

# The STRAIGHT FORWARD

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Volume 2 • Issue 22

Serving Stilwell & Adair County, Oklahoma

Thursday January 5, 2023

## Adair County Courthouse Swear-In Ceremony

Commentary by John Bankel



Larry Wood, Dist. 3 Commissioner at swear-in



Charles Boecher, Dist. 1 Commissioner sworn-in



Teresa Turner, County Assessor being sworn-in.

Before a large crowd on Tuesday morning, January 3, newly elected officials took part in a swear-in ceremony. Among those sworn-in by Associate District Judge Jeff Payton was Larry Wood, re-elected District 3 Commissioner, Charles Boecher, newly elected District 2 Commissioner and Teresa Turner, the newly elected Adair County Assessor. The regular weekly Commissioner's meeting followed. The new Chairman of the Board for 2023 is Sam Chandler, District 2. The outgoing Chairman, Larry Wood, becomes the Vice-Chair. The Adair County Commissioners meet every Monday morning at 8:30 in the Board room. The public is encouraged to attend these meetings.

### PROVERB POWER

James 4:12 KJV

"There is only one lawgiver and judge, he who is able to save and to destroy. But who are you to judge your neighbor?"

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## Adair County

Feature:

### Adair County Business Buzz The Entrepreneur Spirit

Story by John Bankel

#### Karlee Sellers: Smoothie Queen @ Queens Nutrition



#### Smiles abound at Queens Nutrition: "Queens' Crew"

##### L-R Gracie, Karlee and Jerika

Armed with an engaging personality and a winning smile, at just 21 years old Karlee Sellers is well on her way to establishing a successful business. Born and raised in Adair County, Karlee is a graduate of Westville High School who always had serving people on her mind. After high school she began to study for a career as a Nurse. After 2 years in a program at Carl Albert College she decided to do something else. I asked her why she had changed her mind. She said, "I realized I did not like school." Her life took a quick turn in another direction when her Tahlequah cousin called her and asked Karlee if she would like to come and work for her during her military deployment delivering nutritional smoothies for her cousin's Herbal Life business, called "The Wild Turtle." Kar-

lee said, "Heck yeah!" It was opportunity knocking on the door. She took to the business of delivering health and wellness like a duck takes to water. It was not long after her cousin returned from her deployment that Karlee and her cousin made a decision to bring this business to Stilwell. Initially working out of her parents' house, she developed a delivery route that immediately flourished. Her success required a new space. She found it at 1100 W Locust Street and by August of 2022, she opened the doors to "Queens Nutrition." I asked her how the business is doing. She said, "It is going great." We get around 5-10 new people coming into the store everyday." The store's simple decor says, "Come on in."

When asked about her clientele, she said, "We have people of all age

groups enjoying our products." Queens Nutrition offers a full array of smoothies, herbal teas, a protein snack, and the new Protein Waffle that contains a whopping 24 grams of protein. Sellers still maintains her delivery service Monday, Wednesday and Friday from 9 to 1. Queens' store hours are M-F 6 am to 4 pm and 8-12 on Saturday. With Karlee Sellers at the helm, there is no telling how far Queens Nutrition can go. I asked Karlee if she had some long range plans for expansion. She said, "I have my eyes on opening a store in Siloam Springs." The market is ripe for what Queens Nutrition has to offer: health and wellness and Karlee Sellers is there to serve the people's needs in the entrepreneur spirit. It is the entrepreneur spirit that built America and that spirit is alive and well.

# MOMENTS WITH MARIE

By Donna Boecher

Serial No. 17

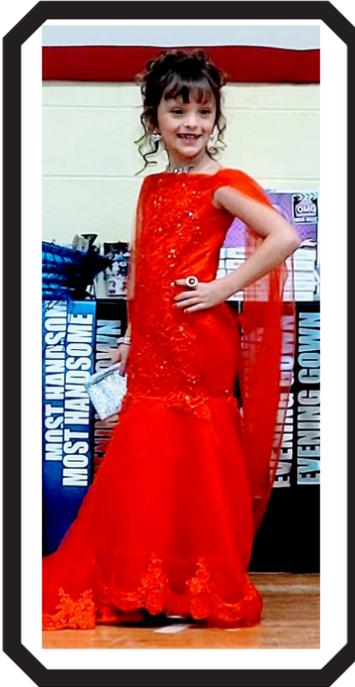
Marie and Michael mused on what they now knew. They went back to the basics. What was the true life story of Rachael's father Miles. According to the obituary, he had died from a fall in his home. His will and the trust (included in the police files on his death) noted that control of the trust would be in the hands of her mother or guardians

until daughter Rachael was emancipated or twenty-one. But Miles' wife Rachael had gone missing. More likely RUN FOR HER LIFE and Rachael's life. Rachael was thrust into the sociopathic hands of her own aunt and uncle. As long as "mom" was alive, Rachael was safe. The will provided only a stipend for basic needs for Rachael and her aunt and uncle. Auntie wanted more and they had

exposed their hand by talking within earshot of Rachael. Miles hadn't tripped down the stairs, he had been pushed. Ironically, killers could NOT inherit a bequeathment. But then, her aunt and uncle weren't particularly smart. But that's not the end of the story. Why death in the desert? Why the story of the grandfather's letter? A diversion . . . a distraction??



Miss Aiyana Ketcher Dreamstar Connections 2022-2023 Miss New Year and Dreamstar Ultimate Co-Ed.



Dear John,

My boyfriend and I were going to the movie when my car got a flat tire on the interstate. I pulled over and found everything needed to fix it. I figured my boyfriend would get out of the car to help. He didn't, so I opened the front door and asked him to help me, he said, "I've never changed a tire you need to call roadside service." Long story short I called for help and paid for it. When we were back on the road we got into a fight. He said, "your car isn't my problem". I got so angry I took him home and went to the movie alone. Now he is calling me and saying that I should apologize to him. I'm so mad I could pull his man bun out of his head by the roots. Do you think I should apologize for not taking him to the movies? I miss playing Mario Kart 8 game with him.

Go-Kart Honey

Dear Go-Kart Honey...it seems that your anger and frustration are well directed after the treatment your "boyfriend" gave you. Chivalry appears to be dead in your relationship. As a matter of fact, in today's world the word "chivalry" is probably on the banned list and labeled as sexist or even misogynist. However, treating a lady like a lady is the manly thing to do, at least in Dear John's opinion. Your beau has a lot of growing up to do and, what is more, you may not want to stick around long enough for him to grow up for it sounds like it may take a while? A good start may be for him to learn how to change a tire? Maybe start with a go-kart?

Sincerely,

Dear John

Have you got a question for Dear John?  
email: dearjohn@writeme.com Real Name Not Used.  
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## They Risked It All/It's the Truth

### MEMORIES OF FARM AND FAMILY

By Donna Boecher

My yearly train trips to Stilwell were glorious, a two-month love affair with grandparents, family, and the farm. I enjoyed the chores Granny gave me. I could run to the mailbox on the road to retrieve mail, pick up eggs from the henhouse or wherever they were hidden, help hang the wash on the lines, and churn butter. Thinking back, it was dangerous to put my hand in some of those nests. My first incident with varmints was a possum; according to "kin", I shouldn't have shot at him because the bullets could have ricocheted off the concrete floor. I was lucky! Fast forward a few years, I saw a black snake stretched out along a horizontal 2 x 4 on the back wall. I didn't scream, but I did call a close relative to deal with the situation. The two riled 4' snakes wouldn't allow themselves to be repositioned outside. I lost two mice predators, but then I learned that chickens will eat mice . . . saw it with my own eyes. "Way to go, ladies."

**SWAP MEET  
YARD SALE  
Saturday  
Jan 7, 2023  
8 am to-??  
Sale Barn  
Parking Lot**

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[straightforwardpress21@gmail.com](mailto:straightforwardpress21@gmail.com)

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

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

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# Stilwell Public Library Friends Society (SPLFS)



When newcomer Grace Ferris agreed to help Stilwell librarian Karen George in 2006, she never dreamed she would preside over the Stilwell Public Library Friends Society (SPLFS) for the next 16 years. Soon after being formed in 2007, the members declared their primary goal: to build a library wing to serve the children and youth of Adair County. Over the years, they held yard, book, bake, and craft sales, wrote and sold their own cook book, sold parking spaces and food during the Strawberry Festival, etc. President Grace and Vice President Donna Boecher applied for and received grants and donations from Cherokee Nation, from United Way, and from area businesses and organizations like the Carson Community Bank, Arvest Bank, and Armstrong Bank, and from the City of Stilwell. They first applied unsuccessfully for the \$50,000 Sarkeys Foundation grant in 2010 but didn't receive it until their second attempt in around 2015. Individual donors also helped, with one generous anonymous library patron donating \$58,000.

SPLFS crossed the goal line in May of 2017 when the children's wing was opened. They continued to raise funds for library shelving and other furnishings and materials. In addition to fund raising, SPLFS has served the community through providing special programs and speakers at the library. Several times they have donated money and materials to provide educational programs for the library's summer reading program.

By 2022, SPLFS active membership had greatly decreased. The members voted to disband at the end of December 2022. Their last project was to assist present librarian Rachele Horney with the purchase of an electronic sign for the library. SPLFS served the Stilwell Public Library and their community for over fifteen years, and it is now time to rest from their labors. Perhaps someday a new group will catch a glimpse of a new vision and will arise to begin the work once again. (By Regina McLemore, former Secretary of SPLFS)



## THE KIPLING KORNER

*The Cat That Walked by Himself*

*"The cat will keep his side of the bargain.*

*Then he goes out to the Wet Wild Woods or*

*Up on the Wet Wild Trees or*

*On the Wet Wild roofs,*

*Waving his wild tail and walking by his wild lone."*



## Mullin It Over:

### Reflecting on the Past Ten Years

*By Congressman Markwayne Mullin*

The end of each year allows us to reflect on what is behind us and look forward to what is to come. As we begin this new chapter, thank you for putting your trust in me. It's a responsibility I will never take lightly.

Ten years ago, Christie and I were fed up with the Washington bureaucracy telling us how to run our business. The burdensome regulation made it nearly impossible for us to do our job. This kid from Westville had no political experience but ran for Congress anyways, promising to fight for Oklahoma. We never could have imagined what the Lord would have in store.

It has been the honor of a lifetime to represent the Second District, the place where I was raised and have now raised our family, and to fight for the Oklahoma values we hold dear. Using the Constitution as my guide, I hope I have made you proud in keeping our God-given rights at the forefront of all I do. My appreciation for our law enforcement officers, service members, and veterans is unwavering, and I'm grateful to have been given a voice

for all of us in Oklahoma.

I'll always look back on my time on the House Energy and Commerce Committee and House Permanent Select Committee on Intelligence (HPSCI) with pride. The Energy and Commerce Committee has broad jurisdiction over many government aspects directly related to the everyday lives of Oklahomans, including health care, energy production, and consumer safety. It was here we could fight for our domestic producers and push back against the Left's radical climate agenda, an issue deeply personal to our state. Further, being tapped for HPSCI was nothing short of an honor, as was the opportunity to witness the dedication of our Intelligence Community firsthand.

Oklahomans have watched our family grow and prayed alongside us as it happened. At the start of this journey, Christie and I were parents to three kids. Through the blessing of adoption, we doubled that number to six, welcoming our twin girls and our son, Jayce. I wouldn't be here today without the support of my family. Chris-

tie is our rock, and I thank God for her every day.

I made a promise no one will outwork me. I quickly learned the only exception to that notion is my staff. My office has returned millions of dollars to constituents from state and federal agencies, taken on the IRS, and ensured our veterans receive the benefits they have earned. One hundred bills were introduced, over one thousand bills were cosponsored, and countless committee markups took place. It's a team effort, and I'm glad to surround myself with those whose dedication to our great state is the same.

Any undertaking, whether it's a sport or career, growing a business, or starting a new one, is always accompanied by personal growth. For those who ask, the biggest lesson I've learned is how to take a deep breath and quit taking things personally. In this time of reflection, I began saying, "love the people, love the call." I refuse to give up the fight for what is best for Oklahoma and our democracy and look forward to continuing that work in the new year.



## STILWELL SPORTS SPOTLIGHT

*Commentary by John Bankel*

Both the Indians and Lady Indians are set to get back onto the court now that the holidays are over. The Indians have gotten off to a great start. Before their first loss of the season at Roland, Stilwell was ranked #11 in the State rankings among 4A schools. This coming weekend, the Indians travel to Tulsa to play at Lincoln Christian in a weekend tournament. They already have one tournament championship under their belt. Can they make it two? We shall see?

The Lady Indians have had their ups and downs

so far. The only reported scores that this writer has are a home win versus Salisaw, 44-40, and an away tournament loss to Lincoln Christian, 65-20. Their next game will be at home versus Muldrow in a District contest. Game time is 6 pm. Come on out and cheer the Lady Indians on.

**A fella once asked me what a hoedown was and I told him it's like a shindig but more like a hootenanny. I could tell he was still confused because his face went all cattywampus.**

### HUSBAND:

I want you to have this bracelet. It belonged to my Grandmother.

### WIFE:

Why does it say, "Do not resuscitate?"

**Vocabulary word – rank – a level of responsibility or authority.**

**Ex. In Viet Nam the First Lieutenant was a rank below the Captain in command.**



# ON THE CAMPAIGN TRAIL

COMMENTARY BY JOHN BANKEL

## Today's Trail Treks To..

### THE REAR VIEW MIRROR: Part 1

#### What Watts Once Was

#### Prologue:

Ring out the old, ring in the new is the custom we follow every New Year. And the years keep passing by; nothing can stop that, no matter how hard we were to try. Our lives are defined by our past, present and the future. We all have a history. Today we will look in "The Rear View Mirror" at a bit of Adair County History; let's call it "What Watts Once Was." Watts, Oklahoma is different from most small towns of America in at least one respect: One can drive by Watts but not through Watts. The town is situated in the hills and hollers above and alongside U.S. Highway 59. Unless you know it is there, one can pass by without even realizing that there is a town there. Yet, that was not always the case, as you will see, when we take a glimpse into the

town's history. And rather than me telling the story, I will let the voice of Lynette Langley, valedictorian of Watts High School, class of 1984, tell it as it was printed in the 1988 yearbook, the "1988 Engineer."

#### The Story:

MY HOME TOWN, WATTS, OKLAHOMA

"My sleepy little hometown lies about thirty-five miles northeast of Tahlequah, beside U.S. Highway 59 and only two miles west of the Arkansas border. It looks drowsy in the afternoon sun. Except for a few stray dogs, a small child or two, and an occasional wandering goose, the town appears almost deserted. Its narrow pot-hole-filled streets are lined with a strange combina-

tion of well-kept older homes, a few new houses and unkempt shacks. However, the many sagging, vacant old store buildings that lean sadly along the wide expanse of Main Street hint of a more prosperous past.

(To be continued as Part 2...)

Today's Trail has come to an end. Perhaps we will meet again around the bend my friend. Until then, may your Trail end up on the right side of the fence.

John Bankel is a freelance journalist and a retired High School math teacher who can be reached at: [writewright@journalist.com](mailto:writewright@journalist.com) Copyright 2023. All Rights Reserved.

#### House Passes Mullin Bill to Reauthorize State Offices of Rural Health

WASHINGTON— The House passed Congressman Markwayne Mullin's (OK-02) bill, the State Offices of Rural Health Reauthorization Act of 2022. This bill reauthorizes a key grant program that supports state health facilities across the country in an effort to improve rural health care and increase access to quality, affordable care. Mullin introduced the bill in October of this year with Rep. Tom O'Halleran (AZ-01).

"This is an incredible step towards improving health outcomes for rural Americans," Mullin said. "The Offices of Rural Health were created to help deliver affordable, accessible health care to the underserved communities of our country. Since their establishment, they have played an integral role in improving the health of rural America. Thank you to my colleagues for supporting this bill and ensuring the offices' good work can continue."

# WHAT'S SO PUNNY?

## Pun Fun

Get ready for a new batch of puns. We all love a good pun; those moments where a play-on-words can elevate a new headline, quip or joke to iconic status. This batch may not reach such a heady height, but they are sure to make you chuckle with delight.

1. Whip It Up: I was once assaulted by a man with milk, cream and butter. How dairy?
2. Slip It On: Did you hear about the new reversible jacket? I am excited to see how it turns out!

3. OMG: Atheism is a non-prophet organization.
4. Watch Your Step: I bought some shoes from a drug dealer. I do not know what he laced them with, but I have been tripping all day!
5. Tie Won On: Did you hear about the two silk worms in a race? It ended in a tie! Oh me, Oh my!

Hope this batch gave your ribs a good tickle til we tackle a new batch next week with more PUN FUN!

## ADAIR COUNTY HIGH SCHOOL BASKETBALL ROUNDUP

Commentary by John Bankel

Westville Yellowjackets Boys

their season record.

The 1-3 Yelowjackets are scheduled to play a home game against the 2-5 squad from Howe on Friday, January 6. Game time 8 pm.

Cave Springs Girls

The only reported score for the Lady Hornets was a win on November 17 versus Braggs by a score of 39-29. Bokoshe is up next at home. Game starts at 6 pm.

Westville Girls

In their most recent game, the Lady Yellowjackets lost to Salisaw Central, 54-48, in District Play. On January 6, the girls play Howe at home. Game time is 6 pm.

Watts Engineers Boys

Watts will bring an 0-3 record to Welch on Tuesday, January 10 at 8 pm versus a talented Welch squad who squelched the Engineers in their prior meeting 71-46.

Cave Springs Hornets Boys

Watts Girls

The 2-3 Hornets play host to a 4-6 Bokoshe squad on Thursday, January 12 at 8 pm. The Hornets, in their previous game with Bokoshe easily won 87-39 on Bokoshe's home turf. The Hornets look like a good bet to even

The Watts Lady Engineers, having beaten Bokoshe 44-16 and dropping one to Oaks Mission, will take their 1-1 record to play an 0-1 Welch squad on January 10 starting at 6 pm.

## Community

### Bulletin Board

**Stilwell Community Choir meets Tuesday, December 27, at First United Methodist Church, 7 pm. For more information contact Mary Catherine 918-696-9061**

**Bethel Church Service:** 1st Saturday of the month and last Saturday of the month, service at 5 p.m.-? Rodney Chuculate.

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

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

Dates for 2023:

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

**Flint Lodge Monthly Breakfast** from 7 a.m. to 10 a.m. the first Saturday of each Month. Flint Lodge is located at 83705 Hwy 59 South, Stilwell. 12 & Older: \$8.00, Children: \$4.00 and under 5 Free  
**10:00 Sunday Morning Service Bethel Church** Everyone Welcome

Searching for a Word – **echelon**, a level of responsibility or authority in a hierarchy, rank (from old French or Latin. Meaning step ladder).

Ex. His boss was in the upper echelon of administration, only a few were higher than him.



# Obituaries.....



Stephanie Jean Johnson "Tiny" was born on July 10th, 1969 in Tahlequah, Oklahoma to Lorene Johnson and Jerry Cheater. She passed away on December 15, 2022 in Tulsa, Oklahoma at the age of 53.



Susan Ilene Stapley age 72 of Watts, Oklahoma, entered heaven peacefully on December 14, 2022.



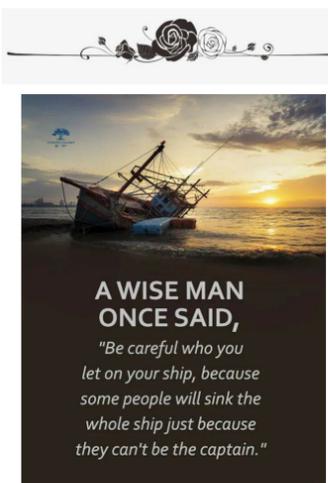
Johnny Lee Bird was born on March 4, 1945 to John Bird and Betty Smith(Bird) in Tahlequah, Oklahoma. He departed this life on December 14, 2022.



Alfred Edward Hembree was born on December 14, 1930, in Oak Grove, Oklahoma. He died on Friday, December 16, 2022, at his home in Westville, Oklahoma.



Wynona Marcelle Buckner Sams passed peacefully to heaven on December 15, 2022, in Canon City, Colorado.



## CHICKEN POT PIE BAKE

- 1 can Pilsbury Grands Biscuits 8 biscuits
- 2 tablespoons butter
- 1 small package frozen veggie mix: carrots, peas, corn and green beans
- 2 chicken breasts cooked and shredded



Use the QR Link for the Full Recipe



Aaron David Roberts passed away on December 17, 2022. He was born on January 23, 1990, in Stilwell, OK



# THE CONSERVATIVE VIEW

By Russell Turner

## DANCE WITH WHO BRUNG YOU

Dance with who brung you is an old western swing song that basically says you are not to ignore the person who takes you to a dance. It is very impolite to accompany someone to a dance and, once you arrive, to ignore that person and only dance with someone else. It would be nice if our elected officials could understand that simple concept. Many of us who have kept up with politics over the years remember the absurdity of a statement by Nancy Pelosi when the liberal democrats rammed Obamacare down the throats of the American people. She made the comment that they had to pass it so that they could learn what was in it. Those of us who are conservative were outraged with that comment, and astonished by the utter stupidity of anyone saying such a thing. Just before the Christmas break the US senate committed an equally stupid act by passing the 1.7 trillion-dollar omnibus bill. Sadly, this time 18 so-called conservative republicans were instrumental in its passing. The omnibus bill is 4,155 pages long, it was released at a little after midnight

with the intention of bringing it before the senate in a couple of days. For a person to have read the bill he would have had to read 14 pages a minute for the entire two days without even taking a bathroom break. I wonder how many of these 18 so-called conservatives actually did that. The conservative citizens who they claim to represent are sick of the inflation caused by run away spending by our government, and are equally sick of the debacle at our southern border. In the bill there is money set aside to help foreign countries to control their borders, but not one penny to secure our own border. Mitch McConnell claims to have won because the defense budget has risen; but I would like to ask how are we winning when we might buy an additional airplane, while we are invaded from the south and not lifting a finger to stop it. There are many of us across the country who worked tirelessly to get a republican majority in at least one house of Congress. It was a hard battle, but we did do it in the House of Representatives, even though we had

to fight ballot harvesting and even our own FBI who is doing all it can to squelch conservatives on social media. The 18 so-called conservatives had it in their power to push for a CR "continuing resolution" instead of voting for this monstrosity. If they could have got the CR, our new majority in the house could have stood up for the people who are sick of the current trend our country is on. Among the 18 republicans who voted for the Omnibus Bill I did have some respect for them in the past, among them outgoing Senators Jim Inhofe from Oklahoma and Tom Cotton from Arkansas. When I saw what the bill was all about, like many other Americans, I took the time and contacted my 2 senators' offices and voiced my opposition to the bill; I feel that it is about time that these individuals who talk conservatively actually need to vote conservatively. All I can say is thank you to the 18 betrayers who forgot who brung them to the halls of Congress, their 18 votes will ensure continued inflation and give support to the left's woke agenda.

14. And the Word was made flesh, and dwelt among us, (and we beheld his glory, the glory as of the only begotten of the Father,) full of grace and truth.

SCRIPTURE  
John 1:14 KJV

Scripture sponsored by:  
**Faith Tabernacle**  
Corner of Hwy. 51 & Piney Road  
Stilwell, OK



Hey all you Krypto fans!

We are going to have a new Kontest starting next week, in the January 12 issue. It will be the 5th iteration. The rules have not changed nor have the prizes: besides having a lot of fun playing the game, the reward for winning, \$25 cash and a new calculator, is the icing on the cake. So, stay tuned til next week for Krypto Kontest 5.0!

# The Straight Forward Press

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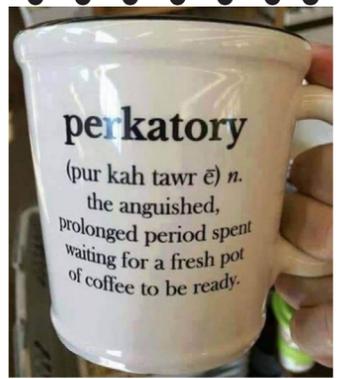
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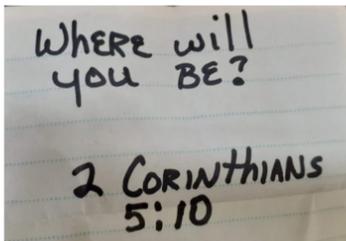
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**Jeffrey Bryant Jones**  
Attorney at Law



**J. Bryant Jones PLC.**  
17 North Second  
Stilwell, OK 74960  
jeffjoneslaw@gmail.com  
Phone: 918-696-5889  
Fax: 918-696-2728

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10 a.m. to 4 p.m.  
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**Baron 5S Station**

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- \* Grab & Go Deli Items
- \*Fuel - Beer
- \*Local Vender Items
- \*Wingman Pizza = By the slice or Whole Pizza - Dine-in or Carry - out

5 miles South of Westville or 9 miles North of Stilwell  
918-930-9321 Baron, Ok.

Visit us on Facebook 5S Baron Station

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