

The STRAIGHT FORWARD

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Serving Stilwell & Adair County, Oklahoma

Thursday, March 17, 2022



Happy St. Patrick's Day!



Stilwell Indians Baseball Defeats Gravette 7-5



The Stilwell Baseball Indians have a tried and true history of success. It looks like the Indians are poised to continue in that tradition as they recently beat the Gravette (AR) Lions in a close contest 7-5.

OSU Extension Offers AgSense 2022 Program to Cost Stricken Producers

"It's no secret that costs continue to increase in our daily lives. However, that is also true for the average costs of running a cow. The upcoming OSU AgSense programming identifies strategies to mitigate rising input costs in every aspect of a ranching operation" according to Adair County Extension Ag Educator, Jennifer Patterson.

Using current OSU research-based information, a 6-module curriculum

was developed in the areas of Animal Health, General Livestock, Ag Economics and Agronomy. This program is being presented within each Northeast Oklahoma county between March 15-April 30 in a two-meeting format.

The Adair County AgSense 2022 program is scheduled for Monday, March 28, from 5 to 7 pm AND Monday, April 5, 2021, from 5 to 7 pm at the Adair County OSU Ex-

tension Office in Stilwell, OK.

This seminar should be of interest to livestock producers and land managers. Since each county is hosting this program, if a producer misses a meeting in their home county, they are welcomed to attend a meeting in a neighboring county. A master list of meetings is available at <https://extension.okstate.edu/county/northeast-district/agsense.html>.

According to OSU NE Area Ag Economist, Scott Clawson, "Implementing strategies such as fall stockpiling Bermudagrass can save up to \$60 per cow, and then using a closed bottom vs open bottom hay ring can save \$35 per cow in an average winter. This almost \$100 savings per cow is just scratching the surface of the strategies that will be discussed in this program".

Patterson also said "At OSU, we are focusing on assisting producers with the knowledge required to weather this economic storm. In spite of rising input costs, there is still profit to be found in our livestock enterprises, as long as producers know where to look."

If planning to attend, please call the Adair County Cooperative Extension Office at 918-696-2253 so we will have sufficient materials available at the seminar. Meal provided by Larry Strauss with State Farm Insurance.

Feed My Sheep Ministries Offering Free GED Classes

Feed My Sheep Ministries is partnering with Cherokee Nation Career Services and Northern State University's Educational Opportunity Center to provide GED classes at no cost to the public to anyone who is interested. Applications are available at Feed My Sheep Ministries, 310 W. Locust, Stilwell, OK, every Friday at 4 p.m. Reading classes are being provided at the same location on the same day and same time. There will be a teacher on site for tutoring, if needed. GED classes are online. Computers will be available for use to work on your studies every Friday from 4:00-5:00 p.m., upon arrangement. Feed My Sheep Ministries is a 501(c)(3) non-profit feeding the homeless Monday-Saturday, 11:00 a.m.- 12:30 p.m. and Sunday, 12:30-2:00 p.m.

Born on St. Patrick's Day

By Donna Boecher

My grandfather was so Irish that he was born on St. Patrick's Day (March 17). How many are born on a special holiday? If nothing else, we claim to be born so many days close to a special day. Like, "I was born six days before Christmas, or I was born on Abraham Lincoln's birthday. Yet whatever the day, all of us are unique! Stop and contemplate what makes you special. Each of us is special in the light of God's love.

Jacob Plummer (Dick) Harris the Irishman in our family had blue eyes, fair hair, and two legs that danced a jig so well that he charmed my grandmother into marrying him in Crawford County, Arkansas. Looking back in history, his family had probably only been in America for a couple of generations. The Potato Blight occurred in Ireland in mid-1800s and drove many to America for a new start. His parents landed in the hills of Mountainburg, AR.

I couldn't resist learning about St. Patrick since I'm part Irish. The best information about the saint comes from his own autobiography—*Confessio*. He (Succat) age 16 was kid-

napped by raiding Irish raiders and enslaved as a shepherd for 6 years during which he prayed 100 times a day and 100 times during the night. Those years proved his great devotion as a Christian. One night he heard an angel who said he would return to his home soon including how he would accomplish it; he walked 200 miles "through bog and forest" to the coast where being refused passage on a ship, he prayed and was called back to the ship. Finally, home, he told his wealthy parents that he had to go back to convert the Irish to Christianity. He had seen too much cruelty meted out to women." Because of his enslavement he was able to speak to the Irish in their language and made use of his knowledge of their customs. After some religious training and more religious visions, he was ordained a deacon and later as a bishop with the name "Patricius." He returned to Ireland "to convert Druids Priests, chieftains, and aristocrats by the thousands. ONE THING HE DIDN'T DO! Banish the snakes from Ireland; there are NO snakes in Ireland. St. Patrick died on the 17th day of 461 A.D.

Lady Indians Win Gore Tournament



Stilwell Lady Indians Slowpitch defeats Checotah 21-5 to win the Gore Tournament. Great job ladies!

Oklahoma U.S. Senate Special Election Comes Into Question

By John Bankel

Oklahoma's long time Republican Senator, James Inhofe, 87, has tendered his resignation when he signed an "irrevocable pledge" on Feb. 28. He is not planning to step-down until January 3, 2023, with 4 years remaining of his 6 year term.

Meanwhile, a special election has been called for. One of the Republican candidates to fill the remainder of Inhofe's term is District 2 Congressman Markwayne Mullin, who has announced his intention to run. He is not the only one. There are 2 other Republicans who have made a similar announcement: Oklahoma State Senator Nathan Dahm, Broken Arrow, and Inhofe's endorsee, his former chief of staff, Luke Holland. Plus, there are others on the radar screen who have not yet made a formal announcement.

Hold the phone. There is a problem. An Oklahoma attorney, Stephen Jones, has filed a lawsuit against Oklahoma State Election Board Secretary Paul Ziriac which calls into question the manner in which the replacement of

Inhofe is to be conducted.

According to Jones, who represented Timothy McVeigh, the Oklahoma City bomber and argued other high profile cases, the state is not permitted to hold a special election until the seat is vacated. The suit was filed with the Oklahoma Supreme Court. Jones is making the case that Oklahoma Governor Stitt (R) is not permitted to set the election for November because Inhofe has not yet departed the Senate. He claims that the state is acting in violation of the 17th Amendment to the U.S. Constitution which states that "the executive authority of such State shall issue writs of election to fill such vacancies." Indeed, Jones is arguing that the seat must be vacant for the amendment to be activated. If Jones prevails in his suit, then all bets are off, that is to say, there will be no special election in November. It looks like the candidates who have already declared their intention may have to "hold their horses" until this case is heard and adjudicated. Stay tuned to see how this plays out.

Stilwell Sports Spotlight

Commentary by John Bankel

Lady Indians Tumble To Tuttle Tigers' Tall Timber

The Stilwell Lady Indians state qualifying basketball team took to the court in their first round game of the Oklahoma High School Girls Basketball Tournament at the OKC Fair Ground Arena on Wednesday, March 9 at 10:30 am against the #2 ranked Tuttle High School squad. Tuttle's tall timber, 2 players 6'2" and 6'3", who have committed to play at OU and TU, quickly established dominance. The Lady Indians had no answer to the exceptional talent

of the Tuttle team. The final score of 74-24 told the tale. The defeat eliminated Stilwell from further competition.

Yet, the achievement of getting to the State Tournament and playing in the "Big House" will always be the hallmark of a great season. Stilwell is proud of her Lady Indians 2021-22 Basketball team!

P.S. Tuttle ended up reaching the finals where they got clobbered by Classen SAS 53-22!

Cutter Sheets: All State Wrestler

The Oklahoma Coaches Association picked Cutter Sheets as one of the wrestlers on the All State wrestling team. Sheets, who earned a 2nd place finish at 145 lbs. in the recent Oklahoma State Tournament,

will wrestle for the Small East team against Small West team in July.

Congratulations Cutter on your achievements. Stilwell is proud of you!

Lady Indians Basketball Receives NOAA Conference Accolades

Congratulations to the Lady Indians Basketball on receiving the following NOAA Conference accolades:

Co-Player of the Year—Snowda Watie
1st Team—Snowda Watie

2nd Team—Kinley Johnson and Shannon Catron

Honorable Mention—Talib Mink, Jayli Christie, Kasia Thurber

Also, congratulations to Coach Cone on being selected NOAA Conference Coach of the Year.

PROVERB POWER

"Finally, brethren, whatsoever things are true, whatsoever things are honest, whatsoever things are just, whatsoever things are lovely, whatsoever things are of good report, if there be any virtue and if there be any praise, think on these things." — **Philippians 4:8 (KJV)**

The Straight Forward FREE Press is now **ONLINE** on Google!
www.straightforwardfreepress.com
Check it out and enjoy!

THE CONSERVATIVE VIEW

By Russell Turner

WHEN TO BURN A HOUSE

Being involved in the building and construction trade for many years, I have worked for people that built new homes. Many people in my area will build a new home when their old one reaches a point where it is too expensive to keep repairing it. Usually, the home owner will live in the old house while the new one is being constructed; after the new house is finished the owner will demolish or burn the old house and simply move into the new house. All of my customers had the common sense to get the new house built before they destroyed the old one; the old house, even with its problems, was much better than having to live under a shade tree or in a pup tent. It would be completely foolish to destroy the old house before the new one was ready to move into, I only wish that the current fools in the White House had the common sense that my customers building a new house had.

We Americans are on an out-of-control roller coaster ride concerning the price we are having to pay for a gallon of gasoline; the sad fact is, most of the out-of-control price increases were avoidable. The price of all products and commodities are impacted by world events, but the huge swings of inflation can be avoided if we conduct the affairs of the nation in a business manner. When resident Biden took office, our country was energy self-sufficient, he traded that self-sufficiency for dependency. He and a huge number of European nations have worshiped at the altar of the radical green new deal philosophy. Here in America one of the most vocal proponents of this nonsense is Congresswoman Alexandria Ocasio Cortez (AOC); a little about her background, she is nothing but a bar fly who tended a bar, but now she is the foremost authority on all things concerning energy. Don't get me wrong, I am for developing all kinds of energy that will be more economical and cleaner,

but we also need to realize that all of those advancements don't happen overnight. Instead of working new technologies into the system over time, they are trying to burn the current system down with no viable replacements.

In Europe, countries such as Germany have shut down their nuclear plants because they fear the radical environmentalists. Because of that action they are now completely reliant on the likes of Russia and nations from the Persian Gulf who are directly opposed to western values. The slaughter that is happening in Ukraine by Russia is a result of the revenues going into the treasury of Russia. Before the stupid actions of resident Biden, we had a buffer to prevent the wild price swings of gasoline; now he and his administration are trying to lay all of the blame for the higher prices on the Russians. Donald Trump made a very astute comment when he said that Putin was smart, but that wasn't the problem; the real problem is our current leaders are dumb. I was taught that ignorance can be excused but stupidity is unforgivable; our current occupant in the White House is proof of that.

Every time I have to fill one of my autos, I am enraged by what it is costing me and other farmers, small business people, and hard-working people trying to keep this country running. Biden has been in control just over a year and it has been a complete disaster. We voters need to remind ourselves of his complete stupidity when he is wanting Congress to pass more of his socialist agenda. We also need to remember how his party has walked in lockstep with his agenda; the common-sense voters of this country, regardless of what party they belong to, need to remember them in November. If not stopped, their actions of burning down entire parts of economy will have all of us living under a shade tree.

SCRIPTURE

PHILLIPS Version

Hebrews 10:11-17—Every human priest stands day by day performing his religious duties and offering time after time the same sacrifices—which can never actually remove sins. But this man, after offering one sacrifice for sins for ever, took his seat at God's right hand, from that time offering no more sacrifice, but waiting until "his enemies be made his footstool". For by virtue of that one offering he has perfected for all time every one whom he makes holy. The Holy Spirit himself endorses this truth for us, when he says, first: "This is the covenant that I will make with them after those days, says the Lord: I will put my laws into their hearts, and in their minds I will write them". And then, he adds, "Their sins and their lawless deeds I will remember no more". **Thank you JESUS!**

THE KIPLING KORNER

"Old Days! The wild geese are flying,
Head to the storm as they faced it before!
For where there are Irish there's loving and fighting
And when we stop either, it's Ireland no more!"
(from *The Irish Guards*)



Truth is Our Target

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Donna Boecher.....Editor
John Bankel.....Journalist
Joy Coleman.....Composing

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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Letter to the Editor

March 14, 2022

Dear Editor:

Often the role of a school board member goes unseen. When people don't understand or don't like the school board's decisions, they or the administration become a target for the vitriol of a few people with an ax to grind. Usually, the people who

want to yell the loudest do not have the facts to back up their narrative of what they think happened.

Being a board member is a thankless job. Being an administrator is a thankless job. Both positions are challenging and require thick skin. Both jobs require doing what is right for EVERY child in the district and

not just for some. It is the duty and obligation of the board to hire and fire teachers. We also have the responsibility and commitment not to renew contracts for teachers in the beginning stages of teaching (years one to three). Hiring, firing, and not renewing contracts is NEVER a fun or desirable task. As the President of the Stilwell Board of Education, I take this as one of the most significant roles as a board member. My ability to impact someone's livelihood is personal for me. But what is more personal for me is knowing that I am responsible for ensuring that we have the best educators in every classroom and that we are providing the best education to every child in the district.

As board members, we make tough decisions. Decisions that by law, we are not allowed to disclose the details to the public, including our own families. These discussions happen in executive sessions and include land negotiations, litigation, personnel matters, and discipline. In an era of transparency, I completely understand the need for openness, and I agree with being open. But as stewards of the law, as a board member who took an oath, I must uphold my responsibility to maintain confidential discussions and cannot and will not break that oath. No matter who is elected, a new board member cannot change this.

I stand firm in telling you that I act in the best interest of EVERY child in Stilwell schools. I also believe that every current board member and administrator is committed to serving in the best interest of EVERY child in the district. You have my word that I remain committed to doing what is right, whether hard or not, and whether it is going to be popular with our community or not. It is more vital that we get it right for our children than getting it right for the feelings of adults.

Sincerely,
Bill Muskrat
Board President



Dear John,
Spring forward! I love spring and then the long days of summer. I can hardly wait to see the flowers blooming and enjoy the dewy fresh days. I enjoyed the spring time of my life, but now skipping forward I'm in the winter of my journey. The days slip by way too fast and I can't keep up with technology. My husband and I have found that a house needs to be really big to spread out all these roots we feel comfortable with. However, it's time to move on down size and it's hard to get rid of these things. Do you have any suggestions for the disposition of a life time?

Root Bound

Dear Root Bound, there is an old humorous adage that goes something like this: "One spends the first two thirds of one's life accumulating "Stuff" and the last one third finding ways to get rid of the "Stuff." What with the Baby Boomers, in huge numbers, rapidly approaching the final one third of their lives the dilemma you face will become wide spread. May I suggest you try the following 4 fold strategy: among the "stuff" you have, each item will fall into one of 4 categories: 1. For Sale, 2. Keep, 3. Give away, 4. Throw away. Sorting all your things in this manner will lighten your load in an orderly fashion and with effectively no regret. It is worth a try.

Sincerely,

Dear John

Have a question for Dear John?
Email: dearjohn@writeme.com.

Real Name Not Used.
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The Lady in the Blue Sari

Part 35

By Donna Boecher

Time had rolled on since Lydia had arrived in Kochi from America. Already, it was time to celebrate **Holi**. Originally a holiday for the Hindus about when good had overpowered evil, she was reveling with her interfaith friends, family, and neighbors to welcome Spring. Holi powders would be easy to make. It depended on what she had in the house. Rice flour, corn starch, or a mix of both. She'd add food coloring and achieve bags of red, yellow, orange (saffron), blue, purple, green, brown. So many emotions in the

colors—peace, hope, love, happiness, optimism, energy, harmony, purity, and faith. She would have a Holi bonfire, Thursday night, March 17th to exchange gifts; then Friday morning, March 18th, at a nearby public place they would engage in throwing Holi colors and possibly a little water. She prepared herself: dark dress, hair covering, and extra moisturizer on her skin. She laughed. Regardless of messy hair, she was going to have fun. Spring was here! Lydia made treats and invited friends over for the bonfire. Tomorrow it would be time for throwing. Let the colors flow!

Health Tips from Larkin...

By Larkin Fouse, CHHP

Stress Busters—Surrender:

The late, great, genius Dr. David R Hawkins discovered that when we are stressed, it is because we are simultaneously fighting the situation we are stressed about, and we are fighting our own emotions about the situation. Thus, we are fighting fire with fire and only making things worse, the reason being that whatever we resist persists, and if we resist stress it will only get worse for us over time, till we develop stress related illness. So how do you get out of this cycle of stress? Dr.

Hawkins recommended a technique he called the "letting go technique" in which you become aware of how you feel about something and you surrender that feeling to God till you feel it leave your mind. Do this over time and eventually your stress habits will dissolve on their own and due to the law of correspondence, as you change on the inside, you will likely find less to be stressed about on the outside. To know more read Dr. Hawkins book, "Letting Go the Pathway of Surrender."

Larkin Fouse is a certified holistic health practitioner.



Mullin It Over: The Cost of President Biden's Anti-American Agenda

By Congressman Markwayne Mullin

The national average gas price has officially hit an all-time high. The Biden Administration would like to blame these record-high gas prices on the crisis in Ukraine. This is a far cry from the truth. President Biden's assault on American energy has caused this spike in prices.

On day one, President Biden canceled the Keystone XL pipeline and rejoined the Paris Climate Agreement. In the months since, he promoted Green New Deal policies, issued moratoriums on new oil and gas permits on federal lands, and imposed burdensome regulations that stifled American innovation and forced many producers to shut down. He begged our enemies in OPEC+ for more oil while spending billions on unsustainable, weather-dependent renewables. He backed our country into a corner.

According to the U.S. Energy Information Administration, the U.S. became a net energy exporter in 2019. This was the first time this was achieved since 1952. President Biden erased 67 years of progress in 13 months. Because President Biden made the United States reliant on other countries for our natural gas, we are forced to import oil to keep up with supply and therefore have less control over the prices.

Last year, crude oil and petroleum imports from Russia reached an 11-year high, averaging 700,000 barrels per day. The United States paid Russia approximately \$17.5 billion for petroleum imports alone. The tragedy in Ukraine is not to blame for this, it's merely exposing the root of the problem.

There are few places you can get to in the Second District without getting in your car to drive. In fact, 92 percent of Oklahomans use their

vehicle to commute. Just this past weekend, it cost me \$4.50 a gallon to fill up my truck. I know I am not the only one. There is no doubt Oklahomans are feeling this increase at the pump. Every single time we head to the store, drop our kids at school, or get to work, we are reminded of this.

Though President Biden finally banned the imports of Russian crude oil and petroleum, he did not announce the amplification of American oil and gas. This is the only way our country can become truly energy independent. Any ban is incomplete without this step. Instead, his Administration has been in talks with Venezuelan President Maduro, Putin's ally, about using their supply.

Further, the Biden Administration recently announced the release of 30 million barrels worth of oil from the U.S. Strategic Petroleum Reserve. This is our country's emergency supply. When times are tough, you turn to what is reliable and proven to work. Clearly, for President Biden, that's American fossil fuels.

There are immediate ways the Biden Administration can reverse their anti-American energy agenda and lower prices at the pump. I joined Rep. Cathy McMorris Rodgers (WA-05) and Rep. Bruce Westerman (AR-04) in introducing the American Energy Independence from Russia Act to detail ways he can do this. Approving the Keystone XL pipeline, removing restrictions on liquified natural gas exports, and restarting oil and gas leasing on federal lands would be a great place to start.

In President Biden's State of the Union address last week, he touted his "Made in America" and "Buy American" agenda. Now it's time he includes American oil and gas.

Obituaries

Daniel Wayne Garrett

April 26, 1973 – February 17, 2022

Daniel Wayne Garrett, name meaning God is my judge, was born to Wilma Kay Doyle and Jimmy Dale Garrett on April 26th, 1973, in Tahlequah, OK. He was perfect. He was and always will be immensely treasured.

He loved his mom and dad and his sisters and his brother. Danny lost his dad at a young age, but he lived most of his life as a dad himself. He met and married his best friend, Kristie Dawn Ritter, when he was 18 years old and together they had five children. His favorite thing to do was be a dad, but skydiving might have been a close second.

On his last day Danny said that his nanny came to bring him home, but he told her he had some people he needed to see first. Two days later on Thursday, February 17th, 2022, God sent nanny back to get him. He was preceded in death by his father, Jimmy Dale Garrett.

He leaves to cherish his memory: his mother, Wilma "Cookie" Doyle of Stilwell; his sisters and his brother: Katie Bateman of Chance and Brandy Girdner of Stilwell and Shane Garrett of Westville; his dear friend: Kristie Johnson of Stilwell and Tommy London of Muldrow; his children: Kirsten Blossom and husband Sam of Baron, Taylor Sidebottom of Stilwell, Caleb Garrett and wife Chloe of Muskogee, Hannah Arnoldussen and husband Dakota of Fort Smith and Gavin Garrett and partner Connor Poff of Fort Smith; nine grandchildren: Kane, Lane, Blane, and Elizabeth Sidebottom, Nohaleigh Gonzalez and Branson Blossom, Connor and Natalie Garrett and Calynn Smith; cousins, aunts, uncles, nieces and nephews, and many more friends and loved ones. Danny left such an impression on everyone he ever met. His presence will be missed, but his memory will live on.

Memorial services were held at 11 am on Saturday, March 5, 2022 at Roberts/Reed-Culver Chapel, Stilwell, OK with Dan Collins officiating.



Jaime Garcia Lopez

April 30, 1976 – February 26, 2022

Jaime Garcia Lopez was born April 30, 1976, to Nieves Lopez Sanchez and J. Carmen Garcia Ramirez in Distrito Federal, Mexico and passed away on February 26, 2022, at his home in Cookson, Oklahoma at the age of 45 years, 9 months, and 27 days.

He worked at Greenleaf Nursery in Park Hill, Oklahoma. He loved his children, family, laughing, and joking around with his friends and coworkers. He loved going out with his children and cooking for them.

He was preceded in death by his father-in-law: George Ross; and daughter: Jazmin Garcia.

Jaime (Compa) is survived by a very loving family that includes his daughters: Nieves Garcia, Isabell Garcia, Nayeli Garcia, Marisol Garcia, and Angelina Garcia, all of Stilwell, Oklahoma; son: Jesus Garcia of Park Hill, Oklahoma; grandchildren: Shyrose Garcia of Sallisaw, Oklahoma; siblings: Nayeli Garcia Lopez, Jose Alberto Garcia Lopez, and Fermin Garcia Lopez, all of Mexico. Several nieces, other relatives, and many friends also survive him.

Funeral Services were held at 2 pm on Tuesday, March 8, 2022 at Roberts/Reed-Culver Chapel, Stilwell, OK with Roman Martinez officiating. Interment followed at Chuculate Cemetery, Stilwell, OK.



Winnie Jo Brown

November 7, 1945 – March 4, 2022

Remembering the life of Winnie Jo Brown, born November 7, 1945 in Shreveport, Louisiana to the late Mr. Nathaniel and Mrs. Cordie Brown.

Winnie was the eighth of nine siblings: Imogene Sanders, Rialto, California; Vera Milton, Los Angeles, California; Betty Cowthran (James), Harvey, Illinois; Helen Butler, Houston, Texas; Linda Hert, Shreveport, Louisiana and preceding her in death is Nathaniel Brown, Jr., Frances Bethune, and Assie Lee Brown.

She attended the public schools in Shreveport and graduated from Booker T. Washington High School in 1963. She also attended Butler College in Tyler, Texas where her interest was designing. She moved to Los Angeles, California in 1972 and was employed at Lockheed Corporation for more than thirty years. There she made and kept many "life-long" friends that will forever remember her "quiet spirit" and phenomenal "work ethic".

She received the Lord at an early age, and was baptized at the Mt. Canaan Baptist Church of Shreveport, in 1956. She later joined the St. Mark Missionary Baptist Church in Los Angeles, California. She continued living her life as a "loving" and "devoted" Christian in everything that she did. Her heart of "gold" was exemplified to all that knew her. She was loyal and faithful to family and friends.

Winnie leaves to cherish her memory a loving and devoted son and daughter-in-law Erik and Kristan McGhee who cared for her faithfully until her transition; the "absolute love of her life, her granddaughter, Raya; 5 sisters; a special friend, Lend McGhee; her bonus children from the McGhee family, Lendell "Pap", Ramonica and Jamila; grandchildren Mia, Taylor, Paige, Jasmine, Zoe, Madison and Aiden

To know Winnie, was to love her. She will forever remain in our hearts as we patiently wait to meet her again. "Earth has no sorrow that heaven cannot heal" Isaiah 35:10. We love you, forever!

Scripture: "The Lord is my shepherd, I shall not want, He maketh me to lie down in green pastures, He leadeth me beside the still waters. He restoreth my soul; He leadeth me in the path of righteousness for his name's sake..."—Psalm 23:1-3

Roberts & Hart Funeral Home, Westville, OK.

Winston David Ketcher

March 21, 1994 – February 22, 2022

Winston David Ketcher (27) was born at Saint Francis Hospital in Tulsa, Oklahoma on March 21, 1994.

From the very beginning he had an uphill battle, but he rose to and surpassed all expectations. Despite his physical disabilities, he was able to graduate from Westville High School. He never met a stranger and made friends wherever he would go; with his bright personality that came out through his smile. He enjoyed spending time with his family watching youtube and anime videos on his tablet. Even though he was limited physically his imagination had no limits and was always able to entertain his loved ones.

On the very iconic day of February 22, 2022, Winston left this earth and gained his wings along with his legs that he had been working so hard for and joined his mother: Cindy Jean (Sexton) Ketcher and his father: David Lynn Ketcher in his Heavenly home.

Winston is survived by one brother: Christopher Ketcher of Stillwater, Oklahoma; one sister: Jasmine Ketcher of the home; grandparents: Roy and Georgia Sexton of Westville, Oklahoma; aunts: Rhonda and husband Marc Marsh of the home, and Patricia McGee and significant other Waylon Ross of Westville, Oklahoma. Other loved ones include a tribe of cousins who are not just family but some of his best friends: Dalton Marsh and fiancé Jessica Martin of Siloam Springs, Arkansas; Kyiah Marsh of Siloam Springs, Arkansas; Ashton Marsh of the home; Raven McGee of Morris, Oklahoma; Sadie Ross of Westville, Oklahoma; and Waylon Ross, Jr. of Westville, Oklahoma; and one very dear friend who he considered a brother: Shane Johnson of Nashville, Tennessee.

Funeral services were held at 10 am on Friday, March 4, 2022 at Roberts & Hart Funeral Home, Westville, OK with Skip Hanvey officiating. Interment followed at Old Baptist Mission Cemetery, Westville, OK.



Puzzle Page

KRYPTO KONTEST 3.0 ROUND 3 OF 8

This Kontest is still wide open and is anybody's game. The answer for this week is 12. You are playing with 5, 7, 20, 11, 6. Remember, you must use all 5 numbers and any

combination of addition, subtraction, multiplication and division to write an expression that equals 12. Have fun and try it out!

Send your solution to: **Krypto Kontest 3.0, POB 885, Stilwell, OK 74960.**

Adair County Presents Private/Commercial Pesticide Applicator Lunchtime CEU Training

A Private/Commercial Pesticide Applicator Lunchtime CEU Training will be held on Wednesday, March 23, from 12:00 p.m.–1:00 p.m. at the Adair County OSU Extension Office, located in the Adair County Courthouse Basement, 220 W. Division St, Stilwell, OK.

Bring your lunch and get your CEU's. Light refreshments will be available.

Each meeting will include one hour of Continuing Education (CE).

Upcoming lunchtime training dates will include April 27, May 25, June 8 and July 26.

Call the Adair County OSU Extension Office at 918-696-2253 to RSVP prior to the meeting. MUST attend in person to receive CE credit.

ON THE CAMPAIGN TRAIL

Commentary by John Bankel

Today's Trail Treks To Part 2 Of... THE SAGA OF TWIST MOUNTAIN

The Twists overcame the hard-ships of the Trail of Tears and evidently prospered on the mountain. If "Twist" is buried on the mountain, and I am sure he is, his grave only has a rock for a Headstone. There are many graves in the Twist cemetery, some marked with rocks, some with nice Headstones, and some with nothing but their sunken grave to mark the final resting place. The oldest marked grave I found was that of John N. Twist, son of Toneat, who died in 1858. The latest one was Alice Twist Payne who was buried there in 1987. The mountain touched a lot of lives over the years and many evidently wanted to remain on it. Toneat Twist married Sarah Harlin, a mixed blood from Alabama. They had two children born on the mountain. Some died young, some lived to adulthood. His son, Albert, a cowboy, evidently lived on the mountain or nearby, as he is buried near his parents in the cemetery. Toneat "Beaver" Twist has a nice stone with his birth year as 1833 and 1917 his year of death. Close by

is wife Sarah C. Twist, 1836-1908. If Toneat's younger brother John is buried on the mountain it is in an unmarked grave.

It was said that the Twist's always buried gold jewelry with their dead. This came to a head and was proved wrong in the 1950's, when someone broke into Jane Twist Lloyd's steel vault. It was dug up and cut into with a torch. NO GOLD or jewelry was found. Hopefully, the culprits were caught and punished. If not, they will definitely be Judged by the "Man Upstairs." (To be continued with Part 3.)

The foregoing was excerpted from an article by the noted Westville historian, Terry Rose, and is intended for educational purposes only.

Today's Trail Tale has come to an end. Until then, may your Trail end up on the right side of the fence and as the old song goes: "Happy trails to you, until we meet again."

John Bankel is a freelance journalist and retired High School Math teacher and can be reached, for questions and/or comments by email: writewright@journalist.com.

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NOTICE

The 2nd signup for the Stilwell Little League will be Thursday, March 17 from 6:00-8:00 p.m. at the Stilwell Community Building, located behind the high school football field at 320 N. 6th Street, Stilwell.

Sample Ballots Available for April 5, 2022 Election

Sample ballots are now available for the April 5, 2022 Election. Voters can download a sample ballot using the State Election Board's OK Voter Portal at oklahoma.gov/elections/ovp or pick up a copy at the Adair County Election Board during normal business hours.

Adair County Election Board Secretary, Jan Wilhite, reminds voters that sample ballots are specific to each person.

"If the OK Voter Portal indicates that you have no sample ballots available, it means you are not eligible to vote in an upcoming election. We recommend checking the OK Voter Portal to make sure you have an election before heading to the polls."

Wilhite said sample ballots will also be posted outside every precinct polling place on Election Day, so voters can review them before casting their votes.

The Adair County Election Board is located at 220 W. Division, Stilwell, Okla. and is open from 8:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m., Monday through Friday. For questions, please contact the Election Board at 918-696-7221 or adaircounty@elections.ok.gov.



First Saturday Night and Last Saturday Night of Every Month, Bethel Church, Stilwell, OK, 7:00 p.m., Rodney Chuculate.

St. Patrick's Day Event, American Legion, 9 W. Olive St., Stilwell, **Thursday, March 17,** from 6:00-9:00 p.m. Music to be provided. Supper is corned beef and cabbage, potato soup. (Beans and ham as alternate.) Cost: Adults \$8.00 & Kids \$4.00. Sponsored by Veterans of Foreign Wars Stilwell Post 10829.

Adair County Litter-Free & Green monthly Recycle Day is from 9 am to noon at the Adair County Commissioner District 2 Barn located on Hwy. 59 N and Fairfield Road. You may contact Cathy Unger at 918-696-1178 or Joyce Radtke at 918-696-7316 if you have questions or comments.



MAKING GOOD SENSE

So let me get this straight. It takes between 21 to 35 days for a Russian oil tanker to get to US ports to be offloaded. It takes between 35 and 60 days for a tanker from the Middle East to make the same trek. It takes about 10 hours to load the tanker and up to 24 hours to unload. If it has to wait in port to get to an unloading dock, it can take up to 3 days. The average tanker burns 2,625 gallons of diesel fuel per hour. 22.38 pounds of CO2 are created from burning 1 gallon of diesel fuel. So, in one hour, a tanker ship hauling oil to a refinery in the US creates 58,757.5 pounds of CO2 per hour. Averaging the travel time of the tankers, that's 27.67 million tons of CO2 per trip. In comparison, your car creates between 6 and 9 tons per year. Without going into all the equations of how many tankers come to the US per year, let alone our exports, will someone please explain to me how drilling our own oil and moving it through pipelines, along with importing oil from Canada via pipeline will not be more environmentally "green" for the world?

(Copied from an Intelligent Conservative.)

A YOUNG WRITER'S STORY

A story about Jack By Keegan Hummingbird
part 6 Age 11 - Zion School

Today I tried to eat the colorful leaves. They were nasty, crunchy, and had little bugs in them! Jacob told me, right as I swallowed, that the leaves were dead. I didn't even know they were alive to begin with. At least my favorite food, clover, isn't alive. (hopefully)

I have a follow up to the "weird horse" thing. I have been informed that it is a tractor and is not even alive. It gives us food too. I didn't know this this, because I've just been eating the little bit of food Jacob gives Mac and I.

Mac has been enjoying this weather change. He says it's "perty," and every time I try to correct him he says I'm snooty and stubborn. All I want is for him to lose that accent!

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Vocabulary

WORD of the DAY

Command

Example: My teacher gave me a command to sit and be quiet.

- give an authoritative order.

HAVE YOU GOT A STORY?

We'd love to print it...just e-mail it to: straightforwardpress21@gmail.com.



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

- Who was the shortest man in the Bible? Bildad, the Shuhite.
- Don't let your worries get the best of you; remember, Moses started out as a basket case.

- There was the person who sent ten puns to friends, with the hope that at least one of the puns would make them laugh. No pun in ten did. Tune in next week for more Pun Fun.

Got a funny? Send it to: straightforwardpress21@gmail.com.

In Search of a Word

By Donna Boecher
Clout—the power to direct the thinking or behavior of others usually indirectly.
Example—Our representatives have great clout in our state government.

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My name is Jess Merriott, and I am seeking reelection to the Stilwell School Board, Seat Number 2.

My wife, Michelle, and I were raised in the Stilwell community and are graduates of the Stilwell Public School System. We returned to the Stilwell area in 1985, choosing to live and raise our two children who are also graduates of Stilwell Public Schools. Michelle teaches school in Dahlongegah and I am a small business owner and rancher. As a family, we have a love and concern for the youth of today and try to make a difference in their lives. Whether supporting our own children, youth at church, foster children or any of the sixteen foreign exchange students we have hosted, our objective is to provide a safe and encouraging learning environment. Part of this goal includes supporting them not only in the classroom but also suggest participation in extracurricular activities provided by the Stilwell Public School System.

As a member of the Stilwell School Board since 2002, there have been many changes in the school and public education in general. I have always tried to uphold the values of our community while balancing state and federal regulations with what is best for Stilwell Public Schools.

While we look to the future, we also must continue to prioritize preparing our students for life. This means that as they near graduation, we help them meet their individual objective of college, career training, or the job force.

I would appreciate your vote on April 5 for Jess Merriott, Stilwell School Board, Seat Number 2.

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