

The STRAIGHT FORWARD



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Serving Stilwell & Adair County, Oklahoma

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Special Feature:

ADAIR COUNTY ARTIST VIBE

Within the confines of Adair County there is an enormous amount of artistic talent, be it in Painting, Music, Crafts or Writing. Too often these artists perform their artistry in obscurity. In the first issue of each month, The Straight Forward FREE Press shines the spotlight on an Adair County artist. In this issue, we focus on a dynamic music duo: singers/songwriters Elzie B. Hickerson, affectionately and fondly called "B" by his wife Lanada, who perform a variety of music with guitar, keyboard and vocals as:

"B & Lanada," simply "For The Love Of Music." *By John Bankel*



B & Lanada performing at The Branch in Tahlequah

Elzie B. Hickerson was born in Linz, Austria. When this writer asked him what he remembers of his time in this many splendored land, the scene of "The Sound Of Music," he replied, "Nothing at all, since I was only 6 weeks old when we moved." Elzie's father was in the military and as such, he ended up moving quite a lot in his youth. Indeed, he said that his family moved every two years! When asked how being the "new kid on the block" every two years affected him, he said, "I became very shy, and mostly kept to myself." Today his shyness seems to have largely disappeared since he has performed regularly in front of various sizes of audiences over the years. He started playing guitar at age 12 and is mostly self-taught having learned while playing with other musicians in informal jam sessions. His family ended

up in Oklahoma where B spent 40 years as an educator, teaching computers to junior high students as well as adults in the evening. It was his teaching career that brought him and Lanada together. Lanada was born "Lanada Cassidy" in Portsmouth, Ohio to a military father. So Lanada, too, traveled much, with overseas stops in England and Greece. Her papa was a country musician who led a band called "Cass & The Drifters." The band had quite a following among the military. Lanada picked up the guitar at an early age and became a pretty good picker, much to her father's chagrin, who was a strummer and singer. He told Lanada that she would never be a singer. Lanada had other ideas. Her younger sister, Trina, formed a singing duo, and with Lanada writing their songs, began performing at various

venues in Oklahoma City as "TLC." They ended up at the OKC Opry where they commanded the attention of folks from the Grand Ol' Opry, Nashville, Tennessee, the mecca of country music. They performed on that stage 4 times with some of the alltime greats. Lanada showed this writer her very thick photo album chock full of photos of her and her sister posing with these musicians. Their musical aspirations eventually dimmed yet Lanada is very satisfied with the pinnacle that her and her sister reached while their mother was still living, where she had the

Continued on page 3 ...



Karen George Gives Talk On Women's Roles During Vietnam Conflict by John Bankel

In one of the breakout sessions held at the annual OHCE Northeast Oklahoma District meeting at the Broken Arrow Armed Forces Center on March 29, Karen George, standing in front of a display of some of her military memorabilia photos, addresses a group of people who are interested in learning about women's roles during the Vietnam Conflict. One of the first things George emphasized was

that the military operation in Vietnam was not to be labeled a "war," since Congress never declared "war." Thus, the label "conflict." Karen joined the Army in 1971 and served stateside until 1972. She said that she really enjoyed her time as a communications specialist. She told about how women, at that time, did not see combat duty. However, their role in the Vietnam Conflict should not be minimized nor ignored. George said that 11,000 women served directly in enemy territory. Of that number, George said that 90% served in a medical capacity with most of them serving as nurses and a small number as doctors. The rest could be found serving in some kind of clerical duty. She said that she is not in favor of women serving as combat soldiers. According to her, women can best serve in support of the male soldiers. Today, that is no longer the case where women can be seen on the front lines in combat missions. In civilian life, Karen has continued in service to others. Before her retirement, one might remember that she served as the Librarian for the Stilwell Public Library. Today she stays active with the Stilwell VFW and American Legion as well as a member and officer of the Oklahoma Home Community Education (OHCE) Stilwell Zion Chapter. Truly, service is Karen George's passion.



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Remember your Creator before the silver cord is loosed, Or the golden bowl is broken, Or the pitcher is shattered at the fountain, Or the wheel is broken at the well. Then the dust will return to the earth as it was, And the spirit will return to GOD who gave it.

Ecclesiastes 12: 6,7 King James Version (KJV)

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THE CONSERVATIVE VIEW

By Russell Turner

THE POLITICS OF JEALOUSY

We humans are creatures that have a host of emotions that we have to deal with, some of them are positive and some of them are negative. One of the most negative emotions that we have to deal with is that of jealousy. According to one definition, jealousy is a complex emotion that encompasses feelings ranging from suspicion to rage to fear to humiliation. It strikes people of all ages, and is most typically aroused when a person perceives a threat to a valued relationship from a third party. The threat may be real or imagined. Jealousy has a habit of rearing its ugly head under the best of circumstances, but that emotion is becoming the weapon of choice for many of the liberal politicians in our nation.

All of us have the desire to have money and power; in the past, Americans increased their ability to get there with educating themselves and hard work. While many of us are far from rich, we are probably as well educated and work as hard as those who become rich. Many times, the rich just hit the right time to provide a service or product while the rest of us failed to see the trends they did. While I may not have as many possessions as my neighbor, I was raised not to covet or become jealous of their success. Sadly, many of our elected leaders are cultivating those negative emotions in order to build political power. Recently, resident Biden released his 5.8 trillion-dollar budget for the 2023 fiscal year; among all of the pork is his proposal to tax rich people on unrealized capital gains.

The bill would require the richest U.S. families to pay a minimum of 20 percent on all of their income, including capital gains on unsold assets such as stocks. Under current law, capital gains are only taxed when they are sold. I happen to have a small stock portfolio, I have some stocks that gained value in the past, and sadly I held on to them and later they dropped into negative territory; the

same scenario can happen in all investments whether it be real estate, cattle or committees. In my opinion, the supposed people who write up this nonsense have no comprehension of how a free-market system works.

When you look at the numbers the rich are already paying the lion's share of the taxes, 53% of our citizens pay no federal income tax. It is one thing not to have to pay any tax, but a huge number of those people are on the receiving end of programs such as earned income tax credit. There are countless programs that government is funding; we Americans need to realize that while government is big and powerful, we don't have enough money to satisfy all of our wants. Too many of our people have been taken in by the politics of jealousy; it is easy to sit back and ask for a handout from the government instead of becoming self-sufficient. Over the past several months I have noticed many businesses, small and large, advertising to hire new workers; they are finding it hard to compete monetarily with our government. The same leaders who are advocating taxing unrealized gains are the same ones who wanted to give illegal aliens 450 thousand dollars because their children were housed when they came into our country illegally; they also wanted to write off farm loans to selected citizens solely because of their ethnic background.

Instead of pitting one American against another our government should promote freedom and self-sufficiency. I may never be rich in the money department, but the God-given freedoms that our country was founded upon makes me among the richest people ever to inhabit this planet.



The Lady in the Blue Sari

Part 38
By Donna Boecher

Lydia, as she looked up at the night stars, continued to want a taste of home. At noon she had baked cornbread, rather than grilling corn seasoned with ghee (butter) and garam masala (mixed spices). Mulling over her decision, she thought of her great-uncle George Nolan's supper in Oklahoma; it tied the best of home and of India – corn and buttermilk. Although India water

buffalo buttermilk had more protein, fat, and taste than the American cow, he made do with his cow's fermented whole milk. Lunch's cooled cornbread, taken from the oven, would be crumbled in a glass wide-bowled goblet, and covered with buttermilk for his favorite evening meal. Turning into her bungalow, she opened her small refrigerator and took out the chilled buttermilk. She would sleep well tonight thinking of family.



Dear John,

My husband and I went on a diet together. He told me how much he weighed but I didn't want him to see mine. He came up with this bright idea to have me write it down and put it in an envelope. A few days ago my friend who works where my husband does said he was telling everyone how much I weigh and bragging about how much he has lost. I got the envelope and I can't tell that it has been opened, but I guess he did and glued it back. I'm really mad and thinking of not nice things to do to him. Should I forgive and forget or lose a bunch of weight and divorce him?

Big Mad Lady

Dear Big Mad Lady... your husband may be the reason that you are struggling with your weight. His insensitivity may be fueling your obvious insecurity. My question is: has he always been this way or has he developed this penchant over time? Losing weight may not solve the problem. I advise that you may have to seek outside help with your relationship. Seeking counseling, of course, involves the agreement of both of you. First, talk to your husband about how you felt when you learned about his indiscretion. He may have thought it was funny and has no idea how much he hurt you? When he realizes the effect of his errant behavior, he should apologize. If he does, that may be a sign that he is willing to change. If he starts treating you with more respect and maybe even some extra hugs and kisses, that counseling session may not be necessary. Meanwhile, make a commitment to yourself, that no matter what, you will stick to a weightloss program. There are plenty to choose from. Let Dear John know of your success.

Sincerely,
Dear John

Got a question for Dear John? send to: dearjohn@writeme.com

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Mullin It Over:

Breaking Down the Biden Budget

By Congressman Markwayne Mullin

Biden has officially submitted his budget request to congress for Fiscal year 2023. It should come as a surprise to no one that it consists of more reckless spending that will further exacerbate the many crises our country is currently facing. The Biden Administration cannot continue to drive the same economic policy and expect different results.

The president's budget request should reflect his most important priorities. When judged by this measure, President Biden's priorities are more taxes and more government. Instead of securing our border, utilizing domestic energy producers, and supporting small businesses, his priorities are Green New Deal incentives that do nothing to bolster our energy independence and socialist spending that pushes the citizens of our country into full dependence on the federal government. There are zero mentions of "debt crisis" or "inflation crisis," meanwhile "climate crisis" is mentioned 33 times.

There are \$45 billion in taxes on domestic energy production and a 25 percent increase to the Environmental Protection Agency's (EPA) budget. This is despite the fact the EPA has crippled our domestic producers with stifling regulation. I should also mention there are zero plans for new domestic oil and natural gas leases and zero mention of resuming the Keystone Pipeline.

The Director of the Of-

fice of Budget and Management Shalanda Young claimed, "the budget is fully paid for." We've heard that before. Just like when the Biden Administration said this the first time, it has been proven untrue.

This budget will spend \$73 trillion over the next decade, which would raise the national debt to \$45 trillion by 2032. This would shatter the current record of \$30 trillion of national debt that was broken during President Biden's first year. Further, the spending in this budget is 66 percent higher than the average spending over the last 10 years.

The worst part: the hardship it will bring to all Americans. This budget hits families and businesses with \$58 trillion in taxes. Our entrepreneurs in Oklahoma will carry this burden. So will our farmers and ranchers, our parents, our teachers, and even the generation after us. The list goes on. No matter who you are, this reckless spending affects you, too.

This is all on top of the fact Americans are already paying over \$3500 more a year due to inflation and \$1300 more a year for gas. It's not sustainable.

The president's top priority should be the American people. For many struggling with record inflation, skyrocketing energy prices, and distrust in our Commander-in-Chief, this budget is an absolute blow. If this is the path we are headed, Americans cannot withstand Washington's one-party rule.

IN SEARCH OF A WORD.....

Staunch – firm and steadfast; loyal or true; faithful

Ex. He was staunch in his belief that "God is love."



THE KIPLING KORNER

*"No easy hope or lies
Shall bring us to our goal,
But iron sacrifice
There is but one task for all—
One life for each to give.
What stands if Freedom fall?"*

Puzzle Page

KRYPTO KONTEST 3.0 ROUND 6

Congratulations to Meisha, Westville and Beth, Stilwell, for submitting a korrekt krypto this past week. Looks like we have a kontest! There is still plenty of time to get in on the fun and win the prize of \$25 and a calculator with 3 rounds to go.

Let's see what you can do with this week's krypto challenge. The answer is

10. You are playing with 3, 8, 18, 22, 7. Remember you must use all 5 of the numbers and any combination of addition, subtraction, multiplication or division to write an expression that equals 10. Take a crack at it.

Have some number fun! Send your solution to: Krypto Kontest 3.0 POB 885 Stilwell, OK 74960

ARTIST VIBE CONTINUED.....

opportunity to see them perform on the Grand Ol' Opry stage. Thence came a turning point in her life. She had started a very successful business and realized she needed computer skills to develop her enterprise. She decided to take a computer class to help her with her business. The teacher of that class? Elzie B. Hickerson! The romance blossomed over the next 7 years and ended with marriage in 2001. Their love of music was the clincher. Lanada brings a very powerful resonance to her singing. B has a more mellow folksy voice. He has the presence of an old New England sea captain, straight out of a Winslow Homer painting. Together this couple delivers a harmonious easy listening sound and a commanding rhythm for "cutting a rug." Lanada tells that they have a repertoire of over 300 songs, besides the many that they have written. B has 3 new songs on YouTube, iTunes and other social media music outlets, with 8 more waiting in the wings. Among his new songs is the beautiful romantic ballad, "This Is Our Time," whose melody and lyrics are sure to stir the romantic heart in all of us. It is "For The Love Of Music" that brings these two lovers together and will, no doubt, keep them there. "B & Lanada" are well worth seeing and well worth hearing.

Local nonprofit plans to head to Honduras four times this year

OLGA Ministries, a nonprofit started by a local Westville family, heads to Honduras this May for the first of four planned trips this year. OLGA supports and works with an orphanage on the outskirts of the capital city, Tegucigalpa, where they help fund the operating costs of the orphanage and help the residents in the Reyniel Funes community who have lost their source of income due to Covid and slow economy. This is the fifth year OLGA has been involved with the community. In the past, besides taking the girls living at the orphanage on several outings, they have sponsored micro-businesses, built houses for two families who were living in substandard housing, replaced furniture and appliances for families whose houses were flooded during hurricanes ETA and Iota, sponsored a university scholarship for a girl at the orphanage and hosted a vacation Bible school at the neighborhood school. In May, they will start building their third house for a family living in the southern part of the country near Choluteca. OLGA is funded by family, friends and area churches, and this Ministry believes that 100% of the donations

should go to the orphanage or their community outreach. Administrative and travel costs are covered by the family and those traveling on the mission. Information about the Ministry can be found at their Facebook page Olga Ministries or their website "olgaministries.org"

OLGA Ministries will have an informational booth in the nonprofit section during the Strawberry Festival in May, where someone who donates to the ministry will win a quilt donated to the ministry. Along with OLGA t-shirts and donated crafts, there will be jewelry made and paintings painted by the girls from the orphanage. On June 3rd, the DoubleA team in Springdale, the Naturals, will host an OLGA Ministries night. \$10 tickets for that event will be available at the booth during the Strawberry Festival and from Jim or Shari at the Red Barn feed store in Westville. The last day to buy the tickets is May 19.

If interested in becoming a supporter of OLGA Ministries, you may contact them at "olgaministries.org" or call Tom at 479-957-0706

OLGA MINISTRIES RAFFLES QUILT AT STRAWBERRY FESTIVAL

The Quilt pictured below will be raffled off at the Stilwell Strawberry Festival May 14, 2022. The proceeds will help for the mission trip to Honduras. Stop by their booth and get your ticket.



Molly O'Connor, Faith Phillips, Regina McLemore, Wanda Elliott, and Cayla Lewis.

TOURING WITH FAITH PHILLIPS AND ART COUNCIL MEMBERS

Local author Faith Phillips, and Molly O'Connor and Cayla Lewis, from the Oklahoma Arts Council, recently visited Stilwell High School and other spots around Adair County. Wanda Elliott and Regina McLemore, from the Adair County Historical and Genealogical Association, took them on a short historical tour of Adair County. As they visited the replica of the old Flint Courthouse in Dahlongah, the Christie Family Cemetery in Wauhilla, and the Baptist Mission and Cemetery near Westville, Mrs. Elliott and Mrs. McLemore shared their history. They described the once active community of Mays, Ned Christie defending himself against Judge Parker's marshals, and Jesse Bushy-

head bringing his congregation over the Trail of Tears. As they sat on the grounds of the old mission, Ms Phillips played the award-winning NPR podcast that her students made in 2019. This podcast was the catalyst which brought to light the great talent of area youth. It also revealed the need for a place for all artists of all ages to share their work with the community. With the help of the Oklahoma Arts Council and local businesses and organizations, Stilwell will create the "Beyond the Trail" Arts District. When this is accomplished, Faith Phillips and her students will realize their dream. By Regina McLemore, Author of Cherokee Clay and Cherokee Stone

Don't forget to drink water and get some sun. you're basically a house plant with more complicated emotions.

WHAT'S SO PUNNY? Pun Fun

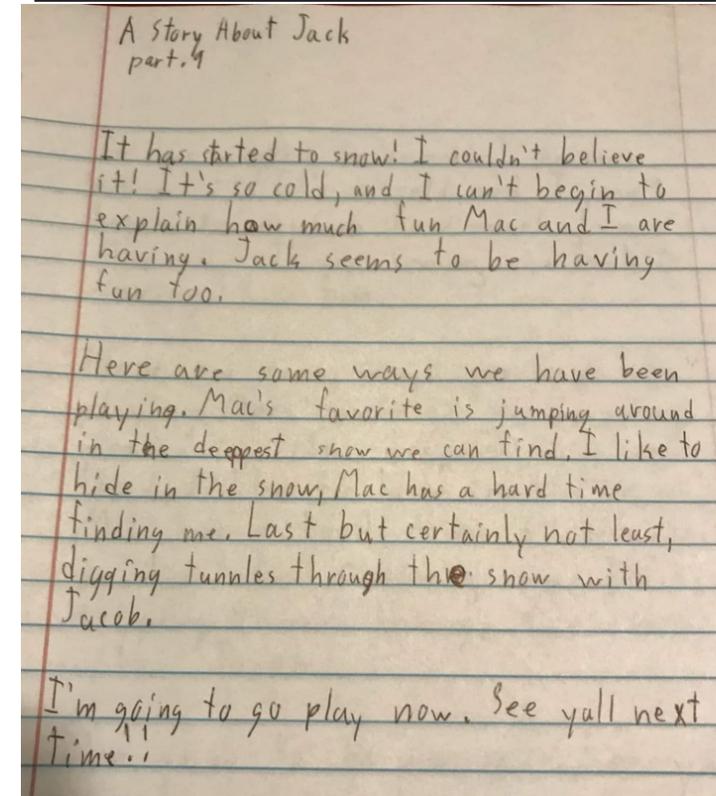
Time to take a Pun Break and get your funny bone tickled with these rib ticklers:

- Book, Bookworm & Librarian Puns
- Book me with your best plot
- Little books try harder
- What does a bookworm eat for breakfast?
- Synonym rolls
- Need to take a break from reading?
- Go out and dance the write away!
- What did the alien Librarian say?
- Take me to your reader....

The Book Of Puns is mighty thick so there are plenty more where these came from; so come on back for more Puns to come!



A YOUNG WRITER'S STORY



Congratulations to Amanda Sellers Crozier,

My prayers are with you and the Stilwell public Schools I have been honored to serve our community for 20 years as a member of the board of education In that time I have seen first hand how our administration and teachers care for the students from daycare to seniors and beyond. We see across our country, communities at odds with schools, but in this system there is very little controversy. It has been a pleasure.

Jess Merriott

Community

Bulletin Board

April 5 Stilwell school board election results; Amanda Sellers Crozier 381 Jess C Merriott 314 CONGRATULATIONS AMANDA!

Bethel Church Service: 1st Saturday of the month and last Saturday of the month, service at 5 p.m.-? Rodney Chuculate.

Women's Prayer Meeting. Tuesday nights at 6 p.m.-? Martha Snow.

Adair County Litter-Free & Green monthly Recycle Day is from 9 a.m. to noon at the Adair County Commissioner District 2 Barn located on Hwy. 59 N and Fairfield Road. You may contact Cathy Unger at 918-696-1178 or Joyce Radtke at 918-696-7316 if you have questions or comments.. The following is a list of projected recycle dates and will only change if there is inclement weather conditions that day: April 16th, May 21st, June 18th, July 16th, August 20th, September 17th, October 15th, November 19th and December 17th.

2022 Kiwanis Easter Egg hunt will be held Saturday, April 9th at 10:00 a.m. at the Adair Park age groups



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Vocabulary WORD of the DAY

Fool
one who is deficient in judgment, sense, or understanding.
Ex. My mother said never to call anyone a fool or stupid; easy to say, but hard to take back.

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