STRAIGHT FORWARD

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Volume 2 • Issue 46

WEEKEND GAZETTE Serving Stilwell & Adair County, Oklahoma

Friday July 7, 2023

Commentary by John Bankel

is a team event, 4 to a team.

JULY 4TH STILWELL STELLAR CELEBRATION



Night Train got the joint rockin' with good old time American Rock and Roll...



The Concert crowd enjoying music by the band Night Train...



Above QR Codes of the City of Stilwell **Independance Celebration**

PROVERB POWER

Romans 12:2 KJV

And be not conformed to this world, but be ye transformed by the renewing of your mind so that you may prove what is that good, and acceptable, and perfect, will of God..

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On a warm sultry Stilwell Summer evening, a rocking July 4th celebration took place at the Kiwanis Stage. The Stilwell Chamber Of Commerce outdid themselves in presenting this fun event. The main attraction was the outstanding music that the band "Night Train" (check out attached QR CODE for one of their songs) performed to an appreciative audience. They rocked and rolled in a 3 set performance with songs from The Eagles, ZZ Top, Led Zeppelin along with an exceptional rendition of Bob Seger's "Turn The Page" as well as other top cover hits. Between sets, emcee Mark Lea, former Stilwell Elementary School Principal, moved things along. He got the kids to do a dance

little hearts out. The audience chose the winner, who was a young man named Royce, shown in the photo. (Watch him, in the dark tshirt, dance on the attached QR code). Mr. Lea then invited the adults to come up and do some line dancing. The response? Crickets! Oh well, maybe next year? Free hot dogs, lemonade and water were served by the Adair County Christian Motorcycle Association. Chamber members Nancy Garrett, AAA Abstract, Mike Pinkerton, Stilwell Pharmacy, Rhea Terrapin, Chamber President and Tracy Sims, Carson Bank, were busy cutting up free watermelon. Rachele Horney, Stilwell Librarian, helped pass them out. One of the traditions that has emerged at this celebration is contest. They danced their the "Frozen T-Shirt Race." It

Each team gets a frozen tshirt, has to break the ice, put on the shirt and run a block and back. It is a lot of fun as each team hectically tries to break the ice. It is not as easy as it might seem. This year's winner was the team Stilwell K-9 Control Unit when Tyler Terrapin crossed the finish line visibly exhausted. As I looked around

and visited with some of the people, it can be said, "Everyone had a good time." The culmination was another spectacular fireworks show from the top of Davis Mountain. July 4th Number 247 turned out GREAT! Thank you Stilwell Chamber of Commerce for your hard work for the people of Stil-

well and beyond. WADO!

TOM WOODS SWORN IN JUNE 26TH







Major Alan Starr swore in Senator Tom Woods into the Air National Guard June 26, 2023 at our State's Capitol. It was an honor to have Medal of Honor recipient, Dwight Birdwell, present for the event.

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

Number 31

By Donna Boecher

Up for a risk?

Do you remember when there were only one or two small restaurants in town? If I recall correctly there was only one open on Sunday. However, I can understand this because Adair County women are good cooks. Fast forward, COVID strikes. People stay home, are bored and there are no restaurants open. During the pandemic, the Reeds, Kina and her husband, deliver smoked meat and baked goods to

people in their cars. Finally, restrictions are lifted. What will happen to their business? After much discussion, searching, and prayer, the Reeds found a location and are open Wednesday, Thursday, Friday, and Saturday (once a month). They're also on Facebook and YELP. Two risks they are NOT open to - limiting their church service and educating their children; hence the short work week is perfect. Kina home-

schools her son, while their daughter goes to public school. Like a home, there are tables at the restaurant on which to prop your computer; yet be with family. Kina did find a way to minister to her community! She committed to a risk like all the other restaurants in Adair County? Remember, to make a difference in your community YOU WILL NEED TO TAKE A RISK.



The furnishings at The Kitchen Table are simply inviting for large and small gatherings for a delicious "home cooked" meal...



TRAIGHT FORWARD FREE Press

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Donna Boecher......Editor John Bankel......Co-Editor/Journalist Stephanie CullinaneComposer

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

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Dear John.

My Aunt Ethel has been ill and was recently moved to a memory care unit. My cousin Linda and I have been cleaning her house so that Linda could move in. We encountered a lot of strange things. We found family photos between the bed mattress and box springs. We knew that Ethel had memory problems, but not how bad it really was until we found a strange-looking box in her closet. Linda broke the seal and accidentally spilled out the contents. It took me a few seconds to realize it was cremains, and I exclaimed, "It's a person!" She screamed and spilled more of the dust. Because the floor was carpeted, I had to use the vacuum to clean up the mess. I took the vacuum bag out to the trash. My cousin freaked out. She thinks that God is going to be mad at me and her house will be haunted. She threw the vacuum cleaner away. I grabbed it and put it in my car. Early the next morning Linda called crying and scared she heard noises in the house. I retrieved the vacuum bag and hung a sign up at the post office saying, "Found cremains at Ethel's house; please respond if you're missing someone." All I got were calls for lonely hearts looking for a date. Linda bought a new vacuum and caught the mouse who kept her awake. I'm still holding the bag and I found a new guy. He is a mortician. What irony is this? Whoever the person was in the bag, they have changed our lives forever. Do you believe in fate?

Dust Buster

Dear Dust Buster...you have spun quite an intriguing tale. Your question at the end is a good one, yet the answer is far from simple. The sequence of events you have described were either a matter of pure accident, in which case you have no control and thus becomes a matter of chance (fate), or they were intended from the very beginning of your life as a matter of divine intervention. Divine intervention is also know as "Providence." Dear John believes that "We make our plans, but the Lord directs the steps." For those that do not acknowledge a real God, then all of life is relegated to fate, where the outcome is merely chance. The bottom line is: are we creatures of mere accident or are we creatures with a divine purpose? Choose wisely which one to believe.

Sincerely,

Dear John

Have you got a question for Dear John? Send it to: dearjohn@writeme.com or mail to: Dear John POB 885 Stilwell, OK 74960

Real Names Not Used

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THE KIPLING KORNER

"Smells are surer than sounds or sights To make your heartstrings crack."



Senator Markwayne Mullin MULLIN IT OVER

JOE BIDEN MUST GET TOUGH ON CHINA

Our nation is at a turning point. China is expanding its influence, threatening our allies, and exploiting American weakness to achieve its goal of world domination.

To counter this threat, the Biden administration must do all it can to project U.S. strength on the world stage, regain energy independence, and equip American manufacturers with the resources and deregulation they need to support our nation and deter our adversaries. The reason is simple: U.S. strength is key for global stabilization.

Instead, under the current administration, the world has watched while China routinely exploits Joe Biden's weaknesses in global manufacturing, trade, and national security.

While hard-working Oklahomans view China as the predominant global threat and adversary, Joe Biden thinks otherwise. He said so himself.

From manufacturing to critical mineral supply, Joe Biden has increased our dependence on the Chinese Communist Party (CCP) at every turn. China currently dominates the global supply chain, and Joe Biden's tax hikes on American manufacturers have made our nation more dependent on China while stifling our economy.

Recently, Biden vetoed bipartisan legislation that would have protected our economy from Chinese solar companies which are actively circumventing U.S. trade laws. Biden's veto made clear his support for Chinese goods manufactured on the backs of slave labor, and his disinterest in building American independence from China.

Whether it be fear, cowardice, or appeasement that fuels Joe Biden's policy decisions, it's clear his view towards China puts Americans in harm's way. If Biden got his way, our country would be entirely dependent on China to feed, fuel, and power every inch of our nation.

However, the consequences of Biden's appearement strategy don't stop there. The CCP is also actively exploiting and profiting from Joe

Biden's open border disaster.

Record amounts of fentanyl have flowed from China to Mexico and into the United States since Joe Biden took office. Over the past two years, Border Patrol has seized 41,000 pounds of fentanyl – enough to kill the entire U.S. population 28 times over. This deadly drug surge threatens border towns and states across the country, including Oklahoma.

According to the Oklahoma Bureau of Narcotics, there were 47 fentanyl overdose deaths in 2019. In 2022, the number of deaths skyrocketed to 300. Our top priority must be the safety and security of our citizens, and that means securing our border and getting tough on bad actors like China who are weaponizing the border crisis. To remedy Joe Biden's national security, humanitarian, and public health crisis, the Biden administration must close our southern border and enforce immigration laws to reduce the dangers of Chinese fentanyl.

We also know that China is blatantly spying on the U.S. military and attempting to steal our national intelligence without significant consequence. Chinese nationals have purchased farmland near key military bases, including an Air Force Base in Grand Forks, North Dakota, traversed spy balloons across the entire country, and established a spy base and military training facility in Cuba. These acts are blatant threats to U.S. sovereignty, but the CCP knows that under a weak leader like Joe Biden, they have every reason to press ahead without consequence.

In addition to military and national intelligence, U.S. intellectual property (IP) is vulnerable to Chinese hacking. America loses about \$360 billion annually because of China's IP theft. Not to mention, Tik Tok gives Communist China a front-row seat to the lives of roughly 150 million Americans. It has to stop.

In the absence of strong leadership from the United States, our enemies are emboldened, and Americans are less safe. When it comes to Chinese aggression, America needs peace through strength, not appeasement.

Senate Republicans stand united in our solutions to get tough on China. We must prioritize U.S. military strength, diversify the supply chain, ban China from purchasing U.S. farmland — especially near secure locations, and close the border to stop the flow of deadly fentanyl.

It's far past time for Joe Biden to get tough on China, work with Congress to bolster our national security, and project strength on the global stage. The world is watching.

ONE OF OUR READERS VISION OF OUR WORLD TODAY

Prepare your houses now.... We will be going through a time of no cell phones and no electricity. In this time, the Lord wants us to know that when this happens he is setting us free. Don't be scared, just get prepared. Let's go camping. I was given this word from the Lord as a warning to prepare for this. See below:

GONE AWAY

Gone away is the time you DON'T see Me. Gone away is the time you don't think it's Me. Yes, it's Me, moving to set my children free. They'll be a time of silence (no cell phones) turn your focus to ME. They'll be a time of darkness (no electricity) that's when I'm setting you free. The world will be shaken, some with panic and fear. My children you are being warned to prepare, so that during this time you are aware. It will be no surprise, I'm NOT here to COMPROMISE! These times WILL take place, as I remove evil from My space. Prepare your houses now, for in this I tell you how. Don't be caught unready and slack, my children you are facing the enemies attack. During this time the enemy will be flared, just know I AM there. You know how this story ends, no matter what satan tries he will never win, saith the Lord.

BY: Nikki Knight Starr

ON THE CAMPAIGN TRAIL

COMMENTARY BY JOHN BANKEL

Today's Trail Treks To..... Hearing Yet Not Listening

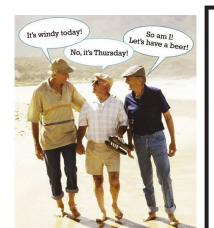
Most of us probably remember, during our childhood and adolescent years, our mothers' saying, "Did you hear me?" She often had to say it more than once while she waited for our response, which should have been, "Yes, I heard you." Oh, I am sure we heard her the first time but chose to ignore her first attempt. The fact may have been that we tuned her out so we could continue to do whatever we were doing, which often was something we should not have been doing. Certainly our ability to hear was not the problem, assuming we had normal hearing. In today's world there is a lot of constant chatter going on where everyone seems to be trying to get our attention, chatter which comes from

the multmedia society that has been created thanks to technology. We constantly hear a lot of conflicting information. Yet, just because we hear something, like Mom calling us, does not parlay into listening. One could say that "hearing" is passive, whereas "listening" is active. Listening prompts us to take action. In Congress today, there are any number of hearings going on at the same time, what with this committee or that sub-committe conducting an investigation of often dubious value to the public. Hearings can become tiresome and redundant, and, what's more, of little value since they rarely produce any worthwhile outcomes. The worst part is during these hearings there seems to be very little listening

going on, where often times folks start talking above each other trying to get the other one to listen. Maybe these hearings should be renamed: "Listenings?"
Then we might get something done? Maybe the best sound is still "the sound of silence?"

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

John Bankel is a freelance journalist and a retired High School Math teacher who can be reached at: write-wright@journalist.com Copyright 2023. All Rights Reserved. writewright@journalist.com



Searching for a Word: –**restaurant-** A place where meals are served to the public, both food and drink.

Ex. This restaurant is excellent; it serves a seven course meal accompanied by three wines.



THE CONSERVATIVE VIEW

By Russell Turner

COURT OF PUBLIC OPINION

In all societies there is an inherent trend for corruption to creep into the system; fortunately, in our case, the founders of this nation did all they could to prevent the plague of corruption from infecting our nation. Sadly, humans being imperfect beings, even our once-great system of justice has become something that our founders would hardly recognize. Our founders envisioned a system where truth was the goal, today we have a two-tiered system that determines justice based upon your political philosophy. The founders gave us co-equal branches of government with the idea of checks and balances. We were also given many rights, among them is the freedom of the press. Today our justice system has become a joke and the biggest joke is the complete failure of the mainstream press to report all sides of an issue. I have met some genuine reporters in my time, the good ones will listen to what you say and they do not start injecting their opinion into the story. Today the mainstream media is just another wing of the left-leaning liberals that

are currently destroying our nation and heritage.

The way the media treats President Trump compared to the Biden syndicate, is so biased that even a blind man could see it. The media cannot report enough against Donald Trump while completely ignoring the recent allegations against the Biden Family. If the allegations against the Bidens are proven, it will be the biggest scandal ever to hit this country; if it were not for conservative talk radio and Fox News, the American people would not know anything about it. For some reason the mainstream media receives an endless supply of leaked material against the conservatives that they will print without verifying their sources. It is a good thing that the bureaucrats in Washington are not in charge of building ships; with all the leaks concerning important cases, if the same practice was applied to shipbuilding no ship would ever get out of dry dock. It is also a good thing that the mainstream media is also not working on the ship lines, they would tend to have a bunch of holes on the

right side of the boat and nothing on the left side.

The people of this nation are being manipulated by a bunch of liars and cheats. The recently released Durham report should send shivers up and down the spines of all Americans. The institutions that we once relied upon to ensure liberty and freedom have become perverted into a tool for the politically connected elite. Fortunately for our sakes, the founders gave we the people the ability to correct the corruption that we are currently witnessing, but for the system to work we all must be informed and care for our nation. We need to stop listening to the corrupt politician that promises government handouts that must be paid by someone. We also need to remind ourselves that we are all Americans regardless of our ancestors, and stop buying into the doctrine of class envy. In ending, one of the founders made the comment that our system of government is for a moral and righteous people, and if our people become neither moral nor righteous our system is totally inadequate.

WHAT'S SO PUNNY? PUN FUN

Howdy all you pun funsters! For the love of puns, here comes a new batch for your funny bone tickling. They are guaranteed to be kid friendly and even good for adults. So get ready to be tickled with this new pundiferous play on words. PUN FUN!

- 1. Funny Bunny: What do you say to a rabbit on his/her birthday? Hoppy Birthday.
- 2. From Hoppin' To Poppin': What has ears but cannot hear? A Cornfield 3. Moooove Over: What did the mama cow say to her calf? It's pasture

bedtime.

4. Zippety Do Dah: Why do hummingbirds hum? Because they do not know the words.

5. Hot Cha Cha: Two muffins are baking in an oven. One of them looks to the other and says, "Phew, it's getting hot in here!" The other looks back and says, "Ack! A talking muffin."

After that one, it is probably a good time to stop. Pun overload may set in and for that there is no known cure. Your pun craving should be satisfied by now. Keep the puns going. Tell one or two to a friend and let them know they too can get in on PUN FUN! See you later alligator!



Psalms 91:1, 2

1 ¶ He that dwelleth in the secret place of the most High shall abide under the shadow of the Almighty.

2 I will say of the LORD, He is my refuge and my fortress: my God; in him will I trust. Psalms 91:1, 2

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Vocabulary Word: cafe – a small restaurant where drinks and snacks are sold.

Ex. The café only had four tables where we could sit and drink our coffee.

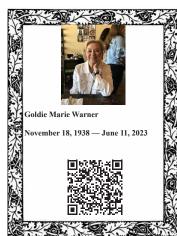


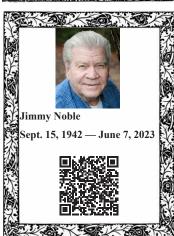


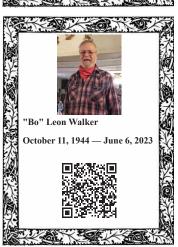


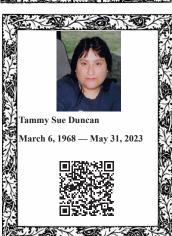




























Congratulations to Elliot Taylor - Stilwell campus - who won 2nd place in Telecommunications Cabling at the Skills USA National Leadership Conference and competitions in Atlanta, GA! His Instructor is Ms. Buzzy Manning.

Community Bulletin Board

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

10:00 Sunday Morning Service Bethal Church Everyone Welcome

Alcoholics Anonymous meeting being held at the Stilwell Depot on Wednesday nights at 6:30 pm.

STILWELL SUMMER **SPORTS SCENE** STATE CHAMPS



This photo shows the 8 and under Keys Hunters softball team who play in the Tahlequah Sports League. The Hunters recently captured the State Championship at the Sebastian County State Tournament held in Ft. Smith, Arkansas. The Hunters finished with a 5-1 record. The two daughters of Stilwell Assistant Librarian, Haylee Robinson, played key roles in their team's success. Great performance girls!

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John 8:31-32 KJV 31 Then said Jesus to those Jews which believed on him, If ye continue in my word, then are ye my disciples indeed; 32 And ye shall know the truth, and the truth shall make you free.

Be ye strong therefore,

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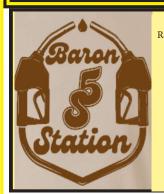
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