

The STRAIGHT FORWARD

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FREE Press



Volume 1 • Issue 17

Stilwell, Adair County, Oklahoma

Thursday, October 21, 2021



2021 Volunteers: Toney McGee, Wanda Elliott, Sharon Treib, Regina McLemore, Lynda Hagar, and Trena Minton. Volunteer Ellen Workman took the picture.



Volunteers with Christmas train in 2019: Linda Hummingbird, Jan Grooms, Wanda Elliott, Lynda Hagar, Regina McLemore, Susie Thompson, and Emily Thompson. (Back row: Elf and Santa Claus.)

ACH&GA Celebrates 25th Anniversary on Oct. 21

By Regina McLemore,
ACH&GA Secretary

You are cordially invited to the Kansas City Southern Depot in Stilwell, Thursday, October 21, at 6 p.m., for a time of remembrance, instruction, and celebration. ACH&GA President Wanda Elliott will recall the early

days of ACH&GA and honor the memories of its founders. Well-known historian, genealogist, and speaker, David Hampton, will teach attendees how to research their Cherokee genealogy. Everyone will then enjoy cake, punch, fellowship, and an opportunity to win a great door prize. See you there.

Cave Springs School Presents The Haunted Trail Oct. 22, 23, 29 & 30

You're in for a fright as the witching hour draws near. Join us in celebrating the spookiest time of the year as Cave Springs School presents *The Haunted Trail* on Friday and Saturday, October 22 & 23 and October 29 & 30, from 7:00

p.m. to 12:00 midnight Admission is \$5.00. Concessions will be available. There will also be face painting for \$2.00 and pumpkins for sale. Proceeds will go towards the Senior Class Trip.

Mullin to Hold Telephone Town Hall On Monday

Congressman Markwayne Mullin (OK-02) will hold a Telephone Town Hall for Oklahomans on Monday, October 25, 2021, at 6:25pm CT. The telephone town hall will last approximately one hour.

"Telephone Town Halls allow me to hear directly from my constituents about issues impacting their families," Mullin said. "During the call, I'll provide an update on my work to rescue Americans from Afghanistan, the Democrats' tax and spend spree, and take ques-

tions from constituents. I'm looking forward to hearing from you."

Oklahomans can sign up to participate in the Telephone Town Hall by visiting mullin.house.gov/live. Participants must sign up by 5:25pm CT on October 25 in order to be included in the event.

*Please be advised that all telephone town halls are subject to last minute cancellation. In the event of a cancellation, Congressman Mullin's Facebook and Twitter pages will provide the update.

Bigger Is Not Always Better

By Tarra Boecher

I believe being proud of the livestock we raise here, even after they've left our possession, is an important aspect of humane animal husbandry. Recently, I spoke to Dr. Temple Grandin in depth about this subject.

That load of calves you sold at market last year, are you proud of them? Would you visit the feedlot where they are currently being fed, raise your hand, and say "I produced them"? Or would you rather not? That's a question I ask myself frequently.

Dr. Grandin notes that some of the problems facing the American beef industry are the ones that exist in today's feedlots. Some feedlots are developing preventable issues like leg confirmation problems, lameness, and heat stress. In a webinar this week, she reiterated her belief that breeding for any specific trait can begin to cause issues down the line. A few of these traits being focused on in recent times are the black hided trait, excessively heavy weight, and rapid growth. Any of us raising specific breeds face breeding concerns like this, as do others.

As producers, we often fall into the cycle of thinking that we need to breed a specific type of bull to a certain type of cow. We follow our business sense and believe the offspring will grow the fastest and pay the most per lb. at auction. Dr. Grandin warns this type of mindset ultimately leads to animal suffering and economic loss. Doing what's right normally lines up with what is most financially efficient, down the line.

Much of the issue is that the feedlots, and buyers of feeders, pay for calves per lb. Using this conventional per lb. calculation makes for more losses at the feedlot, which is passed back to the calf producer in lower prices per lb. Because, the big young steer doesn't always grow into a healthy feedlot steer. A buying program with standards for health and structure, somewhat like the certified programs, could create better health and better prices for calves in the future. In the long run, breeding animals that are balanced and hearty, even after they've left our possession, is what's important.

No herd is perfect, we all have a problem cow or two, but there's no reason to fret. Genetic diversity is important for long term cattle health, as well as in the feedlot.

Leg confirmation tends to be genetic, and culling cattle with leg issues is something that should be done early on. Let's take the ethical route, remove that cow from the breeding circle altogether, and ready her for packaging. Small local USDA inspected processors can help us with this, and we'll talk more about that next time...

Commissioners' Meeting Report for October 18

Reported by John Bankel

On October 18, the Adair County Board of Commissioners met at 8:30 am in the Adair County Courthouse Board meeting room. Chairman Mike Winger called the meeting to order. After a routine dispatch of the first 6 Agenda items, Item 7, a Resolution for payment for rent and services per contract between the OK Dept. of Health, the OK Dept. of Human Services and the Board of Commissioners was approved.

Item 8 proved to be more of a sticky wicket requiring some discussion concerning the contract between the Commissioners and the 911 Board Trust Authority. It seems that the contract was amiss in stating that the Board would fund the position of EMS/911 Director. The head of the Trust Authority, with Trust Indenture in hand, pointed out that the contract should have been only for payment for a 911 Director. Since Mike Dunnegan, the Assistant District Attorney was present, Chairman Winger asked him to review the Trust Indenture. The matter was tabled for 2 weeks.

The next item, Item 9, which involved the EMS Advisory Board, was also tabled for 2 weeks.

The next item precipitated an in

depth discussion pertaining to what costs should apply for obtaining surveillance videos under the Freedom Of Information Act (FOIA). This question was given over to ADA Dunnegan to answer. While he never really got around to providing a suitable answer, he did mention that the costs were prescribed by Statute under Title 51, Sec. 24,(a), et.seq.

A concerned Citizen spoke up and read the Statute, in pertinent part, after he related a personal incident at the courthouse for which he was trying to appropriate relevant video(s). The Citizen also mentioned that these costs, if any, should be posted in an appropriate place for the citizenry.

The next 3 items were dispatched in routine fashion. Under Item 15, New Business, a Mr. Steve Shoop presented himself as the Director Of Operations for GTG EMS Services to announce that his company had been awarded the contract to provide EMS services for the City of Stilwell. Pafford remains as the EMS service provider for the rest of Adair County.

A motion to adjourn was made and, as always, passed unanimously.



Stilwell Sports Spotlight

INDIANS FOOTBALL
Commentary by John Bankel
INDIANS VS. PIRATES

On Thursday, October 14 at Stilwell's James Bradley Stadium, the powerful 6-0 Poteau Pirates, ranked #2 in the state in Class 4, came to town to take on the 0-5 Stilwell Indians in a District contest. Poteau came ready to rock and roll and rumble as they rambled to a 26-0 first quarter advantage and then added 14 more points in the second quarter to take a 40-0 halftime lead. The second half turned out to be a different story. The Indians found enough mustard to continue playing football with a lot of grit in the second half. When the Indians scored with 7 minutes remaining in the game from 7 yards out, that touchdown became the only scoring to happen

in the second half. Although the 2 point conversion attempt failed, we can chalk up a 6-0 Stilwell second half advantage. Despite the fact that the final score was 40-6, the Indians continue to show signs of improvement and appear to be enjoying playing football, no matter the score.

They are now well positioned to take on the winless Tulsa McClain Science and Technology High School Titans for the Indians' Homecoming on October 22. Homecoming always provides a little extra motivation for victory. Kickoff is at 7 pm.

Come on out and cheer the Indians on to their first win!

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

PROVERB POWER
"But thou, O LORD, art a shield for me; my glory, and the lifter of mine head." Psalm 3:3 (KJV)

THE CONSERVATIVE VIEW

By Russell Turner
A FEROCIOUS BEAST

I have found out that it is very easy for things to get out of control, something that looks good today can have a habit of coming back to bite you in the backside. One example, small baby animals (even wild ones) can look warm and loving while they are babies, but they will eventually grow up and their true nature often comes alive. People forget that even baby tigers can resemble a domestic house cat, but given a little time they will grow up and have huge teeth and sharp claws, many times their true nature arises where they know they are higher on the food chain than their owners. Now that cute little tiger cub has grown up and he is looking at his owner as an evening snack. I can see a similar trend in the evolution of past and present governments around the world.

When you look at the founders of this nation, for the most part they were Libertarians. Freedom and liberty were the defining tenets of their political philosophy, Thomas Jefferson said it best when he said that the government that governs best governs least. Unlike too many of our fellow Americans they understood human nature, they never intended for this country to have a class system where one group is considered to be superior to any other. Fortunately, I was blessed with good parents who taught me that I was as good as anyone else, but I was no better than anyone else. Unfortunately, many people in our country have been indoctrinated with a liberal ideology in many of our universities and schools of higher learning into believing they have all of the

answers to life's problems and the rest of us know nothing. Our higher education is full of tenured liberal professors that have a bad habit of spreading their ideas to their students. I have heard it said that some hard-working parents who tried to impart the American work ethic into their children often are surprised by their children's attitudes when they come home for a holiday break from school. It is a problem that we have talked about for many years, but we have failed to address it properly.

One solution that comes to mind is simple; if you are a conservative and want to pass those values to your children, do some research on the schools you are considering. Let your tuition money be your weapon. If a school has a track record of liberal indoctrination send your child to another school, we need to stop patronizing schools that promote ideals that are contrary to our founding beliefs and our constitution. The left is very good at making huge promises about getting something for nothing and, like a tiger cub, it may seem playful for a time but as the programs mature, they will come back to bite us in the rear.

Last November many Americans fell for the something for nothing lie, but that lie is now becoming a ferocious beast that has the potential to change our nation into something that nowhere resembles the America that I grew up in. We freedom loving Americans must apply all pressure possible to stop the current nonsense in our nations capitol which is authored by a bunch of educated fools.

THE KIPLING KORNER

"Humble because of knowledge, mighty by sacrifice."

Vocabulary WORD of the DAY

“ Vicariously

I lived vicariously in India as I read the detailed guidebook about the country, its people, and its customs.

- experienced in the imagination through the feelings or actions of another person.

”

“Our Readers’ Voice:” A page dedicated to the expressed opinions of our readers. Send your opinion to: straightforwardpress21@gmail.com.

The
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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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The Lady in the Blue Sari

Part 17

By Donna Boecher

Teresa and Alex headed for Goa. They arrived in the afternoon refreshed by the easterly winds off the Arabian Sea. The softer waves of the Arabian Sea caressed the coast of western India from the north of Mumbai to the southern tip near the tiny country of Sri Lanka, once called Ceylon. Beyond was the vastness of the Indian Ocean between Africa, India, and Australia. They had enjoyed the drive; with the green jungle-like country to the east of the road juxtaposed to the beaches of Goa. They had decided to stay in the southern portion of the beaches in Goa at the Taj Exotica Resort. It was a splurge, but Lydia

said, “don’t miss it.” She said it; they believed it. Their dinner of Vindaloo was marvelous. The Portuguese had settled Goa in 1510, ninety years before the British began trading with India. It was sad for Alex and Teresa to think that Portugal’s control of the seas in Goa and beyond was to support its African slave trade. Thankfully, that had changed long ago. Now, all that remained of the Portuguese influence was a spicy pork dish called Vindaloo known for its chilies, jalapenos, and other fiery ingredients. Since the spices were used with other meats, they chose to eat the mutton version since Teresa’s religious beliefs excluded pork. Tomorrow they would rise with the sun, thank God

for their health and happiness, and take a final dip in the sea before driving to their next destination. God is good!



Dear John,

Politics are not really that interesting to me. It could be that I don’t understand there are so many topics that I just can’t digest. For instance; This mandate of getting shots has gotten everyone I work with saying “I would rather quit then lose my freedom and take the shot”. Also, they say it is unconstitutional. How is it unconstitutional?

Already got my shot

Dear Already, when it comes to one’s own personal health any decisions made should be made with the best possible information and that may involve a doctor, not a politician who is not a doctor and has no clue as to what may be appropriate for you. Mask mandates and vax mandates do not take into consideration that each individual has peculiar medical needs and to that end, a mask, as well as a vaccination, may be detrimental to that individual’s health. There are already many documented cases of people suffering adverse effects from both the masks and the vax. In addition, it is well documented that there are alternatives that work, which the politicians have suppressed in favor of their draconian measures which are merely ploys for controlling the people. This is where the unconstitutionality issue comes into play. In dealing with the so called “pandemic”, the politicians have overstepped their legal authority and breached the freedom of the people. Plus, one of the main things that has been ignored is the natural immunity of over 100 million people that have had the COVID. But sadly, there is no money in acknowledging natural immunity nor in inexpensive, over the counter alternative remedies. The American people are being herded like cattle by money and power hungry politicians from the left. One of the best protocols still is: if one is sick, one should stay home.

Sincerely,
Dear John

Got a question for Dear John? Send it to: dearjohn@write.com. Real name not used.

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YOUNG WRITERS
to write a story about their FAVORITE TEACHER...
Please include your name and age.
Send to:
straightforwardpress21@gmail.com.

SCRIPTURE

“Blessed is the man that walketh not in the counsel of the ungodly, nor standeth in the way of sinners, nor sitteth in the seat of the scornful.” Psalm 1:1 KJV

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

Health Tips from Larkin...

By Larkin Fouse, CHHP

The Healing Power of Music—Part 1: Music, one of God’s greatest gifts to humanity. From Mozart and movie soundtracks, to the Celtic music of the highlands we have all heard music in our lifetimes. But seldom do we ever consider the real power that is within music. It has long been known in the natural health community that music has a powerful effect upon you, for good or ill, depending upon what you listen to. But for this week, we will be discussing the benefits of music. Music in brain scans has proven to light up the entire brain, as well as reduce stress, inflammation, anxiety and depression, due to its powerful effects upon the brain. Music

has even been shown to trigger neurogenesis in Alzheimer’s patients, which is the regrowth of new neuron connections, indicating that perhaps there is hope for them to recover after all! So, if you are like me, and you have always loved music, but never known why exactly. The following articles will be all about the power of music in our lives and how we can use it constructively and avoid using it destructively, and perhaps, who knows, you might find a few more reasons to love music. Larkin Fouse is a certified holistic health practitioner, operator and owner of Crescent Clinic in Stilwell. See advertisement in this paper for more information.



Mullin It Over: Bring Back the Dignity of Hard Work

I have seen firsthand the consequences of President Biden’s failed economic policies here in the Second District. Nearly everywhere you go, there’s a sign out front that reads, “help wanted.”

Small business owners, manufacturers, and store managers are all struggling to hire employees. On top of that, they’re dealing with 30-year-high inflation rates and the rising cost of just about everything, making it even harder to do business.

The September jobs report should come as a surprise to no one. Last month, over 300,000 fewer jobs were created than expected and labor force participation dropped to 61.6 percent. Even CNN called this report the “worst of the year.” Further, a record 4.3 million workers quit their jobs in August.

The Biden Administration has created a culture that rewards Americans to stay home and depend on the federal government to

provide their every need. From enhanced unemployment benefits to vaccine mandates, they are giving people every reason not to work and instead rely solely on the government.

America is the land of opportunity, where everyone can work hard to achieve success. A large part of that success is defined by having a job. In Oklahoma, just like in all other parts of the country, people want a job that gives them purpose, allows them to provide for their family, and creates a chance for a better life. And it’s our job in Congress to make sure the federal government doesn’t stand in the way of those opportunities.

We must remind ourselves of the dignity of working hard and the blessings of our democracy that grant us the freedom to do so.

Want to stay up-to-date on what I’m doing in Oklahoma and Washington on your behalf? Sign up for my newsletter by visiting Mullin.house.gov/newslettersignup.

Obituaries

Brenda Kay (Bland) Burr

December 30, 1959 – October 7, 2021

Brenda Kay (Bland) Burr; 61 years, 2 months, and 24 days. She was born on December 30, 1959, in Fort Smith, Arkansas. A resident of Stilwell, Oklahoma. Brenda went to be with the Lord on October 7, 2021, in Tulsa, Oklahoma.

Brenda was preceded in death by her husband: David Lynn Burr; and her father: George William Bland. Also, her siblings: Bobby Bland and Billy Bland.

Surviving her passing is her only daughter: Jennifer Lynn Burr; 2 grandchildren: Ally Elizabeth Burr and Robert Lee Burr; her mother: Edith Melvina (Hall) Bland; 3 siblings: Randy Bland and Pam Bland of Dewey, Oklahoma; Deborah Peterson of Rivertown, Wyoming, and Dorinda (Bland) Gillaspay and Robert Gillaspay, Sr. of Stilwell, Oklahoma. Many other family and friends also survive her.

Brenda was a public worker and servant, she worked for 39 years at the Adair County Health Department as a Patient Care Assistant II. In her short, retired years, she enjoyed spending time with her family, especially her daughter and grandchildren.

Brenda enjoyed going fishing with her grandson and attending his Ninja Warrior competitions. She also enjoyed watching her granddaughter's soccer and t-ball games. A few more of her favorite past times were going junkin' with her daughter and taking family road trips.

Brenda will be dearly missed by many, but we are thankful for all the great memories and the knowledge we will see her again.

Funeral Services were held at 10:00am Tuesday, October 12, 2021, at Roberts/Reed-Culver Funeral Home Chapel with Jess Brown officiating. Interment followed at Ewing Chapel Cemetery, Stilwell, Oklahoma. Under the direction of Roberts/Reed-Culver Funeral Home, Stilwell, Oklahoma.



Ed William Sevenstar

May 29, 1968 – October 9, 2021

Ed William Sevenstar was born on May 29, 1968, in Siloam Springs, Arkansas. Ed departed this life to be with the Lord on October 9, 2021, in Tahlequah, Oklahoma at the age of 53 years, 4 months and 10 days.

Ed worked as a chicken catcher for many years for Robert Swake. Ed enjoyed hunting, fishing, listening to music, and spending time with family and friends. In 1984 Ed and Bro. Jimmy Muskrat rode in the first Trail of Tears bike ride, from North Carolina to Stilwell, Oklahoma.

Ed was preceded in death by his parents: Ellis and Mary Sevenstar; 2 brothers: Kenneth Sevenstar and Gary Sevenstar; grandparents: Lynch and Fannie Glass; and 1 brother-in-law: Johnson Soap.

Ed is survived by 3 sisters: Mary Soap of Tahlequah, Oklahoma, Melissa, and Beverly Sevenstar, both of Stilwell, Oklahoma; 3 kids: Reilly James Sevenstar of Westville, Oklahoma, Jordan Faye Still of Stilwell, Oklahoma, and Clayton Dale Martinez of Shawnee, Oklahoma; 9 grandkids; 7 nieces; 13 great nieces; 6 nephews; 10 great nephews, and a host of other family and friends.

Ed will be missed by all who knew him.

Funeral Services were held at 2:00pm Friday, October 15, 2021, at Oak Ridge Baptist Church with Bro. Gary Flynn and Bro. Jimmy Muskrat officiating. Interment followed at Oak Ridge Cemetery, Stilwell, Oklahoma. Under the direction of Roberts/Reed-Culver Funeral Home, Stilwell, Oklahoma.

Elwin Lee Green

September 19, 1942 – October 11, 2021

Elwin Lee Green was born September 19, 1942, to Henry and Dona Bell Green in Stilwell, Oklahoma.

Elwin spent his early years roaming the woods in the Elm Grove Community hunting and fishing in Evansville Creek. When he was 7 years old, he got his first gun, a Red Rider BB gun for Christmas and his love for hunting continued throughout his lifetime. Henry had made a deal with him, if he would tell his mother where he was going during the day, he would give him a nickel for every bird he brought home. However, that soon became more money than he was willing to pay, so Elwin moved on to larger game.

As the baby of the family, he was much loved and spoiled by his sisters: Ollie and Leta. At about the age of 13 the family moved into town where he quickly became friends with Kenny Diffie, Ronnie Littlejohn, and Tom Watkins, who all lived in the Checker-Town neighborhood. A little later they were joined by John Adair and Larry Bayles, they all became lifelong friends. After graduating from Stilwell High School in 1960 he attended NSU for a year, but school interfered with deer season and pond bass fishing, so he decided to go another direction.

In 1962 Elwin married his High School sweetheart: Mary Jo Ratliff, and they had two wonderful children: Bret and Leisa who gave them their pride and joy; their grandchildren. Nothing pleased Elwin more than to watch them in athletic events, and with that many there were a variety of athletic events.

Elwin made a career in Masonry and especially liked working with native stone and building fireplaces. In his later years he had a construction company remodeling Wal-Mart stores.

Elwin had a strong Faith in God and was a member of Bunch Baptist Church. When he started to Church there, he felt he was at home and grew in the Lord with his Church family.

He was preceded in death by his parents: Henry and Dona Bell Green; a sister: Paulene; and a greatly loved granddaughter: Lacey Jo, whom he is now reunited with in Heaven.



On October 11, 2021, Elwin Lee Green passed peacefully and took his place in Heaven; sitting with his Lord Jesus, beside still waters... fishing...and possibly suggesting Jesus try a spinner bait this time of year.

Elwin was a storyteller and could paint pictures with words. He loved being around people and his colorful stories came from things that he was passionate about. If Elwin had a cup of coffee, (when didn't he?) you might as well pull up a chair and listen. His stories were adventures, colorful, and told with passion and excitement and sometimes they were true.

He leaves behind for a time, his wife: Mary Jo; his son: Bret Green and wife Deann; a daughter: Leisa Jo and husband John Simmons; seven grandchildren: Caisen Green, Blane Burns, Colt Green, Jarret Simmons, Jake Simmons, Lexi Simmons, and Bristol Green. Many relatives and dear friends.

Elwin will be greatly missed, although he is gone from our sight, he will always be in our hearts, with many precious memories.

Funeral Services were held at 2:00pm Monday, October 18, 2021, at Stilwell City Cemetery with Bro. Steve Patterson and Tim Crawford officiating. Interment followed at Stilwell City Cemetery, Stilwell, Oklahoma. Under the direction of Roberts/Reed-Culver Funeral Home, Stilwell, Oklahoma.

Westville's 125th Birthday Bash and Fall Festival Set for Saturday, Oct. 23

Westville's Fall Festival will be held in conjunction with the 125th Birthday Bash on Saturday, October 23 beginning at 10:00 a.m. at Westville City Park. There will be fun community events! Games, food vendors, craft vendors, etc. Bring your lawnchairs. There will be Prizes for all Contests. Wearing a mask is suggested, as well as practicing social distancing.

Other events during the Fall Festival/125th Birthday Bash will include:

Native Warrior Car, Truck & Bike Show—9:00 a.m.-3:00 p.m.

Inflatables—10:00 a.m.-5:00 p.m.

Cherokee Marble Contest (Entry Fee Required)—10:00 a.m.-4:00 p.m.

Carnival Games (Non-Profit Groups)—10:00 a.m.-2:00 p.m.

Kids Corn Box—10:00 a.m.-5:00 p.m.

Pickle Eating Contest (Free)—11:00 a.m.

Touch-A-Truck—11:00 a.m.-2:00 p.m.

Hay Maze (Free)—12:00 p.m.-4:00 p.m.

Carved Pumpkin Contest (Free) and Decorated Pumpkin Contest (Free)—12:00 p.m.

Wild Game Cooking Contest (Free)—1:00 p.m.

7th Arkansas Field Artillery—1:00 p.m.-5:00 p.m.

Gospel Music—1:00 p.m.-6:00 p.m.

Bobbing for Apples Contest (Free)—2:00 p.m.

Pumpkin Recipe Contest (Free)—3:00 p.m.

Corn Hole Tournament (\$10 per Team)—3:00 p.m.

Kiddie Cruise (Cotton Sloan)—4:00 p.m.

Hudson's Children of Cancer Glow Walk (Track)—6:00 p.m.

Westville's Fall Cruise—6:00 p.m.

Walk Contest Winners and Money Raised—7:00 p.m.

A fireworks show will be held

at dark.

There will be a Scavenger Hunt from 12:00 p.m.-5:00 p.m. at the Park.

Registration will begin at 11:30 a.m. for the Scavenger Hunt.

Ten teams of two will be allowed.

Teams will meet at the Westville Chamber of Commerce booth at the Community Center at 12:00 p.m. Each team will be given an envelope with their first clue.

Each team must keep both team members together, if not they will be disqualified. Each team must go to each location and bring back each of the envelopes with their team number and clue in it. Tampering with other teams envelopes will result in disqualification.

Want to be a part of Westville's history? Have something that relates to Westville's past?

Items will be collected Saturday at the Westville Chamber booth and a Time Capsule Celebration will be held at 5:00 p.m.

Items must be able to fit into the capsule. Photos of items would be great. Make sure to put your name, address, and date on each item you submit.

Let's see what another 25 years looks like.

For more information contact: Stefanie Mitchell at 918-723-5453, April Sallee at 918-905-1163, or Patsy Winn at 405-249-8360.

Sponsored by: Westville Chamber of Commerce, Carson Community Bank, Town of Westville, Arvest Bank, Sonic Drive-In, Harps Food Store, Westville Flowers and Gifts, My Other Mother's Daycare, Stilwell Democrat-Journal, Ozarks Electric Corp., Westville Reporter, Red Barn, L&S Feed, and Impact Women's Ministry.

Come out and enjoy all the FUN activities, food, and gospel singing this Saturday!

ADAIR COUNTY HIGH SCHOOL FOOTBALL ROUNDUP

Commentary by John Bankel

WATTS ENGINEERS FALL TO GANS

In a Thursday night 8-man football home game on October 14, the Watts Engineers were close at the end of the game but remained winless as they fell to Gans, 40-34. Watts is now 0-6 on the season and 0-2 in District play. Gans improved to 2-4 and 1-1 in the District. On Friday, October 22, the Engineers travel to 6-1 Arkoma for a District contest. Kickoff is at 7 pm.

WESTVILLE YELLOWJACKETS BOW TO CHECOTAH

The Westville Yellowjackets traveled to Checotah on Friday, October 15 with the hope of getting back on the winning track, after absorbing their first loss of the season at the hands of Lincoln Christian, who administered a 56-14 drubbing. Checotah turned out to be another opponent whose offense was too much for Westville to handle as Checotah walked away with a dominating 50-34 victory. Westville is now 6-2 on the year with a 2-2 District mark. Checotah improves to 6-1 with 2-1 in District play. Checotah's only loss was to Lincoln Christian, 35-7. Lincoln Christian has established itself as the favorite to win the District and perhaps go all the way this year. The next game for Westville will be at home Friday, October 22 versus the Seminole Chieftains. Kickoff is at 7 pm.

CAVE SPRINGS GETS TRAMPLED BY THE ARKOMASTANGS

On Thursday, October 14, the Cave Springs Hornets traveled to Arkoma to take on the 5-1 Arkoma Mustangs. Cave Springs came into the contest at 3-3. The Mustangs had no trouble with the Hornets, trampling them by a score of 54-6 in an 8-man football skirmish. Cave Springs is now 3-4, with 1-1 in District play while Arkoma improves to 6-1 and 1-1 in District. The Hornets next travel to Keota for a Thursday night, October 21, game. Kickoff is at 7 pm.

Chamber Chili Lunch Set for Oct. 22

Stilwell Area Chamber of Commerce will hold their Homecoming Chili Lunch on Friday, October 22, from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. at the First United Methodist Church, located at 4 North 3rd Street.

The cost is \$6.00 for chili, dessert and drink.

To-go orders will be available, but please call in before 11 a.m. on October 22, at 918-696-2202.



"Adair County Art Vibe"
featuring local artist **Rebecca Braden** and her work.

Our Readers' Voice...

Citizen Silence: Experience & Consequence By Concerned Citizen

On October 12, 2021, County Commissioners were asked to declare October Domestic Violence Awareness Month. Of course, October already is. It has been nationally since 1987. Despite over thirty years of "awareness," and a Stilwell Democrat Journal "Spotlight Editorial" on it last October, the requester reported the highest numbers in decades.

This might have been a particularly propitious opportunity for the Commissioners. Indeed, attending Citizens were decidedly silent. Commissioners thus had an unmolested chance to articulate their thoughtful response. Curiously, however, they simply issued the redundant proclamation, without rationale or clarity.

Indeed, it's not clear what was accomplished, if anything. What happens next? How will Commissioners

(See Our Readers' on Page 4)

ON THE CAMPAIGN TRAIL

Commentary by John Bankel

Today the Trail Travels to the WESTVILLE-STILWELL BATTLE FOR THE ADAIR COUNTY SEAT: PART 3 The Battle Heats Up: No Holds Barred

Part 2 ended with “Westville is hereby designated as Adair County seat.” In this Part 3, we will pick it up from there. As you can well imagine, people in some parts of the county were “disgusted”. The Constitution also laid down the rules to change such things as county seat, etc. A petition signed by 25% of the voters could get the Governor to call a special election. This was done!

On June 2, 1908, Adair Co. citizens went to the polls to choose which town would get the county seat. Stilwell won by 101 votes. Westville claimed that a great deal of illegal voting had taken place in southern Adair County. Can you believe that??? Westville filed an injunction (which was granted) keeping Stilwell from moving any

records.

A special referee was sent to review the irregularities.

(He worked for two years on this.) When the referee, Judge Baily, made his report, he recommended that the County Seat be permanently located at Westville. But the Oklahoma Supreme Court (the court was probably packed with people from Tennessee and Kentucky, ha) rejected this and called for another vote. This election was held on February 24, 1910. Stilwell won by 30 votes.

(To be continued)

For the final chapter in the Battle for the Adair County Seat, tune in next week for Part 4.

The foregoing has been excerpted from a book by local historian, Terry Rose,

entitled “Trivia and Vignettes of Oklahoma History” and is intended for educational purposes only.

For today the Trail has come to an end, and as Roy Rogers and Dale Evans were fond of singing, “Happy trails to you, until we meet again.” May your trail end up on the right side of the fence.

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WHAT'S SO PUNNY?

PUN FUN

Take a laugh break...There is no end to puns...so here are 3 more to add to your punny list...get ready to giggle, guffaw or just plain old laugh out loud...

1. To the guy who invented zero, thanks for nothing!!!
2. Geology rocks, but Geography is where it's at!!
3. So what if I don't know what apocalypse means? It's not the end of the world!!

And that's the end of WHAT'S SO PUNNY? for today...have a goooooo one...

Got a funny one? Send it to: writewright@journalist.com.

Our Readers' (Continued from Page 3)

heighten “awareness?” Is that the role of the petitioner, instead? If so, how will Commissioners declaring October to be something it already is allow the petitioner to raise “awareness?” Is the decree-itself—the supposed new-found “awareness?” Surely the “awareness” isn't merely the announcement that there's a month dedicated to awareness, with no plan for actually prompting awareness?

Pinning down this elusive, additional, declaration-induced “awareness” isn't the only challenge. Who would even be aware of the “awareness” declaration? How would they find out? Even if they did, what would-be offender would now ameliorate their violent inclination? Why? What victim would be spared? How? Would the implied platitudes of the decree actually confer any benefit on any person?

Those given to rapid ratification of government action may wonder what the big deal is. First, let's accept that we're all best served when we fully embrace truth and honestly engage reality devoid of delusions. Second, let's acknowledge that opportunity cost arises from dishonesty, even if well-intentioned.

To illustrate, consider doctors deceiving patients about “masks.” Some medical “professionals” acknowledge mask manufacturer admissions of inefficacy in “viral” contexts, and accept that the holes in (not to mention around) the masks are larger than whatever they're trying to stop. Yet,

DID YOU KNOW? 5% COVID-19 DEATHS

According to data from the Center for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), only about 5 percent of COVID-19 deaths list only COVID-19 on the death certificate.

they wear them. While some may do so under unktion of their handlers, others excuse away the hopeless contradiction by altruistically claiming to wear masks so people will “feel safe.” That begs the question: do you want people to merely *feel safe*, or actually *be safe*?

Opportunity cost flows directly from deception. Some people place undue deference on “professional” opinions and defer to health “expert” authority figures. So, what happens when truly at-risk people take risks they should not take—and would not take—but for the feigning of role models in the medical establishment luring them into a false sense of security via porous blue rectangles over their airways? Isn't a fully-informed decision, founded on truth, more elegant?

In our current example, we likewise find both deception and opportunity cost. The Commissioners “proclamation” simply isn't outcome determinative. It's good for a rudimentary photo op and blurb in the mainstream newspaper, but that in turn spawns opportunity cost. We succeeded, right? Mission accomplished! Continuing our mask analogy: we *feel good*, but didn't *do good*. Essentially nothing will now happen that otherwise wouldn't absent the declaration. The wrong here isn't presence of bad, it's absence of good—with a self-deceiving sense of accomplishment that can stymie more efficacious pursuits.

This scenario highlights the vital role of Citizen Patriots. Previously, Commissioners installed a stranger on the Library Board. However, Citizens formally objected after raising concerns. This creates an interactive record of Commissioner activity, whereby Citizens can measure performance. Had Citizens raised some of the aforementioned concerns this time, maybe Commissioners would have agreed it's a misleading hollow gesture that has no real-world impact. Alternately, like the phantom Board member appointment, they may have similarly made the “awareness” proclamation anyway. But brutally honest dialogue would have injected sober outcome expectations. It would have also logged Citizen counterpoints, Commissioner response to which further building the track record that allows “We The People” to evaluate our public servants' performance as truly representative—or not.

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