

The STRAIGHT FORWARD

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Stilwell, Adair County, Oklahoma

Thursday, October 28, 2021



Lynette Mullin, pictured above, shows off the certificate and First Place Blue Ribbon she recently won at the 2021 Adair County 4-H Share the Fun event held in Westville, OK. Pictured below, Lynette performs a segment of her routine at Rowan's Restaurant.

Lynette Mullin Wins First Place at the Annual Adair County 4-H Share the Fun Event

By John Bankel

Lynette Mullin loves to dance upon the stage. She has been taking ballet and tap lessons for some time now. On Wednesday, October 20, at the annual 4-H "Share The Fun" event, held at the Westville High School auditorium, Lynette took to the stage to perform her "Sugar Plum Fairy" dance, from the music of "The Nutcracker", to her own choreography!

She shared with this writer how on the day before her performance one of the lead-in dancers decided to abruptly pull out. Lynette was able to respond to a potential crisis by recruiting and training a last minute new dancer. Plus, just before the curtain was to go up, there was a technical glitch.

Undaunted, when the curtain was finally raised, Ms. Mullin was all "show biz" and magnificently danced her way, to the delight of the judges, to a Blue Ribbon, FIRST PLACE!



This writer was given a first-hand look as she performed a segment of her routine on the floor in the bakery section of Rowan's Restaurant. Bravo!!

October 25 Adair County Commissioners Meeting

By John Bankel

The Board of Adair County Commissioners held their regular Monday meeting at 8:30 in the County Courthouse Board room. Larry Wood, District 3, opened the meeting in the absence of Chairman Mike Winger, District 1. Sam Chandler, District 2, was present so that a Quorum was reached.

The greeting, pledge and prayer, and approval of last week's meeting minutes were routinely dispatched, followed by the items on the Agenda being addressed, beginning with Items 6a and 6b under "Old Business." Both items were taken off the Agenda until further review.

Items 7-14 were all approved without discussion.

Under "New Business", Item

14, a concerned citizen asked about access to documents, like the Resolution 10:2-2021 voted on in Item 7, prior to the meeting so that citizens can be informed ahead of time and know what is being voted on. Larry Wood responded to the question by saying that the Agenda is posted on Thursday before the meeting and that the citizen has ample time to track the document down. This puts the burden on each individual citizen to provide that which the Commissioners should provide, since the document in question pertains to the Agenda, by merely stapling a copy of the document to the Agenda made available at the meeting. That would be the kind of service which "we the people" expect from our public servants.

Make Beef Great Again

By Tarra Boecher

Ranchers across the country are taking a stance, and making a change, by joining forces with fellow ranchers. They are building their own USDA inspected slaughter facilities and marketing their products. Perhaps it's time we come together here in Adair County and join the movement. I believe it's time to break away from contributing to the big guys pocketbook and keep the money where it belongs, here in our community. Why don't we try to keep it in the pockets of the ones who put their blood sweat and tears into the raising of their livestock?

Our operation has been greatly affected (for the worst, but maybe for the best if I'm being optimistic) by the scarcity of USDA inspected slaughter availability. It's led to my being absolutely fascinated with how a facility operates, and what it takes to become operational. A large portion of my recent conversation with Dr. Temple Grandin was about the great need our country has for more small USDA inspected facilities. That conversation led me to ask if she would be willing to visit a facility in person, if we were to get one up and operating in the future. She replied, "Absolutely! And if for some reason I can't make it in person, we can tour it over Zoom."

(I'm going to use the word intrigued for this next snippet. Obsessed may be more fitting, but I'll let you be the judge.)

Since meeting Dr. Grandin, I've watched at least 50 slaughter facility videos, and read countless articles on the topic of slaughtering livestock. I'm absolutely intrigued with the process of raising animals for food; from birth, to butcher, to market. But, I haven't always been. Growing up, I watched the slaughter of animals take place in the wrong way. And if I'm being 100% honest, it traumatized me to the point of swearing off meat altogether for some years. Now that I'm an adult, I'm a very happy meat eater. It took me witnessing animals being slaughtered the right way, where no suffering was present, to accept the fact that raising animals for food is an ethical thing to do.

I spoke with Dr. Grandin about her thoughts on the possibility of a co-operative slaughter facility. She warned, in order for a co-operatively owned facility to be successful it needs a board of 18 to 20 people. She has witnessed great success in co-operatives where a large amount of people are on the board, whereas co-operatives with only a handful of board members always crumbled due to infighting. We also spoke about the most cost-effective route to take to get started. She advised us that purchasing a USDA compliant slaughter

(See Make Beef on Page 3)



A True Leadership Trio, left to right: David Hardin, District 86 State Representative, John Bennett, OK Republican Party Chairman, and Blake "Cowboy" Stephens, District 3 State Senator.

Packed House at Adair County Republican Party Meeting

Commentary by John Bankel

John Bennett, State Republican Party Chairman, was the featured speaker on Monday night, October 25, at the monthly Adair County Republican Party meeting held at the KCS Depot in Stilwell. Mr. Bennett, a former Oklahoma legislator, who also served as a combat Marine in Iraq and Afghanistan and currently pastors a church in Sallisaw, spoke fervently to a full house. While he touched on many subjects of vital interest and importance at this time in America's history, one of his key points was his admonition for making sure that the right Republican candidates are elected. What he meant by that is the fact that just because a candidate puts an R next to their name, does not necessarily qualify them as a TRUE CONSERVATIVE REPUBLICAN. He said there are a plethora of "Republicans In Name Only" (RINO) out there. He pointed to a handout (a copy of which will be published in this newspaper) which showed what a TRUE CONSERVATIVE REPUBLICAN looks like. He could not emphasize enough that the most important elections are the local ones like city council, school board, county commissioner, etc. and filling those offices with TRUE CONSERVATIVE REPUBLICANS.

John Bennett is a TCR and a warrior to boot in what he calls "a battle between good and evil." He is in the fight and all of us who cherish this Constitutional Republic we call the United States of America must do our part to win it.

In addition to John Bennett, the crowd also heard from our District 86 Representative David Hardin who spoke about re-districting, which happens every 10 years, that is about to be voted on and will have impact on the scope of the territory that David represents.

District 3 Senator Blake "Cowboy" Stephens, who will also be impacted by re-districting in that he will no longer represent Adair County, started his speech with, "I am a long-winded cowboy." (For which he got some chuckles), yet he kept his address fairly short. His bill to change the application of daylight savings in Oklahoma was his main topic. According to Senator Stephens, his proposal would have significant economic, health and well-being benefits to Oklahoma citizens, although he did not go into detail. He has dubbed his bill "The Sunshine Bill" since it would provide Oklahoma citizens additional hours of daylight during the course of each year.

A vibrant Q&A and fellowship session ended an excellent meeting.



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their FAVORITE
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your name and age.

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@gmail.com.

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PROVERB POWER

"There is therefore no condemnation to them which are in Christ Jesus, who walk not after the flesh, but after the Spirit."

— Romans 8:1 (KJV)

THE CONSERVATIVE VIEW

By Russell Turner

A LACK OF WISDOM

Over the last several months I have grown sick of the bashing of our country and heritage, usually the main bashers are younger people who have been indoctrinated in our schools of higher learning. I have even heard some of these educated fools praise the likes of Mao Se Tung of China. From what I have learned about Chairman Mao, he was nothing but a murdering thug that had no regard for human life other than his own. We Americans do have our share of sociopaths but for the most part, due to our Judao Christian foundation, the American people are the most generous people on the planet. Many people my age can remember the commentator, Paul Harvey. I distinctly remember one of his broadcasts dealing with America bashing in his day, he quoted a Canadian journalist that wrote a great piece countering all of the condemnation of our country; for those who would like to hear the broadcast I am sure that it can be found on the internet.

In my holy book, which happens to be the Holy Bible, I believe that it was given to us to give us examples on how to conduct our lives and to be productive citizens. Among the stories, one of my favorites was that of king Solomon when he resolved a dispute between two women who were claiming the same baby. With his gift of wisdom, he was able to determine the true mother of the child. With his decree to cut the child in half he was able, by the women's actions, to know who the true mother was. Wisdom is becoming a rare commodity in this country, especially in Washington DC, but wisdom is something that all of us

need on a daily basis. I want to tell you a story about a friend of mine, and it is a true story.

While we Americans are a generous people, we also don't want to be taken advantage of. My friend was a deacon at a local church. One day during Sunday services a couple came into their church and was asking the church for a handout because they were out of work and were having a hard time getting by. According to my friend, the couple appeared to be in good health and had no limbs missing. He and the other deacons went into another room to consider the request; in that meeting the deacons were ready to give some money to the couple, but my friend had the wisdom to have a test that would prove their sincerity. My friend owned various properties and houses. His test was simple, he went back to the couple and told them that he needed some work done on his properties and he would even furnish them with a house to live in until they were able to get on their feet. To receive the money from the church all they would have to have done was to accept his offer. Instead, the couple said they had to go to Tulsa and wouldn't take his offer. When my friend used his wisdom that Solomon might have used, he told them they didn't have any money for them.

When we see politicians throwing around taxpayer money to various groups, they are not using the wisdom that my friend was able to do in his church. In our country today the lack of education is not the problem, the biggest problem we face is the lack of wisdom.

THE KIPLING KORNER

"He who faces no calamity gains no courage."—Kipling

Vocabulary
WORD
of
the
DAY

Mirth
His six-foot frame shook with mirth.
• amusement, especially as expressed in laughter.

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 Lady in the Blue Sari

Part 18

By Donna Boecher

Like many Indians, Alex and Teresa arose as the sun was breaking the horizon, not to worship the sun, rather to thank the Father God

and His son Jesus Christ for the presence of the Holy Ghost in their lives. Kneeling in the sands of the Arabian Sea, together they thanked God for all his blessing to them. They had realized when they had

left their separate rooms in the pre-dawn hour that something had changed in their relationship.

They no longer felt like separate travelers, seeing this marvelous land of the subcontinent as sightseers, but as joint servants of God—understanding the mission and purpose of their lives. It seemed that Auntie Lydia was prophetic in the why and wherefore of their trip. Love, both physical and spiritual, was blossoming between them. There would be plenty of time to develop their relationship. It was 338 miles to Thrissur, near the first church of St. Thomas, and it was at least another hour plus to Kochi—their final destination. Who knew where they would stay tonight, but tomorrow night they would stay at the Kunnathur Mana Heritage Resort, near Palayur. There they would relax with Ayurvedic massage after seeing St. Thomas' first church. Indeed, the Holy Spirit was with them.



Dear John, my boyfriend of 6 years keeps breaking up with me. He tells me he is going to find another woman online. After a while, he comes back and pleads with me to take him back. For some reason I give him another chance. This has happened so many times, I have lost track. I believe he has been cheating on me, but i have remained faithful all the while. Now, I am at my wits end and really don't know what to do?

Tied In Knots

Dear Tied In Knots, just like oil and water, faithful and unfaithful do not mix. He has you spinning in a cycle, like a Speed Queen wash machine: wash, rinse, and hang you out to dry. Who is to blame? Your boyfriend bears some of the responsibility for his shabby treatment of you, yet he is not solely to blame. You are allowing his behavior to continue every time you take him back. You deserve better than that. A woman needs a man who has integrity and is committed to the relationship. What you have is a 3-year-old who gets tired of a new toy after playing with it for 15 minutes. Since you said you have put up with him for 6 years and he has not asked you for your hand in marriage, he has clearly demonstrated his lack of commitment. And the fact that he seeks other women and frankly, cheats on you, shows that he is short on integrity. What should you do? Trying to change this rascal is a waste of your valuable time. The only one that can change is you yourself; give yourself a good going over and then start afresh and find someone who will treat you like a queen, not a Speed Queen.

P.S. You might want to begin by changing the locks on your front door...

Sincerely,

Dear John

Got a question for Dear John? Send it to: dearjohn@write.com. Real names not used.

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Health Tips from Larkin...

By Larkin Fouse, CHHP

The Power of Music—Part 2: Beneficial kinds of music vs. harmful kinds: As with all things there are always two sides, a good one and a bad one. Music is no exception, there are kinds of music that have been scientifically proven to benefit people and to harm people and here I will give you the two kinds. First I will state my case by an experiment done to prove that some kinds of music are beneficial and others are not. In the experiment plants were placed in green houses, one with classical music playing in it, and the other with rap playing in it, and over time here is what happened. The plants that listened to the rap music grew very big for a week, and then all died, proof of rap's steroid like nature to pump you up then destroy you. However, the classical music plants grew very large and their vines all grew to wrap around the speakers that

were playing the classical music. So there is your proof. But the list goes on, I have tested the following types of music using my own methods to see its effect upon the body and mind and here are the results I got: Harmful kinds: Rap of any kind, rock, acid rock, metal, and death metal. Beneficial kinds: Classical, instrumental, solfeggio, and Gregorian chants. So if you are used to listening to one of the harmful kinds of music, try out one of the other beneficial kinds for a little bit and see if it helps you feel better, because over the long run it has been shown that music plays a major role in our health and wellbeing, even so much as contributing to the length of our lifespan!

Next week I will begin going into the different types of beneficial music that you may not be familiar with, and walk you through their application for your health and wellbeing!



Mullin It Over: Next Generation of Our Armed Forces

By Congressman Markwayne Mullin

As a Member of Congress, I have the honor of nominating students from the Second District to our country's prestigious service academies. The decision to apply to a service academy is an incredibly personal and courageous one, and I am humbled to be a part of the process.

Nominations are available for the U.S. Military Academy, U.S. Naval Academy, U.S. Air Force Academy, and U.S. Merchant Marine Academy. As these academies prepare the next generation of commissioned officers in the branches of our armed forces, they look for individuals who not only answer the call of duty but who are also willing to go above and beyond. Students at the academies undergo intense academic work, physical training, and character development to prepare them for military service. In addition to meeting the minimum eligibility requirements, it is highly recommended that each applicant excel academically and demonstrate involvement in extracurricular activities through their schools and in their communities.

The decision to apply for a nomination should not be taken lightly. However, I encourage you to consider if this path is right for you. Upon graduation, individuals receive a bachelor's degree and are commissioned as military officers. The honor of attending a service academy comes with an obligation and commitment to serve in the military for a minimum of five years upon graduation. No matter the branch, rank, or role, each of our men and women in uniform play an important part in maintain-

ing our nation's security and defending our way of life.

To apply for a nomination from my office or to learn more about the process, please visit www.Mullin.House.Gov/ServiceAcademy. You must complete both the online form and the Academy Application to be considered. From there, you can mail or deliver a printed copy of the application to my McAlester office at 1 E. Choctaw, Suite 175, McAlester, OK 74501. **All applications must be received by Friday, November 12, 2021.**

After applications are submitted, selected nomination applicants will interview in front of a board of retired military members for final selection. Once the interviews are complete, my office will begin the notification process for applicants.

Receiving a nomination from my office is just the first step in the process of attending a service academy. A nomination does not guarantee admission. If an individual receives a nomination from my office, next they must receive an appointment from the service academy.

My team and I are here to help in any way we can. If you have questions about the application or the process itself, please do not hesitate to call my McAlester office at (918) 423-5951. I look forward to hearing from you and wish you the best with the application process.

Want to stay up-to-date on what I'm doing in Oklahoma and Washington on your behalf? Sign up for my newsletter by visiting Mullin.house.gov/newslettersignup.

Obituaries

Clara Mae Fishinghawk

April 10, 1929 – October 14, 2021

Clara Mae Fishinghawk was born to John Baldrige and Lydia Baldrige in Bunch, Oklahoma on April 10, 1929. She departed this life at home on October 14, 2021, at the age of 92.

Clara was a laborer at Stilwell Foods for several years and Cherokee Nation Industries from 1969–1994. Her hobbies were sewing quilts, growing flowers, gardening, and cooking. She was a member of Chuculate Baptist Church. She enjoyed spending all her time with her grandchildren.

She was preceded in death by her parents: John and Lydia Baldrige; and her son-in-law: Bill Frye.

Clara is survived by her children: Mose Killer and wife Lila, Thomas Killer, Harold Killer, John Jr. Killer and wife Shirley, Ruth Ann Frye, Barbara Tippie and husband Billy, Kathy Burnett and husband Kenith; her grandchildren: Eddie Frye, Christine McFarland, Michael Killer, Tyson Killer, Jarrod Killer, Jamie Nakedhead, Jerome Killer, Robie Bunch, Callie Jackson, John Glen Killer, and Kevin Littledeer; 14 great-grandchildren; 2 great-great-grandchildren. She is also survived by many other relatives and friends.

Funeral services were held at 10 am on Tuesday, October 19, 2021 at Chuculate Baptist Church, Stilwell, OK with Bro. Terry Mays and Bro. Donnie Sanders officiating. Interment followed at Chuculate Cemetery, Stilwell, OK under the direction of Roberts/Reed-Culver Funeral Home, Stilwell, OK.



Clarence Duncan

February 28, 1945 – October 18, 2021

Clarence Duncan was born February 28, 1945, to Polly (Sawney) Duncan and Clint Duncan and passed away on October 18, 2021, at the age of 76 years, 7 months, and 20 days.

Clarence was a faithful member of Piney Creek Baptist Church.

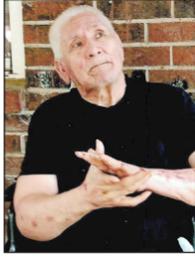
He loved spending time with his family and most of all, his grandkids.

Clarence was preceded in death by his parents: Clint and Polly Duncan; 1 daughter: Hazel Soap; 4 sisters: Louella, Nancy, Nellie, and Ora; and 2 brothers: Bobby Joe, and Robert.

He is survived by his wife: Daisy Duncan of the home; daughters: Cholon and husband Thomas Pritchett, Monica and husband Kevin Wolfe, Sabrina Duncan, Veronica Wolf and husband Chris; 1 son: Henry Duncan and companion Hayley, all of Stilwell, Oklahoma; grandchildren: Autumn, Runaway Pritchett, Justus, White Wolf Duncan, Antonio, Adonica Wolf, Byron Duncan, Heaven Luethje, Mikah Pritchett, Zane, Krislyn, Titan, Bravery, Kiowa, and Nehemiah; 5 great-grandchildren: Bentley, Navy, Avan, Xavier, Leland, and one on the way; 2 sisters: Betty and husband Joe Galcatcher, and Winnie Chuculate, both of Stilwell, Oklahoma. Many other nieces and nephews also survive him.

Clarence will be deeply missed by all who knew him.

Funeral services were held at 1 pm on Monday, October 25, 2021 at Roberts/Reed-Culver Funeral Home, Stilwell, OK with Bro. Avery McGee and Bro. Gary Flynn officiating. Interment followed at Salem Cemetery, Stilwell, OK.



George Lee Pritchett, Jr.

February 14, 1947 – October 11, 2021

George Lee Pritchett, Jr. was born on February 14, 1947, in Fort Smith, Arkansas. He was the son of George Lee Pritchett, Sr. and Vertie (Jackie) Mae Ritter. George passed from this life in Muskogee, Oklahoma on October 11, 2021.

He was preceded in death by his mother: Vernie Mae Ritter and her husband Gene Ritter; his father: George Pritchett, Sr. and wife Francis Pritchett; and his wife: Barbra Jean Pritchett (Leep).

George is survived by 3 brothers: Hasting Pritchett and wife Rhonda of Stilwell, Oklahoma, Steven Pritchett of Butte, Montana, and Noah Pritchett; 3 sisters: Sandra Guinn and husband Bill of Stilwell, Oklahoma, Debbie Cooper of Stilwell, Oklahoma, and Georgina Adams; his children: Jackie Pritchett and Christa Pritchett, both of Tahlequah, Oklahoma, Steven and Kristy Pritchett of Marble City, Oklahoma, Kiah Pritchett, Lance Pritchett, Cody Pritchett, Selena Hawkins, Marisa Sparks and husband Leon, and Toney Quntia, all of Tahlequah, Oklahoma; his grandchildren: Katelyn and Amanda Pritchett, Danny Kirk, Zachary Sanders, Ethan Pritchett, Nathan Pritchett, Isabelle Pritchett, Elizabeth Pritchett, Owen Pritchett, Khailee Pritchett, Blake Pritchett, Jackson Pritchett, Madison Pritchett, Lance Pritchett, Jr., Izayah Pritchett, Darren Hawkins, and Gage Foley; 2 great-grandchildren: Phoebe and Octavia Pendergraft.

George was known for his work. He was one of the best masons around. George had a passion for hunting, fishing, and any dirt road he could find. He read any western book that he could get his hands on.

George joined the National Guard in 1966.

He will be forever missed by his family and friends.

Funeral services were held at 2 pm on Tuesday, October 19, 2021 at Roberts/Reed-Culver Chapel, Stilwell, OK with Bro. Billy Mathews officiating. Interment followed at Pilgrim Rest Cemetery, Stilwell, OK.



Winfred Lee King

October 27, 1932 – October 17, 2021

Winfred Lee King was born in Spade Mountain, Oklahoma on October 27, 1932. His parents were Claude and Lois (Knight) King. He departed this life on October 17, 2021, at the age of 88 years, 11 months, and 21

days.

He attended Rabbit Trap Elementary and afterwards farmed and worked in California.

He was drafted into the U.S. Army and was sent to Germany. He was in the Artillery Division of the occupying force just after WWII. After the Army he helped in building Highway 100. It was at this time that he met Altarene Center. Soon they were married and built a new home in the Spade Mountain Community. To this union two sons were born: David Lee and Darryl Paul.

Winfred had a great love for horses and there wasn't a period in his life that there wasn't at least one on his place. He loved to read, whether it was a Western Horseman or a book on bees (another hobby). He was a great provider. He drove a truck until he retired.

He was preceded in death by his mother and father; his brother: Deverl; and 1 nephew: Jimmy C. King.

Survivors include his wife of 63 years; his sons: Dave and wife Rita of Strang, Oklahoma, and Darryl and wife Dianna of Stilwell, Oklahoma; 3 grandchildren: Casey King and wife Erin of Pryor, Oklahoma, Shandi Teague and husband Kyle of Rose, Oklahoma, and Travis Smith and wife Kailey of Salina, Oklahoma; 8 great-grandchildren; 1 niece: Connie Fathery; and 2 nephews: Kenneth King of Muskogee, Oklahoma, and James King of Stilwell, Oklahoma.

Graveside services were held at 2 pm on Thursday, October 21, 2021 at Spade Mountain Cemetery, Stilwell, Adair County, Oklahoma with Bro. Jason Ritchie officiating. Interment followed under the direction of Roberts/Reed-Culver Funeral Home, Stilwell, OK.

Nina Beatrice Wolfe

May 29, 1954 – October 15, 2021

In loving memory of Nina Beatrice Wolfe. Born May 29th, 1954, in Tahlequah, Oklahoma to her mother, Sarah Springwater, of Stilwell, Oklahoma. She departed life on October 15th, 2021, in Claremore, Oklahoma at the age of 67 years old.

Nina was a kind, loving, and caring Godly woman. She loved reading her books and watching action and scary movies. Her favorite was always the Godzilla movies. She was a great loving sister and aunt. She was a very giving person, and she was a motherly figure to all those around her.

She was preceded in death by her mother: Sarah Springwater; and siblings: Linda Fourkiller, Mamie Garcia, Jackie Lee Sawney, Sandra Jo Hogner, and Robert Wolfe.

Nina is survived by her two sisters: Cindy Wolfe and Wanda Wolfe (Tulsa, Oklahoma), nieces and nephews: Cecilia Fourkiller and sons: Kenneth, and Zachary Fourkiller; Roger Sawney and sons: Joshua Womack, Jeffery Womack, and Matthew Victor; Anthony Victor and son: Santiago Victor; Brian Fourkiller and daughter: Aspen Fourkiller; Samuel Fourkiller and children: Felix, and Penelope Fourkiller; Sarah Wolfe, Rachel Wolfe, and Christopher Wolfe and son: Greven Wolfe; Jackie Kester, and Lana Bunch, several more family members.

Nina was a beautiful woman inside and out. She never had an ounce of evil in her heart or body. She will be greatly missed by all her loved ones.

Funeral services were held at 1 pm on Friday, October 22, 2021 at Roberts/Reed-Culver Chapel, Stilwell, OK with Bro. Todd Parker officiating.



Make Beef (Continued from Front Page)

trailer is much cheaper than building a new brick and mortar facility, and can be a starting point to build onto. She also advised that we look into old derelict facilities nearby, that are no longer operational, and renovating one of them to code.

Thousands of cattle are raised here in Adair County, by conventional methods. We have an ever growing population in the United States, and what's raised here in Adair County is needed to meet the nations demand. That doesn't mean us ranchers who are itching for something different can't take a non-conventional approach and

be successful, enabling us to coexist together in a way that benefits us all. No matter which route we take, it will take a village to see this through to fruition.

I am 110% willing to put in work, and jump through hoops, to see this through. Is this something you'd be interested in being a part of?

Perhaps in 10 years time, we will see Stilwell Oklahoma nationally market its' amazingly delicious, humanely raised, beef.

Let's connect!

Email: zionoaks@gmail.com

Phone: 918-221-3141

Mid-County Community Organization To Hold Fall Festival This Saturday

Mid-County Community Organization would like to invite everyone to their Fall Festival this Saturday, October 30 from 11 a.m. to 9 p.m. in Baron, OK.

We will have Indian tacos and hot dogs. There will be over 30 vendors with arts, crafts, food and more.

We will be playing volleyball,

cornhole, horseshoes, and basketball (brand new court and goal). There will also be fall games and activities for the kids!

Come out and enjoy the food and fun activities.

All proceeds will go toward purchasing new playground equipment.

Mullin Opposes Reckless Debt Limit Increase

Congressman Markwayne Mullin (OK-02) released the following statement after voting no on a resolution temporarily suspending the debt limit.

"Suspending the debt limit enables Pelosi Democrats to continue their out-of-control spending spree

and advance their socialist agenda," Mullin said. "We all know that when you acquire more debt, you will eventually have to pay it. Our country cannot afford to continue down this path of reckless spending and passing bills off to future generations."



14th Annual FREE Thanksgiving Day Turkey Dinner, Thursday, November 25, Starting at 11:00 a.m. till food runs out, Maryetta School. EVERYONE WELCOME. Sponsored by: Powerhouse Church & Other Community Members.

Harps is Coming to Stilwell

Story by The Roving Reporter

Harps is a high quality grocery chain with a major presence in Arkansas and Oklahoma. Westville has had a Harps store for a number of years and now Harps has purchased the 2 stores, Top Value and Shoppers Saver on 2nd Street in Stilwell, with the intention of remodeling the Top Value store and turn it into a Harps. It is still unclear what will happen with the Shoppers Saver store.

More will be reported as the situation continues to develop.

God Goes With You

By Donna Boecher

Ever felt alone? Thoughts of loss, of separation, of winter's forecast, or the passing seasons. God is with us always. Accordingly, if you are awake at night there are four night "watches" of three hours each from 6 pm to 6 am. First, "unlocking destinies; next, visitations and acts of change; the third of "much spiritual activity," and finally, the **fourth watch** from 3-6 am. The fourth watch is what we hear the most about because it is one of "angelic release and encounters." This is when Jacob wrestled with the angel (God in the guise of an angel). Jacob wanted God to stay with him and he was willing to fight for that relationship.

We all have those times when we find ourselves awake in one of the night watches. Habakkuk 2:1 (TLV) says, "I will take my stand at my post, and station myself on the rampart, and I will watch to see what He will say to me, and what I will answer regarding my argument." We, like the prophet Habakkuk, ask how a situation can be happening to us. How badly do we want a specific blessing from God? It is seen in the Bible that some blessings only come after much arguing of our point with God. Repeatedly, we argue with God to reconsider. We too can and do wrestle with angels to receive the blessing. We are arguing to have God stay with us in the closest of relationships. "For Adonai your God is the One who goes with you, to fight for you against your enemies to save you." (Deut. 20:4/TLV) Be willing to stand your watch!

Our Readers' Voice...

Westville Trunk or Treat Set for Oct. 29

Consent Of The Governed (A Case Study)
By Concerned Citizen
 The October 18, 2021 Commissioner Meeting included an unusually open, productive dialogue. To be fair, the conversation basically involved County employees sharing their varied perspectives on 911 and EMS matters. Commissioner Mike Winger still resisted Citizen participation, including attempted positive feedback. A Citizen offered: **"I just have a compliment or a praise report, if I may."** Winger paused for about five seconds before relenting and consenting. The Citizen then applauded the fluid discourse as constructive and refreshing. Another Citizen ratified: **"Amen!"**

Reluctance towards Citizen input also included an ironic, disappointing deference Winger showed to assistant district attorney Mike Dunagan. The Commissioners were discussing possible fees for We The People obtaining video footage from the security cameras in the public county office complex. A Citizen initiated: **"I have experience and I can comment on this."** Rather than inviting this input, Winger pivoted and asked **"What do you think, Mike?"** Dunagan punted to the Citizen, stating **"Go ahead and comment."** Commissioner Sam Chandler then echoed Winger's preference and redirected back to Dunagan.

Dunagan meandered tangentially with irrelevant and incorrect information. He talked repeatedly about how an Open Records Act request must be specific and in writing, which is nowhere in the statute. He also claimed County employees could deny a request if it seemed **"willy nilly"** or arbitrary. Indeed, he stated: **"It's not up to the county to try to find what anybody's looking for on a surveillance video."** The statute provides for no such denial. It actually begins with: **"All records of public bodies and public officials shall be open to any person for inspection, copying, or mechanical reproduction during regular business hours."** It goes on to warn that fees cannot be used to dissuade requests and it even admonishes against delays. When eventually actually discussing fees, Dunagan erroneously cited pricing twice what the law really allows. Dunagan, seeming to realize his lackluster contribution, oddly confessed **"I didn't realize you wanted comments from me."**

The Citizen finally shared, raising valid concerns about when charging fees might be unlawful. The Citizen related: **"A friend and I were assaulted and battered in this building by so-called Judge Payton, with three sheriff's deputies watching and doing nothing. Then, the criminal judge asked them to remove us from this public place, at which point they suddenly sprung into action against us, the victims, rather than the criminal, and unlawfully removed us from the premises."** The Citizen then quoted the statute: **"In no case shall a search fee be charged when the release of records is in the public interest, including, but not limited to, release to the news media, scholars, authors and taxpayers seeking to determine whether those entrusted with the affairs of the government are honestly, faithfully, and competently performing their duties as public servants."** Perhaps this statutory fee proscription applies here?

Regardless, what's legal might nevertheless be inappropriate. The Citizen continued: **"I'm reasonably well confident that a judge's job description does not include committing crimes against innocent people who are in a public place doing what they're permitted to do."** Should crime victims have to pay for such evidence? Moreover, the Citizen asked: **"If you have people that could not afford the cost of obtaining the evidence of crimes committed against them by public servants, is that proper?"**

Had Winger been as receptive to Citizen participation as he was to the County employee conversation, he would have spared Dunagan the circumlocutory spontaneous pontification and abbreviated everyone's path

to accurate information and important considerations. Indeed, another Citizen queried about the quantity of requests, suggesting that determining why they're being made could be instructive. To that point, the Citizen

victim affirmed: **"If the judge never committed crimes of assault and battery against me, I'd have never filed an Open Records Act request."** Ultimately, the Commissioners took no action on charging fees.

Trunk or Treat 2021 will be held in Downtown Westville on Friday, October 29, from 4:00 to 5:30 p.m.
 Happy Halloween!

Stilwell Indians Homecoming 2021 "Color Splash Parade"

Photos by John Bankel



THE ROVING REPORTER In, Around, and Out About Town



The face of Stilwell is undergoing another change. The Beacon Drive-In, an iconic Stilwell structure is on its way down and on its way out.

Mark Bigby, the current owner, who was at the site as The Roving Reporter happened to be roving by, is the son of the couple who first opened the drive-in in 1976. He had worked there for its first 10 years. The Beacon finally closed its doors around 2006 and has been sitting vacant ever since.

The City of Stilwell demanded its demolition because, among other things, transients and vagrants

had been using the empty facility for hanging-out and housing and presented a health and safety risk. A half-track is scheduled to completely raze the building sometime next week.

Mr. Bigby said that the empty lot would be converted into a strip mall with about 7 20'x50' spaces for offices and/or retail stores. In his estimation, this would probably happen over the next year.

Meanwhile, the Beacon will only be a memory and a piece of history in the annals of The Straight Forward FREE Press.

Photos by The Roving Reporter

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“Our Readers’ Voice:” A page dedicated to the expressed opinions of our readers. Send your opinion to: straightforwardpress21@gmail.com.



Stilwell Sports Spotlight

INDIANS FOOTBALL

Commentary by John Bankel

!!HEAVENLY HOMECOMING!!

On a cool, crystal clear October 22nd night, before a wildly enthusiastic Homecoming crowd and the full moon shining forth its brilliant light, Heaven came down onto James Bradley Stadium and shed its grace upon a reinvigorated—probably because of the Indians’ second half success playing Poteau the week before?—Stilwell team as they strode confidently onto the field to take on the Tulsa McClain High School Titans in the annual Homecoming contest. From the opening whistle, the Indians put the hammer down and rampaged the Titans with a relentless attack, on the ground and thru the air, to carve out a commanding 29-8 halftime advantage.

On defense, time and time again Stilwell smothered and snuffed out the Titans’ attempts to move the ball. Indeed, the sole Titans’ first half TD came on a 90 yard fumble recovery return. Their only offensive score came with less than 2 minutes left in the game after the Indians had safely put the

game into the win column with a 46-8 lead. Both teams had entered the game looking for their first win. Stilwell is no longer winless and after the display they put on on this Homecoming Day, there is good reason to believe that the next 2 games, an away game at old time foe Muldrow, October 29, and the final game at home against arch rival Sallisaw on November 5, will have a similar outcome.

Meanwhile, the Indians will surely enjoy the sweet savor of victory of their HEAVENLY HOMECOMING!! And not to be forgotten was the stellar Homecoming parade and the lineup of pristine Queens riding in their sparkling “chariots.” Kudos to the students who put in much time and effort in constructing their imaginative floats, each with a unique theme. The parade set the stage for the HEAVENLY HOMECOMING!! It was indeed a “Great Day To Be An Indian.” Oh, and the final score? INDIANS 46—TITANS 16

GO INDIANS!!

“Voting with Dollars”

By Charles Boecher

It’s time for a spending revolt. We need to vote with our dollars.

Firstly, Sam Walton was an American Icon, he was a role model to businessmen of all shapes, sizes, and colors. I respect how Mr. Walton made millions of American lives better than they had been before, and I appreciate the jobs Walmart brought to Stilwell.

The Stilwell, OK Walmart just put up a sign above their newly remodeled meat section, which says something like “We support American beef and pork.” It got me thinking, do they really? I reluctantly buy their Chinese fish sometimes, as well as many other foreign products. Do they really support American meat?

I think the answer is, they support American meat as long as it’s profitable for them, and there is no guarantee that will be the case forever. I can’t hate them for it, but I really have to ask myself how I should spend my dollars, and I think you should be asking that same question.

It turns out Walmart just opened a beef packaging facility in Georgia, in 2020. This is happening at a time when American beef industry suppliers (a.k.a. ranchers and feedlots) are upset about prices they are getting from large processing plants. You’ll have to ask yourself how you feel about that.

Walmart is now making your bread and milk, as well as processing your beef. Walmart and Amazon have historically cut out smaller American producers. This is mostly due to the rising cost of paying employees in the United States, when compared

with other foreign ‘third-world’ type countries. This is something to think about the next time we hear the push for a \$15 minimum wage.

We have a choice, we can pay a little bit more for our groceries, and consume a little bit less, and grow our communities. Alternatively, we can keep consuming as much as possible, and keep shopping at these larger outlets, like Walmart and Amazon. This will inevitably help countries like China.

Walmart and Amazon’s recent efforts have been to cut out the middlemen in different industries. That action saves us a couple dollars at the cash register, but can end up hurting our communities. Amazon’s headquarters is located in Seattle Washington, and Walmart’s headquarters is in Bentonville Arkansas. When we cut out the middleman, that extra money is sent to Bentonville and Seattle. I won’t lie, and say it’s a zero-sum game, cheaper goods can improve the economy. However, spending your money with local businesses can really strengthen our community and its’ economy. There is, in general, a limited amount of

local capital. The middleman is your neighbor, he spends local. Remember this the next time you see that new subdivision going up in Bentonville.

The change in our shopping habits may not happen overnight, and not everyone can afford to change their buying habits right now, but it’s time to start voting with our dollars again. It’s time to re-embrace our power as consumers. No matter how much we try to save a dollar by selling out our National values, the Government shows no sign of slowing its printing of cash. There likely will never be a ‘better time’ to start being more conscientious consumers.

It’s time to reinvigorate our pioneering spirit. When I think of pork, I like to think of the hogs my great-grandparents raised here on pasture, not factory-farmed hogs. I can’t help but believe that the beef my wife and I raise here is far superior to what Walmart can bring you, or that the Chinese can produce food better than Americans can. There are a lot of beef cattle producers here in Adair County, and local always tastes better.

Capitol Update

from Rep. David Hardin



David Hardin serves District 86 in the Oklahoma House of Representatives. His district includes Adair County and parts of Cherokee and Delaware counties.

I wanted to provide the district with an update regarding our Redistricting Special Session which will convene on November 15. The U.S. Census Bureau released the block-level population data for the 2020 Census on August 12, 2021. This is much later than anticipated and has led to delays in the redistricting effort. The results show that Oklahoma grew 5.5% and has a statewide population of 3,959,353 as of April 1, 2020. Some key highlights:

- 27 counties had positive population growth, whereas 50 experienced population loss over the last decade;
- The counties with the highest population growth are Canadian (33.64%); McClain (20.74%); Logan (18.42%); Cleveland (15.55%); Tulsa (10.92%); and Oklahoma (10.81%);
- The ideal district population for each House district is 39,202; Senate district is 82,487 and congressional district is 791,871.

In order to fulfill our redistricting duties, the House and Senate passed multiple bills dealing with the topic earlier this year.

House Bill 1198, the State House of Representatives Redistricting Act of 2021, provides a geographic description of the new 101 House districts. Each House district was redrawn to have roughly 38,939 persons, the ideal district population based on the 2015-2019 ACS statewide estimate of 3,932,870.

Senate Bill 1066, the State Senate Redistricting Act of 2021, provides a geographic description of the new 48 Senate districts. Each Senate district was redrawn to have roughly 81,935 persons, the ideal district population based on the statewide estimates.

Both of these legislative redistricting measures required the Legislature to review the district boundaries upon the release of the detailed block-level data and make any necessary adjustments for compliance with the law. This will be handled during the upcoming special session and the new district boundaries will take effect with the 2022 elections.

ADAIR COUNTY HIGH SCHOOL FOOTBALL ROUNDUP

Commentary by John Bankel

WEEK 9

CAVE SPRINGS HORNETS VS. KEOTA EAGLES

On Thursday, October 21, the Cave Springs Hornets (2-4) paid a visit to Keota to play the (4-2) Keota High School Eagles in an 8-man District football contest. The Eagles devoured the Hornets 46-0. Cave Springs next plays Summit Christian Academy of Broken Arrow at home on October 29. Kickoff is at 7 pm.

WATTS ENGINEERS VS. ARKOMA MUSTANGS

On Thursday night, October 21, the Watts Engineers took to the road to play the Arkoma High School Mustangs in an 8-man District football game. The Mustangs trampled the Engineers 46-0. Watts remains winless, 0-7, 0-4 in District on the year. Watts next plays host to Keota on Thursday night, October 28. Kickoff is at 7 pm.

WESTVILLE

YELLOWJACKETS VS. SEMINOLE CHIEFTAINS

The 6th ranked Seminole Chieftains (4-2) came to town to take on the 6-2 Yellowjackets on Friday night, October 22. Seminole proved to be too much for Westville as they pounded out a 42-8 District win. The Yellowjackets, after rolling to a 6-0 record, have now dropped 3 in a row, albeit to some potent opponents. Westville is now 6-3, 3-4 in District play. On Friday, October 29, Westville travels to Stigler, for a District contest. Kickoff is at 7 pm.

ON THE CAMPAIGN TRAIL

Commentary by John Bankel

Today the Trail Takes a Final Look at WESTVILLE VS. STILWELL: THE BITTER BATTLE FOR THE COUNTY SEAT--PART 4 Stilwell "Stole" The Seat

We pick-up the story from the previous episode where Stilwell won the second election after the first one, which had Stilwell win by 101 votes, was curbed by an injunction. A second election was held which showed Stilwell again winning, but this time by 30 votes! Yet this was not the final chapter in the battle!

Westville again requested and received an injunction from the Governor to keep Stilwell from moving any records. Westville again was claiming illegal voting in the southern end of the county! A second referee was sent to investigate. He reported insufficient evidence of illegal voting, but, unlike the first referee, he did not spend 2 years in his investigation. Upon hearing this, Governor Charles N. Haskell declared Stilwell to be

the County Seat of Adair County and that they were free to move all the records to that city! Thus concluding this almost 10 year chapter of the Great County Seat War.

So, the rivalry between Westville and Stilwell, as you can plainly see, is not just about a "Funny looking little punkin being carried down a cow pasture without stepping on something," as Andy Griffith sang about years ago. It is also about the County Seat that Stilwell "Stole" from Westville those many seasons ago!

The foregoing was excerpted from a book, "Trivia & Vignettes of Oklahoma History", by local historian Terry Rose, and is intended for educational purposes only.

For today, the Trail has come to an end. The next Trail waits around

the bend. And as Roy Rogers and Dale Evans were fond of singing, "Happy trails to you, until we meet again." May your Trail end up on the right side of the fence.

John Bankel is a freelance journalist and retired high school math teacher and can be reached, by email, at: writewright@journalist.com

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WHAT'S SO PUNNY? PUN FUN

Here is a trio of puns sure to kick your punny bone into action... nothing like a good laugh to break up the monotony that sometimes life can bring.

1. Smaller babies may be delivered by stork, but the heavier ones need a crane... ouch!!!

2. What do you use to cut a Roman Emperor's hair?

Would you believe caesars?... this pun is really a cut above...

3. The guy who invented the door knocker got a no bell prize.

Knocking 'em dead with these groaners...more to come, so stay tuned for the next ensemble of puns.

Got a funny one? Send it to: writewright@journalist.com



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SCRIPTURE
"3 Grace to you and peace from God the Father and our Lord Jesus Christ,
4 who gave himself for our sins to rescue us from this present evil age, according to the will of our God and Father.
5 To him be the glory forever and ever. Amen."--Galatians 1:3-5
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Stilwell's Trunk-O-Ween Is Oct. 29
This year's Trunk-O-Ween, sponsored by Stilwell Area Chamber of Commerce, will be held on Friday, October 29, from 4:30 to 6:00 p.m. on Division Street between 1st and 3rd Streets. Costume Contest will be at 5:00 p.m. Age categories are: 0-2 years; 3-5 years; 6-10 years; 11-15 years; and 16 & Over. It will be sponsored by Stilwell Fraternal Order of Police.
Please line up on the South side of Division Street from 3rd to 5th Street.
Happy Halloween!

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