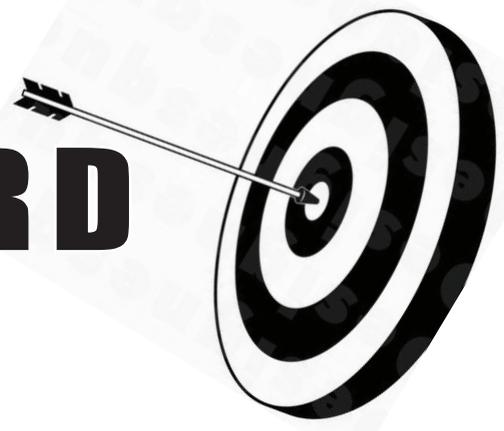


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INAUGURAL FREEDOM ISSUE



Oklahoma Legislature Fighting for Freedom

By David Hardin

State Representative, Dist. 86

Below is a list of 2021 Oklahoma legislation that focused on constitutional rights:

HB1236, which gives the Attorney General a new role of monitoring and evaluating any action by the federal government to determine if they violate the 10th Amendment. It also creates a State Reserved Powers Protection Unit within the Office of the Attorney General. If a review concludes infringement on the 10th amendment, the Attorney General must determine whether the state should seek an exemption or seek to have the action declared unconstitutional. The Legislature is also authorized to review federal executive orders, agency rules or legislative actions to determine constitutionality and whether the state should seek exemption or seek to have the federal action declared unconstitutional in a court of competent jurisdiction. The Attorney General will review actions upon recommendation from the legislature, or if the Attorney General declines, the Legislature may initiate an action by majority vote. No government entity or other publicly funded organization may implement, adopt or enforce any federal order or

rule declared unconstitutional.

SB368 modifies the Oklahoma Religious Freedom Act to prohibit any governmental entity from declaring or deeming a religious institution, as well as any activity directly related to the institution's mission, to be nonessential. This measure prohibits a religious institutional from being subject to closure or restriction greater than that imposed on any private entity facing similar conditions.

HB1630 amends various sections of the Oklahoma Self-Defense Act. The measure provides that renewal applications are to be denied if the current license is subject to suspension or revocation or if the license has previously been suspended or revoked by the Bureau and removes the ability of the Bureau to examine medical or other records during a renewal application. Additionally, a person who has been precluded from obtaining a carry license due to convictions for public intoxication may obtain a certified statement from a licensed physician stating that the person is not in need of substance abuse treatment to remove the preclusion. A 5-year preclusion period is also created if a previously issued handgun license has been revoked.

The measure requires the OSBI to conduct a search of the Immigration Alien Query for non-United States citizens as part of its background check and requires applicants to include a declaration of citizenship or admission number for a non-United-States citizen. The measure requires the applicant to acknowledge that the applicant has reviewed the Federal Bureau of Investigation Privacy Act Statement. The measure requires that the license card contain the date of issuance of the handgun license.

HB2645—The Senate amended HB 2645 to provide that it is unlawful to carry a firearm on any property set aside by a county, city, town, public trust with a county, city or town as a beneficiary, or state governmental authority for an event that is secured with minimum-security provisions. Minimum security provisions are defined as consisting of a metallic-style fence at least 8 feet in height that encompasses the property and deters unauthorized entry; controlled access points staffed by uniformed commissioned peace officers and metal detectors through which persons walk. The measure allows a person to carry a firearm on any public property set aside temporarily by a county, city, town, public trust with a county, city or town as a beneficiary, or state governmental authority for the holder of an event permit that is without minimum-security provisions. The firearm must be carried concealed, unless otherwise authorized by the holder of the event permit.

SB106 modifies various provisions of the Oklahoma Self-Defense Act. The measure defines completed application to mean all fields are completed, questions answered and contains all required signatures on the Application for Self-Defense Act License and all required documents. The 90-day renewal grace period provided to license holders is removed from the Act and requires renewal applications to be denied if a current license is pending suspension or revocation or has been suspended or revoked. Additionally, the measure removes the preclusive period for holders that have 2 or more convictions of public intoxication provided the holder has a certified statement from a licensed physician stating that the person is not in need of substance abuse treatment. The measure establishes a preclusive period of 5 years for persons whose license was suspended or revoked. The measure requires the Oklahoma State Bureau of Investigation to utilize the Immigration Alien Query database for non-United States citizens in the course of its background check and authorizes the Oklahoma State Bureau of Investigation OSBI to conduct a National Instant Criminal Background Check (NICS) as part of the license background check.

(See Oklahoma Page 2)

BUSINESS BUZZ:

The Entrepreneur Spirit

By John Bankel

"Entrepreneur" comes from the French language. An entrepreneur is an individual who creates a new business, bearing most of the risks and enjoying most of the rewards. The entrepreneur is commonly seen as an innovator, a source of new ideas, goods, or services. An entrepreneur finds a need and then fills it.

Mikah Walters is such an entrepreneur. Walters owns and operates MTECH CAVE with his wife Makayla. His story starts at the age of 2 when he first started playing with the computer. In just a few short years he became lightning fast, 90 wpm fast, on the keyboard having learned typing from a website.

During his time at Maryetta School, he became the "go to guy" whenever teachers had a problem with their computers. His reputation followed him to Sequoyah High School where he became the IT guy. He also started working at WalMart and eventually found himself in the electronics department.

It was from there he ventured into business. Stilwell had no computer

or iphone repair service. The need was great. MTECH CAVE met that need.

In addition, what with the growing interest in computer gaming, Walters set up several computers for just that purpose and began attracting "gamers" to his enterprise, which was originally located in a 1300 sq. ft. storefront on First Street. That space soon became too small.

Mikah had bigger plans and needed a bigger space. He found it. The first location of WalMart in Stilwell, on Second Street, became MTECH CAVE'S new home, all 10,000 sq. ft. of it! On June 19 a Grand Opening Party was held. Mikah now has plenty of room to grow his business.

His vision includes holding gaming tournaments in the large room behind his retail space, where up to 200 "gamers" can compete and perhaps make a name for themselves in an industry that continues to grow by leaps and bounds with MTECH CAVE surely growing along with it.

That is the Entrepreneur Spirit in full flight. Mikah and Makayla Walters have it!



Jimmy Gilstrap and students from ICTC recently took part in landscaping the library grounds.



Students from ICTC pose for a picture while working on the flower beds at the library.



Another landscaping project being tackled by Jimmy Gilstrap and students from ICTC at the Stilwell Public Library.

Summer Library Happenings

By Regina McLemore,
SPLFS Secretary

Good news! Stilwell Library is fully open again. Please pay them a visit and find out about their new summer reading program, which is available for children, youth, and adults.

The library friends (SPLFS) have been extra busy lately. Partnering with the talented Jimmy Gilstrap and his hard-working students from the Indian Capital Technology Center, they have finished an excellent job of landscaping the library grounds. Go by and take a look.

Once again, our SPLFS received FOLIO's (Friends of the Library in Oklahoma) John Harkey Best

Friends Award. Their hard work and outstanding scrapbook, completed by Grace Ferris and Donna Boecher, earned them a five-hundred dollar check and a nice plaque.

Local Doctors Pai and Landge recently donated \$1,500 for children's books to be bought for our library. These books were ordered by the Friends and are in the process of being delivered to the library. Thank you, Dr. Pai and Dr. Landge for your generous gift.

If you are interested in becoming part of SPLFS, let one of our officers know: President Grace Ferris, Vice President Donna Boecher, Secretary Regina McLemore, or Treasurer Cathy Unger.

COMING SOON
Stilwell Indians
Sports Spotlight
Re-Cap of 2020-21
All sports
Fall Sports Forecast

PROVERB POWER
"When the righteous are in
authority, the people rejoice;
but when the wicked beareth rule,
the people mourn."
Proverbs 29:2 KKV

CONGRESSMAN MARKWAYNE MULLIN

In Case You Missed It

Mullin in Washington Examiner: Biden must take a stronger posture against Russia or risk more cyberattacks

WASHINGTON—After President Biden’s meeting with Russian President Vladimir Putin last week, the Washington Examiner published an op-ed from Congressman Markwayne Mullin (OK-02) on the importance of having a strong posture against Russia.

The original article can be found [here](#). Full text of the piece:

On May 25, President Joe Biden announced that he would be meeting with Russian President Vladimir Putin as part of his first foreign trip as president. This was a mistake.

The Berlin Wall may have come

down in 1989, but for Russia, the Cold War never really ended. It moved to cyberspace.

Russia remains a top threat to the United States, pursuing aggressive expansion campaigns in Crimea, Georgia, and the Arctic and meddling in military campaigns in Syria and Afghanistan. Its leaders and their agents sow dissent and discord wherever they can in order to further the Russian agenda. Their main methods include widespread disinformation and hacking campaigns as well as promoting economic influence through projects such as the Nord Stream 2 pipeline.

Over the past few months, Russia has been testing our new administration, and unfortunately, Biden has been slow to provide the pushback necessary to stop it. The Biden administration recently waived sanctions on the Nord Stream 2 pipeline, despite calling it a “bad project” and acknowledging it threatens European energy security. It has also refused to comment on Russia’s recent troop buildup on the Ukrainian border. As Russia continues to poke at our defenses, protecting our national security must be Biden’s top priority. Rewarding the Russian president with a summit in Geneva does not accomplish this.

On May 6, the Colonial Pipeline, the largest fuel pipeline in the U.S., became the target of a ransomware attack. The energy company shut down the pipeline and later paid a \$4.4 million ransom. The attack is attributed to DarkSide, a hacking group based in Russia. Just a few weeks ago, our country was hit again when the world’s largest meat processing company, Brazilian-based JBS, became the victim of a ransomware attack. The ransomware attack shut down facilities in the U.S., Canada, and Australia. JBS controls nearly a quarter of America’s cattle processing, and the attack could have heavily disrupted the entire industry. Yet again, the attack was attributed to the Russian cybercrime group, REvil.

Russia has a long history of harboring cybercriminals and taking no action to deter this malicious behavior. Putin allows them to operate these organizations and even deposit money into the banking system. The rule that Russia operates under is that as long as criminals are attacking the West, they will be left alone by the Russian government. In many cases, cybercriminals who get caught are given the option to work for Russian intelligence instead of serving jail time. When these criminals are caught and arrested abroad, the Russian government quickly rushes to their defense, as they did in the case of Roman Valerevich Seleznev. Seleznev was arrested by U.S. agents in the Maldives for his role in a \$50 million cyberfraud ring and for defrauding banks of \$9 million through a hacking scheme. He was sentenced to 27 years in federal prison. Russia heavily criticized the arrest, calling it a “kidnapping.”

According to Accenture, 68% of business leaders feel their cybersecurity risks are increasing. In 2020, the average cost of a data breach is \$3.86 million, and the average payout for ransomware is well over \$100,000. The U.S. should be taking a strong stance against these cybercriminals and the nation that backs them. We do not pay ransom for hostages, and we should not pay ransom for cyberattacks.

President Donald Trump authorized several operations with U.S. Cyber Command to protect our interests online, and it is time for Biden to do the same. We must have peace through strength, sending a strong message that the internet is not the Wild West and that cyberattacks will not be tolerated.

Each time the leader of the free world meets with Putin, it only legitimizes him and his regime within Russia and the rest of Eastern Europe. We should not be empowering other bad actors to follow Russia’s example. As cyberattacks continue to threaten our economy and our way of life, Biden must take a stronger approach to Russia and stand up for the people.

There’s a Lot to Be Learned By Watching a Tree

By: *Kathy Francis*

There’s a lot to be learned by watching a tree.

Its natural endurance has a long history.

It plants its roots deep in fertile terrain

Withstanding the cold, the heat, and the rain.

It takes time out to dance and sway in the breeze,

And offers protection with long green sleeves.

Embracing each season with beauty and merit

Abundance from each it stands to inherit.

Aims high for the pie that’s up in the sky.

Firmly committed to serve and beautify.

There’s a lot to be learned by watching a tree.

Its natural endurance has a long history.

WHAT IS CONSERVATISM

By *Russell Turner*

We humans have a bad habit of painting each other with a broad brush, often we will use the same ole cliches that we hear at the local coffee shop. Conservatism goes beyond political affiliation; most people have the opinion that all Republicans are conservative, but that is not always the case. Most conservatives base their beliefs on life experiences, like when you have to pay the bills and have to overcome unexpected problems.

We firmly believe in a limited government that does not hinder the free-market system that our country was founded upon. We believe in a system where there is a safety net for the truly needy, but we expect able-bodied individuals to carry their own weight. We believe in a strong national border; while we are a compassionate people that cares for fellow humans, we understand

that even without wealth, as a nation we are not capable of absorbing the entire world’s population. We also believe in a strong national defense; we have the belief that true peace is only possible when we are strong.

If I only talked about conservative principles, within a month I would become redundant in my columns; in my columns I will use those principles to relate to the issues of the day. This column will be the first of what I hope to be many. Some people may disagree with my opinions, and that is their right in a free society. I may not always tell you what you want to hear, but I will do my best to tell you what you need to know. We need to remember that America is great because of the free exchange of ideas, it is my hope that through my columns readers will have the ability to make an informed decision on the issues that affect each of us.

(Oklahoma Legislature Contd. from Page 1)

SB631—Creates the Second Amendment Sanctuary State Act. The measure occupies and preempts the entire field of legislation by any agency of this state, or any political subdivision in this state to infringe upon the rights of a citizen of the State of Oklahoma the unalienable right to keep and bear arms. Any federal, state, county or municipal act, law, executive order, administrative order, court order, rule, policy or regulation ordering the buy-back, confiscation or surrender of firearms, firearm accessories or ammunition from law-abiding citizens of this state shall be considered an infringement on the rights of citizens. The preemption shall include the provisions of the National Firearms Act of 1934 and the Gun Control Act of 1968.

or her vehicle. The measure also clarifies that any person between the ages of 18 to 20 may transport an unloaded firearm on a public highway in or on his or her vehicle.

SB809 adds campus police officers to the list of officers who are to be entitled to receive, upon retirement by reason of length of service, the continued custody and possession of the sidearm and badge carried by the officer. The Floor Substitute adds a new Section 2 to allow compensatory time that accrued or expired during emergency declarations issued in response to the novel coronavirus to carry over to the end of the fiscal year following the year in which the emergency declaration ended. The Floor Substitute adds a new Section 3 to allow annual leave that accrued or expired during emergency declarations issued in response to the novel coronavirus to carry over to the end of the fiscal year following the year in which the emergency declaration ended. The Floor Substitute adds an emergency clause.

SB926 allows a municipality to issue a citation for the discharge of an air powered pistol or air powered rifle in an intentional or negligent manner which causes the projectile to leave the intended premises. The FS for SB 926 authorizes municipalities to issue citations for discharging an air powered pistol or rifle when the projectile leaves the premises in an intentional or negligent manner to the individual or guardian of the individual who discharged the air powered pistol or rifle.

SB646 allows an employee of an establishment that sells alcoholic beverages to carry or possess a weapon while in the scope and course of employment if the employee has permission from the owner. The measure includes liquor stores in the list of business entities that may control the possession of weapons on any property owned or controlled by the business entity.

SB672 clarifies that a person who is member or veteran of the United States Armed Forces, Reserves or National Guard or was discharged under honorable conditions from the United States Armed Forces, Reserves, or National Guard between the ages of 18 to 21 to transport a firearm on a public highway in his

Independence Day Then And Now

By *Regina Philpott McLemore*

A year after the United States declared its independence from Britain, the July 18, 1777, the Virginia Gazette wrote of the events of a commemorative celebration in Philadelphia. Members of the Continental Congress enjoyed an official dinner, speeches, prayers, 13-gun salutes, music, parades, troop reviews, and fireworks. On July 4, 1778, George Washington marked the day by giving his men an extra ration of rum and ordering an artillery salute. Meanwhile, ambassadors Benjamin Franklin and John Adams held a dinner for their fellow Americans in Paris, France.

Although the day wasn’t declared an official federal holiday until 1870, it was celebrated unofficially long before that time. In New England, towns competed to see who could build the tallest bonfires out of barrels and casks. Salem, Massachusetts, held the record, with a pyramid of over forty tiers.

In 1805, explorer Meriwether Lewis of the Lewis and Clark expedition, recorded that “we gave the men a drink of sperits (spirits)...” He also noted that someone played the fiddle, and they danced until it began raining. They enjoyed a “very comfortable dinner of bacon, beans, suit dumplings, and buffalo beaf (buffalo beef).” The group continued celebrating with festive songs and jokes into the night.

In 1876, many centennial celebrations were held throughout the United States. One of these, in San Francisco, featured a four-mile long parade.

Stilwell, incorporated in 1897, has celebrated the Fourth of July throughout its history. An example of such a celebration can be found in the June 27, 1918, edition of the Standard-Sentinel. The headline declares, “Picnic Will Be a Big Success.” Readers are enticed with offers of “Free admission, free ice water, and free entertainment,” if they attend the patriotic program at the ball park on July 4. The Hon. Morton Rutherford, described as “Eastern Oklahoma’s

brilliant and eloquent speaker,” would give a patriotic address. A band concert and various singing and instrumental groups, including a Cherokee string band, would be performing. Other entertainment included recitations by Lillian Kimborough and Vernon Stiles and a patriotic drill. Some activities featured included: a 50 yard dash for boys and girls, sack races, a fat man’s race, a three-legged race, and a baseball game. Families were asked to bring plenty of food and spend the day “seeing and being seen.”

Quite a contrast to the way Stilwell folks celebrate the Fourth of July now. During the day, we likely will get together for a quiet family feast. That evening, we might drive in to Stilwell where we will sit in our cars or lawn chairs at dusk and sedately watch the fireworks explode on Davis Mountain.

• COMING SOON •

Dear John advice column, where readers send in their questions about issues for which they seek answers... no names will be used... If you have a question for Dear John, just email to straightforwardpress21@gmail.com or mail to Dear John, P.O. Box 885, Stilwell, OK 74960.

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Truth is Our Target

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PROVERBS 29:2—“When the righteous are in authority, the people rejoice: but when the wicked beareth rule, the people mourn.”

Obituaries

Anjanette Hensley

January 21, 1967 – June 5, 2021

She was born in Siloam Springs, Arkansas on January 21st, 1967 to Cecile (Gordon) Woods & David Woods. She lived all of her life in Oklahoma. Anjanette graduated from Watts high school in 1985 then went on to graduate from NSU in 1992, where she earned a Bachelor's Degree in Psychology. During college, she met and married Philip Price and then had 2 children, that she cherished. She worked at OK DHS for over 15 years and was also blessed with 4 grandchildren. She especially loved being a Mimi. When she wasn't with family, she also enjoyed traveling, shopping, going to the casino & just the simple things in life like relaxing and watching movies.



Anjanette was one of the nicest, sweetest, most loving and caring person anyone could ask for. She never met a stranger, she loved to love people. She always had a big happy smile on her face that was heartwarming. She helped so many people, both in and out of her career. She was also a very strong opinionated woman who wasn't afraid of anyone or anything. She always stood up for what she believed in and would fight for what was right. Heaven truly gained a precious angel.

Anjanette is survived by her parents, David and Cecile Woods of Colcord, OK; 1 son, Quinton Price & his wife Maddie of Sallisaw; 1 daughter, Jessica Price Turknett and husband Ashton of Westville, OK; 4 precious grandchildren, Braiden Price, Connor Price, Isabella Price & Serenity Price; 2 brothers, John Woods and Miles Hensley; 1 sister, Misty Hensley, and a host of aunts, uncles, cousins, family and friends.

She is preceded in death by her grandmother, Geneva Pauline Gordon, her grandfather, Cecil Raymond Gordon & her grandmother, Mae Hensley.

"In life, we loved you dearly, in death we love you still. In our hearts, you a hold a place, no one else will ever fill."

Chris Le Pathkiller

February 11, 1987 – May 28, 2021

Chris Le Pathkiller was 34. He was born at Claremore Indian Hospital on February 11, 1987 and passed away on May 28, 2021.

He liked Indian marbles, horseshoes, mushball chunking, softball, camping, and fishing. He loved going to church, hanging out with family and friends, and his church family.

He is preceded in death by his grandparents: Luther and Ruby Tanner, and Eugene and Lena Arnold, his older brother: James Tanner, and Jimmy and Glenda Arnold.

Chris is survived by his parents: Bobby and Naomi Owens of Westville, Oklahoma, brothers: Camiden Tanner of Westville, Oklahoma, Dakota Glass of Tahlequah, Oklahoma, Michael and Terry Owens of Tahlequah, Oklahoma, sisters: Kayla and Rachel Hayden of Sallisaw, Oklahoma, Regina Reeves of Fort Smith, Arkansas, Diantha and Josh of Tahlequah, Oklahoma, Cynthia Glass of Tahlequah, Oklahoma, Jennifer and Joe Walker of Tahlequah, Oklahoma. 17 nieces and nephews, many other family and friends also survive him.



Ruby Lorene (Worley) Deweese

August 5, 1931 – June 6, 2021

Ruby Lorene (Worley) Deweese was born on August 5, 1931 in Stilwell, Oklahoma to Gus Elmer Worley and Cynthia Elizabeth (Johnson) Worley and passed away on June 6, 2021 in Stilwell, Oklahoma at the age of 89 years, 10 months, and 1 day.

Ruby loved painting, enjoyed art and making quilts. She loved her family and was devoted to them. She never met a stranger and everyone was family to Ruby.

"Thanks, and appreciation to my children for sharing their families with me to give me a beautiful life." ~ Ruby Lorene Deweese

She is preceded in death by her parents: Gus and Cynthia Worley, husband: Gillis Wayne Deweese, 5 brothers, and 4 sisters.

Ruby is survived by children: Leah Cheryl and husband Larry Strauss of Stilwell, Oklahoma, Gillis Rylen and wife Connie Deweese of Lake Kiowa, Texas, and Rhonda and husband Charles Kester of Stilwell, Oklahoma. Grandchildren: Amanda and Patrick Stone of Bixby, Oklahoma, Andrea Strauss of Bixby, Oklahoma, Jay and Mandi Kester of Lincoln, Arkansas, and Leah and Ryan Cobb of Lake Kiowa, Texas. Great grandchildren: Adria Brooke Kester, Kayleigh Paige Kester, Tessa Danielle Kester all of Park Hill, Oklahoma, Sawyer Van Stone of Bixby, Oklahoma, and Grayson James Cobb of Lake Kiowa, Texas.

Precious memories: Gillis Matthew Kester, and Keaton Graham Turnbow.

"The Lord bless you and keep you; the Lord make His face shine upon you and be gracious to you; the Lord lift up His countenance upon you and give you peace." ~ Numbers 6:24-26

"...for I know whom I have believed and am persuaded that he is able to keep that which I have committed unto Him against that day." ~ 2 Timothy 1:12

Funeral services were held at 2 pm on Wednesday, June 9, 2021 at Victory Southern Baptist Church, Stilwell, OK with Bro. Don Varble officiating. Interment followed at Stilwell City Cemetery, Stilwell, OK under the direction of Roberts/Reed-Culver Funeral Home.

Evelyn Cran Cain

March 30, 1940 – June 15, 2021

Evelyn Cran Cain was born on March 30, 1940, in Hanford,

California to Arthur and Laura Berryhill, and passed away on June 15, 2021, in Stilwell, Oklahoma at the age of 81 years, 2 months, and 16 days.

She married Estell Richard "Ed" Cain on January 19, 1959. She was a loving and caring person. Evelyn worked at Blackwell Regional Hospital, retiring after 20 years. She loved her grandchildren, playing bingo, and reading lots and lots of books. She loved family gatherings, and never met a stranger. You never left her house hungry. In later years, she went to live with her son Randy Cain in Stilwell, Oklahoma.

She is preceded in death by her parents, her husband: Estell Cain, and her daughter: Debbie Dyer, 3 brothers: Leo Berryhill, Lloyd Berryhill, and David Berryhill.

Evelyn is survived by her son: Randy Cain of Stilwell, Oklahoma. 1 brother: Aurthur Berryhill of Tulsa, Oklahoma; 2 sisters: Janie Burt of Fayetteville, Arkansas, and Suzanne London of Memphis, Tennessee. Grandsons: Cyrus Dyer, and Tyler Dyer and wife Bobbi; great grandchildren: Taylor, Jackson, Karsten, and Teagan Dyer; step grandchildren: Jason, and Jennifer Murray.

Graveside services were held at 10 am on Friday, June 18, 2021 at Blackwell IOOF Cemetery, Blackwell, OK with Lanny Jobe officiating. Interment followed under the direction of Roberts/Reed-Culver Funeral Home, Stilwell, OK.

Lance Ryan Lingle

April 25, 1976 – June 10, 2021

Lance Ryan Lingle was born on April 25, 1976, in Fayetteville, Arkansas to Ken Lingle and Trish (Dornbrack) Lingle. He left this world bound for Heaven on Thursday, June 10, 2021, in Christie, Oklahoma at the age of 45 years, 1 month, and 16 days.

Lance was an intelligent young man. He loved working on his computer, looking things up with his mom and Uncle Gary, they all enjoyed watching movies together and sometimes all night long. He will be greatly missed. When Lance left Oklahoma, he settled in Istanbul and spent many years teaching there. He loved and cherished his friends and students he met while teaching. From his base in Turkey, he and Zeynep were able to travel all over Europe and Asia. Lance became a world traveler.

He is preceded in death by his father: Ken Lingle; his maternal grandparents: Robert and Patsy Dornbrack; his paternal grandparents: Jimmy and Nadine Lingle.

Lance is survived by his loving wife of nearly 20 years: Zeynep (Gurken) Lingle of the home in Istanbul, Turkey; his mother: Trish Chandler of Christie, Oklahoma; his uncle: Gary Dornbrack of Christie, Oklahoma; two sisters: Cande Jo Jacquot of Chester, South Carolina, and Ashlee Gann and husband Chasen of Hillsboro, Kansas; two brothers: Jason Lingle of Pryor, Oklahoma, and Cole Lingle of Siloam Springs, Arkansas; his step-father: Sam Chandler of Christie, Oklahoma; his grandmother: Meg Hamilton of Claremore, Oklahoma; two nephews, and two nieces; countless cousins, and many, many friends both here in the United States and also all those he loved back home in Turkey.

Funeral services were held at 10 am on Friday, June 18, 2021 at Roberts/Reed-Culver Chapel, Stilwell, OK with B.J. Latta officiating. Interment followed at Stilwell City Cemetery, Stilwell, OK.

Lizzie Della (Arms) Olive

January 17, 1951 – June 10, 2021

Lizzie Della (Arms) Olive, daughter of Carl and Imogene Arms was born January 17, 1951, in Roswell New Mexico. She departed this life on June 10th, 2021 at 8 AM in her home surrounded by all three of her daughters, at the age of 70.

She was married to Raleigh Olive. From this Union, she had three daughters Ralagens, Joanna, and Della. She enjoyed being a Mom, Grandma, and Great Grandma.

Before Retirement, Liz worked at McKee Foods (Little Debbie) in Gentry, Arkansas. Where she loved to bring home snack cakes to her family and friends. She truly loved to see us "Unwrap a Smile". She loved traveling with her husband, kids, and grandchildren. She also loved her small dogs Cici & Bucky and all her plants.

She was preceded in death by her loving husband Raleigh Olive, her parents, her grandson Brett Sullivan.

She is survived by a very loving and devoted family that includes her three daughters: Ralagene Olive of Stilwell, OK, Della Wilson & husband Bob Wilson of Stilwell, OK, Joanna Sullivan and her husband Leo Sullivan of Holdenville, OK. And her two shared sons, Weston Fazio of Fayetteville, AR, and Travis Olive of Stilwell, OK.

Her grandchildren: Tasha Howard, Sean Baird, Matthew Sullivan, Rachel Taylor, Alea McClendon, Josh Sullivan, Dusty Sullivan, and Lyssa Sullivan.

Graveside services were held at 10 am on Monday, June 14, 2021 at Ewing Chapel Cemetery, Stilwell, OK with Chaplain Bill Holcomb officiating. Interment followed under the direction of Roberts/Reed-Culver Funeral Home, Stilwell, OK.

Margie Lee (Kelley) Watkins

May 18, 1929 – June 2, 2021

Margie Lee Watkins, daughter of John W Kelley and Kanzada "Sadie" (Richards) Kelley, was born May 18, 1929 in the Wauhullau Community of Stilwell, Oklahoma. She departed this life to enter her eternal home June 2, 2021 at her residence



in Stilwell at the age of 92 years and 15 days.

Margie was one of six children. Her siblings were: Loretta "Rita"; James; Melvin; Sue and Joe Carl. Of her childhood years she would say, "She was her dad's boy. She was to help her dad cut wood, feed animals and plant crops while Sue was her mother's helper doing household chores and learning to cook." But that surely did not hinder Margie from becoming a wonderful cook and immaculate housekeeper.

Margie was raised in the Wauhullau community and graduated from Stilwell High School. She married Dallas Watkins May 8, 1946, at the age of 17. Together they began an adventurous life. Dallas was called to serve in the United States Air Force and was stationed in Fair Banks, Alaska. Margie stayed behind in Stilwell until his discharge in April 1947. They traveled to North Dakota and began to sharecrop for a Swedish gentleman whom Dallas had become acquainted. They worked the land and grew wheat and flax. In 1952, they returned to Stilwell and bought a farm and raised cattle and in two years had gone broke. Upon a family visit to California, Dallas obtained a job with General Motors. They then moved to California and started over. Margie was hired at Montgomery Wards and worked her way up to a Supervisory position. In 1983, Dallas and Margie retired and once again came home to Stilwell. In retirement, Margie canned or preserved everything Dallas grew in his meticulous garden. They made many trips across the country in their RV and were able to visit every state in the US with the exception of Florida and Hawaii. Margie enjoyed hosting family get-togethers and card and domino nights with several of their friends. She always hosted Thanksgiving and Christmas every year with the Waco Watkins family and made each holiday special for everyone. Margie loved children and many times could be found in the floor playing cars or games with the children. She loved joy, laughter, people and life and never missed an opportunity to say, "I love you".

Margie was a member of the First Baptist Church in Stilwell. She was always ready to help serve the church in any way possible, be it cooking for church dinners or helping with the meals during the Baptist Conference each summer. Margie was a member of the "Young at Heart" class and enjoyed many trips sight-seeing or eating out. She loved reading her Bible and studying the word. She prayed over her decisions in life, small or large, and relied on God for direction. Margie attended church regularly while her health allowed.

Margie was preceded in death by her husband Dallas Watkins; parents, John and Sadie (Richards) Kelley; sister and brother-in-law Loretta Maxine "Rita" (Kelley) and Sanford Jenkins; infant brother Melvin C Kelley; sister and brother-in-law Nancy Sue (Kelley) and Homer Scott; and brother Joe Carl Kelley.

She is survived by brother and sister-in-law James and Shirley Kelley of Derby, Kansas; sister-in law Mertie Day of Lakeport, California; nephew and wife Jim and Karen Kelley of Derby, Kansas; special nieces and husbands Rhonda and Mike Brown and Mary Ann and Randy Duncan all of Stilwell, Oklahoma; niece and husband Rita and David King of Strang, Oklahoma; and Danny Ketcher, who she cared for like a son. Many nieces, nephews, other relatives and many, many friends also survive her.

"May the Lord make your love increase and overflow for each other and for everyone else, just as ours does for you. 1 Thessalonians 3:12"

The Lord blessed Margie with an abundance of love and it did overflow to every person she met. She greeted each person with her beautiful smile and quickly made them feel as they were her immediate friend. Margie loved meeting people and was interested in learning more about them. She had a host of friends and loved each one deeply. She loved her family and she was in constant communication with each niece, nephew, cousin or distant cousin until her health withdrew her ability. We were blessed as family and friends to be the recipient of her overflowing love, May we learn from her example and share our love with others.

Funeral services were held at 10 am on Monday, June 7, 2021 at the First Baptist Church, Stilwell, OK with Pastor Scott Latta and Bro. Roger Haney officiating. Interment followed at Stilwell City Cemetery, Stilwell, OK under the direction of Roberts/Reed-Culver Funeral Home, Stilwell, OK.

Naomi Louise (Thompson) Hastings

February 14, 1929 – May 23, 2021

Naomi Louise Hastings was born on February 14, 1929, in Scraper, Oklahoma to Fred and Lily Thompson and passed away on May 23, 2021, at her home in Westville, Oklahoma.

She was an amazing cook and loved to cook. Naomi loved Sunday dinners with her family at her house. She enjoyed her flowers, plants, and her flower beds. She helped run their daycare for over 10 years, with her son Glenn. Naomi helped with foster care and with over 170 foster children. She was an amazing lady who loved her family. You would never leave her house hungry.

Naomi is preceded in death by her mother: Lily Thompson and father: Fred Thompson, 2 brothers: Bill and Watie, 5 sisters: Imogene, Norie, Mildred, Jewell, and Keet, 2 daughters: Kathy Foreman, and Clareleen Murray, and 1 son: Baby Dwight.

She is survived by 1 brother: Leon Thompson and wife Zelma of Cushing, Oklahoma, and 1 son: Glenn Hastings of Westville, Oklahoma. 6 grandchildren, 14 great-grandchildren, 8 great-great-grandchildren, and many nieces, nephews, and cousins.

Funeral services were held at 2 pm on Monday, June 7, 2021 at Roberts & Hart Chapel, Westville, Oklahoma with Bro. John Hammer officiating. Interment followed at Foreman Cemetery, Westville, Oklahoma.



The Lady in the Blue Sari

By Donna Boecher

In 2021, my friend Lydia wasn't wearing a sari. The world was one of fear, paper masks, cloth masks, and no masks. There was a flu pandemic with 90% survival rate. You could smell the fear; they wore masks everywhere – rural and urban areas. There was a plot to take over America's thinking; to isolate through social media; to hide our smiles; to make us inhumane; to herd us. They spoke of "herd immunity." That's what was achieved – a herd easily pushed and corralled. Lydia refused to play charades.

She was teaching via zoom to students thousands of miles away. All the time she was waiting for the world to open for tourists. There were opportunities among her Indian friends - perhaps a yoga studio, rare fabric importation, or a Bollywood television series since she knew Hindi. She repeated, "stay calm and carry on." Her family was farming in Oklahoma; literally keeping the home fires burning. It had been the coldest winter on record. Her sister-in-law had

ideas galore for family enterprises, but the wealth of "the lady in the blue saree" was not available yet for finance. Lydia prayed for abundance and blessings. She believed in healing, restoration, and she had faith.

Its 2031 now and Lydia is wearing a blue sari. There's much more to Lydia's story. Did I mention that she's a Christian? Well, she is and so am I.

Let me introduce myself. I'm Thomas Abraham; St. Thomas Christian; born in Kochi, India; and free-lance writer in the USA for Indian newspapers, especially The Times Picayune in my new hometown of New Orleans.

This is Lydia's story of faith. It began in 2019 when I met her sightseeing near St. Thomas' first church. The mystery and source of her faith was solved this year, as I gained a private investigator client named Alex who came from Washington state looking for his "Auntie." Google India and its Christian population. Peace. I know you can wait for "the rest of the story."

Obituaries

Vidal Junior Chavez

August 8, 1980 – June 9, 2021

Vidal Junior Chavez or "Junior" as everyone knew him; was born on August 8, 1980, in Dallas, Texas to Vidal Sanchez and Rosa Chavez and passed on June 9, 2021, in Tahlequah, Oklahoma at the age of 40 years, 10 months, and 1 day.

Junior was an exceptional handyman in several areas. He was always willing to help his family and friends when they needed him. He loved spending time with his children, family, and friends. His hobbies included going on motorcycle rides, breakdancing, fishing, and drawing.

He is preceded in death by his grandfather: Domingo Davila, paternal grandfather: Estanislado R. Sanchez, his sister: Victoria Chavez, and uncles: Delfino Davila and Angelo Sanchez.

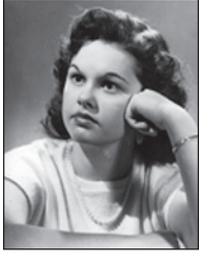
Junior is survived by his father and stepmother: Vidal and Juanita Sanchez, his mother: Rosa Chavez, his wife: Karrie Wyne Grigsby, his children: Jose Chavez, Sylviana Martinez, Mateo Chavez, Mia Chavez, Alexis Chavez, his sisters: Eusevia Pauline Olvera, Cassandra Sanchez, Jessie Jo Sanchez, Kacey Leach, Amanda Glass Ramirez, grandmothers: Pauline Davila, Magdalena Landin, Juanita Teehee, and numerous nieces, nephews, aunts, cousins, friends, and loved ones.

Funeral services were held at 10 am on Thursday, June 17, 2021 at Roberts/Reed-Culver Chapel, Stilwell, OK with Bro. David Commingdeer officiating. Interment followed at Fourkiller Cemetery, Stilwell, OK.

Virginia June (Henderson) Phillips

June 7, 1930 – June 9, 2021

Virginia June Phillips was born June 7, 1930. The stars fell for Virginia in her youth. We know this because she penned her life story for the family over a decade ago. In the memoir she recounted how, after her mother's death, she was walking to the grocery store at night when thousands of meteors began to rain down from the sky. It was a phenomenon she only witnessed once in her lifetime. "I thought the world was ending," she wrote. The world was not ending that night, but for a twelve-year-old girl who had just been left motherless, the world was altered forever. She would accompany her mother's body by train back to Westville, Oklahoma, where she had deep family roots.



Virginia's memoir is singular in that she focused not on herself but on the joy and passion revealed in her extraordinary lifetime, even in the midst of great struggle. She wrote of the delight she experienced when her family stopped to camp alongside the road as they headed out West in the great Okie migration. Her mother cooked a single pan of fried potatoes for the family. Virginia remembered it to be one of the best dishes she ever tasted.

One of Virginia's greatest gifts was her hospitality. She must have learned this from her folks, as they took in any and all Okie migrants who showed up in California, hungry and dejected. They didn't just feed people at their lowest moments, they celebrated with them, playing the fiddle and dancing into the late hours of the night. Any person who ever entered Virginia's home knows how she welcomed you in with deep affection and served up a cup of coffee or a milkshake, alongside any kind of snack you could dream up. She made magic in her kitchen and she loved to serve people. This is the true nature of a Jesus follower. You recognize yourself to be a servant to the divine beings surrounding you. You love all people as you love yourself, which means you give all people your best. Leftovers are not good enough.

In the realm of service, she took great delight in all little children, and little children were likewise drawn to her like fireflies to the light. The child of her youth continued to thrive in her heart throughout adulthood and children immediately recognized that in her. She spoke to each one as though they were the most important human being on earth, God's greatest miracle. When you speak to people in this way they begin to believe that they matter, too, regardless of their station in life. It is a wonderful, powerful, world-changing gift, and of this, she was a master.

Virginia's laugh was contagious. Anytime the phone rang she picked up the receiver laughing with joy before any words were ever exchanged. It wasn't possible to encounter her presence and not smile, no matter the day or the circumstance. This was just one of her many fruits from the Holy Spirit. Virginia Phillips yielded all the fruit, all the time. Her relationship with Jesus was so intimate, so personal, that she baked a birthday cake for Him every year at Christmas where the family would gather around and sing Happy Birthday to her personal savior. She spoke and sang to Jesus from the time she woke up to the time she went to sleep, in continuous praise and prayer.

No account of Virginia Phillips and her life can be complete without Jiggs Phillips. If anyone ever tells you there is no such thing as love at first sight, just remember this. Virginia and Jiggs first laid eyes on each other in Westville as teenagers and thank God, from the blessed time of that first encounter, the fountain of their unification overflowed, not only on this family, but on this town, this county, the world entire. When she drew her last breath a picture of Jiggs lay on the pillow next to her. It had remained there for the last twenty years since his death. We can't help but believe they are reunited in some way.

It was not lost on us that Virginia was released from this world in the time of the Ring of Fire eclipse.

Johnny Cash wrote, "The taste of love is sweet When hearts like ours meet I fell for you like a child Oh, but the fire went wild"

The love Virginia had for her family and the community was sweet and it spread like wildfire wherever she went - Westville Public Schools, Sunday School, the School Board, her prison ministry - her love could not be contained. It was wildfire. We rejoice.

At Virginia's death, our sweet Rochelle Lewis sang her over to the far bank of the river with "I'll Fly Away". She departed on June 8, 2021, surrounded by her loving family and it had to be thus, as family was her life's greatest ambition. We rejoice, for it is nothing short of a miracle to have been taught how to love from One such as this. We go back out into the world now to show all whom we encounter these mysterious things we have witnessed.

Virginia Phillips was preceded in death by her parents, Frank and Bessie Henderson, her sister Yvonne Walborn, her husband, Harold "Jiggs" Phillips, and her daughter Deana Cooper. She is survived by her beloved sons, Clark and Cheryl Phillips of Westville, Stan and Gail Phillips of Proctor, and Robert Cooper of Wagoner. A host of blessed grandchildren and great-grandchildren shout praises for her and continue to encounter her in their dreams, even in the days after her death. The world has not ended but it is altered forever.

Graveside services were held at 2 pm on Monday, June 14, 2021 at Westville City Cemetery, Westville, OK with Reverend David Jones officiating. Interment followed under the direction of Roberts & Hart Funeral Home, Westville, OK.

Wilma Dean (Barker) Vaughn

June 25, 1930 – May 26, 2021

We regret to announce the passing of Wilma Dean (Barker) Vaughn, 90, of Westville, OK, on May 26th, 2021. Wilma passed peacefully surrounded by her loved ones.

Wilma was predeceased by her Husband, A.C. Vaughn, and her parents, Homer and Alpha Barker.

She is survived by daughter, Raynelle Sommer, of Tulsa. Son, Phillip Vaughn of Westville. Niece, Shauna Janway and Husband Jeremy of Westville. Granddaughter, Amanda Russell and husband Matthew of Sapulpa. Granddaughter, Tara Sullivan and fiancé Jody Fees of Sand Springs. Grandson, Eric Vaughn of Sapulpa. And a host of great-grandkids and dear friends.

Funeral Services were held on Wednesday, June 2, 2021 at 2 pm at Roberts & Hart Memorial Chapel, Westville, Oklahoma with Pastor Chris Harrison officiating. Interment followed at Stilwell City Cemetery, Stilwell, OK.



What's So Punny? PunFun

Did You Know? The U.S. has a different electrical system than the U.K.? That's because the U.S. revolted on July 4, 1776!

Happy Fourth of July...celebrate your independence well...

To OUR readers: If you have a funny pun, please send it in by email: straightforwardpress21@gmail.com or to Straight Forward Free Press, P.O. Box 885, Stilwell, OK 74960.

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