are doing this without the technology to provide the energy that we need to make our nation prosper.

We also have a so-called leader that reminds me of Hitler, his name is Joe Biden. In a recent commencement address he railed about the greatest threat against our nation; he said nothing about inflation, the rise of China, or the failed policies of the

southern border of this nation, but he fell back on the old tactic of race baiting. He said that the biggest threat to our nation was white supremacy, all he is doing is to try to divide our country and get certain groups to vote for him. I have grown sick of this kind of rhetoric. Several years ago, I was running for office and a reporter asked me what was I; I told her I was an American. She said was I an American Indian, black, or some other ethnic group. My answer was the same, I am an American. We Americans are the melting pot of the world and it is about time that we stop listening to a group of worthless politicians whose only goal is to divide and conquer. I also might note that our country was founded upon biblical values which states that all humans are created equal and are the same in God's eyes, but in today's society it has become taboo to even quote the Bible. There is nothing I can do about evil that was done in the past by all humans, but I do have the ability to learn from it. We Americans, along with our Constitution, have the ability to oppose the modernday Nazis. If we don't want to become another Marxist state, we had better get serious about current events.



The Tahlequah Sports League Keys Hunters

## ON THE CAMPAIGN TRAIL

COMMENTARY BY JOHN BANKEL

## **Today's Trail Treks To.....**

## **UNBALANCED EQUITY**

When the United States Constitution was drafted by our Founding FA-THERS, they contemplated a checks and balance of power with three Branches of Federal Government as the fulcrum of that balance. The current administration has apparently deliberately ignored adhering to our Constitution. Instead, the Biden regime has seized power to rule absolutely by practically annulling the U.S. Constitution and obliterating its intended balance of power. Biden has systematically stripped the Legislative Branch of its governing role, using edict (Executive Order) as his chief weapon. In addition, he has single hand-

edly given supra-authority to agencies headed by unelected sycophants to sledged-hammer ordinary citizens into catastrophic circumstances, striking fear and intimidation into the hearts of law abiding Americans. For example, siccing the FBI on parents at school board meetings, filling large city DA offices with George Soros servants, who turn their backs on law and order, unleashing a swarm of armed IRS agents to create further fear and intimidation, and uncorking unbridled racist rhetoric to further divide our nation. Divide and Conquer. Out of the other side of his mouth, he preaches equity and inclusion. As

Happy

**Memorial** 

Day!

Thank you to all our

soldiers who have given of themselves for our

freedom!

the old saying goes; "He who speaks out of both sides of the mouth, speaks with forked tongue." Just like the Original Liar in whose world all things are turned upside down. Such is unbalanced equity.

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 retired math teacher who can be reached at; writewright@journalist.com Copyright 2023 All Rights Reserved.

## WHAT'S SO PUNNY? PUN FUN

Some of you may not like the tone of my request because, of chorus, without puns life would B-flat. Sometimes a sharp wit is needed. If you have treble understanding or can't stanza the idea, the key is to at least scale it down and take note of the bass idea. Now, I just want to stay out of treble... Oboe, I realize you're alto numerous, so please don't resort to violins! That would be an ad-verse reaction. With this concern I started hearing verses in my head.

Perhaps I shouldn't fret... I take it Bach. Music puns may not be my forte but, not to toot my own horn, I assure you they're never accidental. They are an a choired taste, after all, and a good laugh is best when shared: my page is arpeggio and I'm preaching to the choir. I hope I didn't strike a wrong chord. Instead of giving it a rest, perhaps we should go out and triplet. Begin a movement, pull all the stops. By just letting it B natural we can make this world a more harmonious place.

Okie Pun Fun

I was driving from Illinois to Oklahoma but I got lost

I've been in a state of Missouri ever since.

Why did the Oklahoma student keep rushing everything?

Because he was a Sooner

What do you call a pallbearer in Oklahoma? Karaoke

Mom: "What's a Sooner?"

Dad: "I don't know, but it's better than a later!"

## A Clean Pun

"I ran out of clean socks so I piled them on a tray, grabbed the detergent and headed to the laundromat down the block, a steep hill. As I was walking down the hill I slipped and fell and the dirty socks went flying and the detergent went flying and there I was, sitting on the sock by the tray, watching the Tide roll away."

To Who It May Concern



A mysterious church musician in the bell choir always finished with a loud gong from the bell, but on his head. He did it one time and passed out. Some of the members rushed up and asked who he was. The rest of the bell choir didn't know his name but they said "His face rings a bell".

Then his twin brother joined the bell choir to take over the vacant spot because the brother had a concussion. The new guy did the same thing but hit his head so hard he unfortunately died. Some one from the church was holding him in her arms and asked what his name was. No one again knew but a member of the bell choir said ....

We don't know his name, but he's a dead ringer for his brother.



## Staying Safe In A Tornado





## **Searching for a Word:** – cahoots – in partnership or league; people or groups working together or making plans together in secret.

Ex. My friends were in cahoots to plan my surprise birthday party.

## THE KIPLING KORNER

"Thus, then, I made my own experiments in the weights, colours, perfumes, and attributes of words in relation to other words, either as read aloud so that they may hold the ear, or, scattered over the page, draw the eye. There is no line of my verse or prose which has not been mouthed till the tongue has made all smooth, and memory, after many recitals, has mechanically skipped the grosser superfluities."

(Perhaps, as budding writers, we all should take Kipling's advice.)

Krypto will return next week.

## Saturday, May 27th is Free Trash Off Day 9am to 2pm **Cherokee Nation Landfill Hwy 59 S**





## Hardin Report

The

QR for the weekly Legislative Update 5/19/2023. 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.



Vocabulary Word: alliance - A close association of nations or other groups, formed to advance common interests or causes.

Ex. NATO (North Atlantic Treaty Organization) is a group of countries bound together to protect each other from harm by another country or parties.



Adair County Litter-Free & Green Litter-Free & Green Recycle Day Schedule: April 15, May 20, June 17, July 15, Aug 18, Sept 16, Oct 21, Nov 18, Dec 16. Location: Behind Vonnie's Pawn Shop at 101 W. Walnut St, Stilwell OK. Hours: 9am to noon. For more info. contact Cathy at 696-1178 or Joyce at 696-7316.

10:00 Sunday Morning Service Bethal Church Evervone Welcome



## Senator Markwayne Mullin

## **MULLIN IT OVER**

## Fighting for Oklahoma's **Military Installations**

May is Military Ap- KC-46 aircrafts. Tinker preciation Month, and there is no better place to celebrate our nation's active-duty service members and veterans than right here in Oklahoma.

Home to five worldclass military installations and over 300,000 of our nation's veterans, Oklahoma is instrumental in supporting the greatest military in the world. As the only member of our delegation on the Senate Armed Services Committee, it's my great responsibility to ensure Oklahoma's military installations have what they need to protect our service members and defend our nation.

Over the past few weeks, I've again visited Tinker Air Force Base (AFB), Vance AFB, Altus AFB, and Fort Sill to meet with military leaders and understand how I can best fight for them Washington, D.C.

Our first stop was Tinker AFB where we met with Col. David Miller and received a brief on military construction and operations updates on the TACAMO/E-6B squadron, E-3, KC-135, and AFB is a vital resource for our pilots and Oklahoma's economy, employing over 26,000 military and civilian employees and generating over \$3.51 billion in annual statewide impact. In fact, Tinker is the largest single-site employer in Oklahoma.

Spending time on Base is essential to understand the unique needs of every installation. Under Commander Col. Jay Johnson, Vance AFB is transforming capable students into world-class pilots for front-line air mobility aircraft, bombers, and fighters. While visiting Vance, the premier venue for undergraduate pilot training, I toured the Air Traffic Control Tower, visited the 33rd Flying Training Squadron, and reviewed Advanced Air Mobility Simulators.

When touring Fort Sill, I had the honor of meeting with Base leadership to receive an operations overview of the Field Artillery School which trains 10,000 students each year. I spoke with Col. John Barefield and Col. Curtis King about fleet expansion, modernization, and training Ukrainian forces in Oklahoma. The future of Fort Sill, from equipment to personnel, is heading in a positive direction.

We concluded our Base tour in Altus, where I met with Vice Commander Col. Patrick Brady-Lee of the 97th Air Mobility Wing for a briefing and tour of Altus AFB. I toured a KC-46 and learned firsthand how Altus AFB became the premier installation for producing the world's most inspired, proficient, and adaptive mobility warriors to deliver air power for America.

While each of our military installations, including the McAlester Army Ammunition Plant play different roles in faithfully supporting our Armed Forces, they all produce world-class service members and civilian personnel who are working every day to protect and defend our freedoms. I will never stop fighting for them in Washington. God bless our military this month and every month.

## VFW Post 10829 Stilwell, Ok.

## Flag Retirement Ceremony May 20th









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