

The STRAIGHT FORWARD

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Republican Party Candidates, left to right: N. Jack Thorpe, Dist. 27 Attorney; Gentner Drummond, OK State Attorney; and Clint Johnson, Dist. 2 U.S. Congress.

Republican Party Meeting Attracts 6 Candidates

PART 2

By John Bankel

As a continuation of the previous week's article, which covered 3 of the 6 candidates, the District 4 State Senate candidates, Part 2 will present the other 3: N. Jack Thorpe, the incumbent Dist. 27 District Attorney, Clint Johnson, seeking the Dist. 2 Congressional seat and Gentner Drummond, candidate for the Oklahoma State Attorney General office.

The first one to address the overflow crowd at the KCS train depot on March 21 was N. Jack Thorpe. He began by saying that he has been a prosecutor for 23 years and that he loves his job and can see himself doing nothing else. However, his job has become more difficult since the McGirt decision was handed down by the U.S. Supreme Court in 2021. He said the entire Oklahoma court system has been thrown into much turmoil trying to cope with the jurisdictional conundrum this decision has created. In addition, Thorpe also discussed the enforcement problems that the cannabis growers have created. A large part of that problem is related to a lack of enforcement officers who are willing to go out and put themselves in harms way since many of these growers are hostile illegals and liable to tote some "heavy artillery." Despite all of that, he is ready to continue to serve the people of District 27 and protect them from the criminal element among us.

The next speaker was Clint Johnson. Johnson is hoping to get

elected to the District 2 Congressional seat which will be vacated by the incumbent Markwayne Mullin, who has decided to run for the U.S. Senate, which seat is being vacated by long time Senator Jim Inhofe, who is resigning. As a former Marine and law enforcement officer, Johnson is a no nonsense sort who stated that he is all for "draining the D.C. SWAMP." He raises horses for a living and feels that he can make a difference in our nation's Capitol by voting for conservative measures like fiscal responsibility and opening up the economy with greater oil and gas production to lower prices at the pump.

The final candidate to speak was Gentner Drummond who is running for Oklahoma State Attorney General. Drummond comes from a long line of Oklahoma ranchers. He is a fighter, a fighter pilot who flew F-15's during the Iraq conflict as a squadron leader. He emerged from that duty as one of the most decorated servicemen in the history of Oklahoma. Gentner is poised to bring that style of leadership and tenacity to the State Attorney's Office. When he is elected, he will secure our elections, protect our 2nd Amendment rights, stop illegal marijuana grow operations, support law enforcement and first responders, and defend the fairness of women's sports.

Could the electorate of Oklahoma possible ask for more? Look for more word on the progress of these races in forthcoming issues of The Straight Forward FREE Press.

Special Feature:

THE TEACHER FEATURE

With this issue, The Straight Forward FREE Press is launching a new Feature: "The Teacher Feature." During the school year, the last issue of each month will highlight an Adair County teacher that is doing exceptional academic work in the classroom or outstanding work as a sports coach.

Today, we feature Amanda Sellers Crozier, who will explain her work with STREAM (Science, Technology, Reading, Engineering, Arts, Mathematics). It is the hottest thing going. After all, life is but a stream and we learn how to swim in it.

Explore, create, design, build, paint, and experiment. What if you had the opportunity to change your career every week? The students that come into our Maker Space Lab at Zion School have the chance to do just that. I teach S.T.E.M., also known as S.T.E.A.M. or S.T.R.E.A.M. It started with the focus on science, technology, engineering, and math. Then art was added, and



Amanda Crozier assists students with their projects at the Maker Space Lab at Zion School.

now reading to make the change to S.T.R.E.A.M.. I am blessed to have all students 3 year olds through 8th grade come to my lab for one hour each week. Every week the

students experience an insight to different career paths. I try to connect each lesson to a different profession. We might be scientists, (See The Teacher Feature on Page 3)

SPLFS Receives Best Friends Award

By Regina McLemore,
SPLFS Secretary

Members of the Stilwell Public Library Friends Society (SPLFS) have worked diligently for several years. Their primary mission is to serve the youth of Stilwell by supporting the Stilwell Public Library. Working closely with various library branch managers, they have raised money to build a children's wing as well as pay for needed services and materials. Recently President Grace Ferris and Vice President Donna Boecher compiled a scrapbook, recognizing the contributions and achievements of some of the SPLFS members. The members featured included artist and writer, Barbara Brown; writer and journalist John Bankel; environmentalist and SPLFS Treasurer Cathy Unger; author and Secretary Regina McLemore, and writer, newspaper editor, and Vice President Donna Boecher. The Friends of the Library in Oklahoma (FOLIO) chose this scrapbook as the best among libraries in communities having less than 10,000, and SPLFS received the John Harkey



SPLFS members: Cathy Unger, Grace Ferris, Donna Boecher (holding the SPLFS scrapbook), and Regina McLemore are all smiles as they show off the John Harkey Best Friends Award and the \$500 they received at the Friends of Libraries in Oklahoma (FOLIO) awards meeting.

Best Friends Award and \$500. As an unexpected bonus, they received an additional \$500 this year because no group from a community having more than 10,000 sub-

mitted a scrapbook. This money will be used toward their current project, purchasing a digital sign to inform patrons of library services and events.

PROVERB POWER

"For I know the thoughts that I think toward you, saith the LORD, thoughts of peace, and not of evil, to give you an expected end." – Jeremiah 29:11 (KJV)

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www.straightforwardfreepress.com
Check it out and enjoy!



SPRING HOLLOW BLUEGRASS

All are welcome to join us for an evening of music & fellowship!

SUNDAY, APRIL 3

6:00 P.M.

FAITH TABERNACLE CHURCH
Hwy. 51 & Piney Rd. • Stilwell, OK

Spring Hollow Bluegrass are special guests from Gun Springs Baptist Church in Siloam Springs, AR.

THE CONSERVATIVE VIEW

By Russell Turner
ALL ABOUT GREEN

It seems to me that all the mainstream media can talk about is the need for green energy and the new green deal proposed by the radical environmental activists currently occupying the White House. The current trend is to vilify the oil and gas industry along with the people who are doing the work necessary to keep this country functioning. All of this talk about having a clean, plentiful source of energy without the use of oil and gas may sound good, but they are totally ignoring a true green source of energy that will not exist without the oil and gas industry. That source of energy is the food we eat every day, without the oil and gas industry all of us would be on a diet caused by famine.

We Americans in particular have taken our food source for granted for many years; we always assume that there will always be food at the local supermarket at a cheap price. However, over the past months we are getting an education on how fast shortages and high prices can develop. How often we hear about someone going to organic farming and how good it is for the environment; we need to face a simple fact, usually those practices are extremely labor intensive and it cannot produce nearly enough food to feed the people of this planet. The farmers are only able to grow enough food because of the oil and gas industry, we rely upon fertilizers that require huge amounts of natural gas and our tractors require gasoline and diesel to till and plow the fields. My great-grandparents had to rely upon plow horses and manual labor to produce food in their day, today I can take one of my tractors and produce more food or hay in a day than they could produce in an entire year. We all can get worked up about the high price of gasoline, but the vast majority of Americans don't have a clue about the problem we are about to face concerning food. I would like to share a few

facts that will impact all of us over the next several years.

Over the past year the cost of fertilizer has skyrocketed across the world, namely because of the radical environmentalism embraced across the world and mainly in Europe. The current conflict in the Ukraine has only made the problem worse. The nations of Russia and China have stopped the export of fertilizer; while supplies and percentages can vary, I recently read where those two countries account for the production of 70% of the world's supply. Also, the nation of Ukraine is the bread basket of Europe, and accounts for a huge percentage of the world's food grains. Several factors can cause price hikes and shortages, high prices for fertilizer and hoarding of current supplies can and will cause price increases. China is also hoarding grain; China is currently hoarding over half the world's grain supply. China, which has only 20% of the world's population, is expected to have 69% of the globe's maize reserves in the first half of crop year 2022, 60% of its rice, and 51% of its wheat. With all of the saber rattling going on over the threat of China to take over Taiwan, some analysts are suggesting that China is preparing for war.

We Americans will feel a lot of pain when we go to the local grocery store, but many countries will be experiencing severe food shortages because of the current world events. Instead of declaring war upon the oil and gas industries of this nation, we need to be increasing our domestic production to make our nation self-sufficient when it comes to manufacturing, fertilizers, and fuel. Yes, folks, green is important, it is the green that is evident when you have good farming practices that require fossil fuels to provide the energy to make our cropland green and productive.

The Lady in the Blue Sari

Part 37

By Donna Boecher

Lydia was hoping to stay north from March to July. It would be time to grow cucumber, bitter melon, spinach, French bean, and watermelon in the Punjab. The rains that would come in July would help. She was especially looking forward to planting okra seeds when she got home and then again in June. Okra was her favorite—called “lady fingers” in India. It also amazed her that there was enough rain to grow wheat and rice in the Punjab; then again, irrigation had helped to increase the acreage in grain crops. In the US, rice was mainly grown in

Louisiana and Texas where it was God-blessed with rain. Looking back to the Oklahoma farm, she could remember her mother and grandmother cooking okra with home grown tomatoes sometimes flavored with a little Chili Powder; they'd even sweet-pickled okra. (She remembered as a child, “Don't uncap the top of the okra or it would “slime.” LOL) In Oklahoma, most okra was sliced bite size, floured in cornmeal, and fried. Such memories. June in India would bring her favorite fruit—dates. Tomorrow she'd look for seeds at the market. Planting time was here.



Dear John,

My husband forgot my birthday again. I always give him plenty of clues as to the day of my great event. I wrote it on the calendar. I got my birthday card scrapbook out and laid it on the coffee table. I sent myself flowers and signed it “enjoy your birthday, love a friend”. My day came and went without notice. It's been three weeks and still not a word from him. I didn't even get lucky. I think the spark is gone. What do you suggest to relight the flame in our relationship?

Hot Momma

Dear Hot Momma, you seem to find yourself in a “cold shoulder” mode? How long this has been going you have not made clear, but even if the last time your hubby forgot your birthday was the first time, then it needs to be fixed. Your concern over the flame of your romance having gone out is valid. Romantic relationships start with some kind of spark. The beginning is sure to be hotter than a pepper sprout, but then, slowly but surely, the fire goes out. Your question is: then what? Rekindling the romance is possible, yet it will take two to light the flame, and you may have to be the catalyst. May I suggest you take inventory over what kindled your flames in the first place? And then have a casual conversation with your hubby (look at him as your lover) that starts with, “Honey, do you remember when we _____”? Igniting the memories and the feelings that go with them could lead both of you back onto the romance track. You will know if he remembers your next birthday. It is worth a try.

Sincerely,

Dear John

Have you got a question for Dear John? Send it to: dearjohn@writeme.com. Real Name Not Used.

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WHAT'S SO PUNNY? PUN FUN

The fun of puns is never ending. Each pun has its own character and, honestly, some are funnier than others and, I dare say, some are not funny at all. Here is a quintet of what could be dubbed “silly puns”, maybe the kind from which your child would get a chuckle. Perhaps they will bring out the child in you. Have some PUN FUN!

1. What's green and sings? Elvis Parsley...

2. Why was Cinderella thrown off the football team? Because she ran away from the ball...

3. What do you call a fish with a bowtie? Sofishticated...

4. Where can you learn to make the best ice cream? Sundae School...

5. Why was 8 afraid of 7? Because 7 8 9...

There may be some folks thinking to themselves or out loud, “Boy, I am glad that is over with.” And others still chuckling. Till the next version of “What's So Punny?”, may your ribs be tickled often.

THE KIPLING KORNER

“Ye have read, ye have heard, ye have thought . . . For the sin that ye do by two and two ye must pay for one by one!”

(from poem, Tomlinson)

SCRIPTURE

“But I have all, and abound: I am full, having received of Ephroditus the things [which were sent] from you, an odour of a sweet smell, a sacrifice acceptable, well pleasing to God. **But my God shall supply all your need according to his riches in glory by Christ Jesus.** Now unto God and our Father [be] glory for ever and ever. Amen.” – **Philippians 4:18-20 (KJV)**

Scripture sponsored by:

Faith Tabernacle

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

Health Tips from Larkin...

By Larkin Fouse, CHHP

Natural House Cleaning—Part 2: We will start this week with the cornerstone ingredient of natural house cleaning: white vinegar. Interestingly, there are 150 known and documented ways to use white vinegar for cleaning your house, so you have no excuse for not doing so! Here are a few of them: Use it to clean rust from scissors, clean stainless steel, unclog drains, spot clean carpet and get rid of water rings when your guests don't use

coasters on the mahogany dining table your grandmother gave you as a wedding present! White vinegar is the most versatile ingredient in natural cleaning that you can get, and it is affordable too! So now that it is officially spring, start this year's spring cleaning with ingredients that will boost your health instead of harm it!

Larkin Fouse is a certified holistic health practitioner, operator and owner of Crescent Clinic in Stilwell.



Mullin It Over: Protecting Women's Sports

By Congressman Markwayne Mullin

Every March, America recognizes and celebrates the accomplishments of women throughout history. Among these figures are pioneers, scientists, politicians, and often athletes. Now, it seems our country is straying from this ideal.

Women cannot make history in sports if they're not the ones in the arena. “Every event that transgender athletes competed in was one spot taken away from biological females throughout the meet,” Reka Gyorgy, collegiate swimmer from Virginia Tech, recently wrote in a letter to the NCAA. Gyorgy was understandably upset when her spot in the NCAA finals was unfairly taken by a biological male.

On President Biden's first day in office, he signed an executive order calling on schools to allow biological men to participate in women's sports. Like energy prices or the crisis at our southern border, America is experiencing the undeniable consequences of our president's leftist agenda.

I have three daughters who all participate in sports. As their father, I want them to be able to compete on a level playing field with their peers. I watch their hard work and discipline go into training and see the pride they feel when deter-

mination pays off.

President Biden's executive order is a clear violation of Title IX. Female student athletes are being placed against biologically male peers where the competition is so disproportionate that it's tough to even consider it “competition.” It's beyond unfair for the girls and women who train around the clock to have their dreams destroyed by factors that are out of their control.

As a father and a lawmaker, I can't sit back and watch this happen. That's why I co-sponsored H.R. 426, the Protection of Women and Girls in Sports Act. This bill makes clear that schools who allow biological males to compete in women's sports are in violation of Title IX and reaffirms the biological sex-based distinctions between men and women in athletics.

The lessons learned through athletics and healthy competition are lifelong and can be applied off the mat, field, or court. These lessons are helpful in school and later in the workforce too. We must continue to fight and protect opportunities for girls and women in sports. Women should not feel the competition is over before it has even begun.

Vocabulary
WORD
of
the
DAY

Regard

Example: I had such regard for my teacher that I wouldn't let anyone say anything negative about his teaching methods.

- attention to or concern for something.
- high opinion; liking and respect; esteem.

The
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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 Teacher Feature
(Continued from Front Page)

engineers, artists, architects, 3D designers, artisan, craftsman, or entrepreneurs. Students have access to many different resources and tools in the room. We have Wonder robots, Sphero robots, OzoBots, many different OSMO educational tablet games, 3D pens, 3D design software, 3D printers, Legos, Lego Mindstorms, Hex Battle Bots, MakeyMakey devices, Cricut cutting machines, and various power tools for construction. Along with these items we have shelves of multiple supplies available at the students' transgression. I plan group challenges where students have to collaborate with each other to accomplish the goal, or individual tasks for them to complete. It could be designing bridges, creating robotic hands, constructing penny towers, turning trash into treasure, making jewelry or designing a 3d object on their laptop.

We just recently finished an entrepreneurial unit in 6th grade where I gave the students the task of creating something to sell for a fundraiser. They had to plan, design, and create an item to make a profit. They were very successful

raising over \$2000.00 in just a few hours. It is a proud moment to see their ideas come to life and learn so many life skills.

There are endless possibilities to what we can explore in the lab. If they can dream it we try to make it happen. The best part of teaching STREAM is watching the kids go through the learning process. First the excitement of the challenge, planning, brainstorming, and then possible frustration with the feeling of defeat through error. Then the learning moment when they try again, and again until they are successful! That moment when their eyes light up, a huge smile comes on their face, and they yell proudly, with confidence, "Mrs. Crozier, I did it"! This is why I do what I do. I am privileged to witness this process week after week. I know God has placed me where I can utilize my gifts and talents, I very much enjoy working with all my students.

Proverbs 3:5-6

Trust in the LORD with all thine heart; and lean not unto thine own understanding. In all thy ways acknowledge him, and he shall direct thy paths.



SPLFS members pictured above receiving an unexpected \$500 from FOLIO for their scrapbook are: Donna Boecher, Grace Ferris, Rachele Horney, Regina McLemore and Cathy Unger.

ON THE CAMPAIGN TRAIL
Commentary by John Bankel
Today's Trail Treks To... APRIL FOOL FUEL

April 1 has been the traditional date for pulling pranks and making a fool out of someone who is easy to fool. From what this writer can gather, "April Fool" got started in 16th century France, around 1580, and was the result of a change in the calendar, from the once upon a time Julian Calendar to the present day Gregorian.

There were those citizens who either did not get the word about the change or were tardy in adopting it. The dates on the 2 calendars did not coincide. April 1 was the first day of Spring on the old calendar so when anyone still observed April 1 as the "first day of Spring" they exposed themselves as being "out of whack" with the new calendar and were considered to be fools. Folks "in the know" would put paper cutouts of a fish marked with "poisson de Avril", i.e., "fish of April," (connoting a fool) on the backs of the "fools."

We still have those inclinations every April 1. However, one need not wait until April 1 to be fooled. As a matter of fact, being made a fool happens regularly in the political arena. Take the November 3, 2020 election for example. Millions of Americans were fooled into believing that President Trump lost the election to a fool like Joker Joe Biden. Biden's foolishness has been amply demonstrated. One only needs to look at the prices on the gas pumps, or the onslaught of illegal crossings at our Southern border or the disastrous, horrific debacle in Afghanistan or the flood of "free

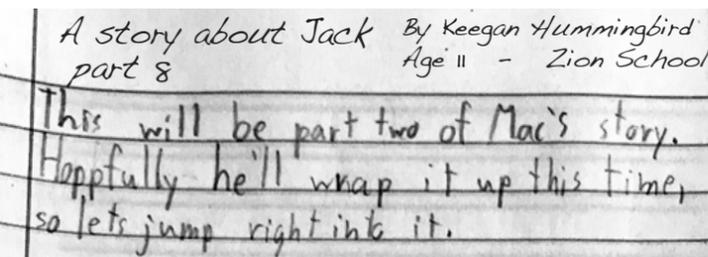
money" which gave the impression of solving our COVID related downturn in our economy and yet had the opposite effect, (which any fool could have predicted) or not to mention Biden's foolish war on oil and gas which has resulted in a flip from energy independence to dependence on foreign oil from hostile nations. If all of the aforementioned are not emblematic of the actions of a fool then a fool does not exist.

We, who are not foolish, can see through the paper veneer of a fool emblazoned on his back, the "poisson de Avril." Then next time you go to pump gas, remember the price is "April Fool Fuel." Enough foolishness already. The restoration to a republican form of government promised by the November 2022 elections cannot come too soon!

John Bankel is a freelance journalist and retired High School Math teacher. For comments or questions email: writewright@journalist.com.

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A YOUNG WRITER'S STORY



After I was done appreciating the grass, I walked along a dirt road. I must have walked far, because I came upon some really big dogs. They started to growl, and they drooled as they looked at me. "He'll make a fine supper," said one of the dogs. "I call the neck," yelped a small Chihuahua I had no idea was even there. I tried to talk them out of eating me, but they wouldn't listen.

All the sudden they jumped the fence and started chasing me as fast as a train! The Chihuahua went under the fence and hitched a ride on one of the biggest dogs. I got chased all the way home, then the farmer chased them off.

Well, there was his story.©

Adair County Presents Private/Commercial Pesticide Applicator Lunchtime CEU Training

A Private/Commercial Pesticide Applicator Lunchtime CEU Training will be held on Wednesday, April 27, from 12:00 p.m.-1:00 p.m. at the Adair County OSU Extension Office, located in the Adair County Courthouse Basement, 220 W. Division St, Stilwell, OK.

Bring your lunch and get your CEU's. Light refreshments will be available.



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

Women's Prayer Meeting, Tuesday nights at 6 pm -?, Martha Snow.

* * *

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

* * *

2022 Kiwanis Easter Egg Hunt will be held **Saturday, April 9** at 10:00 a.m. at the Adair Park. Age groups are: 0-2, 3-4, 5-6, 7-9, and 9-12.

In Search of a Word

By Donna Boecher

Vacuous—lacking intelligence; stupid or empty-headed; devoid of substance or meaning; devoid of expression—acant, empty.

Example—Thank goodness we have the right to vote, enabling us to keep vacuous people from making our laws.

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Stilwell Sports Spotlight

Commentary by John Bankel



Lady Indians Soccer Team Places 3rd in Chieftain Classic

The Stilwell High School Lady Indians Soccer Team got on the board early and held off Tulsa Memorial to a score of 2-1 to finish 3rd in the Chieftain Classic.



SHS Track Teams Earn Points at Wagoner Track Meet

Stilwell High School Track Team members earning points at the Wagoner Track Meet are as follows:

HIGH JUMP

Girls: Gracey Hensley, 1st, 5'00"; Windi Holmes, 2nd, 4'08".

Boys: Lyrix Howard, 5th, 5'10".

LONG JUMP

Girls: Snowda Watie, 5th, 13'01".

Boys: Cainan Mink, 2nd, 19'04"; Leon Hill, 5th, 17'04".

1600M

Girls: Emily Cruz, 3rd, 5:46.96.

3200M

Girls: Emily Cruz, 1st, 12:21.81; Gracey Hensley, 3rd, 13:46.21; Perla Velazquez, 6th, 15:31.40.

Lady Indians Softball Team Wins Okmulgee Tournament

The Lady Indians Softball Team finished the week off right! They are 4-0 and also Okmulgee Tournament Champions!



Lady Indians Golf Team Places 2nd at Kansas Tournament

The Stilwell Lady Indians Golf Team placed 2nd at the Kansas Tournament which was held on Monday, March 28 at the Flint Ridge Golf Course. Individuals medaling were Jayli Christi (2nd), Karly Eubanks(5th), and Amelia Luce (8th).
Congratulations Ladies!

Eighth Grade Graduation Set for May 5 At Maryetta

Maryetta School's 2022 8th Grade Graduation ceremony will be held Thursday, May 5 at 6:00 p.m. in the Eagleton Activity Center.

This year's Co-Valedictorian is Piper Blackburn and Spencer Hathaway and the Salutatorian is Clara Minor.

The "Top Ten" honor students for the 8th grade graduating class of 2022 are:

Carter Buckner, Christopher Canoe, Tylee Ford, Evodio Leon, Maycee Robertson, Emma Sam, and Alexandria Yates.

YOUNG WRITERS WANTED

to write a story about their **FAVORITE VACATION...**

Please include your name and age.

Send to:

straightforwardpress21@gmail.com.

The ROVING REPORTER In and Out and Round About Stilwell Town...



The old Fireworks tent has been replaced by this eye catching steel building. The exterior of what will become MovieTown owner Bill O'Mahony's new Fireworks sales location has been completed. The interior is being worked on with this store scheduled to open June 15, in time for July 4th and, along with the New Year celebration, will be the only time this store will be open for business. Sales are set to explode.

Photo by The Roving Reporter

Statewide Candidate Filing Begins Wednesday, April 13

Statewide election activity officially begins at 8 a.m., Wednesday April 13 when the filing period opens, the Secretary of the Adair County Election Board said today.

Candidates for state offices file with the Secretary of the State Election Board. Candidates for county offices file with the Secretary of the County Election Board. Adair County Election Board Secretary Jan Willhite said the following offices are expected to be filled this year:

U.S. Senator, U.S. Representative, Governor, Lieutenant Governor, Attorney General.

State Treasurer, Supt. of Public Instruction, State Auditor and Inspector, Commissioner of Labor.

State Insurance Commissioner, Corporation Commissioner, District Attorney, State Senate.

State House of Representative, Justice of the Supreme Court Dist.

2, Dist. 5, Dist. 8.

Judges of the Court of Criminal Appeals Dist. 1, Office 1, Dist. 3, Office 1 and 2, Dist. 4, Office 1 and 2, Dist. 5, Office 1, District Judge, Associate District Judge.

Adair County Treasurer, Adair County Assessor, Adair County Commissioners, District 1 & 3.

Filing forms and information may be obtained by contacting the Adair County Election Board at 918-696-7221 or adaircounty@elections.ok.gov. 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.

Filing packets for both state and county offices are also available for download on the State Election Board's website at oklahoma.gov/elections.

The filing period closes at 5 p.m. Friday, April 15.

Puzzle Page

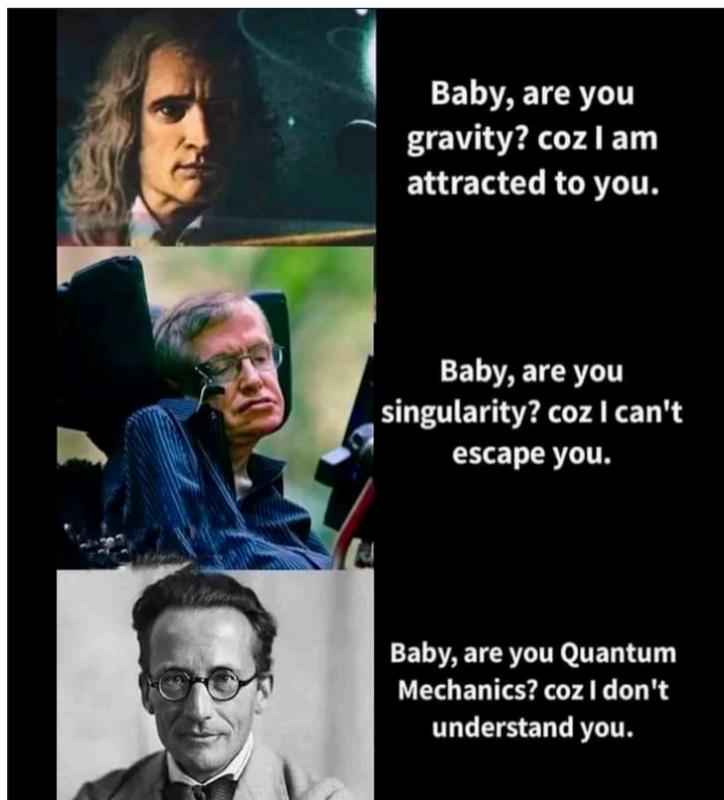
KRYPTO KONTEST 3.0 ROUND 5

The first prize of \$25 and a calculator is still totally up in the air for anyone to win. So far, no one has submitted a korrekt krypto? We are beginning the second half of the Kontest so get your pencil ready and sharpen your mind and play with these numbers: The Answer

is 12. The numbers are: 3, 8, 14, 5, 22. Remember, you must use all 5 numbers and any combination of addition, subtraction, multiplication or division to write an expression that equals 12.

Give it a twirl, just for fun!

Send your solution to: **Krypto Kontest 3.0, POB 885, Stilwell, OK 74960.**





Bradford Pear trees have started blooming in Adair County. (Photo by John Bankel)

The Chinese Plague of Bradford Pear Trees

By Donna Boecher

Traveling north and south in Adair County, I have been amazed by the number of Bradford Pear Trees that have proliferated in our woodland areas. The Chinese have plagued us with a beautiful tree with nasty attributes; they have no diseases in the USA to control their spread. The Bradford Pear has small pear-like fruit, yet they are not sufficiently fatty to feed our birds as they store nutrients to migrate south. After maturing and producing a thicket of Bradford Pear trees, they crowd out other

native plants. They then revert to their rootstock—a Callery Pear—which has razor-sharp thorns. But the “nasties” don’t stop there. Their mature, weak, low-trunk-limbs break easily in wind and wintry ice storms. Ohio after 2024 will no longer sell the Bradford Pear. Many other states are considering the same step toward eliminating them. Now you know the negatives. I’ve made my decision; I’m cutting mine down and planting real pear trees or other fruit trees. This is one Chinese plague we can control!



Stilwell FFA members that competed in the Dewey Speech Contest recently.

Stilwell FFA Members Compete At Dewey Speech Contest

Congratulations to the following FFA members who placed Top 5 in their speech division at the Dewey Speech Contest:

Chandler Trentham—1st place Agribusiness;

Orren Shelley—1st place Junior Extemporaneous;

Tenley Northcross—3rd place FFA Creed.

Great job everyone!

Mullin to Hold Telephone Town Hall on Tuesday

Congressman Markwayne Mullin (OK-02) will hold a Telephone Town Hall for Oklahomans on Tuesday, April 5, 2022, at 6:35pm CT. The event will last approximately one hour.

“There is an incredible amount of concerning action happening in Washington and abroad right now,” Mullin said. “This Telephone Town Hall will allow me to bring the Second District up to date on all of it, including the latest with Ukraine, Joe Biden’s budget request, and the positives, the legislation I’m working on. As your voice in Congress, it’s important

for me to hear how all of this is directly affecting you. I’ll open with the update, then take questions for the remainder of the call. I hope you will join me.”

Oklahomans can sign up to participate in the Telephone Town Hall by visiting mullin.house.gov/live. Participants must sign up by **5:35pm CT on April 5** to be included in the event.

**Please be advised that all Telephone Town Halls are subject to last minute cancellation. In the event of a cancellation, Congressman Mullin’s Facebook and Twitter pages will provide the update.*

Election Day Reminders and Tips

Polls will be open from 7 a.m. to 7 p.m. Tuesday, April 5, 2022, for the Dahlongah Public School, Peavine Public School, Stilwell Public School, and Watts Public School Board of Education Election and the Westville School Special Proposition election. You can only vote in the school district that you are registered in. Adair County Election Board Secretary, Jan Wilhite, offers these important tips to voters—especially those who will be casting a ballot for the first time.

VOTING TIPS

- Mark your ballot using the example posted at your polling place and inside your ballot booth. If you make a mistake, do not try to correct it. Instead, take your ballot to the precinct officials. They will destroy the ballot and issue a new one.

- You do not need to make a selection for each issue on the ballot in order for your ballot to be counted. The voting device will cast votes only for those issues which you have marked.

- Ballots can be read by the voting device regardless of how you insert the ballot into the system. If the system detects too many markings for a single office or question, an error code will appear. The voter can choose to submit the ballot as it is or request a new ballot.

- If you need assistance or would like to use the audio-assisted ballot system, let a precinct official know. You do not have to show proof of a disability to use the audio-assisted ballot system.

- Be sure to bring an approved form of identification. Federal and state issued photo IDs, passports, and tribal-issued, photo IDs are accepted. You may also use the voter identification card you were mailed when you registered.

If you forget your voter ID or your name is not found in the Precinct Registry, you may still cast a provisional ballot by signing an affidavit. A provisional ballot is sealed in a special envelope and counted after Election Day, once the voter’s information has been verified by the County Election Board. Election results cannot be certified until all provisional ballots have been researched, verified, and counted.

Wilhite says election officials are there to assist voters and ensure all procedures are followed on Election Day. If you believe a law has been violated. Contact precinct or county election officials immediately. Do not wait until you leave the polling location.

Voting activity is generally slowest during the mid-morning and mid-afternoon, but the Election Board says lines and wait times can vary from precinct to precinct. All voters who want to cast a ballot should be in line no later than 7 p.m.

“Anyone who is in line by 7 p.m. on Tuesday and eligible to vote, will be allowed to vote,” Wilhite said.

You can locate your polling location using the State Election Board’s OK Voter Portal at oklahoma.gov/elections/ovp.

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 adaircounty@elections.ok.gov.



Broken Arrow High School ROTC Color Guard going through Preliminary Paces.



Adair County Zion-Stilwell OHCE Chapter members, left to right: Donna Boecher, John Bankel, Kathryn Rackliff, Penny Meredith, OSU Extension Educator, and Carolyn Denny.

Oklahoma Home Community Education (OHCE) Holds Annual District Meeting

By John Bankel

OHCE, also known as “Homemakers,” is an organization that got started way back in the 1920’s where anyone interested in learning about what it takes to be an effective “homemaker”, things like cooking, sewing, baking, budgeting, canning, etc. could join a local county chapter that held regular meetings and gave lessons. OHCE works closely with the Oklahoma State University Extension Office from where the educators come.

In Adair County there are currently 2 active chapters: Zion Stilwell and Country Acres, Westville. Each year, OHCE organizes an annual District Meeting to bring together all the chapters from all the counties in the District. Adair County is in the Northeast Oklahoma District, which consists of 24 counties.

This year’s District meeting was held at the Broken Arrow Armed Forces Center on Tuesday, March 29 from 9 am till 4 pm. Along with various speakers at the general

session, which was attended by several hundred people, there were 3 sessions of breakout workshops covering topics such as quilting, estate planning, grant writing, personal safety and many more.

One of the most interesting general session presentations was a slide show of The Military History Center in downtown Broken Arrow, located at 112 N Main Street. In the lobby were various crafters selling their wares along with a silent auction.

To top the day off, all the name tags were collected in a large cardboard box for a drawing of some pretty cool door prizes. And the final drawing was for a \$100 dollar bill, which this writer did not win! Kudos to the organizers of this event.

For the 2 OHCE Adair County chapters, there is always room for more members. For information, contact Penny Meredith at the Stilwell OSU Extension office in the basement of the County Courthouse.

Applications Now Available for Joe White Memorial Scholarship

Applications for the Joe White Memorial Scholarship are now available. The family is awarding two scholarships in memory of the beloved Coach White.

Scholarship criteria includes:
Graduating Senior at Westville and Stilwell High School;

Participation in athletics;
Minimum GPA of 3.0.

Applications are available at each school or you can email jdunaway101@att.net for more information.

The Joe White Memorial Scholarship was founded in 2021 by the family of Joe White. He was a true Adair County Legend. He was a Korean War Veteran, Coach,

Mentor, and Pastor who touched the lives of many people. He had a passion for educating others. A memorial scholarship fund has been created to award two scholarships: one will be designated to a Stilwell Senior and one will be designated to a Westville Senior.

If you are interested in donating to the scholarship fund, donations can be made to the Joe White Scholarship account at Arvest Bank in Stilwell and Westville. Donations are tax-deductible.

For more information, contact Wendy Kimble (918) 797-4972, Debbie Hummingbird (918) 575-9082, or Jennifer Dunaway (918) 510-2492.

★ VOTE MERRIOTT! ★

Most of the time we think change is good. Our school district is electing a member for the next five years. Right now, we have on the board, a man who has proven to be a great leader for education for many years. So why change? We have seen him make many difficult decisions. He looks at both sides of the problems, and chooses the ones for the betterment of the children's education. Why change, since we have a person who has the knowledge and expertise of being capable of the fulfillment of being a Stilwell School Board member?

VOTE MERRIOTT April 5th.

—Jackie Bob and Delores Martin

(Political Ad paid for by the Supporters of Jess Merriott for Stilwell School Board.)



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Our Readers' Voice...

The Inescapable Intellectual Integrity Of An Election Embargo
By Concerned Citizen

Oklahoma's voting procedure is effectively a wholly electronic, computerized system, just like those we condemn other states for using. Machines determine if ballots are accepted and whether the votes on them are properly scored, included in the results, allocated to the correct candidate, and accurately tallied. That Oklahoma uses paper ballots to feed the data is immaterial, since the ballots are not counted. Only God knows if the computer-generated results truly reflect our actual votes. For that reason alone, it's more elegant to refrain than to capitulate and dignify this needless uncertainty.

Yet, let's assume the machines are perfect. Precinct 010001 logged 275

Presidential votes from 2020; however, the "certified" numbers from the State website show 353 votes—78 (28.4%) more! Why? That's up to 67% more votes per candidate. Those aren't all provisional ballots. So, we're left with early voting and mail-in ballots to explain it—a problem you likely previously ascribed to "other states." The door to fraud swings open.

Worse, the State Election Board is wildly evasive and wholly disinterested. I shared detailed analysis of potential problems like intermittent errors from software system glitches and consistent inaccuracies from programming faults (*whether accidental or nefarious*). I also demanded a hand-count audit of paper ballots from November 3, 2020. The non-responsive reply I received provided letters from Election Board Secretary Paul Zirix regarding Mike Lindell's claims of internet intrusions, and the State's plans for future small-scale "audits" of unknown methodology. NONE of this addressed my concerns. My issues with inherent computer susceptibility persist if the machines are NEVER even connected to the internet! Similarly, while I demand retrospective audits, they're talking about prospective audits. Communicating with these people is like clapping with one hand.

Additionally, Lindell's claims are serious. My concern is that there could be problems with the computers, but we'd never know (*and the State doesn't seem to care*). By contrast, Lindell

affirmatively alleges there actually are discrepancies in the vote tallies. Zirix purports to debunk Lindell's claims with three "findings" that actually do no such thing. All three "findings" can be true and Lindell's allegations STILL be correct! They're mutually exclusive. They've disproved nothing. See the pattern?

Moving on, let's now pretend the computers are perfect, all mail-in ballots and early voting is legitimate, and hacking is impossible. Why do your public servants leave unopposed candidate races off the ballot? How was Sam Chandler "re-elected" as Commissioner in 2020 when nobody voted for him—including himself? Perhaps seeing a single candidate race would prompt Patriots to field candidates in the future, and write in alternate candidates currently? Oh, wait—that's right, we can no longer "write in" candidates...because we use computers that cannot read those votes. See the problem?

Finally, consider how the powers that should not be force you into the false dichotomy and schism. Democrats and Republicans are fundamentally the same and only superficially different—both corrupt and compromised. Accordingly, you might want to belong to no party. If you select "No Party" on your voter registration form (*an actual option*), the State will override you and re-categorize you as "Independent"—which is to say you're affirmatively "independent" of the two-party farce. See how you're still defined in terms of matrix, if even highlighted as objecting to it?

Did you know these things? Do you even care? Will you object, abstain and demand better? Or, will you condone incompetence (*or evil*), offer your stamp of approval, and pretend it's all okay? As the Donald J. Trump Telegram channel states from October 13, 2021: "If we don't solve the Presidential Election Fraud of 2020 (*which we have thoroughly and conclusively documented*), Republicans will not be voting in '22 or '24. It is the single most important thing for Republicans to do." (*emphasis mine*)