

# The STRAIGHT FORWARD

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## FREE Press<sup>SM</sup>



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Thursday, February 24, 2022

## Crozier Announces Candidacy for Stilwell Board of Education

I recently read a quote that states: "The only constant in life is change." So I view change as an opportunity. I would like to take the opportunity to contribute to the success of Stilwell Schools. I would like to formally announce my candidacy for the Stilwell Board of Education. Education is changing and I want to be an active participant in the transition.

Education is my passion. In my 14 years of teaching my eyes have been opened to the fact that education is the only thing other than God that touches every individual member of every household. Effective education is a learning experience that becomes a permanent change in a person's way of thinking. As educators we have the privilege of helping to mold and influence productive, confident citizens. My goal for them is that each one is presented with the best opportunity to learn and to achieve the skills that will prepare them to be successful members of our society. This year God blessed me with a new position as a S.T.E.A.M./MakerSpace educator. It has been a dream of mine for years. I love to experiment and collaborate with students. I am privileged to see every student in the school for one hour a week. I am able to witness our students become problem solvers, inventors, creators, leaders, and inquisitive learners. Each week I am able to see different students shine with their own unique talents. I love watching students become passionate about their desires and extracurricular activities. Every student has a gift to share. I want to continue working and advocating for the education of all children in our community.

I am married to my Stilwell High School sweetheart, Cory Blake Crozier. We have four children: Blake, is in the 11th grade at Stilwell, Caislyn, is in the 9th grade at Stilwell, Caryss is in the 4th grade at Zion, and Bryant is in Kindergarten. All four of my children have different learning styles, which I believe has helped mold me into a better educator. I have a better understanding of students' needs for success.

I want to run for Stilwell School Board to help ensure that the school district is preparing our students



Amanda Sellers Crozier

well to compete economically. We want our students to be college and career ready. I am committed to raising college readiness and seeking the development of more vocational programs in our schools. While our district continues to encounter new challenges, I hope that new energy, leadership and a spirit of collaboration can ignite our community's educational potential to provide our students with a more prepared future.

I humbly request your vote on April 5, 2022, **Amanda Sellers Crozier**.



The three candidates for Dist. 4 State Senator, left to right: Hoguen Apperson, Keith Barrenberg, and Tom Woods, were each given time to speak to those in attendance at the Adair County Republican Party meeting.

## Three District 4 State Senate Candidates Speak at Adair County Republican Party Meeting

On Saturday, February 19, at the Chance Steakhouse, the Adair County Republican Party held its regular meeting. Addressing a nearly packed house were Joshua Cockcroft, Political Director for Governor Stitt, Dist. 4 Senator Blake "Cowboy" Stephens, Dist. 86 State Representative David Hardin and 3 candidates for Dist. 4 State Senator: Tom Woods, Hoguen Apperson and Keith Barrenberg. The

District 4 seat becomes vacant due to re-districting. Senator Stephens will be moving to Dist. 3 after the November election.

The first one to address the audience was Cockcroft, who went into some detail (details to be covered in the next issue) about Governor Stitt's accomplishments during his current term in office. Senator Stephens, who is a former educator, spoke fervently and at

length about the state of education in Oklahoma, emphasizing the need for raising teachers' salaries in order to attract new and good teachers and keep the ones that are on the job.

After Stephens spoke, the 3 men who have thrown their hats into the ring to vie for the Dist. 4 State Senate seat, took their places on three chairs.

Tom Woods, who runs a ranch, a trucking business, a feed store and a u-haul rental operation in Westville, stood up to speak first. As a businessman, he believes that teaching "financial literacy" in our schools is sorely needed, not only for helping our youth to understand the capitalist concepts of working with money but also to keep socialism at bay. Woods, as a member of OK2A, is a staunch supporter of gun rights. He vigorously opposes the tyranny imposed upon the citizens with the mask and vaxx mandates. He is in favor of better regulation of the medical marijuana industry, which has swept virtually unregulated into

(See Three District on Page 3)



Faith surrounded by the art of her students and other Native artists.

## Faith Phillips Speaks at Depot

By Regina Philpott McLemore,  
Author of *Cherokee Clay*  
and *Cherokee Stone*  
Local author, publisher, and film

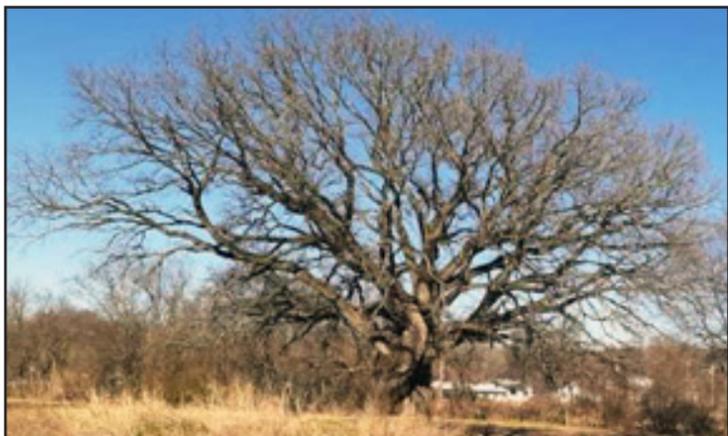
producer, Faith Phillips, spoke at the February 17 meeting of the Adair County Historical and Genealogical Association (ACH&GA). The author of four books inspired her audience by sharing her recent experiences as a high school English teacher and describing her students' accomplishments. One class produced a podcast, proving that Stilwell is not "The Death Capital of the United States", as had been reported by The Washington Post. The production was named as a finalist in NPR's pod cast competition. Three of her students currently have their work displayed in the Field Museum in Chicago.

Although she resigned her teaching position, Ms. Phillips continues to work hard to promote the work of students and of all Adair County artists. She spearheaded the development of a local arts council board and has obtained support from the Oklahoma Arts Council, Cherokee Nation, the Carson Foundation, and others to create a cultural and art district in downtown Stilwell. She plans to share information about the

district at the Stilwell Strawberry Festival in May. Ms. Phillips hopes to "boost the economy and bring healing to Adair County" as well as make a place for great art, music, and food in the City of Stilwell.

She concluded her presentation by announcing that a true crime program, based on her book, *Now I Lay Me Down*, will soon be airing on the Oxygen Network. Beginning in May, she will begin filming in Adair County to produce a documentary film based on the Camp Scott Girl Scout murders in 1977.

## The ROVING REPORTER In and out and round about town...



A more scraggly tree I never did see, with its limbs all twisted and gnarled and bent, a portrait of the life it has spent, yet despite it all, this tree stands still and magnificently tall...!

Photo by The Roving Reporter

### Stilwell Sports Spotlight

Commentary by John Bankel

#### Stilwell Indians Boys and Girls Basketball Teams Capture Area 2 District 5 Championships

The Stilwell Indians boys basketball team climbed the first rung of the ladder to the State Tournament as they trounced the Jay Bulldogs 97-39 on Saturday, February 19 to become Area 2 District 5 champions. The Indians upped their season record to 20-1 and will go on to the regional tournament in Oologah on Thursday, Feb. 24 at 8

pm to take on Oologah-Talaga. The Lady Indians were also successful in their first step toward the ultimate goal of reaching the State Tournament as they handily defeated the Jay girls 50-33. They will bring a season record of 16-5 to Oologah to take on the girls from Locust Grove. Game time is 6:30 pm.

# THE CONSERVATIVE VIEW

By Russell Turner

## WHO CRIES CROCODILE TEARS?

One of the greatest things about the idea of America is that of the right to own private property and the right to protect that property. I, like other conservative minded people, also believe in the concept of personal responsibility. I have respect for the possessions of others and I expect the same from others as well. Our country is experiencing a massive onslaught of lawlessness, thievery, smash-and-grab robberies, and vandalism. Recently I read an article about Mark and Patricia McCloskey, they were the couple who defended their property in St. Louis, Missouri, from rioters who came through their neighborhood and threatened to burn their house down in 2020. They let it be known to the rioters they would shoot them if they attempted to burn down their home, surprisingly the rioters got the message and left them alone. In my opinion a man has a right to defend himself and his property, but the District Attorney in their area didn't think so.

The McCloskey's were charged and convicted of misdemeanors for holding guns outside of their St. Louis home. The system of justice was not done yet, the couple are lawyers and the Missouri Supreme Court has indefinitely suspended their law licenses; as far as I know none of the rioters were charge with any crime. We might also remember during all of the riots of 2020 our pitiful excuse of a Vice President, Harris, was collecting money to bail out people across the country who were arrested for committing crimes during their so-called peaceful protests.

Hard-working, law-abiding people across this nation are getting sick and tired of our system coddling law breakers and going after the victims of crimes. Just about a week ago

thieves broke into my shop and relieved me of some of my tools, I guess they thought they needed them more than I did. When the deputy came to make a report, one of the first things he asked me was I a tribal member. I told him that I am an American; I happen to believe that when Moses came down from the mountain one of the commandments was "thou shall not steal." In my opinion, race is totally irrelevant. I am tired of all of the liberal organizations crying crocodile tears for those who commit all kinds of crimes, while never a tear is shed for the victims of those crimes. It is about time our system of justice starts to use some common sense to crime and punishment. In my opinion, those who steal should be put on a work gang digging holes in the ground one day and filling them up the next. If they refuse, we don't have to be mean to them or beat them, just let them know that when supper time rolls around, they won't be getting any, and if they want to starve themselves to death that will be their choice. I will lay odds that after a couple of days without food they will be ready to dig the hole and will be asking how deep they need to go. There should be some serious repercussions for their actions, the victims of their illegal actions have to work to replace the items that were taken from them. I have the belief that sometime in the future all of us will have to give an accounting of our actions in life; all of us are imperfect beings, but it would be terrible if I had to tell the supreme commander of the universe that I was nothing but a thief. If tears are going to be shed for the thugs of this country, maybe it is time to shed a few for their victims.

## THE KIPLING KORNER

"Cat said, 'I am not a friend, and I am not a Servant. I am the Cat who walks by himself, and I wish to come into your Cave.'"

## In Search of a Word

By Donna Boecher

woman of the Bible who was thrown out of the window because of her evil ways. (Read 1 Kings 21:23).

**Defenestration**—the act of throwing someone out of the window.

**Example**—Jezebel is the infamous

Vocabulary  
**WORD**  
of  
the  
**DAY**

### Startle

**Example:** A farmer's dog can startle a deer with his bark if he smells the deer.

• **cause** (a person or animal) to feel sudden shock or alarm.

The  
**STRAIGHT FORWARD**  
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Truth is Our Target

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Donna Boecher.....Editor  
John Bankel.....Journalist  
Joy Coleman.....Composing

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

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# The Lady in the Blue Sari

Part 32

By Donna Boecher

Ann had been saving for ten years to build her casitas; they would be only 10 ft. squared. That would seem expansive under the open and windy skies of eastern Oklahoma; room for meditation and for two chairs to share a moment. A small windchime would bring the song of nature inside when a window was open. The wall paints would be soft shades and non-VOC. Nothing would work against the restorative effects of nature.

Amazingly, Ann had many holistic-living friends who wanted to see her project work; there had been a plethora of donations (\$1-\$1000). Roofed with solar panels, the energy was sufficient to run a small electric heater, recharge a cell phone, or light a lamp. A composting toilet, closeted in one corner, completed the necessities. Pondering, she thought, "I might even let those destressing help in the finish work; make minor, easy decisions."

## SCRIPTURE

"But as it is written, Eye hath not seen, nor ear heard, neither have entered into the heart of man, the things which God hath prepared for them that love him." — 1 Corinthians 2:9 (KJV)

"For since the beginning of the world [men] have not heard, nor perceived by the ear, neither hath the eye seen, O God, beside thee, [what] he hath prepared for him that waiteth for him." — Isaiah 64:4 (KJV)

"But God hath revealed [them] unto us by his Spirit: for the Spirit searcheth all things, yea, the deep things of God." — 1 Corinthians 2:10 (KJV)

Scripture sponsored by:

## Faith Tabernacle

Corner of Hwy. 51 & Piney Road • Stilwell, OK

## Health Tips from Larkin...

By Larkin Fouse, CHHP

**Stress Busters, Part 6—Tea, Part 1:** To anyone who has ever seen "The Last Air Bender" you know that uncle Iroh is a very chill and relaxed man who enjoys tea. Whenever life hits him with a stressful event, he hits the tea cup for some peaceful contemplation. This is something we can all afford to do. It has long been known and practiced by the Asian people to always incorporate tea into their daily schedule. Different cultures would practice it in different ways, but they all agreed that having tea and spending time contemplating the deep things of life whilst doing so was a great tool in life. So, part

of my daily schedule is to have a few cups of tea and some deep contemplation, especially when stressed over something, and I have found that if I do this, my entire day restarts at that point as if there was no stress prior to that. Therefore if you are stressed over something, I suggest brewing a fresh cup of hot herbal tea and sitting down in a chair you like, and simply contemplate the deep things of life for a bit before getting back onto whatever you were working on before then, and it will work wonders for you.

Larkin Fouse is a certified holistic health practitioner.



## Mullin It Over: Putting Our Health Care Workers First

By Congressman Markwayne Mullin

I want to take the chance this week to say thank you to the hard-working nurses in Oklahoma who work around the clock taking care of our loved ones. The way you have stepped up during the pandemic is not lost on me and I thank you for fighting the good fight day in and day out.

With your service in mind, there has been some bad information floating around that the House is trying to cap nurses' pay. This could not be further from the truth, and I want to set the record straight: I, for one, do not support capping pay for nurses. Period.

Recent reports speculate that nurse staffing agencies are using the COVID-19 pandemic and the increased need for nurse services as a reason to raise the service prices to exorbitant amounts. These agencies are charging hospitals triple what they had previously charged, and it appears they haven't been passing the increased amounts onto the nurses.

Unfortunately, many hospitals find themselves stuck between a rock and a hard place. They are forced to either pay these extremely high rates due to the dire workforce needs, placing an extreme financial burden on these facilities that are already

struggling to make ends meet. Or they must cut services, jeopardizing access to health care for the community.

In response to these claims, I joined almost 200 of my House colleagues in sending a letter to the White House Coronavirus Task Force calling for an investigation into the conduct of these staffing agencies and to determine whether or not they violated the law.

Nurses play a vital role in America's health care system. They are key components of every functioning hospital and nearly every patient will interact with a nurse while there. Especially in rural communities, like our district, traveling nurses help keep our small hospitals running and ensure access to quality care for all health-related needs. We should be doing everything we can to bring more nurses into the workforce, not drive them out.

I am a strong supporter of free enterprise. It is not the government's job to set nurses pay or get involved in their contract negotiations. Our job is to conduct oversight and, in this case, make sure the staffing agencies are not taking advantage of the workforce shortage for their own financial gain. Nurses should always enjoy the fruits of their own labors.



**Dear John,** I want to quit my job. I have been in this career for over 30 years. I want to go back to college for a new profession. I am afraid of failing. What do you think about older people going back to college?

**No Longer Young**

**Dear No Longer,** one thing I know for sure: you will not be the only older person occupying a seat in a college classroom. Over the last decade or so, many folks have made a jump from their long time occupation to the college classroom in the hopes of achieving a more satisfying career than the one with which they began. Not only that, many have succeeded in making that transition. Let that be a source of encouragement for you. There are, most likely, financial aid programs available for "seniors" that may help you bridge the gap in income. You will soon find out that your experience will bring a wealth of knowledge to your studies and before you know it, you will have launched a successful new career. I wish you all the best.

**Sincerely,**  
**Dear John**

Have you got a question for Dear John? Send it to: [dearjohn@write.com](mailto:dearjohn@write.com). Real Names Not Used.

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## Voter Registration Deadline Approaches

Friday, March 11, is the last day to apply for voter registration in order to be eligible to vote in the April 5 Dahlongah, Peavine, Stilwell, and Watts Board of Education General Election and the Westville School Special Proposition Election, Adair County Election Board Secretary Jan Wilhite said today.

Wilhite said that persons who are United States Citizens, residents of Oklahoma, and at least 17 1/2 years old are eligible to apply for voter registration. However, you must be at least 18 years old to vote.

Applications must be received by the County Election Board or post-marked no later than midnight, March 11. Applications postmarked after that time will be accepted, but will not be processed until after the April 5 Election. Applications may also be submitted to any motor vehicle agency that is also an official voter registration agency by the submission deadline.

Applicants will be notified in writing when their application has been processed. Approved voters will receive a Voter Identification Card in the mail. Some may receive a letter that explains the reason or reasons the application was not approved. Wilhite said those who do not receive a response within 30 days of submitting their application should contact the County Election Board office immediately.

The Adair County Election Board reminds voters that applications must be approved by the County Election Board Secretary in order to vote.

Registered voters who have moved to Adair County from a different county or state will need to complete a new Voter Registration Application in order to be eligible for elections in Adair County. If you have moved within the county and need to update your address, you may make changes online using the OK Voter Portal at [oklahoma.gov/elections/ovp](http://oklahoma.gov/elections/ovp) or complete a Voter Registration Application.

Voter Registration Applications can be downloaded from the State Election Board website at [oklahoma.gov/elections](http://oklahoma.gov/elections). You may also complete a form at your County Election Board. Most post offices, tag agencies, and public libraries have applications available upon request.

The Adair County Election Board is located at 220 W. Division, Stilwell, OK and is open from 8:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m., Monday through Friday. For questions, please contact the Election Board at 918-696-7221 or [adair.county@elections.ok.gov](mailto:adair.county@elections.ok.gov).



**Josaline Blevins and Larra Mullin, Stilwell Middle School, proudly display their Oklahoma Junior High State Wrestling Tournament championship trophies.**

## Obituaries

### Johnny Dale Hallmark

July 5, 1950 – February 6, 2022

Johnny Dale Hallmark was born on July 5, 1950, in Tahlequah, Oklahoma to Allen Hallmark and Eliza (Glass) Hallmark and passed away on February 6, 2022, in Gallup, New Mexico.

He was a member of Calvary Assembly of God where he attended regularly. His hobbies were playing his guitar and singing, he enjoyed music, and fishing. He served in the United States Army where he was honorably discharged.

Johnny was preceded in death by his parents: Allen Hallmark and Eliza (Glass) Hallmark; stepfather: Junior Cothren; wife: Sharon Miller; sister: Vernile Girdner; brother: Rabbit Hallmark; nieces: Marietta McCann, and Kendra Vaughn; and nephew: Andrew McCann.

He is survived by his children: James Hallmark and wife Melissa, Robert Hallmark and companion Tori, Marissa Feathers and husband Keith, Lawanda (Ross) Duck and husband Calvin, all of Stilwell, Oklahoma; the mother of his children: Patsy Abbot; sisters: Alice Hallmark Penley and companion James Kidd of Nicut, Oklahoma, and Barbara Girdner of Gallup, New Mexico; and brother: Mitchell Hallmark of Tulsa, Oklahoma. He is also survived by 10 grandchildren, 17 great-grandchildren, several nieces, nephews, and a host of family and friends.

Johnny will be missed by all who knew him.  
Funeral services were held at 1 pm on February 18, 2022 at Roberts/Reed-Culver Chapel, Stilwell, Oklahoma with Bro. Gary Flynn officiating. Interment followed at Flute Springs Cemetery, Marble City, Oklahoma.



### Leonard Eugene Baird II

September 27, 1952 – February 7, 2022

Leonard Eugene Baird II was born on September 27, 1952, in Stilwell, Oklahoma to Leonard Eugene and Billye Ruth Baird. He went to be with Jesus on February 7, 2022, in Stilwell, Oklahoma.

He was preceded in death by his father: Leonard Baird and his sister: Terri Downey.

He leaves behind his wife: Jeffie Baird; his mother: Billye Baird; his brother: Scott Baird; his son: Nathanael Baird and wife Jamie; his daughter: Krista Bradley and husband Daniel, many grandchildren, and a great-granddaughter, all of Stilwell, Oklahoma.

He was born again, into the family of God on January 14, 1980.

He was a beloved husband, father, son, uncle, popa and great popa. He was an inventor and a business owner. He leaves behind a legacy of love, generosity, gentleness and a profound love for his family, friends, and church. He was adored by each and every person who ever met him. He attributed all of his amazing qualities and earthly successes to Jesus Christ. He knew the secret to happiness was a relationship with God.

He met his wife, Jeffie, at the age of 15, she was 13 and they have been inseparable for 55 years, married for 50. There wasn't a delivery trip that they didn't turn into a memorable adventure. Grandkid trips, family nights, the 4th of July and every little gathering was anticipated by all, and the memories will be treasured forever. Even plowing and weeding the family garden was fun with Popa. He loved watermelon with salt on it and was the first to give each of his grandkids ice cream and Pepsi. He will be missed by his family but leaves behind ALL good memories. We know without a doubt, that he is in heaven, and we will see him again.

Memorial services were held at 10 am on Saturday, February 12, 2022 at the First Baptist Church of Stilwell, OK with Bro. Scott Latta officiating.

Roberts/Reed-Culver Funeral Home, Stilwell, OK.

### Tommy Glenn Walker

July 29, 1950 – January 19, 2022

Tommy Glenn Walker was born July 29, 1950 in Tahlequah, OK to Barney Walker and Lucy (Ryal) Walker. He passed away on January 19, 2022 at 10:15 pm in Stilwell, OK at the age of 71.

He graduated from Dewer High School in 1968 and entered the Air Force where he was honorably discharged in 1971.

He is preceded in death by his parents Barney and Lucy Walker, sister Ella Walker, brothers Sullivan Walker, Stanley Walker, Cheeto Walker, Chegeet Walker and daughter, Brandi Walker.

Tommy is survived by wife Kay and her 3 children, brothers Danny Walker and Edward Walker, sister Andrea Marshall, 5 children, Sara Walker, Shaun Walker, Steven Walker, Jami Berg, and Robin Smith. He had 13 grandchildren and 6 great-grandchildren.

Graveside services were held at 1:30 pm on Monday, February 14, 2022 at Fort Gibson National Cemetery, Ft. Gibson, OK. Roberts/Reed-Culver Funeral Home, Stilwell, OK.



### David Scott

February 27, 1958 – December 27, 2021

David Scott, son of Wanda Chuculate, was born on February 27, 1958 in Tahlequah, Oklahoma and departed this life on December 27, 2021 in Muskogee, Oklahoma at 63 years of age.

He loved spending time with his family and enjoyed riding his 4-wheeler everywhere and anywhere.

He was preceded in death by his mother: Wanda Chuculate, siblings: Rocky Cheater, Delvis Chuculate, Leslie Chuculate and Larry Chuculate.

David is survived by his aunt: Allene Christie of Hulbert, OK, brother: Eugene Cheater of Oklahoma and numerous cousins and other family.

Graveside services were held at 10 am on Tuesday, February 15, 2022 at Chuculate Cemetery, Stilwell, OK with Bro. Jesse Chuculate officiating. Interment followed under the direction of Roberts/Reed-Culver Funeral Home, Stilwell, OK.

## Three District (Continued from Front Page)

District 4 and has driven up land prices. Yet most of all, Tom Woods would like to be instrumental in growing the economy to provide good paying jobs in the District. And as he likes to say, "A farmer can fix it."

The next candidate to take the floor, was Hoguen Apperson, who, like Tom Woods, is a rancher but in Delaware County. In addition to ranching, he also works for a manufacturing company run by his Grandfather. The company builds water towers and Hoguen travels the country in pursuit of new business. His family is 6th generation "Okie." He believes that the federal government impedes business operations with too much red-tape. Apperson would like to see the marijuana industry slowed down, vaccines kept a matter of personal choice and that Oklahoma pass a "heartbeat bill," like Texas. As a Senator he would vote on bills that are good for his constituency.

The third speaker was Keith Barrenberg, who lives in Kansas, OK. Barrenberg, who is retired from the Oklahoma Highway Patrol, brings quasi legislative experience to the table. Barrenberg spent 10 years as a liaison at the Capitol between the rank and file officers and the

Legislature, lobbying for better pay and working conditions. He would like to see the simplification of the child adoption process, as well as the preservation of the integrity of the Constitution and all of its 27 Amendments. Facilitating better communication among first responders is also one of his priorities, and support for farmers and ranchers is high on his list, as well. Barrenberg closed his talk with a promise to be always readily available to his voters, if elected.

There is a common thread among these 3 candidates: they all embrace conservative values. David Hardin wrapped things up by giving an update on bills he is running. Representative Hardin is working with Associate District Judge Elizabeth "Liz" Brown on a truancy bill which will help both the students and their parents see to it that a diploma is earned. There is a significant difference in earning power between a high school graduate and a non-graduate. (See photo and story on page 4.)

The next Adair County Republican Party meeting will be March 21 at 6:30 pm at the Stilwell Train Depot. Gentner Drummond, candidate for State Attorney General will be the featured speaker.

## Deadline to Request Absentee Ballot for April 5 Election Approaches

Voters in Adair County who want absentee ballots mailed to them for the April 5, 2022 Dahlongegah, Peavine, Stilwell, and Watts Board of Education Election and the Westville School Special Proposition Election should apply now, County Election Board Secretary Jan Wilhite said today.

Absentee ballots are available to any registered voter, provided they are eligible to vote in the election requested. No excuse is needed to vote by absentee ballot.

The deadline for requesting an absentee ballot is 5 p.m. Monday, March 21, 2022. Voters can submit a request using the OK Voter Portal at [oklahoma.gov/elections/ovp](http://oklahoma.gov/elections/ovp). Request forms are also available at [oklahoma.gov/elections](http://oklahoma.gov/elections) and at the County Election Board office located at 220 W. Division, Stilwell, Okla.

Wilhite reminds voters to allow time for an absentee ballot to be received, completed, and returned by mail to the County Election Board. "With some exceptions, all absentee ballot affidavits must be notarized before being returned. Voters should give themselves plenty of time to make sure all steps have been followed and that the ballot is returned correctly in order to be counted," Wilhite said.

Voters exempt from having an absentee ballot affidavit notarized include those who are physically incapacitated and those who care for physically incapacitated individuals that cannot be left alone. Voters who request a "physically incapacitated" ballot must have their absentee ballot affidavit witnessed by two people.

Military personnel and residents living overseas, along with their spouses and dependents are also eligible for certain allowances. Military personnel should contact Voting Service Officers in their units for absentee application forms. Residents living overseas may obtain absentee voting applications from any United States military installation or United States Embassy or Consulate. Military personnel and overseas citizens who are already registered voters in Oklahoma may apply for absentee ballots using the OK Voter Portal at [oklahoma.gov/elections/ovp](http://oklahoma.gov/elections/ovp). Those who need to complete a new Voter Registration Application should apply through the Federal Voting Assistance Program at [FVAP.gov](http://FVAP.gov).

All completed absentee ballots must be in the hands of the County

Election Board no later than 7 p.m. on Election Day.

The Adair County Election Board is located at 220 W Division Stilwell, Okla. and is open from 8:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m., Monday through Friday. For questions, please contact the Election Board at 918-696-7221 or [adaircounty@elections.ok.gov](mailto:adaircounty@elections.ok.gov).



**First Saturday Night and Last Saturday Night of Every Month,** Bethel Church, Stilwell, OK, 7:00 p.m., Rodney Chuculate.  
\* \* \*

**Oklahoma Bigfoot Symposium,** March 12-13, 2022, CC Camp near Stilwell. Keynote speaker: Ken Gerhard, noted author, TV star and Cryptid investigator.  
\* \* \*

**Vendor Applications** for the May 14, 2022 Strawberry Festival are being accepted now. ALL applications and payments must be received by **5:00 p.m. on Thursday, May 5,** to meet Oklahoma Tax Commission requirements. NO late entries can be accepted. For more information or to get an application, log on to the Stilwell Kiwanis Club website at: <https://strawberrycapital.com>. If you have questions, please call 918-797-5097.

## Ham and Bean Supper To Be Held March 7

Hope Center, Inc., located at 829 W. Elm St., in Westville, OK will be having a Ham and Bean Supper on Monday, March 7 at 5:00 p.m. Event hosted by April Sallee and Gwen Howe.

Come and enjoy some ham and beans with some dessert and a drink for \$5.00, while supporting your local food bank. Everyone welcome!

## A YOUNG WRITER'S STORY

*A story about Jack* By Keegan Hummingbird  
*part 3* Age 11  
Zion School

It has been a little bit since anything new happened. Just the same wake up, eat, play, go back to sleep, but lately it has been hot, really hot. Water stopped falling from the sky. It's so hot even energize Mac is just lying near the creek, yet Jacob still comes and plays with us.

The heat of the bright ball in the sky is so horribly hot nothing dares to get out of the shade. The grass is even dried and slightly crunchy. The clovers aren't even worth lying in any more. I just can't wait until the next time water falls from the sky again.

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### PROVERB POWER

"Trust in the Lord with all thine heart; and lean not on thine own understanding. In all thy ways acknowledge him, and he shall direct thy paths." – Proverbs 3: 5, 6 (KJV)

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# Associate District Judge Brown visits Capitol

It was an honor to have Associate District Judge of Adair County, Elizabeth Brown, at the Capitol recently to assist with language for a truancy bill we'll be running this session. The bill will require students who turn 18 before graduation to stay in school and earn their

diploma. It will serve both the student and the parents. David Hardin serves District 86 in the Oklahoma House of Representatives. His district includes Adair County and parts of Cherokee and Delaware counties.



Representative David Hardin and Associate District Judge Elizabeth Brown

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