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WEEKEND GAZETTE

Volume 3 • Issue 23

Serving Stilwell & Adair County, Oklahoma

Friday December 15, 2023

STILWELL SPORTS SPOTLIGHT SPECIAL Vinita BIG DAWG Shootout Tournament

Lady Indians Capture 1st Place Indians Take 2nd

On Thursday, December 7, the Stilwell Indians and Lady Indians traveled to Vinita as two of the 8 teams in the BIG DAWG Shoot out basketball tournament. Saturday evening, December 9, saw both Stilwell squads in the finals. The Lady Indians who came into the tourney with a 2-0 record, having blown out Roland and Checotah, were pitted against Lincoln Christian. The Indians came in at 1-1, having lost a squeaker at home versus Roland and a runaway home victory over Checotah. The girls got to the finals by defeating Miami in a first round cake walk. In the second game, Grove gave Stilwell some competition, with the Lady Indians coming out on top by a score of 55-44. Lincoln Christian, ranked #2 in Class 4A, would become a formidable challenge. As a matter of fact, this game turned out to be a nip and tuck tussle which came down to the last minute of frantic play on both sides. It was decided at the free throw line. With ice water in their veins, Stilwell stepped up to the line and hit only net. When the buzzer sounded, the Lady Indians gathered in a victory bunch at mid-court ready to hoist the first place trophy. Final score: Stilwell 50 Lincoln Christian 47. The Lady Indians now enjoy a 5-0 record and a #4 Class 4A state ranking. With the Boys waiting in the wings to du-

plicate the Girls' achievement, the table was set to take home a dual championship. The Indians had played their way into the finals by defeating Grove in the first round, 46-32. In their next game, the Indians again won by a margin of 14 when they defeated Lincoln Christian 54-40. The Pauls' Valley game would prove to be a nail-biter. This game would go down to the wire with Pauls Valley coming out on top 40-38. Taking home a second place trophy is still a noteworthy achievement and something of which to be proud. The Indians are now 3-2 on the year. Something else which is noteworthy: the Indians' 2 losses are by a combined 5 points. A splendid season awaits both the Lady Indians and the Indians. More excitement in store!



Congratulations to our Lady Indians!! Big Dawg Shoot-Out CHAMPIONS!!! (2023 Vinita Tournament) Stilwell Indian Athletics Facebook



Congratulations to Snowda Watie and Prairie Holmes!! Prairie was All-Tournament and Snowda was MVP!



Congratulations to our Stilwell Indians winning Runner-Up in the Big Dawg Shoot-Out 2023 Vinita Tournament! Great job guys!! We are so proud of you!

Stilwell Indian Athletics photos from Facebook



Congratulations to Brayton Carter, and Brayden George for winning All-Tournament! Stilwell Indian Athletics

PROVERB POWER

Proverbs 18:10 KJV

The name of the LORD is a strong tower; the righteous runneth into it and is safe.

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is now ONLINE on Google!
www.straightforwardfreepress.com
Check it out and enjoy!



The City of Stilwell

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

Number 54

By Donna Boecher

Raccoons. If you've lived rurally or gone tent camping, raccoons are those black-masked, five fingered thieves of your groceries. I remember my grandmother telling stories of cooking raccoon. They were considered a "clean" meat because they washed everything they ate, at least that's what Granny said. My personal memory of raccoons' nocturnal omnivore activities was the night they dragged a long loaf of white bread through a 3" diameter hole hollowed out of our Styrofoam ice cooler. How could it happen! We had secured it between a concrete park bench and its

concrete table top! Surely, the cooler was protected! Ten years later a neighbor would ask for help to rid her attic of raccoons. What should she do? TAKE AWAY ITS FOOD SOURCE. It takes only 65 days for a mother raccoon to birth her babies (4-6 young) in the summer. "Mapache," Spanish for "one who takes everything in its hands," says it all. They are around the world now, having come across the Bering Strait from Asia to America eons ago. The Spiro Mounds about 50 miles south of Stilwell near Spiro exposed an Indian Raccoon Priest's gorget (ornamental collar)

found at the site which existed between 1350-1450 CE (AD if you're my age). A TV series on Daniel Boone starring Fess Parker (1964-1970) showed him as a frontiersman who wore a "coon" skin hat with its ringed tail hanging down his back. At eleven to fifty plus pounds, raccoons are today considered a destructive pest regardless of their cute appearance. So sad.




Bill Of Rights Day 2023
Today December 15th

DEAR JOHN.....

Dear John,

I've been married for 27 years and to the same man. I think that's some kind of record for the way the world is now days. We have had our ups and downs as all marriages do. My man is faithful to me, and I can trust him as far as the crow flies. My only bone of contention is his love and care for his coon dogs. I think he loves me too, but at times it is a toss-up. How can I be jealous of a dog? Well, let me tell you. My husband goes shopping and comes back with collars, chew toys, and special dog treats. I just wish sometimes that he would get me a new collar, maybe a diamond necklace, or a box of chocolates for my special treat. Sometimes I ask him, "Do you love me as much as your dogs?" He says, "Of course I love you as much." Well, I wanted him to say he loved me more. One time I got a nice soft dog brush and asked him to brush me. He just laughed at me and said, "Thanks for the brush." Then he went out and brushed the dog. How can I make him understand I need some of the puppy love on me?

Little Ann

Dear Little Ann...After 27 years of marriage, you and your husband have something going. Is it love for each other? Love has many facets. You mentioned that you have had your ups and downs, yet you have endured. This tells Dear John that there is commitment to each other. You mentioned that your husband is faithful. With those two ingredients, your love is on solid ground. Another facet of love is romance. It sounds like you are missing out on romance from your mate? Perhaps you can find a way to create a romantic mood? Try this: put on something sexy; when your husband comes home, greet him with a warm hug and kiss; tell him how wonderful he is; put on some romantic music while you prepare his favorite meal; turn the lights down low and after dinner, dance. This intimacy will create your desired romance. His dogs will have to take second place.

Sincerely,

Dear John

Have you got a question for Dear John? email: dear-john@writeme.com Real Name Not Used. Copyright 2023. All Rights Reserved.

WATTS HAPPENING

Christmas Parade Tradition

Story by John Bankel

On Saturday, December 9, at 1 pm, under partly cloudy skies and a brisk southern breeze providing a balmy temperature, parade participants gathered at the Watts High School parking lot to get their spot in the Annual Watts Christmas Parade. I filmed the procession from my place near the Town Clerk's office and you too can enjoy it by clicking on the QR Code below. Merry Christmas to the unique town of Watts!



Santa got a special ride in the Watts parade.



The **STRAIGHT FORWARD**  **FREE** Press SM

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Publisher: Golden Crown Publishing LLC

Donna Boecher.....Editor
John Bankel.....Co-Editor/Journalist
Stephanie Cullinane.....Composer

PROVERBS 29:2-"When the righteous are in authority, the people rejoice; but when the wicked beareth rule, the people mourn."

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Vocabulary Word:

deft. Quick and skillful, dexterous.

Ex. The deft raccoon easily tore up the Styrofoam ice chest with its hands.

For unto you is born this day in the city of David a Savior, who is Christ the Lord. Luke 2:11

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"It is well on the threshold of a journey to be taught reverence and awe."



STILWELL Sports Spot Light

Commentary by John Bankel

Indians Wrestling Update

Stilwell Wrestling is off to a soaring start under new head coach Chris Henry. In their most recent display of mat mastery, in their first dual meet of the season, the Indians took Heavener to the mat by a dominating score of 60-12. They followed that up with a lopsided dual meet score of 59-6 over Grove. With that impressive 2-0 start, Stilwell next traveled to Hilldale on December 12. Hilldale proved to be a more challenging opponent as they fashioned a 45-24 (unofficial score) win over the Indians. Wins are good to have, yet it is the tougher competition which helps one get better. Go Indian Wrestlers!

Stilwell

Indians Wrestling Update

Came up short tonight against Hilldale losing 45-24. But we did have some quality individual wins tonight:

- At 126, Tray Chuculate recorded a fall
- At 132, Alejandro Garcia had a hard fought win by decision
- At 144, Johnny Unger recorded the fall
- At 175, Chalino Martinez recorded the fall
- At 285, Ignacio Guevara recorded a decision

We are proud of all our wrestlers regardless of the wins/losses. It's about the process, not the outcome.

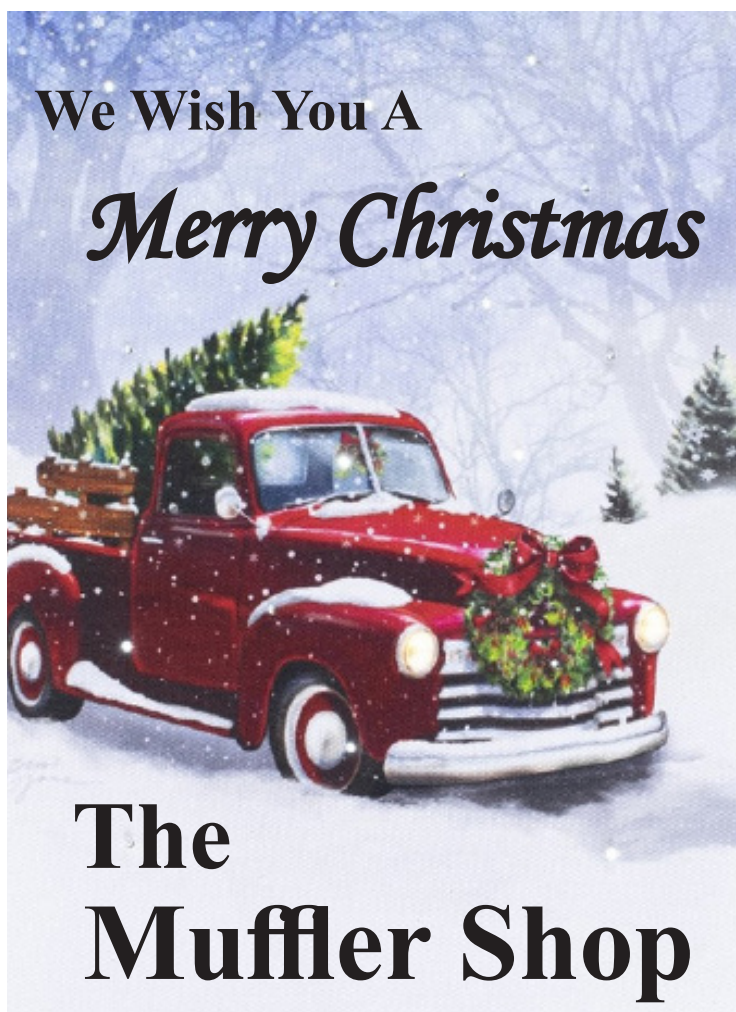
Update from;
Stilwell Wrestling
Facebook page.



Indians and Lady Indians Basketball Update

On Tuesday, December 12, in their fifth game in 8 days, Stilwell took a road trip to Poteau to battle the Poteau Pirates. Poteau has long been an arch rival of the Indians and Lady Indians. In the first game of the night, the Lady Indians easily handled the Lady Pirates. The outcome, by the end of the first quarter, was never in doubt as Stilwell once again used a stifling, ball stealing defense to generate easy points. The final score was: Stilwell 67 Poteau 36, giving the Lady Indians a perfect 6-0 record on the

season. In the evening finale, the Indians looked undisciplined in the first half that was marred by 5 technical fouls. Poteau took advantage to tie the Indians 40-40 at the half. The second half turned out to be a completely different game, as Stilwell turned on the juice and won going away by a score of 73-52. The Indians improved to 4-2. Once again, Freshmen Brayton Carter and Chase Benham made significant contributions, on both offense and defense. Stilwell's next game will be at Locust Grove on December 19. Girls tipoff at 6 pm.



ADAIR COUNTY HIGH SCHOOL BASKETBALL ROUNDUP

Commentary by John Bankel

WATTS ENGINEERS AND LADY ENGINEERS

After losing their first game of the year to Oaks Mission, the Engineers have fashioned a 3 game winning streak and are now 3-1. In a home game on December 5, the Engineers played hard to beat the Welch Panthers 59-44. The Lady Engineers, who are now 1-3, could not get anything going in their game versus Welch as they lost by a score of 53-18. Next game for both squads will be December 12 at Fairland. Girls tipoff at 6 pm. Boys at 7:30. Sorry, scores were not available at press time.

Westville Yellowjackets and Lady Yellowjackets

The Yellowjackets, after 5 games, are still trying to find the formula for victory. They are now 0-5 on the year. In their latest game, on December 12, they were overrun by Keys by a score of 78-46 in their first District game. Their next game will be at home versus Central on December 15. Tipoff is at 7:30. The Lady Yellowjackets, meanwhile, won their first game on December 9 versus Colcord, 48-46. On December 12, they traveled to Keys in the first District game. Sorry, score not available at press time. On December 15, Central comes to town in a District game. Tipoff is at 6 pm.

Cave Springs Hornets and Lady Hornets

The Hornets played at home on December 12 against Hulbert. The Hornets, who are 3-2 on the year, came out on top by a score 65-58. On December 15, Gans comes to the house in a 7:30 match up. Meanwhile, the Lady Hornets, who are 3-2 on the year, lost to Hulbert by a narrow margin of 50-46. A home game versus Gans on December 15 awaits. Tipoff at 6 pm.



Week 6 of 8.

Hello all you Krypto fans! We only have 3 more episodes of the Kontest to go. So far the competition has been vigorous and will probably go down to the wire. There is still time to get in on the fun and the \$25 cash and calculator prize. Today's answer is 12. You are playing with 6, 23, 9, 2, 16. Remember, you must use all 5 numbers and any combination of addition, subtraction, multiplication or division to write an expression that equals the answer: 12. If you have missed previous episodes, you can go back by visiting our website: www.straightforwardfreepress.com and submit solutions before this Kontest ends.

Email solutions to: themathguy@usa.com or mail to: Krypto Kontest POB 885 Stilwell OK 74960

Searching for a Word: destruction. The act of destroying.

Ex. The destruction of the old outhouse was needed before they could build a new one.

Dreamstar Connections Pageants Christmas 2023



2023 Sr. Overall Model
Aaliyah Larson



2023 Poinsettia Court left to right Poinsettia Princess-
Marlee Jo Northcross, Poinsettia Supreme
Jayla Muskrat, Poinsettia Queen Tenley Northcross



2023 Jr. Christmas CO-ED
Sabrina Thompson



2023 Jr. Christmas CO-ED Miss Paisley
Wilson and Santa Baby Elf.



2023 Jr. Christmas CO-ED
Diesel Mize



2023 Miss Hospitality Queen
Ariel Kirkpatrick



2023 Most Beautiful Queen
Neveah Small



Remington Ritchie 2023 Most
Beautiful Queen, Santa Baby
Eyes and Snowflake Fashionista.

Third Annual Angel Tree Coon Hunt Benefit Huge Success

Story by John Bankel



On Friday, December 8, at 4 pm, coon hunters from as far away as Vinita gathered at the Adair County Fairgrounds to take part in a benefit for Angel Tree. Organizers were Devin Long and Daryl Newman. Angel Tree charity raises money to buy Christmas gifts for children in need. The coon hunters pay an

entrance fee and then win a monetary award for the largest and smallest coon. The hunt started at 6 pm and ended at 1 am. This year's prize winners are shown in the accompanying photos. Daryl Newman told me that each year the total amount raised has doubled, from \$500 in year 1, to \$1000 in year 2; this year's hunt

raised a little over \$2000. He told me that the winners donated their winnings to Angel Tree. This year's event was extraordinary. It honored two hunters who had gone on to their celestial hunting ground. Morgan Adair, a young man of 27, passed away after enduring many health problems, although he stayed in the hunt for

as long as he could. One of the trophy's bears his name. Elwin Green's name is on the other trophy. Daryl told me that it was Elwin who gave him his first coon dog that got him started in his coon hunting some thirty years ago. It is amazing how things sometimes turn out? You can be sure that for Daryl Newman,

Photos submitted by Stevie Newman

this hunt was extraordinary. For Angel Tree and for the children who will benefit from the generosity of all the coon hunters, the 3d Annual Angel Tree Coon Hunt will be a blessing not soon forgotten! A Merry Christmas to all!



Tristin Stanley , Derek Drain ,Kodie Stanley ,Tylan Drain and Dean Kirk won first place with 33 lb



Cody Lookwood and Nate Bunch split big coon. Not pictured are Dean Kirk and Kodie Stanley



Tristian Rector, Kevin woods and Blaine Croley winning the small coon.



Chanse Clinton, and Mason Cox came in third.

No picture Eric Stanley Won 2nd Place.



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Angel Tree Coon Hunt Benefit Sponsors >>>>>>>>

Obituaries



Chooge
September 22, 1984 -
December 2, 2023



**Christopher "Joey"
Joseph Pace**
January 24, 1986 -
November 30, 2023



Westville Public Schools



New State Champions in the hive tonight Jackets!!
The esports team, coached by Jordan Balmer, are the
2023 Valorant State Champions, Scissortail Division!
Congratulations all!!

Native American and Alaska Native in School Project

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Osiyo!

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Stilwell Middle School Gym

PRESS RELEASE

FOR RELEASE: December 20 , 2023

CONTACT: Jan Wilhite , Secretary of Adair County Election Board,
918-696-7221 or adaircounty@elections.ok.gov

BOARD OF EDUCATION PRIMARY ELECTION ANNOUNCED

The Adair County Election Board has announced that a Primary Election will be held for Board of Education Office No. 1 in Dahlongegah School District, and Office No. 4 in Westville School District on Tuesday, February 13, 2024 . State law mandates a primary election be held if more than two candidates file for the same school board office. The candidates are: Dahlongegah: Kenny Limore, Jr., Randy McCarter, and Michael Brown.

Westville: James Hinkel, Jeremiah Atha, and Charlotte Wood .

According to Adair County Election Board Secretary Jan Wilhite , if one candidate receives more than 50% of the votes, that candidate will be declared the elected official. If no one receives more than 50% of the votes, the top two candidates will vie for the office in the April 2, 2024 Board of Education General Election.

OPTIONAL TEXT: Candidates who filed for office but will appear on the General Election ballot ONLY are as follows: (LIST SCHOOL DISTRICT, OFFICE, CANDIDATE NAME)

OPTIONAL TEXT: Candidates who filed for office unopposed and will NOT APPEAR on the General Election ballot are as follows: (LIST SCHOOL DISTRICT, OFFICE, CANDIDATE NAME) Voters who are registered and reside at an address within the geographical boundaries of the Dahlongegah and Westville Public School District are eligible to vote in both the Board of Education Primary Election and General Election.

If you have questions about eligibility, contact your County Election Board at 918-696-7221 or adaircounty@elections.ok.gov .

You can also find your district information using the State Election Board's OK Voter Portal at oklahoma.gov/elections/ovp.

Zion Public School



Congratulations to our Zion Jets! They placed 2nd in the Stilwell 7th Grade Tournament! Zion Public School Facebook



Congratulations to our Lady Jets on placing first in the Stilwell 7th Grade Tournament!



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Revelation 1:7

7 Behold, he cometh with clouds; and every eye shall see him, and they also which pierced him: and all kindreds of the earth shall wail because of him.

Even so, Amen.

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