

The STRAIGHT FORWARD

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Stilwell & Westville Sports Spotlight



Commentary by John Bankel



GRIT Gets Lady Indians To State Tournament

The Lady Indians fell to Verdigris in the Regional final on March 1 by a score of 40-33. The loss dropped them to the consolation bracket of the tournament. One more loss and Stilwell would be eliminated.

As the Regional runner-up, they qualified to play March 3 in the Area tournament against Victory Christian. In a tight, hard fought contest, Stilwell prevailed by a 39-36 margin, to move on to play the next day to face Inola. Again, the Lady Indians found a way to stay alive by eking out a 51-49 win.

On Saturday, March 5, in the

Area finals, the best game was yet to come. Going up against Verdigris, the team that had beaten them in the Regional final, Stilwell found themselves with a daunting task. A loss would knock them out of the opportunity to take a trip down I-40 to OKC and play in the "Big House" of the Oklahoma High School Girls State Tournament. The pressure had to be tremendous. And the game lived up to an utmost nerve wracking fever pitch. No one came away with any fingernails. In double overtime, The Lady Indians, bless their hearts, came away with an astounding

DOUBLE OVERTIME victory: 48-40. Their ticket to the "Big House" was punched.

On March 8, The Lady Indians will be paired with the Number 2 ranked team in the State, Tuttle High School. Game time is 10:30. (The news just got to this writer that Stilwell lost this game and since it is their second loss, have been eliminated.) But boy oh boy, what a run these girls made for the Gold Ball! Stilwell is mighty proud of your achievement!

CONGRATULATIONS!



Westville Boys Basketball Finish Historic Season

The 2022 Westville Yellowjackets Boys Basketball team wrote themselves into the history book of Westville High School athletics. These Yellowjackets took home the State Tournament Regional championship, an accomplishment that had not been reached since 1939. To this writer's reckoning, that would be 83 years!

The Regional championship qualified Westville to move on to the next rung of the ladder in the State tournament competition: the Area tournament. On March 4,

the Yellowjackets faced Millwood where they fell by a score of 64-52. The loss moved Westville to the consolation bracket where, on March 5, they took on Vinita. In a close defensive battle, Westville came up short by a score of 44-41. The loss eliminated the Yellowjackets from the tournament.

The 2022 Westville Boys Basketball team will always be remembered for their historic achievement; may it be the foundation on which to build future success.

Congratulations!



Indians Capture Regional Championship

On March 1, the Stilwell Indians took on the Hilldale Hornets in the Regional finals of the State Basketball Tournament. The Indians methodically dismantled their opponent by a lopsided score of 76-46, to win the Regional Crown.

The win moved the Indians on to the Area Tournament where, on March 4, they would face a well touted Holland Hall High School team. The game did not go well for Stilwell as Holland Hall dominated the Indians 61-45.

The loss moved the Indians to play in the consolation bracket where they, on March, faced Victory Christian. Perhaps Stilwell found themselves somewhat deflated after their loss to Holland Hall, which, by the way, was only their second loss of the season, as they sputtered to score a meager 37 points while Victory Christian racked up 63.

Although Stilwell ended the season with a splendid 24-3 record, this loss proved to be the eliminator from their quest for the Gold Ball. A

fabulous season with many a thrill was a reason for which to be proud.

Hats off to the Stilwell Indians Boys Basketball team, 2022 edition.

Deadline to Change Party Affiliation Approaches

Oklahomans who want to change party affiliation, must submit their change no later than March 31 Adair County Election Board Secretary Jan Wilhite said today. Voters may change their party affiliation online using the OK Voter Portal at oklahoma.gov/elections/ovp or by completing a new Voter Registration Application.

Wilhite reminds voters that no party changes are allowed between April 1 and August 31 during an even-numbered year.

"If we receive your request after March 31, we are required by law to hold that request and process it in September," Wilhite said.

Oklahoma has three recognized parties: Democratic, Republican, and Libertarian.

In Oklahoma, voters must be a registered member of a party in order to

Rebirth in Adair County

By Donna Boecher

Have you seen or felt the birth pains of Adair County in 2022? No? Then start looking; it is happening everywhere! We let "Fauci" and the other "wanta be's" take us down a neglected and desolate garden path. BUT, we're awake now!! Adair County didn't stay hoodwinked long.

Let's drive through town, north to south and see the rebirth. Tom Woods wants to support rural Oklahoma in government and has his political signage up on Semi trailers; Mikah Walters is building new on the west-side of 2nd Street across from his current business. Charlie's Chicken is now Chicky's under new owners. But the quickest revamping and community improvement will be by Colleen Stephenson!

Colleen Stephenson has rented the old Thrift Store Building on 2nd street next to the Post Office. The Thrift Store, now nicely painted and

brought into the 21st century, will serve the people of Adair County. She is calling it "Colleen's House of Treasurers" and it will be an 80-20 consignment store. She takes 20% and 80% goes to the people who bring their items into the store for sale. Easy peasy!

Open before, during, and after Strawberry Festival, she will stage and sell for the consignees. Each consignee will price and place a consignee-designated number on each piece brought into the store, then on the 5th of each month she will issue money earned. But, a massive change must take place first.

Come this Saturday, March 12th. "FREE Merchandise Clean-out" begins at 9:00 a.m. and continues until everything's gone! Help Colleen make change! Colleen will have bags available for people taking the current merchandise. Remember it's the vacant building next to the Post Office. See you there.

Tire Recycle Day Set for March 19

Adair County Litter-Free & Green will be having their Spring Tire Recycle Day on Saturday, March 19th from 9 am to noon. The location of this event will be 1 1/2 mile east on Hwy. 100. All types of tires will be accepted with the exception of tires that are on heavy-duty vehicles, like semi-trucks or dirt haulers. Also, no commercially owned businesses may participate in this event. Tires

must be off the rims.

Adair County Litter-Free & Green is registered with Keep Oklahoma Beautiful for their state-wide cleanup event. We will also have our monthly Recycle Day on this day and it will be at the regular location, across from Maryetta School on Fairfield Road from 9 am to noon. For more information contact Cathy at 696-1178 or Joyce at 918-696-7316.

PROVERB POWER

"The wicked plotteth against the just, and gnasheth upon him with his teeth. The LORD shall laugh at him: for he seeth that his day is coming." - Psalm 34:12-13 (KJV)

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www.straightforwardfreepress.com
Check it out and enjoy!

THE CONSERVATIVE VIEW

By Russell Turner

SOMETHING FOR NOTHING

We humans are creatures that are always searching for something for nothing. For many years I have heard about the search for a perpetual motion machine; simply put, it is a machine that will continue to work even if no power is put into it. For hundreds or thousands of years there have been individuals who have claimed to have built one, but after closer scrutiny all of them have not lived up to the claims. In my opinion a perpetual motion machine is something that does not exist, to get something out of a machine you must put energy into it. That same concept also applies to politics; it is a shame that most American people cannot grasp that simple concept.

As I watched the State of the Union address by resident Biden, he doubled down on the same old rhetoric that his party seems to use each election cycle. Biden is proposing free education, raising the minimum wage to 15 dollars per hour, child care, health care among other things, and he claims that if your income is under 400 thousand a year it will not cost you any more in taxes. He also keeps up the same talking point about making the rich and corporations pay their fair share. It is time that the American people start getting an education about the effects of government intervention in our economic system.

Over the past several months the cost for the necessities of life have been rising at a record pace; much of this inflation is due to the government injecting so-called free money into our system. Anytime the government starts tinkering with the free enterprise system, with very few exceptions, they will screw the system up. The law of supply and demand will always take care of itself, and it works fine until the government gets involved. When politicians talk about taxing corporations, we need to remember a simple fact: corporations simply pass that additional cost on to the consumer. For example, if you bought an item last year for 1 dollar and now that same item cost you 1.25 that is

a 25% increase in cost. You can look at that increase several ways, but in essence it is tax that you the consumer is paying for the corporation. When politicians start spewing out this garbage, we need to recognize it for what it is: all of the programs that they are claiming will cost you nothing is a complete lie. Reckless spending will destroy a private sector business and it will do the same for our government.

The Department of the Treasury issued its latest annual report on the financial condition of the United States on February 17th and estimated the national debt to be \$29.8 trillion as of Sept. 30, 2021, the last day of the 2021 fiscal year. According to one non-profit group the true national debt is at \$141 trillion, more than four times as big as the official estimate because federal accounting procedures don't include projected future costs to taxpayers of huge entitlement benefit programs like Social Security, Medicare, veterans' benefits and federal retiree benefits. They went on to say a critical part of the State of the Union should be the financial state of the Union. Sadly Biden failed to mention that the government's spending is on an unsustainable path and that, while the government has promised our seniors Social Security and Medicare benefits over the next 75 years, Congress and the president have no idea where the money will come from to pay \$71 trillion of those benefits. Some projections predict taxes would need to increase by more than 32 percent or spending, including promised Social Security and Medicare benefits, would have to be cut by 25 percent.

I guess big government is the closest thing to a perpetual motion machine, but knowing a true perpetual motion machine cannot exist we need to remember that the fuel needed to keep government is more and more money, and it comes from one place—the taxpayers of this country. So, when you hear of something for nothing, just remember a perpetual motion machine.

THE KIPLING KORNER

“A man can never have too much red wine, too many books, or too much ammunition.” (from *Limits and Renewals*)

In Search of a Word

By Donna Boecher

Chocolate— first used in 1600-1610. From a Mexican Indian tribe that made it from the cacao bean.

Example—Chocolate was first used in religious ceremonies in Mexico.

Vocabulary WORD of the DAY

Immeasurable

Example: God's love for man is immeasurable.

• too large, extensive, or extreme to measure.

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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 34

By Donna Boecher

Lydia's early afternoon flight from New Jersey would put her into Kochi at almost midnight; the 12 plus hours in flight got easier each time she flew. She looked forward to having Poha for breakfast. Unlike so many of America's sweet breakfasts liked by children, she was salivating for the flavor of the rice flake dish that satisfied. The six were: sweet, sour, salty, bitter, pungent, and astringent. She'd lightly toast her garlic, ginger, mustard seed, coriander, curry

leaves, green chiles, and onion in a little olive oil before adding the flattened rice which had been briefly soaked in water and drained. Stirring altogether, she'd warm it, add a little turmeric for color, and brighten the flavors with lemon juice. She'd missed that savory vegetarian dish. But she had enjoyed it America-style by adding it as a side dish to her Oklahoma family's eggs and bacon. However, she'd put on a few pounds stateside with its meaty meals; time for the delights of vegetables.

SCRIPTURE

“That the trial of your faith, being much more precious than of gold that perisheth, though it be tried with fire, might be found unto praise and honour and glory at the appearing of Jesus Christ: Whom having not seen, ye love; in whom, though now ye see [him] not, yet believing, ye rejoice with joy unspeakable and full of glory: Receiving the end of your faith, [even] the salvation of [your] souls.” – 1 Peter 1:7-9 (KJV)

Scripture sponsored by:

Faith Tabernacle

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

Last Week to Request Absentee Ballots for April 5 Election

The deadline to request absentee ballots by mail is approaching. Applications must be received by the County Election Board no later than 5 p.m. Monday, March 21.

Adair County Election Board Secretary, Jan Wilhite, says absentee voting is available to all voters and can be submitted several ways.

“In Oklahoma, no excuse is needed to vote by absentee ballot, and it's easy to apply! Voters can submit their application online, in-person, by fax, mail, or even email.”

Voters can apply online using the OK Voter Portal at oklahoma.gov/elections/ovp. Applications are also available at the County Election Board or can be downloaded at oklahoma.gov/elections.

oklahoma.gov/elections.

Wilhite reminds voters that only the applicant can submit his or her own absentee ballot application. It is against the law to submit an absentee ballot application for another person. Voters who submit their application in-person at the County Election Board will be asked to provide proof of identity.

Voters with questions about absentee voting should contact the County Election Board at 918-696-7221 or adaircounty@elections.ok.gov.

The Adair County Election Board is located at 220 W. Division, Stilwell, Oklahoma and is open from 8:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m., Monday through Friday.

Health Tips from Larkin...

By Larkin Fouse, CHHP

Stress Busters—Contemplation:

Many wisdom traditions tell us that one of the most important things we can do in life, is learn to contemplate the wonders of the Creator more. The reason being that the more we contemplate, the more we will discover and thus the more we will have to be amazed by and be thankful for. Many studies have shown that the ability to peacefully contemplate greatly reduces stress, and actually

creates healing chemicals in your body that start to heal it! Therefore, a very powerful thing that can greatly help your health and overall life satisfaction is learning to take breaks from whatever you are doing, and start spending a little more time contemplating the mysteries of the Creator and all the things that He has made for us to enjoy and be amazed by.

Larkin Fouse is a certified holistic health practitioner.



Mullin It Over:

President Biden Missed the Mark

By Congressman Markwayne Mullin

This year's State of the Union address was an opportunity for President Biden to unite the nation during a time of heightened tension and unrest. All eyes were on our president to finally project strength.

President Biden condemned Putin's actions but if he was serious about standing up to him, he would hit him where it hurts: the energy market. Instead of the unsustainable renewables, expensive electric cars, and stifling regulations he mentioned, he would have announced the immediate stop of Russian petroleum and crude oil imports. Now is the time to unleash production of American natural gas and get our producers and drillers back to work. Our country is seeing firsthand that our national security depends on it.

Rather than address solutions to his many self-made crises, President Biden touted liberal legislation that will only prolong them. After telling Americans he knew their economic burden and would bring down costs, he pushed more government spending that will only continue to drive inflation. After acknowledging the opioid epidemic, he failed to mention the 11,000 pounds of fentanyl that came through our Southern border in 2021 alone.

Try as he might, the President cannot rewrite the past year. The American people are smarter than that. Americans are paying more for just about everything and their constitutional freedoms are under attack. They will not forget who caused it.

Our democracy is what makes our country such a special place. The opportunity to pursue what we want and the liberty to do so is the beauty of the American Dream. Oklahomans understand this. Ninety-nine percent of businesses in Oklahoma are small businesses and each one started with an entrepreneur who had an idea on how to make their community a better place. It's not overregulation and increased bureaucracy that allow an entrepreneur to thrive. It's the government stepping out of the way.

We are blessed to be Americans. If the tragedy in Ukraine has shown us anything, it is that freedom is never free. Every American should know this. This was the reminder our country needed on Tuesday. Not a checklist of misguided policy. If we want to come together and move forward, our president must put our country first.

Westville Council Chooses New Mayor, Vice-Mayor

By John Bankel

The Mayor of Westville is not elected by the voters. Rather, once the City Council has its full complement of members, it is the members who choose both the Mayor and Vice-Mayor. At a recent council meeting, Adam McKenzie got the nod for Mayor and James Oliver was picked to be the Vice-Mayor.

Westville is on a move to improve. One of the improvements that the City has in mind is a Splash Pad. The cost of this project is estimated at \$250,000. The City is seeking funding. The City is also working toward finalizing a contract with Adair County EMS to provide Westville with ambulance service. Stay tuned for more news on Westville's improvement projects.

Roadside Litter Clean-Up

By Cathy Unger

As a part of the statewide clean-up, Adair County Litter-Free & Green has registered with Keep Oklahoma Beautiful and will be sponsoring several events now through May.

As you all can see, our roadsides are in bad condition when it comes to litter. The best preventive measure would be to “not litter” in the first place but unfortunately, that is not going to happen. We are searching for individuals or groups that would join us in our annual Roadside Litter Cleanup event. If you have a church or school group that would like to help, we will even donate money (per bag) to your group. If you or someone you know needs to complete some community volunteer work, we would love to have your help. For individuals who want to donate their time, we will form small groups to clean designated areas in and out of Stilwell city limits. We provide trash bags, gloves, and vests to those participating.

To register or join a group, contact Cathy at 918-696-1178 or Joyce at 918-696-7316 or contact us on our Facebook page at Adair County Litter-Free & Green.



Dear John, everyone is worried about what is going on with Russia and Ukraine. I have read many different articles, social media and several news organizations. It is all very confusing and I'm worried about my family. This is all very upsetting. My husband tells me to trust God; he is very calm about all this. He goes to work everyday and I am at home with our baby. I watch the news and know this is a very bad situation. He will not watch the news with me when he gets home from work. Do you think we should do more than just trust God? After all, I have heard it said, “God helps those who help themselves.”

Worried

Dear Worried, seeing all the images of this war is definitely very disconcerting. Plus, it gives one a feeling of helplessness. What can one do to help? Trusting God is paramount for, as the psalmist wrote in Psalm 118:8, “It is better to trust in the Lord, than to put confidence in man (mankind).” Meanwhile, there are a couple of things one can do to help: praying for the people and donating to relief organizations whatever one can give. When one does those things it will relieve some of one's worries and give one a sense that one has helped.

Sincerely,

Dear John

Got a question for Dear John? Email: dearjohn@writeme.com. Real Names Are Not Used.

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Obituaries

Laura Grace (Self) Dixon July 28, 1928 – February 16, 2022

Laura Grace (Self) Dixon, born July 28, 1928 in Waldron AR, made her journey to heaven on February 16, 2022 in Fayetteville AR. Grace lived a full life and enjoyed traveling, listening to gospel music, sewing, working on her puzzle books, cooking (the best biscuits and gravy and cherry pies in the world!), gardening, and watching all her grandchildren grow up. She cherished her collection of flowers, owls and teddy bears, and the time spent watching the hummingbirds out of her front window. To know Grace was to know sunshine in human form—she welcomed everybody with open arms and a kind smile. Everything she did was in the service of those she loved and cared for. She will be greatly missed by everybody who knew and loved her.



Grace is preceded in death by her parents Lark and Frida Self, her husband Dean (Red) Dixon, four brothers and two sisters, and one grandchild. Grace is survived by her three children, Danny (Linda) Dixon of West Siloam Springs OK, Patricia (Lenny Grinder) Reponen of Watts OK, and Karen Crittenden of Watts, OK, 8 grandchildren, 16 great-grandchildren and one great-great-grandchild.

A visitation was held on Saturday, February 19th, 2022, 9 am-12 pm at Roberts Funeral Home, Westville, OK. The memorial service followed at the Old Baptist Mission Church in Westville, OK, at 1 pm.

Janice Lynn Brunk

August 15, 1959 – February 17, 2022

Janice Lynn Brunk, the daughter of Hubert and Louise Sponsler, was born on August 15, 1959, in Oklahoma City, Oklahoma. She passed away to be with her heavenly Father on February 17, 2022.

Janice grew up on a farm in Mountain Grove, Missouri. When she was fifteen, her family moved to Stilwell, Oklahoma, where she became homecoming queen and graduated from Stilwell High School. After high school, she attended cosmetology school and started dating the love of her life, Billy Brunk.

She married Billy on December 22, 1978, and moved to Memphis, Tennessee, where she worked as a cosmetologist to support Billy in Optometry school. After their time in Memphis, they moved to Ft. Leonard Wood, Missouri. Eventually, they settled down in Stilwell with their two sons, Matthew and Derrick. Billy and Janice started an optometry practice in Stilwell, and she served as the office manager for twenty years.

Janice was a devout Christian and devoted wife, mother, grandmother, daughter, sister, and friend. She was the kindest and most generous person you could know, and her impact on her family was immeasurable. Janice enjoyed decorating her home, traveling, playing games, and spending time with her grandkids. She has the fondest memories of her aunts and uncles and loved traveling back to Missouri to reminisce on a wonderful time.

Janice was preceded in death by her father Hubert Sponsler of Tulsa, and survived by her husband, Dr. Bill Brunk of Stilwell. Son Matthew Brunk and wife Cory of Stilwell; Son Derrick Brunk of Stilwell; Mother Louise Sponsler of Tulsa; Sister Jennifer and husband Greg Hewin of Broken Arrow; brother Stephen Sponsler of Mannford and grandchildren Miles, Flynn, and Marlowe Brunk of Stilwell. Janice is also survived by numerous family members and friends.

Graveside services were held at 2 pm on Tuesday, February 22, 2022 at Stilwell City Cemetery, Stilwell, OK. Interment followed under the direction of Roberts/Reed-Culver Funeral Home, Stilwell, OK.

Randy Lee Burke

June 10, 1957 – February 17, 2022

Randy Lee Burke, the son of T. J. and Patsy (Alcorn) Burke was born June 10, 1957, in Fort Worth, Texas and passed away on Thursday, February 17, 2022, in Dallas, Texas at the age of 64 years, 8 months, and 7 days.

Randy was a survivor and fighter; he beat cancer twice. He was a wonderful husband, father, and grandfather. He took his titles of Spouse, Dad, and Papa seriously and he fulfilled all their wishes to the very best of his ability. He made ALL his family feel loved. If a disturbance arose, he would calm everyone and then feed them.



He was a hard worker and provided for his family as a mechanical engineer at a variety of bakeries in the Dallas area. Randy was an avid tool collector, and he collected guns, knives, and flashlights. He took pride in his variety of tools. He loved motorcycles, and going shopping was right up his alley.

He was preceded in death by his parents: T. J. and Patsy Burke; daughter: Kristen; and brothers: Larry, and James.

Randy is survived by his wife: Tina; children: James Burke and wife Jennifer of West Siloam Springs, Oklahoma, Chris Guthrie and wife Katelyn of Ohio, Brandon Burke and wife Kaleigh of Bryan Texas, Nathan Burke of the home, Rhonda Burke of Westville, Oklahoma, Rachel Campos of Houston, Texas, and Nerissa Burke of the home. He was also blessed with 12 grandchildren.

Funeral services were held at 1 pm on Wednesday, February 23, 2022 at Roberts & Hart Chapel, Westville, OK with Bro. John Hammer officiating. Interment followed at Westville City Cemetery, Westville, OK.

Jimmy William Toney

January 28, 1972 – February 22, 2022

Jimmy William Toney was born to Jerry Rex Toney and Jane Henry Toney on January 28, 1972. He was taken home to his heavenly home on February 22, 2022.

Jim left us on 2-22-22. He always had to be remembered for something unique. He grew up in Stilwell and graduated from Stilwell High School. He attended Northeastern State University for a time before he gave up the college life for heavy equipment. He also owned and operated his own pole barn business. He always said, "He could run any piece of heavy equipment no matter what it was." He moved back to Stilwell 3 years ago and that is where he and Rhea made their home.



He is survived by his wife, Rhea Toney, Stilwell OK, his daughters: Skylar Toney, Tahlequah OK and Mikayla Toney, Texas, his stepson: Tyler Terrapin, Stilwell OK and his mother-in-law, Margaret Terrapin, Stilwell OK, along with other relatives and friends.

Funeral services were held at 1 pm on Wednesday, March 2, 2022 at Roberts/Reed-Culver Chapel, Stilwell, OK. Interment will follow at Tyler Springs Cemetery, Stilwell, OK.

Rodrck "Cook" Torres Christie

April 10, 1990 – February 14, 2022

Rodrck "Cook" Torres Christie of Stilwell, Oklahoma was born on April 10, 1990 in Tahlequah, Oklahoma. He was the son of Catalino Garcia, Rhonda (Christie) Sanchez and stepfather Miguel Z. Sanchez. He departed this life to be with our Lord on Monday, February 14, 2022 in Tulsa, Oklahoma at 31 years of age.

Cook enjoyed spending time with his family and friends, especially with his kids. He enjoyed fishing, working in his yard and listening to music.

He was preceded in death by his grandfather, Robert Christie.

Cook is survived by a loving and devoted family that includes his mother: Rhonda (Christie) Sanchez of Stilwell, OK, his sisters: Catalina Sanchez and husband of Joplin, MO, Carmen Christie of Stilwell, Mario Garcia of Stilwell, Veronica Christie and husband of Stilwell, stepdad: Miguel Sanchez of Stilwell, father: Catalino Garcia of Mexico, grandmother: Clarietta Christie of Stilwell, wife: Katina (Bunch) Christie and children: Robert Bunch, Jerih Bunch, Trevor Bunch and Hazel Bunch, all of Stilwell.

Cook is also survived by numerous nieces, nephews, aunts, uncles, cousins and friends.

Funeral services were held at 2 pm on Monday, March 7, 2022 at Roberts/Reed-Culver Funeral Home, Stilwell, OK. Interment followed at Stilwell City Cemetery, Stilwell, OK.

Puzzle Page

KRYPTO KONTEST 3.0 WEEK 2

Well, it's Krypto time again. This is still anyone's game to win the prize of \$25 and a calculator; there are 7 weeks left, counting this one. For today's Kontest, the answer is 8. You are playing with 2, 25, 6, 4, 9. Remember, you must use all 5 of these

numbers and any combination of addition, subtraction, multiplication, or division to write an expression that equals 8. Go ahead and give it a whirl? It is a lot of fun!

Send your solution to: **Krypto Kontest, POB 885, Stilwell, OK 74960.**

ON THE CAMPAIGN TRAIL

Commentary by John Bankel

Today's Trail Treks To The...

SCHOOL BOARD: BACKYARD BUSINESS

It was not too long ago when one of the speakers—perhaps Markwayne Mullin—at an Adair County Republican Party meeting said that taking care of local business, i.e., electing local officials that have integrity and truly serve the citizenry, is the most important aspect of politics. Not only that, but he said that the School Board is the most important office of them all. It is plain to see that our public school system has been infiltrated by left-wing ideologies that are full of marxist doctrines, and that the democrat party has embraced this marxist ideology. The teachers' Unions, both the American Federation Of Teachers (AFT) and the National Education Association (NEA), are the driving force behind this marxist onslaught; they have been at it for a long time.

One of those doctrines is the pernicious Critical Race Theory, a theory that came out of the communist Frankfurt School in 1930's Germany, and teaches that skin color and not the content of your character and hard work, will determine the makeup of society and ultimately an individual's success; another is the 1619 Project, which seeks to dismantle America's history in favor of a racist denouncement of the early settlers of America. Further, the Left believes that America and America's history is totally racist and that there can be no objective truth. Even Mathematics is no longer considered as being objective and to insist that 2+2=4 is an expression of white supremacist dogma; to these progressive left wingnuts, the answer can be whatever one chooses it to be, much like gender.

The disaster which this kind of thinking will create must be averted at all costs. Just recently, parents have taken the initiative to challenge school boards across the country to hold them accountable for seeing that these marxist indoctrinations are tossed out of the curricula.

In San Francisco, just a couple of weeks ago, 3 marxist School Board members were expelled after the parents banded together to petition for their ouster. In Virginia, the voters spoke when Glenn Youngkin, a Republican, got the nod for Governor after parents got involved at school board meetings to decry the indoctrination being forced upon their children by marxist school boards. School boards turn out to be the most powerful political tool at the disposal of the marxist agenda which seeks to turn America from

"THE LAND OF THE FREE" to a communist state.

In Adair County, there are school board elections coming up on April 5. As voters in Adair County, it is up to us to see that we elect school board members that cherish American values and have the integrity to assure that Adair County's youth are being taught the 3 R'S and the truth about America's history and how to think for themselves. It is crucial that we take care of our own backyards. After all, your local School Boards are BACKYARD BUSINESS.

Next week's Campaign Trail will return to PART 2 of "Twist Mountain."

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

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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.

St. Patrick's Day Event Set for March 17 at Stilwell American Legion

Join us for an evening with the Leprechauns on Thursday, March 17th at the American Legion, located at 9 West Olive St., in Stilwell. Doors open from 6:00 p.m. to 9:00 p.m. Music to be provided.

Supper is corned beef and cabbage, potato soup. (Beans and ham as alternate.) Cost is: Adults \$8.00 and Kids \$4.00.

Sponsored by Veterans of Foreign Wars Stilwell Post 10829.

WHAT'S SO PUNNY? PUN FUN

I've finally told my suitcases there will be no holiday this year. Now I'm dealing with the emotional baggage.

If you're not supposed to eat at night, why is there a light bulb in the refrigerator?

My dad died when we couldn't remember his blood type. As he died, he kept insisting "be positive," but it's hard without him.

A YOUNG WRITER'S STORY

A story about Jack part 5 By Keegan Hummingbird Age 11 Zion School

It's starting to cool off. The green of everything is quickly turning orange, yellow, red, and brown. The only reason I know some robes is because of Jacob. He likes to teach us things. (Even if we don't need to know the things.) When I take deep breaths I realize just how right Jacob is about the air being so crisp.

I met a really rude horse. He wouldn't even talk to me! He was blue, and so strong he could carry a whole hay bale. He must had been a fancy horse because his saddle had a bash on it so the rider could lean back. He also had funny reins in the shape of a wheel, sprouting of wheels, he had wheels instead of legs. Now that I'm writing about it I wonder if he was even a horse.

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Did you know?

FOR THOSE OF YOU WHO HAVE TROUBLE SPELLING * !!!! TRY THIS!!!! AOCDRNDICG TO RSCHEARCH AT CMABRIGDE UINERTVISY, IT DSENO'T MTAETR WAHT OERDR THE LTTRES IN A WROD ARE, THE OLYN IPROAMTNT THNG IS TAHT THE FRSIT AND LSAT LTEETR BE IN THE RGHIT PLCAE. THIS IS BCUSEAE THE HUAMN MNID DEOS NOT RAED ERVEY LTETER BY ISTLEF, BUT THE WROD AS A WLOHE. IF YOU CAN RAED THHS, PSOT IT TO YUOR WLAL. OLYN 55% OF PLEPOE CAN!!

Everyone Welcome

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