

# The STRAIGHT FORWARD



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**FREE** Press<sup>SM</sup>

Volume 2 • Issue 31

Serving Stilwell & Adair County, Oklahoma

Thursday March 9, 2023

## Stilwell City Council Meeting

*Commentary by John Bankel*

On Monday, March 6, the Stilwell City Council held its regular monthly meeting to conduct the business of Stilwell City. With all members present a quorum was reached. Mayor Jean Ann Wright guided the meeting by reading from the Agenda. Until item 10 on the agenda was reached, the meeting had proceeded in the usual matter-of-fact style. What was in Item 10 that changed the complexion of the meeting? Item 10 referred to music at the senior center. Up until the end of January, seniors enjoyed listening to Gospel music played by local musicians who volunteered their time and talents in service to the Lord, every Thursday morning from 10 til 11:30. On Fridays, during the same time frame, a band played good old country, rock 'n roll, blues, and some bluegrass with various singers invited to sing and some folks even danced. This format had been going on

ever since this writer first starting going to the center quite a while back. Then one cold day in January, a disgruntled member of the audience took it upon themselves to march up to the stage and disharmoniously unplug the microphones. A rhubarb ensued. The aftermath? It was the day the music died. The incident reached the Mayor's desk. It became apparent that the solution would have to be hammered out by the City Council. Some seniors were in favor of putting a permanent halt to the music; some were in favor of picking it up where the music left off. Now it was up to the Council to decide. A lively discussion on this matter took place. Finally, a motion was made to revise the time frame for the music. Instead of 10-11:30, the new time would be 9:45 - 11:15. The motion passed unanimously. And just like that, the music is back!



THE STILWELL INDIANS ARE GOING TO THE STATE TOURNAMENT!!!!



Photo by: Frankie Duncan

## Stilwell

### City Candidates

Filing is complete and the following is the lineup:

Mayor: Jean Ann Wright, Jim Spray

City Clerk: Larry Nettles unopposed

Ward 2: John Bankel, Barrett Haris, Darren Lee, Neal Garrett, Tony Asbill

Ward 3: Debbie Johnson unopposed

Ward 5: Lane Kindle, Billy Willis,

Larry A. Nettles  
City Clerk/Treasurer  
City of Stilwell, Oklahoma

## The Last Seconds Of The Game



### PROVERB POWER

Proverb 1:8 KJV

My son, hear the instruction of thy father, and forsake not the law of thy mother.

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# STILWELL SPORTS SPOTLIGHT

Commentary by John Bankel

## Stilwell Indians Baseball Take Me Out To The Ball Game... Play Ball!

While the 23-3 Stilwell Indians basketball team travels to OKC in their quest for The Gold Ball and while the Lady Indians, who had a remarkable season of their own finishing with a winning record of 16-7, had their pursuit of a State Title come to and end in the Area competition this past week, the Stilwell Indians Baseball team opened their season at Carson Park, March 6, against Stigler. Stilwell Baseball has a history of perennial winning seasons. The game against Stigler got the Indians off to a rough start. They managed only one run while Stigler ran wild with 13. For their next game, March 13, the Indians travel to take on Cherokee High School in a non-conference match up. "Buy you some peanuts and cracker jack" and come on out and "root, root, root for the home team" the next time the boys are back in town.

Stilwell Boys Basketball

### Indians Punch Their Ticket To State

With a record of 23-3, the Indians will take on #1 ranked Kingfisher at 10:30 on Wednesday, March 8, to continue their quest for The Gold Ball. They punched their ticket by defeating Tuttle 56-48 in the Area Consolation Bracket. Kingfisher is no stranger to the State Tournament. As a matter of fact, they have won the last 4 Class 4A State Championships. Stilwell will have to bring their A+ game for a chance to move on. A loss will eliminate the Indians from further competition. Win or Lose, the 2022-23 Stilwell Indians have played an exciting brand of basketball and will always occupy a place in Stilwell's heart as WINNERS!

### Stilwell Girls Basketball

The Lady Indians Could Not Get Past Their Tour-

### ney Nemesis...Verdigris

After having won the District and Regional Championships, the Lady Indians ran into, what would become their Area Tournament nemesis, the girls from Verdigris, whom they lost to in the first round. The loss moved the girls to the Consolation Bracket. Fighting their way back to the Consolation finals, it turned out that Verdigris, their nemesis, was again standing in the way. The girls fought hard to get past this obstacle, but once again Verdigris, their nemesis, took the Lady Indians to task, winning by a close score of 51-43. Verdigris punched their ticket to state. The Lady Indians took an excellent record of 16-7 and District and Regional titles under their belts, home. And, by all accounts, the 2022-23 Stilwell Girls Basketball season has been a SUCCESS!



Dear John,

I have never had an easy time finding someone to date me. My friend pushed me into trying a dating internet sight. The first guy had bad breath. He took me to an Italian restaurant and told me how much he loved garlic, I told him "yes I know." He asked me how I knew, and I said, "you must have eaten a clove before meeting me here." He got touchy and said, "do I have bad breath?" What was I supposed to say? I said "yes," the rest of the evening didn't go so well. My second date was kind of nerdy and he wouldn't stop talking about his parrot. He said, "do you like birds?" I said, "no, they are too messy." He said, "I keep my bird clean." I said, "I'm sure you do, maybe you should date your bird." He got mad and left. The guy didn't have a sense of humor. My girl friend said that I'm just too picky and sarcastic. I gave you some examples of what I have said to the guys I date. I never get called back and it's possible I may never find anyone who can get along with me. I'm not even sure I want to be tied down. What do you think John? Is it ok to be alone?

Big Red

Dear Big Red...dating can be a mighty tricky business, especially the online variety. The first meeting is the most crucial part, scary to be sure. You impress me as being an up front girl who speaks her mind. That characteristic is admirable most of the time. Sometimes, like on a first date for instance, it is best to temper your forthrightness with a touch of diplomacy. Telling your date he should be dating his bird will not fly. You basically pooped into his nest and he flew the coop on you. My advice to is learn to use your tongue wisely and you may eventually catch a feller and be lonely no more.

Sincerely,

Dear John

Have you got a question for Dear John? email it to: [dearjohn@writeme.com](mailto:dearjohn@writeme.com)

Real Name Not Used.

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**Vocabulary Word:** highfalutin – pompous or pretentious language, words.

Ex. Her highfalutin language made her sound snobbish like she was trying to show off.

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[redwagonfeed@gmail.com](mailto:redwagonfeed@gmail.com)

**I signed up for an exercise class and was told to wear loose fitting clothing...**

**If I HAD any loose fitting clothing, I wouldn't have signed up to begin with.**

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

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

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## THE KIPLING KORNER

### The Appeal

"If I have given you delight  
By aught that I have done,  
Let me lie quiet in that night  
Which shall be yours anon:  
And for the little, little, span  
The dead are born in mind,  
Seek not to question other than  
The books I leave behind."  
(The hope of every writer.)

## PRESS RELEASE

FOR RELEASE: March 8 , 2023  
 CONTACT: Jan Wilhite , Secretary of Adair Election Board, 918-696-7221 or adaircounty@elections.ok.gov

### BOARD OF EDUCATION GENERAL ELECTION ANNOUNCED

The Adair County Election Board announced today that the Board of Education General Election will be held on Tuesday, April 4 , 2023 .

Following is a list of school districts with elections and candidates that will be on the ballot:

- Stilwell Public School, office # 3 - Sandy Ritter, Gordon Chronister
- Stilwell Public School Proposition
- Zion Public School, office #1 - Robert Patterson, Justin Spear
- ICTC School, office #3- Mark Walters, Scott Chambers

Voters who are registered and reside at an address within the geographical boundaries of the Stilwell, Zion Public and ICTC School District are eligible to vote in the Board of Education General Election. If you have questions about eligibility, contact your County Election Board at 918-696-7221 or adaircounty@elections.ok.gov . You can also find your district information using the State Election Board's OK Voter Portal at [oklahoma.gov/elections/ovp](http://oklahoma.gov/elections/ovp).



1 Corinthians 10:13 - There hath no temptation taken you but such as is common to man: but God is faithful, who will not suffer you to be tempted above that ye are able; but will with the temptation also make a way to escape, that ye may be able to bear it.

#### SCRIPTURE

1 Corinthians 10:13 KJV

Scripture sponsored by:

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**Searching for a Word:** – lexiphanic, using bombastic or pretentious wording or language.

Ex. The young lawyers use of lexiphanic words distanced him from the people on the jury; they couldn't understand what he was saying.



# THE CONSERVATIVE VIEW

By Russell Turner

## THE NEED FOR MONEY

Any form of government has to have a source of revenue; whether it be from a sales tax or property taxes, there has to be an industry to generate that revenue. For years we have heard the dangers of smoking cigarettes; while our government has filed various lawsuits against tobacco companies, the industry remains and our government collects a steady stream of money from the tobacco industry. All of the time we keep hearing some excuse for any taxation as being we need the revenue for worthy causes. While politicians condemn the use of alcohol or tobacco as addictive and habit forming, they have developed an addiction for tax dollars wherever they come from. One of the biggest causes they champion is the subject of education, whether we want to admit it or not we are giving our children an education in the way we conduct government; when we become hypocrites by condemning and promoting certain issues just for money, how can we expect our children to evolve into good citizens for our nation.

Next Tuesday the people of Oklahoma will go to the polls to decide the fate of SQ 820 which, if approved, will legalize the use of recreational marijuana. It wasn't that many years ago that medical marijuana was legalized in our state. I do realize that many of our drugs are derived from various plants across our planet and for some people there may be some medical benefits for the use of marijuana, but let us be honest with ourselves, most people viewed the medical marijuana law as a means to get high. All anyone has to do to purchase weed is to get a prescription and you can purchase it at countless dispensaries across the state. I also might note that I have never heard of anyone being refused a medical card. Because of the medical marijuana law our state has become known as the wild west state of the country. Property values have been completely thrown into chaos; we have people from countries such as Russia, China, Mongolia, etc., operating with straw owners fronting for these individuals. The law was

voted in without the necessary controls to regulate the industry. Now we have millions of dollars from out of state being spent in our state to influence our voters to vote in full recreational marijuana, our state government was caught with their collective pants down and they haven't pulled them up yet. If we can't properly regulate medical use, how are we going to regulate opening the marijuana industry wide open?

As usual the proponents are using the children as an excuse to approve SQ 820. Just like a junkie that will do anything for dope, some people will do anything for more money; maybe we should start taxing prostitution. I guess it could be just another sin tax, but it could be for the children. People, we need to remember that our children learn from us adults whether our actions are good or evil. I will vote no on SQ 820, we need to set a better example for our future generations. Getting more money at any cost is not what made our country moral and great.

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

Number 16

By Donna Boecher

My grandmother said of me, "It can do anything." Now at age 8, I knew I didn't know it all. I watched and learned. In the summer of 1964, I started college. I left East Texas to head for the mountains of West Texas. Without a vehicle, I took the train west. Just that experience of riding the train expanded my knowledge. There were all sorts of people: they were nice, and all of them had a story to tell. I was fascinated. I wanted to write. Taking 12 course hours that summer, after studying I listened to a radio channel

that broadcast 100 miles in every direction, including Mexico. At that point our country was involved in Viet Nam, Roy Orbison had recorded "Pretty Woman", and many guys were heading to Canada to escape the draft. It was the summer of my first patriotic battle. I confronted a classmate who wasn't taking his classes seriously. I told him he should just leave the country if he didn't appreciate America and her virtues and possibilities. Mentally and physically, he buckled up and made his grades. Sometimes I

wonder how many of those young men returned from Canada to either enlist or be drafted. America is worth it, BUT we must keep her strong, expressing our religious faith and beliefs.

**"If my people who are called by My name will humble themselves, and pray and seek My face, and turn from their wicked ways, then I will hear from heaven, and will forgive their sin and heal their land." (2 Chron. 7:14)**



# ON THE CAMPAIGN TRAIL

COMMENTARY BY JOHN BANKEL

## Today's Trail Treks To Biden's Balloon Bamboozle

Recently a Chinese spy balloon was allowed to traverse the entire United States unmolested by our military. This balloon could be considered a metaphor for what has gone sky high and unchecked since the Biden regime took over the affairs of America. The prices of everything remain in runaway mode with no relief in sight. Just how cozy has Biden become with the CCP, (Chinese Communist Party)? The discovery of top secret documents in various compromised locations would indicate that trading secrets with the CCP has probably become commonplace within the Biden realm. The presence of that spy balloon is chilling enough on its face but

to think that this episode is not some random affair but a carefully orchestrated foray spearheaded by Biden himself in his quest to destroy America with an eventual communist takeover is totally frightening. That is not some farfetched notion. One needs only to take a step back and evaluate the systematic dismantling of our economy, our southern border and our energy independence since Biden took office to see the reality of our present state of affairs. A popular expression of Biden's policies is "America Last." And as long as he is in office, a good question would be, "How long can America last?" and "will we withstand the Biden Balloon

Bamboozle?" 2024 cannot come soon enough. Perhaps by that time Biden and the Democrats will have been smelled out for the rats that they really are and we can get back to "American First" and "Make America Great Again."

Today's Trail has come to an end. Perhaps we can meet again around the bend, my friend. Meanwhile, may your Trail end up on the right side of the fence. Vaya con Dios!

John Bankel is a freelance journalist and a retired High School Math Teacher who can be reached at: [writewright@journalist.com](mailto:writewright@journalist.com)  
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## MORE STILWELL SPORTS SPOTLIGHT

Commentary by John Bankel

### STILWELL SENDS ATHLETES TO STATE

The Indians Basketball team are not the only athletes who qualified for state competition. While Basketball receives more attention than any other winter sport, there are 2 other sports that have produced State qualifiers this season. Within Girls Wrestling, we have 2 outstanding wrestlers who will be vying for State

Titles: Josalyn Blevins and Adrianna Chronister. In the sport of Power lifting, Taya Ross has achieved a Silver Medal along with tying the State record in the Deadlift, where she hoisted a mind boggling 350 lbs! Among the boys, Zylar Gonzales and Gabe Ritter also qualified for State. A send off celebration for all the State quali-

fiers took place Tuesday morning. It started at the high school and wound its way downtown in the Stilwell High School team bus. When it reached Division Street it was enthusiastically greeted by all the Stilwell Elementary and Middle School student standing along the street. The City of Stilwell has much of which to be proud.



Photo by Frankie Duncan

## WHAT'S SO PUNNY?

### PUN FUN

It is corny joke time. It is hard to find people that do not appreciate a good corny joke. You may want to have a few corny jokes at your disposal. They can break the ice in the coldest of company. So here is some corn to chew on.

wear bells? Because their horns don't work!

4. A Biblical Tale: Where was King David's temple located? Beside his ear.

5. One More For The Corn: How do you play a corncob? By ear.

1. Silly Horse Story: What did the horse say after it tripped? Help! I have fallen and i can't gid-dyup!

2, One More Horse Story: What do you call a well balanced horse? Stable.

3. Let's Hear It For The Cows: Why do cows

So much corn can be too much corn. You may end up becoming cornfused. So ears to you for seeing this cornucopia of corny jokes all the way through. Remember, the best way to remember a joke is to tell it to someone else. So long till the next PUN FUN.



#### Old Fashioned Stuffed Cabbage Rolls

Ingredients:

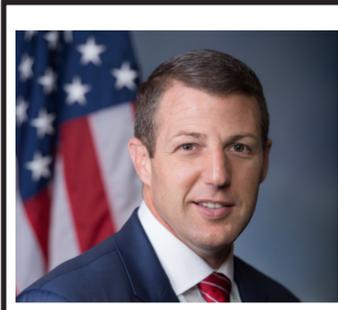
- 1 medium head cabbage (3 pounds)
- 1/2 pound uncooked ground beef
- 1/2 pound uncooked ground pork
- 1 can (15 ounces) tomato sauce, divided
- 1 small onion, chopped
- 1/2 cup uncooked long grain rice
- 1 tablespoon dried parsley flakes
- 1/2 teaspoon salt
- 1/2 teaspoon snipped fresh dill or dill weed
- 1/8 teaspoon cayenne pepper
- 1 can (14-1/2 ounces) diced tomatoes, un-drained
- 1/2 teaspoon sugar

Directions:

Cook cabbage in boiling water just until outer leaves pull away easily from head. Set aside 12 large leaves for rolls. In a small bowl, combine the beef, pork, 1/2 cup tomato sauce, onion, rice, parsley, salt, dill and cayenne; mix well.

Cut out the thick vein from the bottom of each leaf, making a V-shaped cut. Place about 1/4 cup meat mixture on a cabbage leaf; overlap cut ends of leaf. Fold in sides. Beginning from the cut end, roll up. Repeat. Slice the remaining cabbage; place in a Dutch oven. Arrange the cabbage rolls seam side down over sliced cabbage. Combine the tomatoes, sugar and remaining tomato sauce; pour over the rolls. Cover and bake at 350° until cabbage rolls are tender, 1-1/2 hours.





## Senator Markwayne Mullin MULLIN IT OVER

# Get the Federal Government Out of Oklahoma's Waterways

As a small business owner, I know first-hand how bureaucratic overregulation and red tape can threaten or even destroy a business.

Eleven years ago, the Obama administration's burdensome and ever-changing Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) regulations put my wife and me out of business in a matter of days—and we weren't alone. Heavy handed government bureaucracy is a constant challenge for Oklahoma business owners, and it's why I ran for office in the first place.

One thing is clear, Oklahomans know that one-size-fits-all big government policies from Washington do not work. Take the Waters of the United States (WOTUS) rule, for example.

In 2015, the Obama administration finalized a rule to greatly expand the definition of "Waters of the United States," allowing Washington bureaucrats to regulate the streams and creeks in Oklahomans' backyards. As a rancher, I know how aggressively they've tried to reach into our properties to take control of our streams.

When President Trump entered office, he repealed this deeply flawed rule, and replaced it with the Navigable Waters Protection Rule (NWPR). The NWPR effectively limited the federal government's regulatory authority, allowed states to care for their own natural resources, and established clear and reasonable definitions for what qualifies as "Waters of the United States."

Unsurprisingly, on day one, President Biden signed an executive order to roll back the NWPR. Then, this past December, the EPA and U.S. Army Corp of Engineers issued a new proposed rule repeal-

ing NWPR and replacing it with similar definitions to the Obama-era rule, all to expand the Biden administration's federal regulatory authority. This rule is expected to go into effect on March 20, 2023.

Keep in mind, the Biden administration made this big government power grab while awaiting the final ruling of Sackett v. EPA, a U.S. Supreme Court case to determine whether wetlands fall under WOTUS jurisdiction.

WOTUS has been a headache for many Oklahomans for decades. The idea that a drainage ditch in Oklahoma is now a federally regulated, navigable waterway is absurd. This overregulation is detrimental to our rural communities, making it hard for farmers and ranchers to do their jobs.

Under WOTUS, the EPA can fine farmers and ranchers thousands of dollars if they simply rotate from one crop to another without first gaining permission from the federal government. This rule hurts small businesses and family farms – two entities that embody the Oklahoma economy the most.

Our producers cannot afford this costly revision, especially during a time when farmers and ranchers are already struggling under increased energy costs, supply chain shortages, and skyrocketing inflation.

I'm glad to see Oklahoma officials in the fight to challenge this most recent rule. Our governor and members of the state congressional delegation are working to halt the rule's implementation until after the Supreme Court weighs in on Sackett v. EPA. Our attorney general is also joining with other attorney generals to file a lawsuit to challenge the rule altogether.

Oklahomans have al-

ways been responsible stewards of our environment. From vast productive farmland to important public waterways like MKARNS, Oklahomans strike an effective balance between economic prosperity and responsible land usage. Our state has proven that we don't need out-of-touch federal bureaucrats telling us what to do or how to manage our natural resources.

I'm proud to represent Oklahoma on the Senate Environment and Public Works Committee (EPW) as Ranking Member of the Chemical Safety, Waste Management, Environmental Justice, and Oversight Subcommittee. In the Senate, I'm leading the fight to eliminate environmental red tape and exercise oversight over agencies like the EPA which continue to put entrepreneurs and job creators out of business. This past month I signed onto a Resolution of Disapproval to overturn the Biden Administration's revised and burdensome definition of the "Waters of the United States" rule, published in January 2023.

While WOTUS is clearly at the forefront for many Oklahomans, it is just one of the many issues I'm working to address on the EPW Committee in Washington. I look forward to using this position to streamline infrastructure projects, ensure reasonable chemical standards, and fight against burdensome environmental regulations that are threatening our livelihoods. Together, we can get the federal government off our land and out of our backyard.



Well Played Game



## Community Bulletin Board

**Stilwell Community Choir meets Tuesday, at First United Methodist Church, 7 pm. For more 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** Adair County Litter-Free & Green will change its location for the Recycle Day event beginning January 21st, 2023. The new site will be behind Vonnie's Pawn Shop at 101 West Walnut Street in Stilwell. Patrons will enter from 1st Street, proceed into the alley directly behind the pawn shop, and exit onto 2nd Street. "We believe that this location will work better for our volunteer workers and the public since it is centrally located," says Cathy Unger, Co-Chair.

The hours of operation and types of recyclable items that are accepted will remain the same: paper, cardboard, glass, plastic #1 and #2, metal, plastic grocery bags, aluminum, and clothing that is clean and in good condition. You can find a more detailed list on our Facebook page under Adair County Litter-Free & Green. Below is a list of projected recycle dates which will only change if there are inclement weather conditions that day. For more information, you may contact Cathy Unger at 918-696-1178 or Joyce Radtke at 918-696-7316.

Dates for 2023:

Jan 21, Feb 18, March 18, April 15, May 20, June 17, July 15, Aug 18, Sept 16, Oct. 21, Nov 18, Dec 16

**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 Bethel Church** Everyone Welcome

# The Straight Forward Press

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