

SPECIAL STILWELL ELECTION EDITION



My name is Sandy Ritter. I am announcing my candidacy for re-election to serve on the Stilwell School Board. I have served as a school board member for the past 5 years, the past year as President of the Board. I retired as a teacher at Stilwell Schools with 41 years in the classroom. The past five years I have learned many things. I have been able to lend my voice as a teacher to the decisions we have made, with our students in mind. Everything is about teamwork, and there is no "I" in teamwork.

There are a lot of great things going on at Stilwell Schools. It is the community allowing us to have their children, that make our job on the school board necessary. It takes a team of people: administrators, certified & support staff, cooks, custodians, bus drivers and the board members to make things happen. No one school board member does this job alone. It has been a team effort. I can say that every decision that I have made, and will make, will always be in the best interest of the students.

To be successful, one needs trust, honesty, integrity and teamwork. If reelected, this is what I will continue to do. To have a quality school system and effective education we all must support the great things about Stilwell Public Schools. I appreciate your past support, and ask for your support in the future. I ask for your vote on April 4th. Thank you.



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PROVERB POWER

1 John 4:21 KJV

And this commandment have we from him: that he who loveth God love his brother also.

The Straight Forward FREE Press is now ONLINE on Google! www.straightforwardfreepress.com Check it out and enjoy!



The Cast Of Murder Cafe: L-R Trenton Nakedhead, Kat Johnson, Jordan Vann, Silver Hubbard, Kamree Hardbarger, Jaydan Kendall, Milan Lee, Cherokee Duncan, Jasmine Patterson, Maya Parris, Robynne Parris, (Drama Teacher) THE STORY ON PAGE 2..... дJ

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

Number 19

By Donna Boecher

Did you plant potatoes on March 17? NO! You know it's Irish tradition, and it's not too late to plant. My maternal grandfather was so Irish he was born on March 17,1884 and my great-grandmother Polly was Irish: so I'm Irish. England made Ireland's tenant farmers dependent on potatoes, When the potato was blighted, a million Irish came to America – the land of opportunity. As a child on the ancestral farm I got to collect spuds after the mules turned the soil in the 40 x 40 ft. garden. A third was planted in po-

tatoes. Picking up potatoes was a child's game-counting the number in each hill. Drought and the depression- 1930's- dispersed Granny's children to distant cities for gainful employment. My dad, a risk taker, took an oil industry job overseas, building an oil refinery. Amazingly, while in Bahrain, mother met her cousin, Cal Ross (reared on Coon Mtn.) in Saudi Arabia (1939) before the Americans were sent home due to the war in Europe. Mother's diary tells of an explosion a mile from the refinery. No one

was hurt; they had foiled the Japanese by moving the flare to ensure safety for the refinery. "Luck of the Irish" you say?" Unlikely. It was a God thing! Returning to the US in early '41, they joined the fight to destroy Hitler and his evil. Mother worked at McDonald Douglas Aircraft, and dad worked for Texaco making "butadiene", a necessary component for synthetic rubber; real rubber was in Japanese hands. We won! THE IRISH DO LOVE A GOOD FIGHT!

Stilwell High School Dinner Theater: A Delectable Taste Treat

Dinner theater has come to Stilwell! In case you missed it, the Stilwell High School Theater Department put on a show this past Thursday and Friday night. They served up a delectable dinner dish and a savory morsel of mystery, intrigue, suspense and surprise as the players presented the murder mystery classic: Murder Cafe. The first mystery that I had in mind was "Where was this performance going to take place"? With the help of my undelveloped sleuthing abilities, I reckoned that it would be at the high school cafeteria? But then again, I found myself musing, "How was this play going to be staged?"

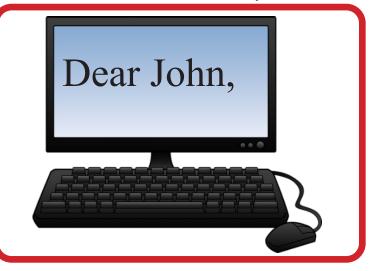
The

Both of these questions were quickly answered when Donna Boecher and I arrived. A cafe was created with the clever hanging of plastic curtains that cordoned off a section of the cafeteria. Absent a stage, I quickly deduced that this play would take place in the midst of the diners with their participation. The dinner came first. The food and service were excellent. As soon as the dessert, cake and coffee, arrived, the Maitre D, played by Jasmine Patterson, welcomed everyone to: Murder Cafe! And then the intrigue began. The players moved the script along in well executed fashion. The audience

Commentary by John Bankel

was completely engaged. At the end, each play character moved among the audience to answer 3 prepared questions from a list found in envelope #1 at each table. Then came the coup de gras. Envelope #2 contained a ballot. Who dunnit? Each table cast their vote. Donna and I believed it was the waiter, played by Trenton Nakedhead. It turned out we were right. It was a great night to be right in the midst of a delectable dinner and play. Congratulations to the players and their teacher and director, Robynne Parris, on a fine performance. Bravo! A second helping is in order!





Dear John,

I am almost retired. Taking an early retirement may be a financial disaster, or a windfall of health. I have worked full time for forty years in health care. Politicians mess with social security and say, "You can't retire at 62, if you do we will penalize you." The United States might be in a better place today if we set limits on all the old F*rts in Washington DC, who make these laws. I understand we never really stop working, as the old song says "Work for the night is coming." I have decided to learn how to live with less. I have replaced nutritious eggs with celery for my breakfast to save money. I have started stockpiling my fiber, cause if I cannot poop, I will be up you know what creek without a paddle. Do you have any other money saving tips for early retirement?

Fiber Queen

Dear Fiber Queen...since Dear John does not know what kind of dollars you will be working with, the best answer I will be able to give is a general one. Start with separating your "wants" from your "needs." For example, you may "want" to buy a new outfit from time to time but you do not "need" one. The clothes in your closet are really all you will ever "need." You may "want" to go out to dinner 2 or 3 times a week but you do not "need" to do that. You get Dear John's drift? You will soon realize that your retirement will be just fine with your "needs" having been met along with enough "wants" in the mix. And to top it off: the key to good health is regularity. So above all, remain the Fiber Queen!

Sincerely, Dear John

Have you got a question for Dear John? email: dearjohn@writeme.com Real Name Not Used Copyright 2023. All Rights Reserved





Truth is Our Target P.O. Box 885 • Stilwell, OK 74960 straightforwardpress21@gmail.com

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Donna Boecher	Editor
John Bankel	Co-Editor/Journalist
Stephanie Cullinane	Ćomposer

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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CONSIDER YOUR WAYS HAqqAI 1:5,6,7 LAMENTATIONS 3:40 PSAlms 1:6

THE KIPLING KORNER

"Tis beauty, so to speak, nor good talk necessarily. It's just IT. Some women will stay In a man's memory if they once Walked down a street."

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.

Meeting At the Stilwell Library Tuesday Evening March 28th Get to Know the Candidates for City Office

Tonight, at the Stilwell Public Library candidates for city office showed up to present themselves to interested citizens of Stilwell.

Those running for office were OPTIMISTIC for the future of Stilwell. This optimism was awesome and should be echoed by the voting citizenry on APRIL 4th! All of them saw a prosperous, economically sound community with new jobs and housing availability for future residents.

However, they all knew it would come at a cost. Partnerships with Cherokee Nation and other businesses looking for a community prepared to welcome growth and ready to commit to action. Issues of the unhoused/homeless would need to be challenged and solved. You know the names of these leaders - Harris, Asbill, Lee, Spray, Wright, Willis, and Kindle.

THE CONSERVATIVE VIEW By Russell Turner SPITTING ON THE SIDEWALK

As I watch the so-called justice system in our nation, I feel that it would be appropriate for us to change our national emblem from the eagle to that of a banana. We are on the road to becoming a banana republic like those that have arisen in third world nations; I guess it is only natural for us to act like a third world country, because our current leadership is hell bent on taking us there. The New York prosecutor and his witch hunt against former president Trump is making a mockery of our once fair and just system of justice. While this jerk of a prosecutor is trying to manufacture a law that he can use to go after Trump, he is promoting no bail laws in his fair city along with reducing felony charges against criminals to simple misdemeanors. He doesn't seem to care about the skyrocketing crime rate in his jurisdiction and is ignoring his duty to the law-abiding citizens.

We average citizens also can share some of the blame for the chaos that is infecting our nation. For far too long our people have set back and refused to take a part in our political system, which allowed the rampant corruption that we are witnessing. Organizations such as the FBI and the DOJ have been weaponized and politicized to do the will of the elites in our nation. Those of us who are just mere humans are looked down upon and considered as being unenlightened. All of us have seen the emblem of what our system once was, the blindfolded lady holding a set of balancing scales is becoming just a memory. Our fine mainstream media has become just another elite group that refuses to tell the whole story.

The whole supposed base of the prosecutor is an alleged affair between Trump and a porn star and his paying her money for a nondisclosure agreement which the media like to refer to as being hush money. If we are going to put people in prison for having affairs, we had better start building a whole bunch of prisons. For years people have been extorting money from people and businesses with frivolous cases, because

the people being victims of a shakedown have determined that the cost of defending themselves would be more than the money they would give to those individuals. It often will cost less just to pay them and move on with business.

When we allow our system to become weaponized, there will be very few candidates jumping into the race. The left leaners have become nothing but a bunch of hypocrites; they are allowed to commit any crime, lie, cheat, and steal elections. If you are on the conservative side, you had better not spit on the sidewalk for you will probably find yourself in jail. It is a sad day when our country is becoming the same kind of country we made fun of not that long ago. Socialism and banana republics go hand and hand, thankfully we Americans still have the ability to correct the system, but we have to get off of our collective backsides and let these idiots currently running our government know we are not going to stand for it.

VOTE YES TO CHANGE THE CHARTER ON APRIL 4 th !

The proposed Charter Change on the Ballot will allow the Adair County Election Board to handle all the Stilwell City Elections.

Why is this good for Stilwell?

* It will be a cost savings for the city,

* It will allow city voting to be in the same location as other elections on the same day like School Board and ITCT elections,

* All of the requirements for candidates and voters will be those established by State Law,

Ephesians 3:21-22

20 ¶ Now unto him that is able to do exceeding abun-

dantly above all that we ask or think, according to the

power that worketh in us,

21 Unto him be glory in the church by Christ Jesus

throughout all ages, world without end. Amen.

SCRIPTURE

Scripture sponsored by: **Faith Tabernacle** Corner of Hwy. 51 & Piney Road Stilwell, OK * City Council Members will continue to be elected only by those who live in their ward,

*There will continue to be no run-off elections – highest vote count wins, and

* All elections will continue to be non-partisan.

On the Ballot, the Charter Change Proposition will be described as: "A proposal to amend the charter of the City of Stilwell so that all city elections will be conducted by the Adair County Election Board according to State Law except for the following four items which will not change: 1) all City Officers will take office on the first Monday in May, 2) there will be no run-off elections – highest vote count wins, 3) Council members are voted on only by the electors of their Ward, and 4) all elections are non-partisan."



My name is Mark Walters, and I am announcing my candidacy for the Indian Capital Technology Center Zone 3 School Board position. I want to serve in this position, because I believe in the importance of Vocational Education. It works! It has been my life, and I have lived it! I credit my success to ICTC and my Vocational Education background. Serving on this board is one small way that I can give back to a school that has done so much for me.

I live in Muldrow, OK and I am a lifelong resident of Sequoyah County. My love for Vocational Education began in 1981 at Muldrow Junior High in Mr. Bill Rhodes' 7th grade shop class. It continued through High School in Mr. Wayne Ford's shop class. I loved shop so much, I married my shop teacher's daughter, Shelley. We have been married for 28 years and have one daughter, Madison.

In 1984, I enrolled in Mr. Mike Clark's Upholstery Class at Indian Capital Vo-Tech in Sallisaw, OK. After graduation, I landed my first job as an Upholsterer at Riverside Furniture in Fort Smith, AR. Two years of factory work compelled me to go back to college. Being a hands-on learner combined with my love for Vocational Education, led me to become a shop teacher. My first teaching job was in 1992 as the Technology Education, (the new name for shop class) teacher at Pansy Kidd Middle School in Poteau, OK. Two years later, I became the Upholstery Instructor at ICTC in Sallisaw. I served 6 years on the ICTC Upholstery Advisory Committee, and also taught Upholstery night classes. In 2000, I earned my Masters' Degree in School Administration from Northeastern State University. In 2006, I began a small business named Mark's Machinery & More specializing in top quality woodworking machinery and accessories.

In 2008, I became the Industrial Safety Specialist on the ICTC BIS Team. I traveled the ICTC district conducting OSHA Safety Training. In 2015, I was faced with a tough decision. Mark's Machinery was doing really well and I enjoyed being the Industrial Safety Specialist, but could not continue doing both. After much prayer and some divine intervention, I left Indian Capital to pursue the American Dream. I am also the guy that built the Ten Commandment sign and has the Patriotic Flag Display on I-40 at Muldrow.

It is time that we realize that every student is not going to college and Vocational Education is the link between these students and success. We must also put vocational minded people back in charge of our Technology Centers.

I am Mark Walters and I am asking for your VOTE ON APRIL 4TH.

GOALS;

Should I be elected to this position here are some of my goals.

I would push to make ICTC the State Leader in Career and Technical Education.

I will survey the workforce demands of employers in the ICTC district and push

Thursday March 30. 2023



The weather did not factor into the outcome of the soccer contest this past Monday night at Carson Park between the Lady Indians and the Porter Lady Pirates. What determined the 5-0 Porter victory was that the Lady Pirates were able to outmaneuver and out muscle Stilwell. I arrived with 6:30 left in the first half with Porter up 2-0 and Porter playing almost exclusively on the Stilwell side of the field. The second half was no different. The Lady

Indians felt the sting of 3 more goals all while they tried desperately to mount an offense. Porter had too much punch.

Lady Indians Golf

The Stilwell girls golf team enjoyed a successful outing, taking 3d place in the recent Roland Invitational played at Ben Geren Golf Course. Individually, Jenna Crittenden placed 5th and Haven Ketcher snagged 7th place.

Murder Cafe STORY PAGE 2



Kamree Hardbarger remonstrating as Detective Harris...



Jasmine Patterson takes command as Maitre D of Murder Cafe...



to implement programs to meet their workforce needs.

I will push to bring back building trades programs like Carpentry, Cabinet Making, Masonry, Plumbing, Electricity and other much needed programs.

I would like to start an incentive program for students, with the help of local employers, to pursue leadership opportunities in SkillsUSA.

I would like to do a massive marketing campaign to reach future students and parents to make them aware of the opportunities that are available at ICTC and how Career and Technical Education can make them successful.

I would like to figure out a travel arrangement for students wanting to attend a class offered on one of our other ICTC campuses but not at their local ICTC Campus so they can attend the class of their choice.

Mark Walters

Kontest 5.0

Hello all you Krypto Fans! Are you ready for Krypto 6.0? Ready or not, Krypto Time is here! Krypto 6.0 will run for 6 weeks. The player who submits the most korrekt kryptos will receive \$25 cash and a new calculator. So here we go! The answer is 4. You are playing with:

7, 13, 23, 6, 2. Remeber you must use ALL 5 numbers with any combination of addition, subtraction, multiplication or division to write an expression that equals the answer. Give it a try? It is a ton of fun! email your solution to:

themathguy@usa.com or snail mail to:

Krypto Kontest POB 885 Stilwell, OK

Fayola Shell April 17, 1967 ~ March 20, 2023 (age 55)









Lane Jeffrey Hunter

10, 2023 (age 58)

December 15, 1964 ~ March

He's A MIX BETWEEN A BULLDOG AND A SHIH TZU, SO THE BREED

DON'T SAY IT.

is called a

Billy Joe Pack May 10, 1957 ~ March 5, 2023 (age 65)





Bobby George Cusick April 10, 1945 ~ March 17, 2023 (age 77)



Community Bulletin Board

Stilwell Community Choir, March 28, Tuesday 7 pm, First United Methodist Church. 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:

ON THE CAMPAIGN TRAIL

Today's Trail Treks To Education Swap

I was a high school math teacher in 1979. Little did I realize then what would transpire after the creation of the Federal Department of Education on October 17, 1979. It was a bad swap. Jimmy Carter, an extremely liberal democrat, was in office at that time. I would venture to guess, that the House and Senate were also under democrat control. In hindsight, one can pretty much measure the drastic downward spiral that our education system has suffered since then, what now can be clearly called, a disastrous day. Education as it once was has now been relegated to the hangman's noose. There was once a time when education. from kindergarten thru 12th grade, was the pervue of a local school board. Although local school boards still exist, they are not what they used to be. They are now mostly po-

litical agencies filled with partisan functionaries who carry out the mandates of the Department of Education's ever evolving "to the left" agenda. This is accomplished through two Marxist organizations that hold sway over teachers and administrators: the National Education Association (NEA) and the American Federation of Teachers (AFT). One can pick their poison with either one of these communist backed agencies. Yet the real hammer in driving home these left-wing policies is the Federal funding into which the public school's have bought. Public education cannot survive without it. Ave. there is the rub. Dismantling the Department of Education would be the solution to getting rid of the rub. As I write, there is some movement in that direction within Congress, now that the Republicans

hold sway in the House. If and when the day of no more Department of Education comes, America will once again be FREE to fly like an eagle to "Oh say can you see." Till then we must endure limping along like a bird with a broken wing. Thank God homeschooling and private schools are still a viable alternative. It is time to make a swap.

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. Vaya con Dios!

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



Puns come in all different shapes and sizes. There is a pun for everyone. Try these puns on for size to see if they fit your sense of humor. You just may end up with a chuckle or two, or three or ...? Get your funny bone ready to be tickled.

1. In Somni Ah: I stayed up all night wonder-

it. I hope these puns were worth their salt and maybe sweetened up your day. Stick around till next time. More puns are on their way. So long!



HAPPY HOUR IS A NAP.







Jan 21, Feb 18, March 18, April15, May20, 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 Bethal Church Everyone Welcome

ing where the sun went. Then it dawned on me. 2. Crazy Career: My dream job is to clean mirrors. I can really see myself doing that. 3. Top This One: I lost 25% of my roof last night...oof! 4. Bar None: Two guys walked into a bar. The third guy...ducked. 5. ZZZZZZ: I am so good at sleeping, I can do it with my eyes closed.

Well now; there you have



QR for the weekly Legislative Update - 3/23/2023. I'm honored to serve the great people of House District 86. Please feel free to call me with any questions, concerns, or to discuss issues. The best way to reach me is to either call or text me on my cell phone, 918-507-2811 or call my office at 405-557-7394.

