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WEEKEND GAZETTE
Serving Stilwell & Adair County, Oklahoma Friday Janu

Friday January 26, 2024

### A ONCE IN A LIFETIME HISTORIC EVENT





**THE OLD: Slipping Into The Past** 

**THE NEW: Showcase Of The Future** 

## Work on the new Stilwell City Hall is nearing completion, awaiting a February 16 Grand Opening......

On my January 23 visit, one could feel a sense of anticipation and excitement within the walls of the Stilwell City Hall. City Hall is the hub of Stilwell's municipal government, a government which was formed by Charter in 1947. According to City Clerk Larry Nettles, who is serving his second term, the present facility became City Hall in 1992, having first served as a doctor's office. Denise Brown, who has worked as the receptionist for 7 years, told me that she used to visit that doctor while she was in high school. That Stilwell needs a new city hall goes without saying. Mayor Jean Ann Wright remarked that there are people that believe the

new building is way too big for a town the size of Stilwell. She said that that may be true today, yet it was built with the future in mind. That future officially begins with a Grand Opening on February 16 at 2 pm with a ribbon cutting. A number of dignitaries have been invited including Governor Kevin Stitt. On February 17, the public is invited to an Open House from 9 am til 1 pm. When I asked Amy Duncan, who has worked as an encumbrance clerk/ purchasing officer for 8 years, her thoughts on the move, here is what she said, "I am very excited about moving to our new location. Will not miss the old city hall." Denise Brown told me, "I am

By John Bankel

looking forward to a big bathroom. I will miss the closeness (proximity) of my colleagues." When I asked Mayor Wright her feelings, she said, "Excitement...a place to be proud of...we will be able to use the internet and the heater at the same time all in one building!...lol...plus plenty of work spaces." I told Larry Nettles, who has a rich sense of humor, with tongue in cheek, that there is a humor rumor going about that he lost a lot of weight so he could fit into the bathroom! While we both got a chuckle out of that one, it really underscores the acute need of a New City Hall; it will be the showcase of the future.



THE OLD: Cramped quarters
The long and short of the entry hall



Amy Duncan has every inch of space used up.

#### PROVERB POWER

Isaiah 40:31 KJV

But those that wait upon the LORD shall renew their strength; they shall mount up with wings as eagle; they shall run and not be weary; and they shall walk and not faint.

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Check it out and enjoy!

"Love and kindness are never wasted. They always make a difference. They bless the one who receives them, and they bless you, the giver." —

Barbara De Angelis

there the creek was. Taking

a cold handful of water, I

broke my fast with the

last of the bread Mother

heard a "nicker." There

had given me. Suddenly I

he was lookin' me straight

in the eyes. It Was Turko,

sponsible to look for him.

but where was Simon?

Okay, I guess I was re-

Whatever the results, I

ting Turko on the neck,

I climbed up and swung

my leg over and into the

saddle. Seems another

adventure was about to

needed to know. Pat-

Into the Hill

Saturday, April 18, 1868 –

The light had come down

trees and I'd stopped and

through the top of the

slept on a pile of pine

needles with my apron

across my shoulders. I

lost in the woods, so I

wedged myself between

two tall pines. From near-

by, I could hear the trickle

of water over rocks. I was

tired, so I slept. Now I'd

could hear it, I could fol-

low it. There was a light

floor. I could hear water

gurgling north of me. I

crossed a few yards and

fog arising from the forest

find the stream. Since I

COULD envision getting

Chapter 1, Episode 3

By Donna Boecher

#### ON THE CAMPAIGN TRAIL

COMMENTARY BY JOHN BANKEL

Today's Trail Treks To..... Pie-In-The-Sky Engineering

This past week, many parts of America have been under the throes of frigid weather, our own neck of the woods included. I grew up in Chicago, The Windy City, and, all in all, suffered through 29 Winters. There were many winter mornings when the car refused to start. When I turned the key, all that came out from under the hood was a moan and groan. That was way back when, long before electric vehicles (EVs) came on the scene. EV owners in Chicago got a full taste of the drawbacks an EV poses in freezing weather. The battery is the thing. Batteries are very temperature sensitive, and that goes for EV batteries as well. Below a certain temperature, the battery is effectively DEAD. So the Chicago EV owners found out the hard way. Charging stations in that neck

of the woods were piled up like "frozen" popsicles on wheels with distraught helpless owners freezing their cookies off in despair. Fossil Fuel tow trucks had a field day trying to keep up with the catastrophe. The only vehicles moving were good old fashioned fossil fuel contraptions. It turns out that the charging stations were powerless, pun intended, to charge the batteries. Why? Before an EV battery can be charged, it has to reach a certain temperature. In sub-zero weather the EV owner is "dead in the frozen water." to coin a new phrase. EV graveyards started sprouting up all over Chicagoland. One has to ask the question: Did the brilliant minds that designed these contraptions know about this potential calamity and if they did, were the buyers not forewarned? It seems like a vital piece

of information was either ignored or kept under wraps. Caveat emptor, anyone? Or simply pie-inthe-sky engineering? Hot weather is another issue to take another stab at pie-inthe-sky engineering. One thing is for sure. Winter and Summer are here to stay. Not so sure if that is

Today's Trail has come to an end. Perhaps we will meet again around the bend, my friend. Meanwhile, may your Trail end up on the right side of the fence.

Happy Trails to you!

John Bankel is a freelance journalist and retired High School Math teacher, football and wrestling coach who can be reached at: writewright@journalist.

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# true for EVs?

begin.

Winner Announcement

And the winner of Krypto Kontest 9.0 is: Tanya Bigfeather, a student from Marble City has won the \$25 Cash and Calculator prize. Tanya has the distinction of having scored the most points in the history of the Krypto Kontest. Congratulations on your terrrific achievement! Look for Krypto Kontest 10.0 in an upcoming issue. Stay tuned...

They who wait for the Lord shall renew their strength; they shall mount up with wings like eagles; they shall run and not be weary; they shall walk and not faint.

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

#### THE KIPLING KORNER

"He will meet no cool discussion, But the instant, white-hot wild Wakened female of the species Warring as for spouse and child."

From Kipling's The Female of the Species

#### WHAT'S SO PUNNY? **PUN FUN**

Howdy all you punfunsters? We have had to weather some weather, whether we like it or not, this past week. But don't let the weather dampen your spirits. There are still plenty of puns to go around to brighten up the most dismal day and there are probably plenty of weather puns. Here are some to warm your heart on a cold winter's day.

1. Ice Cold: The best things in life are freeze.

- 2. Chow Down: My favorite meal in cold weather brrrr-eakfast.
- 3. To Each His Own: I usually prefer cold weather but only to a certain de-
- 4. Winter Love: Love at frost sight.
- 5. No Business Like Snow Business: You snow it to yourself to make the best of winter.

Well, there you have it. Nothing like a little icy humor to warm the cockles of your heart. Here is some good news to go along with the laughter: One month down and only 2 months to go until we say "Hello" to Spring. Keep smiling until then and pass along a pun or two to your friends. More PUN FUN to come.

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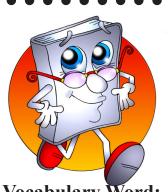
Publisher: Golden Crown Publishing LLC

Donna Boecher......Editor Stephanie Cullinane .....

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: gurgle. To flow in a bro-• ken irregular current with • a bubbling sound.

• Ex. The water in the rocky creek bed made gurgle after gurgle.

### **STILWELL SPORTS SPOTLIGHT**

Commentary by John Bankel

#### Indians Earn Gold; Lady Indians Bring Home Silver In Old Fort Classic Tournament

In the recent Old Fort Classic boys and girls basketball Tournament held at Fort Gibson High School, both the Indians and Lady Indians played into the finals. In the boys game, the Indians faced the Longhorns of Inola. As a state ranked team, the Longhorns posed a formidable threat to the Indians' championship aspirations. When the game was over, the Indians quelled Inola's own aspirations. There are no perfect basketball games, yet the Indians came close. After losing 2 of their starters, including eventual tournament MVP, Tyrus Teehe, early in the third quarter in a tight back and forth tussle, the Indians showed their bench strength, their poise and their basketball savvy by methodically executing their offense and defense. The result was an impressive 56-48 victory for the Old Fort Classic Tournament championship. In 3 tournaments so far this year, the Indians have come away with 2 championships and a 3rd place finish. In addition to this most impressive win, 3 Indians received All Tournament honors: Keller Hitcher, Braden George and Tyrus Teehee as Tournament MVP. After notching 3 wins in the tournament, the Indians will take an 11-4, 3-2 District, record to Checotah on Tuesday, January 23 in a District contest. There is every reason to believe that the Indians, who are polishing their game, will go deep into the State tournament. Tipoff at Checotah is 7:30 pm.

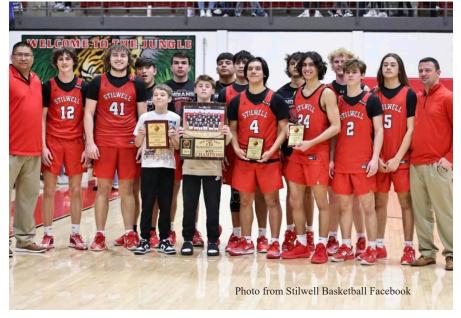
In the Girls championship game, Stilwell faced a familiar Fort Gibson squad. Stilwell had defeated the Lady Tigers in a previous encounter, 32-27. This time, in the rematch, the Lady Tigers got the best of the Lady Indians by a score of 52-46. Ft. Gibson established a 15 point 3d quarter lead, a lead which the Lady Indians were unable to overcome. Snowda Watie, Stilwell's stellar point guard, not only earned All Tournament honors, along with Prairie Holmes, but she also hit a career milestone of 1000 points-that is a heap of points folks!- and who knows what her final tally will be since there are still more games to go. In 3 Tournaments this season, the Lady Indians have finished 1st, 2nd and 3rd. Way to go Snowda; way to go Lady Indians!

Stilwell vs Checotah

On Tuesday, January 23, Stilwell traveled to take on the Checotah High School Wildcats. Both the boys and the girls tamed the Wildcats with one-sided scores: Indians 58 Checotah 35; Lady Indians 79 Checotah 27. On January 27, Stilwell is at Idabel. Tipoff 4:30 pm. The Lady Indians tipoff at 2:30 pm.

#### **Indians Power lifting Results**

On Tuesday, January 23, the Stilwell Power lifting team traveled to a meet in Shawnee. Taya Ross placed 1st and Danny Garcia took home a 3rd place medal.



Stilwell Indians Win the Old Fort Classic

#### THE CONSERVATIVE VIEW

By Russell Turner

#### NOT NO BUT HELL NO

Being a citizen of the United States, I have come to believe that our citizenship is one of the most valuable things we could ever have. I am fortunate to have been born in this country, and there are many naturalized citizens from across the world who love and cherish our rights and freedoms. Too many times people who were born here in the US take for granted the value of being an American, but those who came here with the intention to go through the process and become Americans understand that value. As I look at the continued debacle on the southern border, I feel that allowing people to come into our country unvetted and allowing them to be released into our country cheapens the whole concept of citizenship in our nation. Over the past several weeks there has been some debate on stopping the current open border; just when we get to thinking that some of our elected officials have grown a backbone and are willing to go to bat for the lawabiding citizens of this nation, those very politicians lose their backbone and cave into what the liberal open border zealots want.

On Saturday, supposed details of a developing Senate border security deal were leaked by the Immigration Accountability Project, a political advocacy group dedicated to stricter border security policies. The deal would allegedly include setting an allowance of 5,000 migrant crossings per day into the United States, grant work permits to the adult children of H-1B visa holders, and automatically grant work permits to undocumented migrants as soon as they are released from custody. Negotiations for the deal are being led by Democratic Senate Majority Leader Chuck Schumer of New York and Republican Senator James Lankford of Oklahoma. Senator Thom Tillis, a North Carolina Republican, has also voiced support for the ongoing negotiations. The text of the deal has yet to be officially released; if the leak is true, the deal is a complete betrayal to the American people.

Representative Matt Gatetz of Florida made the comment, "It gives legal status to illegal aliens who have gamed our system and broken our laws. It rolls out

the red carpet for 5,000 illegals EVERY DAY, forever. It's hard enough to stop the far-left's statesponsored invasion of our Southern Border, and it's even harder when you're pulling Senator Lankford's daggers out of your back. I oppose the Senate Amnesty Deal and will work to see its defeat." All these do-gooders that happen to get elected into government need to realize a simple fact, America is no longer a rich country. We are not just broke; we are in deep debt and we do not have the resources to take in the entire world. Already many of the so-called sanctuary states and cities are coming up short to provide services for the people coming into our country illegally. Compassion is a good thing, but I think compassion should be applied to Americans first. I have often heard that the road to hell is paved with good intentions; for too many years politicians who wanted to secure their position have dipped into the public treasury to provide perks for their certain area. That practice has bankrupted our country, we are now having to pay over one trillion dollars per year just on the interest on the current debt.

In any sporting event there are rules that are supposed to be obeyed to have an orderly game, we have laws and rules already on the books concerning the border, but they are being ignored. I understand that Senator Lankford is a preacher and does have compassion for the illegals invading our country, but we Americans deserve better. In our Holy Bible 1st Timothy chapter 5 verse 8 states "but if any provide not for his own, and specially for those of his own house, he hath denied the faith, and is worse than an infidel." If it takes shutting the entire government down, we must get the border under control; while the elected elite seem to turn a blind eye to the problem, we average Americans see the problem. I am tired of our heritage and way of life being cheapened by the day. I am all in support of people wanting to become Americans and going through the process legally, but not only say "no," but "hell no" to the people who crash our border and ignore our sovereignty.

National sovereignty is an obligation as well as an entitlement. A government that will not perform the role of a government forfeits the rights of a government.

**Richard Perle** 

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Dear John,

I enjoy my work, I meet people in person, online and do business using email. Most of the customers and associates are easy to work with. A handful of people make life miserable on the job. Unfortunately, they call themselves professionals, and sometimes Christians. I have worked in an administrative position for over 40 years. After so many years I have learned that being kind and considerate will get you much farther in life than being mean and hateful. Most of the time people who say they are professional and boast about themselves are just the opposite of who they really are. In the past ten years I would say that people are much unkinder when they hide behind texts and email. Social media is a great example of how rude people have become. I believe that individuals who are nasty and mean to others have a spiritual problem. What do you think?

#### Kindness Practitioner

Dear Kindness Practitioner, there is plenty of evidence that today's technology driven society has become more and more impersonal. All the talk about how technology has achieved an unprecedented communication network across all spectrums of society is just talk. Social media allows one to talk the talk and walk away from the walk, with impunity. Aye, there is the rub. Little or no consequences are at hand for rudeness and unkindness to another connection via the keyboard. And that rudeness and unkindness shows up in everyday life. Comity has gone out the window and, on a large scale, may be irretrievable. The best one can do is not follow the herd, rather follow the Golden Rule.

Sincerely, Dear John

Have you got a question for Dear John? email to: dearjohn@writeme.com Real Name Not Used.

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#### Searching for Word.....

stubborn. Refusing to change one's mind or course of action despite pressure to do so.

Ex. The stubborn horse refused to jump over the gate, instead the rider flew through the air.



# Oklahoma State Senate News State Income Tax Relief Senator Micheal Bergstrom, R-Adair

**Immediate Release: January 24, 2023** 

Bergstrom files special session bill to create a pathway to zero income tax OKLAHOMA CITY- Sen. Micheal Bergstrom, R-Adair, has filed Senate Bill 1xxx for the upcoming special session. This legislation outlines a strategic pathway to gradually eliminate the Oklahoma state income tax while protecting state revenue. Gov. Kevin Stitt has called the state legislature into special session to cut taxes.

Bergstrom's measure answers that call and offers a bold but reasonable pathway for easing the financial burden on hardworking Oklahomans while fostering a climate that promotes economic growth and job creation, particularly within the small business sector. The bill also sets up guidelines to protect state revenue and services.

"This bill is based on a careful review of Oklahoma's economic history, including state government revenue and spending, over the last quarter century," Bergstrom said. "SB1xxx is a comprehensive plan that paves the way for the gradual elimination of the state income tax, while also safeguarding the essential revenue required for public services."

The initial tax cut will be a quarter percent, dropping the maximum rate to 4.5 percent.

"I was recently told by a gentleman that he has been trying to get his son to move to Oklahoma. He reminded his son that the cost of living was lower in our state, and the son agreed," Bergstrom said. "But the son told his Dad that the state he lived in had no income tax and he just wasn't going to move where the government takes almost five percent of what he earns."

"I am committed to ensuring that the Oklahoma state income tax doesn't hinder the hard work and innovation of individuals and businesses, and is not a reason for our children to move somewhere else," Bergstrom said.

SB 1xxx can be considered when special session begins January 29, 2024.

-END-

List of States Without State Income Tax 2024

Alaska Florida Nevada New Hampshire South Dakota Tennessee Texas Washington Wyoming

But in this world nothing can be said to be certain, except death and taxes.

Benjamin Franklin



Old Fort Classic Boys Tournament Keller Hitcher and Brayden George selected as All Tournament and Tyrus Teehee named MVP. Photo from Stilwell Basketball Facebook

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#### **Della Louise Choate**

April 30, 1940 - Jan. 18, 2024 Della "Pat" Louise (Williams) Choate the daughter of Charlie and Fannie (Hampton) Williams was born on April 30, 1940, in Chewey, Oklahoma and she departed this life on January 18, 2024, in Springdale, Arkansas at the age of 83 years, 8 months and 19 days.

Pat enjoyed life and she loved her family. She was very gifted as a seamstress, and she worked for Levi Strauss 25 plus years as a seamstress. She made her children's clothes and made many things for other family and friends. Pat truly loved her role as a wife, mother and grandmother. She enjoyed cooking, baking and just cleaning around the house. She was the queen of pecan pies, and nobody will be able to duplicate it. She loved her grandkids, most of the time. She was of the holiness faith, and she loved going to church when she was able. Pat touched many lives over the years and will be dearly missed by all who knew and loved her.

She was preceded in death by her parents; her brothers RC Williams, JB Williams, Forrest Williams and his wife Frankie, Billy Ray Williams, Kenneth Williams, Lonnie Williams and Roger Williams; her sister Wilma Dean Hastings and her husband Raymond; and her sister-in-law Lila Mae Williams.

She is survived by a loving family which includes her husband of over 66 years Darrell Choate of the home; her children Debbie Ghormley and late husband Scott of Westville, Donna Sanderson and husband Gary of Watts and Darren Choate and wife Stephanie of Westville; her brothers Jack Williams of Westville and Bobby Williams and wife Marion of Westville; her sister Betty Morris and husband Raymond of Westville; and her sisters-in-law Wilma Dean Williams of Westville, Helen Williams of Colcord, Louise Williams of Watts, Delena Williams of Stigler and Sharron Williams of Siloam Springs; grandchildren Dana Ghormley and Caleb Ghormley of Westville, Andrea Sanderson of Watts, Tyler Choate and wife Morgan of Westville, Ashley Owens and husband Wade of Westville, and Shelby Choate of Westville. Great-grandchildren Ryker and Jacee Choate, and Layla Owens all of Westville. Several nieces, nephews, friends and other relatives also survive her.

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Margaret Scraper-Sealy August 17, 1966 — January 14, 2024

Margaret Scraper-Sealy, beloved daughter, mother, grandmother, and friend, passed away on January 14, 2024, at the age of 57. Her passing leaves a void in the lives of all who knew her. Margaret's vibrant personality and warm heart touched the lives of many, and her memory will forever be cherished.

Born on August 17, 1966, Margaret was a ray of sunshine from the start. She was born to Julia Jean Wilson and Winston Scraper in Stilwell, Oklahoma. Margaret had a zest for life like no other. Her infectious laughter and genuine smile could brighten even the darkest day. Margret's joyous spirit was evident in everything she did.

Margaret had a variety of passions that brought her great joy. She found great pleasure in keeping up with the latest episodes of "The Housewives of Orange County" and "The Kardashians." In addition to her love for

television shows, she also found excitement in playing bingo scratchers. Margaret's enthusiasm during those moments would light up any room.

One aspect of Margaret's life that truly defined her was her love for spending time with family. Family meant everything to Margaret, and she always went above and beyond to make them feel special. Whether it was organizing family gatherings or simply enjoying one another's company over a meal, Margaret treasured those moments dearly.

Margaret never met a stranger - her genuine warmth and kindness endeared her to all who crossed her path. She had an innate ability to make people feel seen and heard. Her compassion knew no bounds as she spread love wherever she went. Margaret's ability to connect with others was truly remarkable.

She is preceded in death by her mother, Julia Jean Wilson, Pollie Scraper, Margaret Whitenater, and Roger Ferrell. Margaret is survived by her father, Winston Scraper, and step-mother, Christine Ramsay. She leaves behind a loving legacy through her children: Laura Ferrell, Jalisa Flute, Allison Ferrell, Robert Vallad, Rian Rollins, as well as her adopted children Kolbi Craig and Jobi Craig. Margaret is also survived by a host of grandchildren.

Margaret Scraper-Sealy's departure from this world leaves us with a deep sense of loss. Let us remember her beautiful spirit and the joy she brought into our lives. Together, let us honor and celebrate the life of this remarkable woman who will forever live on in our hearts.

### Roberts & Hart

FUNERAL HOME



**Ricky Glen Guthrie** Sept. 23, 1960 — Jan. 18, 2024

Ricky Glenn Guthrie was born September 23, 1960, in Castro Valley California. He was born to Vindle and Shirley (Nickens) Guthrie. He passed January 18, 2024. Ricky was married to Tammy Malloy in 1980 and to this union was one child Mandy Guthrie.

He is survived by his parents
Vindle and Shirley Guthrie, daughter
Mandy Guthrie and three grandchildren Utah Leach, Hadlle Deason,
Johnnie Deason Race. Three brothers
Jim Guthrie and wife Cynthia, Wayne
Guthrie and wife Karen, Cody and
wife Jordan Guthrie and a host of
nieces and nephews Brandon Guthrie,
Vindle Guthrie, Brent Guthrie, Jami
Springwater, Cliford Guthrie, Tracye
Asbill, Maxen Guthrie, Chevelle
Guthrie.

He was proceeded in death by great niece Vanessa Guthrie.

Rick was a jokester, he loved everyone, and everyone loved him. He loved family and cars. His family was everything.

"Tenderness and kindness are not signs of weakness and despair, but manifestations of strength and resolution."

Kahlil Gibran



**Lucretia Elms**Dec. 8, 1939 — Jan. 20, 2024

Lucretia Yvonne Harmon Elms, 85, of Stilwell, OK, passed away peacefully and surrounded by loved ones on January 20, 2024.

Yvonne was born in Kilgore, TX, to William and Helen Harmon. Yvonne spent much of her time as a homemaker and Pastor's wife. She also held jobs as a dispatcher and nursing home activities director. Yvonne met the love of her life, Gaines Neal Elms, in Amarillo, TX, at their church campgrounds. They married on June 28, 1962. Their life together had them living in different places as they followed the construction work for Neal. Yvonne loved taking care of her family. Yvonne's hobbies included read-

Yvonne's hobbies included reading, writing children's stories, art,

bird watching, cake decorating, and spending time with friends and family. She was also a member of the Sasquatch Association and attended Calvary Tabernacle in Stilwell, OK, until her health no longer permitted her to attend.

Yvonne will be missed dearly by her children, grandchildren, and greatgrandchildren. Her memory and legacy will live on in each of them. Yvonne was preceded in death by her father, William Dudley Harmon, mother, Helen (Goforth) Harmon, and husband, Gaines Neal Elms. She is survived by brother Conley (Carolyn) Harmon of Kilgore, TX and her children, Valerie (Duane) Muncy of Council Grove, KS, Vincent (Janice) Elms of Bentonville, AR, Valton (Denise) Elms of West Fork, AR, and Vickie (Randy) Morris of Stilwell, OK. Her seven grandchildren, JD Hall, Kayla Elms, Breanna Nelson, Joseph Weldon, Lindsey Elms, Charlie Morris, and Marshall Alverson (Morris), and seven greatgrandchildren.

A private family gathering will be held at the cemetery, where Yvonne will be laid to rest.

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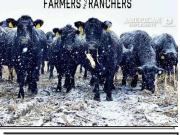
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Be ye strong therefore, let not your hands be weak

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REX EARL STARR Attorney at Law



918-696-6500

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#### Green Country Title and Closing, LLC

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Tel: 918-696-4744 contact.us@greencountrytitle.com

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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

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Which hope we have as an anchor of the soul, both sure and stedhast and which entereth into that within the veil.



#### STILWELL SMOKE SHOP



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