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Serving Stilwell & Adair County, Oklahoma

Thursday April 6. 2023

# Pageantry Abounds In Adair County



2023 Strawberry Queen Adrian Gaches and her court, 1st Runner Up Abigail Beller and 2nd **Runner Up Kylee Laginess** 

There is no better time of the year than Spring for holding a pageant. Stilwell has been the home of the Strawberry Festival for over 75 years. Each of those years featured a number of eager beautiful talented young ladies whose hearts were set on becoming the next Strawberry Festival Queen. Of all the events that take place during the Festival, the Queen Pageant remains the crowning event. About 14 years ago, Lora Gallardo and her daughter, Rosita, had an idea for putting together another kind of pageant, one that gives youngsters, from infant to 15 years old, an opportunity to take part in what is now known as Dreamstar Connections. The focus of Dreamstar Connections

is building confidence and poise as well as earning an award. Through the years many a contestant has gone on to achieve excellence in school and eventually the workforce. Dreamstar Connections has afforded youngsters, who would otherwise be ignored, a golden opportunity to reach their dreams. This year's pageant was again held at the Community Center. I paid a visit. It was immediately apparent that this pageant continues to grow, since the place was packed to the hilt with families and friends of the participants. One thing that sets Dreamstar Connections apart from other pageants is the participation of boys. Lora and Rosita Gallardo have built a pageant of which Adair

County can be proud. Just as proud as Adair County is of the Strawberry Festival Queen Pageant. Pageantry abounds in Adair County.



Aiyana Ketcher 2023 Strawberry Host & Reigning 2022 Miss New Year.



### **PROVERB POWER**

Proverbs 18:24 KJV

A man that hath friends must show himself friendly; and there is a friend that sticks closer than a brother.

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

Miss Kyara Cora 2023 Strawberry Host

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

Number 19

By Donna Boecher

My grandmother only had two books in the house. Number one – the Bible, number 2 – an old compilation of Readers Digest stories left by someone. Sundays I would be picked up by kin and taken to Grace Chapel at Horn to hear the "missionary ladies" – Gladys Bowman and Alma Allying speak or to First Christian Church in Stilwell. Other than that, there was week-day television viewing until 9, but only after supper when the

dishes had been scalded and dried. I remember watching "original viewings" of Gunsmoke when I was 10. The back wall of Granny's ceiling-high canning shelves was the site of the TV. PaDick and Granny's rocking chairs faced the brick fireplace. They just looked a little to the left to view. Uncle Node (Granny's brother) would ritualistically at 8 vacate his oak woven chair which was in the door gap between the living room

and the dining room. He was always up by dawn for chores. Granny would have a full-blown breakfast when he returned from morning chores. There were no "slackers" in the home, everyone had their chores . . . their responsibilities. PaDick would pass on 24 April. My daughter was born on 24 April, years later. Granny lived to see her and ask that we buy her a gold baby ring.



Miss Faith Cochran 2023 Strawberry Host & Strawberry Delight Queen

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Truth is Our Target
P.O. Box 885 ● Stilwell, OK 74960
straightforwardpress21@gmail.com

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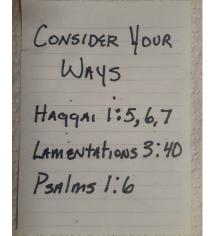
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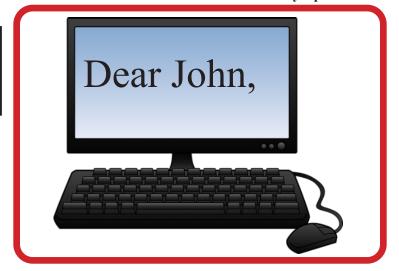
PROVERBS 29:2–"When the righteous are in authority, the people rejoice: but when the wicked beareth rule, the people mourn."

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Dear John,

My aunt gave me some cherries that she froze from her tree last summer. I made a pie to take to a funeral at church. I think it was the best-looking crust I ever made. There was one tiny problem when it was discovered that the cherries still had pits. The other ladies in the kitchen tried to find out who made the pity pie. I was so embarrassed, I blurted out, "why don't we leave the pie dish out to see who picks it up?" I can't believe I said that. Of course, I knew that the pie dish wouldn't be going home with me. Later I learned that our pastor's wife cracked her tooth on one of the pits. I just can't win. I feel kind of bad about that. I was thinking that I could send her a card and tell her that I'm sorry. I just don't want to put my name to it. I don't think the good Lord will send me to that other place for that do you?

### The Cherry Pit

Dear Cherry Pit...Oh the trouble we seek as we spin yarns or, maybe better put, tell fibs. You could have told the truth right there on the spot as soon as your pity pie was discovered. The backlash would have been minor compared to the anxiety that your tall tale has caused you. As far as going to the other place because of this pecadillo, Dear John can assure you that a confession is in order for your conscience sake plus the Lord will forgive you. And the next time you bake a pie, check for pits.

Sincerely,

Dear John

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



Miss Brylnn Stayathome 2023 Strawberry Host & Strawberry Delight Princess

### THE KIPLING KORNER

"His nickname . . .was 'Little Friend of all the World' . . . he executed commissions by night. . . . It was intrigue, of course."

(from novel KIM)

### **SPECIAL OLYMPICS**



Stilwell High School competed in the Special Olympics Fun and Field Day at NSU on Tuesday. Our Indians brought home several blue ribbons and had a fantastic day!



Pictures from FaceBook



Vocabulary Word: awesome - remarkable, outstanding; inspiring awe.

Ex. His reading of verses from the Bible were awesome; you felt the leaders in the Old Testament come



Ephesians 3:21-22

20 ¶ Now unto him that is able to do exceeding abundantly above all that we ask or think, according to the power that worketh in us,

21 Unto him be glory in the church by Christ Jesus throughout all ages, world without end. Amen.

### **SCRIPTURE**

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## THE CONSERVATIVE VIEW

By Russell Turner

### JUST ANOTHER ANIMAL

Sadly, we Americans have witnessed another school shooting; I want to extend my sympathy to all the families of those who were murdered in cold blood. Immediately the left started the same call for more gun control like that would solve the violence that we saw in Nashville. I was appalled by the actions of our so-called commander in chief; his response should have been very somber because of the circumstances, instead he tried to make jokes and talk about eating chocolate chip ice cream like any of us give a dang about his dietary habits. Here in this country, we spend more money per student to educate our children than any other country in the world. We can debate gun laws and treatment for mental problems that some people might need, but immediately we need to hire plain-clothes armed guards to protect our children in every school in this country. After one of the past shootings, one police force in one city posted a sign at the entrance to their schools with the message to any would-be shooter that they would be shot



Miss Madlynn Nichols 2023 **Strawberry Host** 



dead if they tried to harm any of the children. The left of this country has a hard time understanding that the guns are not the real problem; it is the sick, depraved individuals carrying them.

Our nation was founded upon the Judeo Christian value system and I make no apologies for declaring my belief in the Christian faith. Even with all of our failings, our nation has been blessed above all others because of our collective faith in the Christian religion. There were other people from other nations who saw the correlation of our strength and our faith; the French historian Alex De Tocqueville made the comment that America was great because she is good, when she ceases to be good, she will cease to be great. We humans are interesting creatures; we have so much potential, but without a moral code and spiritual awakening we are just another animal.

Our people are losing their sense of patriotism at an alarming rate, in a recent article I read that in the late 90's over 70% of Americans believed that patriotism was very impor-

tant, today that number is in the mid 30% range. The belief in a supreme being and our Christian belief system has also dropped. Today the elites and the media embrace any and all kinds of perversion, all at the same time throwing a fit if anyone dares to support biblical principles. Too many in our society claim to be tolerant and have the belief that anything goes, just look at the results. Many of our large, once beautiful cities are nothing short of a war zone. I would rather visit Bagdad, Iraq instead of Chicago, Illinois. In Portland, Oregon all of the Wal-Mart stores are closing because of the shoplifting and violence in that city. The liberals and their woke ideology have created an increasing narcissist and violent population. Just look at all of the instances of road rage, in my younger days behavior like that was seldom ever seen. We American had better start waking up soon; at the rate we are going, soon we will have a population of animals instead of good decent citizens.



Miss Lola Workman 2023 Strawberry Host







### ON THE CAMPAIGN TRAIL

COMMENTARY BY JOHN BANKEL

# Today's Trail Treks To MEEP MEEP

Just a reminder that The Roadrunner and Wile E Coyote are still going round and round. They have matriculated to the American political scene and have taken on new personages. Instead of a cartoon on TV, the cartoon is more a cartoonish melodrama than an actual cartoon. The leading characters in this melodrama? One is known as "The Orangeman", aka, Donald J Trump, a figure for The Roadrunner. The other is known as the "Furtive Fool," aka, the democrat party, a figure for Wile E Coyote. How long has it been since the "Furtive Fool" first started his attempt to nab "The Orangeman?" The time line started when "The Orangeman" first announced his candidacy for POTUS. At every step of the way, the "Furtive Fool" attempted to throw a monkey wrench into "The Orangeman's"

agenda. Recall the Russian Collusion hoax? Followed by 2 impeachment hoaxes. Included in that mix were lawsuits against "The Orangeman's" companies. And then there was the fake news about the so called "insurrection." Recently released Video footage shows more of a walk in the park with the Capitol Police serving as tour guides than an armed insurrection. The reality of the phony "insurrection" has been gas lighted and categorically denied by the "Furtive Fool." In each of those aforementioned episodes, it appeared that the "Furtive Fool" had gotten the goods on "The "Orangeman" and the "anvil was about to drop." In the cartoon, Wile E Coyote has yet to nab The Roadrunner. All we hear is the hollering of "MEEP MEEP" as The Roadrunner whizzes by the befuddled Coyote.

The latest attempt by the "Furtive Fool", the indictment, has brought the democrat party to a new low; even lower than their head Fool's basement. Political theater has never been this rich before. We can thank the democrat party for brining us this version of "The Roadrunner." Catch him if you can. He is "The Orangeman." All we can say is, "MEEP MEEP."

Today's Trail has come to an end. Perhaps we will meet again around the bend my friend. May your Trail end up on the right side of the fence. Vaya Con Dios!

John Bankel is a freelance journalist and retired High School Math teacher and can be reached at: writewright@journalist.com

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## STILWELL SPORTS SPOTLIGHT

Commentary by John Bankel

### A Tribute To Assistant Football Coach Zach Self

Zach Self has departed this life suddenly at the age of 38. In that brief time he made many friends. He had a profound impact upon the young folks with which he came in contact, especially his Stilwell High School football players. His memory shall live on as we all shall some day see Coach Self again with our eternal Head Coach.

Lady Indians Softball Reaches Class 5A Top Ten The softball season for the Lady Indians is shaping up to be very exciting. In the recent State Class 5A Poll, the Lady Indians landed in the top 10, coming in at number 7 as shown on the accompanying chart. At this rate, Stilwell could find itself competing for a State Title. They are hot on the trail!

Stilwell Indians Baseball

The Indians Baseball team is also having a lot of success. In the re-

cent Harrison Arkansas Tournament, the Indians captured 3d place with a resounding 15-0 defeat of Cedar Ridge AR High School.

Stilwell Basketball Update

Codey Petree, who was a key player on Stilwell's run to the State quarterfinals, has earned All State honors given by the Oklahoma Coaches Association. A well earned distinction. Congratulations Codey!



# WHAT'S SO PUNNY? PUN FUN

It is pun time again! Pun time is fun time! Get your funny bone or your ribs ready to be tickled. As the Proverb so profoundly expresses: A merry heart doeth good like medicine. So get ready for a dose of good medicine: a panoply of puns.

- 1. Give Or Take: Why don't oysters donate to charity? Because they are shellfish.
- 2. Jumpin' Jack: What did the custodian yell when he jumped out of the closet? SUPPLIES!
- 3. Fly By Light: A photon checks into a hotel. The front desk asks if it has any luggage? The photon replies, "No. I am traveling light."
- 4. Pane-Demic: Did you hear about the glassblower who accidentally inhaled? He got stomach pane.
- 5. Horse Sense: Why could the pony not sing in the choir? He was a little horse!

Well, there you have IT. Gotta stop now so that your ribs and funny bone can recover from this pun panoply. Watch out for the next PUN FUN!



Week 2

This 6 week long Kontest moves into Week 2. For this time around the answer is 22. You are playing with: 9,12,4,5, 15. Remember, you must use all 5 numbers and any combination of addition, subtraction, multiplication or division to write an expression which equals the answer. Give it a twirl. It may just surprise you how much fun it is and maybe you will emerge as the winner of the \$25 cash and calculator prize. Voila! email your solution to: themathguy@usa.com or snail mail to: Krypto Kontest / POB 885 / Stilwell, OK 74960

Searching for a Word: - mopery, violation of an or trivial law.

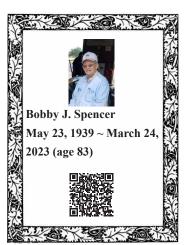
Ex. The homeless people were charged with the mopery law of loitering at the food bank.



"Taco" bout the best Librarian in the land, we've got her! Kimberly Hensley-Girdner we appreciate all you do for us at SHS!

## Obituaries.









Mayor: Wright

Ward 2 Council: Harris

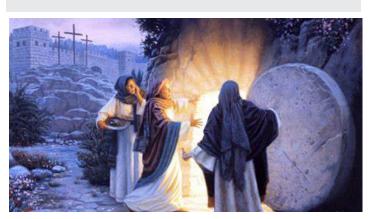
Ward 5 Council: Kindle

Charter Change Proposition: Approved



15 EUFAULA

16 HARRAH



4-9

75

2023 Class 5A Slow Pitch Week 2





**Celebrating Earth Day Event** Yard Sale In The Park - 20 Sales -One Location!

2023 (age 98)

In the spring of 1970 Senator Gaylord Nelson wanted to raise awareness about environmental issues such as pollution and toxic waste, so he created the first Earth Day. The movement was well accepted by Americans and in December 1970 the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency was born. Since then Earth Day has evolved to include many ways to save the earth, one being reusing items. Yard sales are one of the most popular ways to keep items "revolving" and out of the landfill. To celebrate Earth Day, Litter-Free & Green and the City of Stilwell will be hosting a huge yard sale event. This Saturday, April 8th, there will be at least 20 yard sales set up at Adair Park in Stilwell. Honey Hill Church Youth will be selling baked goods and Litter-Free & Green will have candy bars and drinks for sale. Come join us in celebrating Earth Day from 8 am to 3 pm for a one-stop-shop for yard sale A #

Community
Bulletin Board

Stilwell Community Choir, March 28, Tuesday 7 pm, First United Methodist Church. Info contact Mary Catherine 918-696-9061 Bethel Church Service: 1st Saturday of the month and last Saturday of the month, service at 5 p.m.-? Rodney Chuculate.

Adair County Litter-Free & Green Litter-Free & Green Recycle Day Schedule: April 15, May 20, June 17, July 15, Aug 18, Sept 16, Oct 21, Nov 18, Dec 16. Location: Behind Vonnie's Pawn Shop at 101 W. Walnut St, Stilwell OK. Hours: 9am to noon. For more info. contact Cathy at 696-1178 or Joyce at 696-7316.

Flint Lodge Monthly Breakfast from 7 a.m. to 10 a.m. the first Saturday of each Month. Flint Lodge is located at 83705 Hwy 59 South, Stilwell. 12 & Older: \$8.00, Children: \$4.00 and under 5 Free 10:00 Sunday Morning Service Bethal Church Everyone Welcome



Left to right, Mari Crider, ACLFG member, Cathy Unger, ACLFG President, Diane Eubanks, FCCLA leader, Aiden Carter, FCCLA Vice-President.

Adair County Litter-Free & Green donated \$200.00 to Stilwell High School FCCLA "Green Team" to help purchase trash cans for their new recycle program. This donation made possible by a \$250.00 grant awarded to Litter-Free & Green from OG&E & Keep Oklahoma Beautiful. The remaining \$50.00 was used to purchase grabbers for the team to pick up litter within the community.



Pictured left to right, Rider Keehler and Keyonna Killer.

Trash Cans with the recycle logo will be placed in the classrooms at Stilwell High School for students to use. Donator's name will be placed on the recycle can.

### The Hardin Report





QR for the weekly Legislative Update -3/30/2023. I'm honored to serve the great people of House District 86. Please feel free to call me with any questions, concerns, or to discuss issues. The best way to reach me is to either call or text me on my cell phone, 918-507-2811 or call my office at 405-557-7394.

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