## STRAIGHT FORWARD FREE Press SM WEEKE Price: \$0.00

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Volume 3 • Issue 22

WEEKEND GAZETTE

Serving Stilwell & Adair County, Oklahoma

Friday December 8, 2023

## ADAIR COUNTY BUSINESS BUZZ The Entrepreneur Spirit

Story by John Bankel



Photo by John Bankel

Cathy Dillard Unger proudly displays her organizations awards...

Show me an entrepreneur and I will show you someone with passion and guts. It takes a dedicated soul to start a business from scratch. The entrepreneur finds a need and then works passionately, diligently and resolutely to fill that need. Today's "Entrepreneur Spirit" features:

## **Queen of Queens** Photo Album page 6



Photo by Donna Dillard Ledford

Briella Crittenden with Donna Boecher...

## **Cathy Dillard Unger:** A Hound Dog On A Ham Sandwich

It was about 15 years ago when Cathy Dillard Unger saw a need in Adair County. The need? Keeping Adair County litter free and green. She began by ordering 50 large trash bags from ODOT, which was doing a promotion for trash pickup along the highways. It was the late Barbara Wininger who turned her on to that. Cathy began in her own back yard, picking up trash in her neighborhood of Elm Grove. Soon, she got a couple of Church members, John and Joyce Radtke involved. They

worked the road that leads to Rock Springs Baptist Church. Cathy's efforts began paying off as she attracted others who were interested in litter pickup as well as re-cycling, with Kathy Francis and Cathy Tibbit joining the cause. An annual free "Trash Off" day was created. Cathy raised \$300 to offer as a cash prize to the group that brought in the most trash bags. Interest from the community started growing.

Continued on page 7

# little Women

"Save the date and join the March sisters for an evening of **Christmas cheer in the Stilwell High School** Drama production of Little Women. Friday, December 15 and Saturday, December 16. 7:00 p.m. in the Fine Arts Building. "

## PROVERB POWER

Romans 8:1 KJV

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

### The Straight Forward FREE Press

is now ONLINE on Google! www.straightforwardfreepress.com Check it out and enjoy!



Photos submitted by Robynne Parri

Little Women

Stilwell High School **Seniors** 

**Deshea Canoe and Lisa Jones.** 



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

Number 53

By Donna Boecher

Dad's "going on's" made him special to me. I watched, listened, and learned. My first oysteron-the half shell was at age 8 or 9. He'd gone to Gilchrist, Texas beach. He raked oyster shells off the shoreline into a burlap bag, as I remember. With the 1951 black Buick backed trunk first in front of the garage, he opened the bag, took out an oyster and pried open the shell with his pocket knife. Voila, an oyster on the half-shell. His comment, "here, swallow it whole." I did.

It was unmemorable, he said "you'll like 'em when you're older. He was right! It was college holiday in Mexico when I enjoyed them. Oysters are one of many seafoods I enjoy oysters, octopus, crab, shrimp, squid, clams, and others. I enjoyed them for 3 decades in New Orleans. Second surprise, a mallard duck with its glistening green head; we baked it. Finally, on vacation in Colorado at Dad's sister's cabin near Nathrop, he taught me fly fishing in cold spring waters. No

more yukky worms to put on a hook. Dad allowed me to experience many things: raising rabbits for food; frog gigging in ponds – fried they were like chicken only smaller; and squirrel hunting in the early morning – fried but with dumplings. Granny showed me how to make those dumplings. But Dad's rule was "you only killed what you were going to eat." I still remember the rule, a reverence for the life of our food supply.



Bill Of Rights Day 2023 Friday, December 15 COUNT DOWN
In 7 days....

## **Amendment 10**

The powers not delegated to the United States by the Constitution, nor prohibited by it to the States, are reserved to the States respectively, or to the people.

Photo by John Bankel

## **Breakfast At Taco Bell**

by John Bankel

The new Stilwell Taco Bell, located at Clevinger St. and Hwy 59, opened its doors on Wednesday, December 5 at 9 am. Among the first customers to tickle

The

the kiosk keys were Donna Boecher and I. Others began trickling in while we were there. The store hours going forward are 8 am to 1 am Sunday thru

Thursday and 8 am to 2 am Friday and Saturday. Along with a tasty meal, the friendly service made this breakfast experience a delight.

Photo by John Bankel



Stilwell Taco Bell...brand spanking new and open for business...

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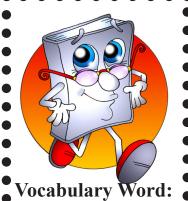
Publisher: Golden Crown Publishing LLC

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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duck (verb) -To lower the head or body suddenly, dodge or evade.

Ex. In the game dodge ■ ball, the children must evade the ball to win the



Two early birds, Donna Boecher, Straight Forward Free Press, and Angela Ketcher, pecking away at their kiosk tablet for the very first meal at the new Stilwell Taco Bell..

## FUNERAL ANNOUNCEMENT

**Steven Weaver's Funeral Service** Today, December 8, 2023 1:00 - 2:30 pm **Westville High School Auditorium** Obituary page 7

2 Corinthians □5:17 "Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation; old things have passed away; behold, all things have become new."

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

## THE KIPLING KORNER

"Fiction is Truth's elder sister. obviously. No one in the world knew what truth was till some one had told a story."



## STILWELL Sports Spot Light

Commentary by John Bankel

## **Indians Basketball Update**

### **Rangers Nip Indians**

On December 1, the Stilwell Indians opened their 2023-24 season at home, taking on arch rival and perennial state qualifier, the Roland Rangers. Midway in the 3d quarter, Roland had expanded their lead to 13 points looking for a runaway. Tyrus Teehee took it upon himself to prevent that from happening as he single handily went on a 7-0 run to pull Stilwell within 6 points. From there on, the game became a seesaw nail biter. If it were not for Roland's leading scorer, Devon Hall, who poured in 24 points, rescuing his team in the final minute of play with 4 clutch free throws, the Indians could have notched a win. With 5 seconds left and down by 3, Stilwell inbounded the ball under Roland's basket, raced down the court, and with 1 second left, Brayden George had an open look for a 3 in the corner. His shot, which at first looked like it had a chance to tie the game and send it into overtime, was a tad too long and bounced off the rim as the final horn sounded. Roland 52 Stilwell 49

#### **Indians Cruise Past Checotah**

On December 5, the Checotah Wildcats came to town to take on the Indians in a District contest. The Indians played with tenacity and great ball hustle. Freshmen Chase Benham and Brayton Carter were stellar in their offensive and defensive play. Along with timely 3 point baskets, most of Stilwell's scoring came from the inside, set up by pinpoint passing underneath. The defense also sparkled with many a take-away to the bewilderment of the the Checotah players. While the Wildcats managed to hang in there for the first half, Stilwell ran away in the second half and came out with a 54-34 win, to even their record at 1-1. Next, on December 7, Vinita Tournament, Stilwell vs. Grove, 5:30 pm.

#### **Lady Indians Flatten Lady Rangers**

On Friday, December 1, The Lady Indians opened their 2023-24 season against Roland by putting on a defensive and offensive clinic. On Defense, the art of the takeaway was on full display. Offensively, the passing and shooting were deftly executed. The outcome was never in doubt, with the Lady Indians up by as many as 40 points. Final: Stilwell 68 Roland 44.

#### **Lady Indians Avalanche Lady Wildcats**

On December 5, the Checotah Wildcats and Lady Wildcats came to town to tangle with the Indians and Lady Indians. The Lady Indians put on quite a display to open the action. With quick hands and nimble feet and a stifling defense, the game quickly turned into a rout. Final: Stilwell 82 Checotah 44. Next, the Lady Indians partake in the Vinita Tournament on Thursday, December 7. Game time is 4 pm.

#### **Coach Tim Barton Honored At Halftime**

In a moving halftime ceremony at half-court, retired Stilwell Indians Baseball coach, Tim Barton, was honored for his admission to the Oklahoma High School Baseball Association's Hall Of Fame. Coach Barton was surrounded by his family as he spoke of his career, which spanned 36 years during which time his teams amassed an astounding 1035 wins to only 286 losses along with 3 state titles. There were several former players in the audience that Coach Barton asked to stand. Coach Barton will go down in the annals of Stilwell Sports history as perhaps Stilwell's greatest coach of all time. Congratulations Coach Barton!



Very proud of Trenton Nakedhead. He placed 1st in a competition in Muskogee. He is a member of Stilwell Highschool's FCCLA led by Diane Eubanks. Thanks Trenton for choosing recycling as your project.

Cathy Dillard Unger

# ADAIR COUNTY HIGH SCHOOL BASKETBALL ROUNDUP

Commentary by John Bankel

#### WATTS ENGINEERS & LADY ENGINEERS

On December 5, Watts played Welch. Scores were not in at press time. Report in next issue

#### WESTVILLE YELLOWJACKETS AND LADY YELLOWJACKETS

Both Westville basketball squads played Kansas on December 1. The Boys only got to within 18 points at the end. Final: Kansas 56 Westville 38. In the Girls game, the Lady Yellowjackets made it close but also lost by a score of 46-41. On December 4, both the Boys and Girls lost to a smooth Stigler squad. The Boys score was 51-32. The Girls fell by a score of 65-54. On December 7, Westville plays at Colcord. The report of that game will be in the next issue.

#### **CAVE SPRINGS HORNETS AND LADY HORNETS**

On December 1, the Hornets played Oaks Mission down to the wire, only to lose 54-52. The Lady Hornets fared better as they beat the Oaks Mission Girls by a convincing 38-23 margin. Both teams play Crowder on December 7. Report will be in the next issue.

## **Roland Leadership Conference**



Westville FFA Westville FFA Faceboo

Last night our students attended the Roland Leadership Conference. Students were put into groups to work on communication as well as relying on each other to perform certain tasks. Not only are they working on growing and becoming leaders in our Chapter but ouzr students are building relationships & expanding their network with other FFA members. Westville FFA



**Searching for a Word: evade.** To slip away, to take refuge in escape or avoidance.

Ex. A burglar can evade the police often when there are many places to hide.



## THE CONSERVATIVE VIEW

By Russell Turner

## A FLIM FLAM CULTURE

all of us have had an experience with a flim flam con artist, these individuals will try to simply blow anyone off who contradicts them on any issue they are promoting. In the past I have had run-ins with repair technicians that were lacking in the ability to do a good job; when confronted with a problem they failed to fix, they will simply try to blow you off and swear on a stack of Bibles that nothing is wrong or blame someone else for the problem. In the private sector good business people usually deal with these kinds of people by taking their business elsewhere, but when we get a bunch of these kind of people in government we have a much bigger problem.

In my opinion, the people occupying some of our highest offices, including the executive branch, must have gone to Flim Flam University. In a recent White House press briefing, the press secretary was asked about the high inflation rate and how it has impacted the American people, all she could do was to try to blow off the reporter stating that everything was just fine and

At one time or the other if there was any problem it pletely failed policy, they was caused by the former administration. An independent study was conducted on the cost of groceries to cook a traditional Thanksgiving meal and the conclusion was very clear, the cost of those groceries was 20% higher than pre-pandemic levels. That study was just about groceries; in my businesses I have witnessed increases for new equipment and replacement parts that will actually blow your mind, most of those price increases have occurred during resident Biden's tenure in the White House. These people in the White House know these facts as well as I do; instead of acknowledging the problem, they would rather blow the American people off and try to make them believe a well-worded lie.

Another flim flam that is being fed to masses is the lie about the southern border of our nation being secure. There are individuals I know and trust that have actually been to the border and witnessed first hand the debacle of the administration's policy concerning the southern border; instead of taking responsibility of an comare trying to blow off the American people again and try to convince us that they are doing a great job with the border. They would rather lie and try to hold on to power instead of stopping the flow of fentanyl into our country which is killing thousands every year. They are also allowing people into our country who would like to do the same thing to us as was done to the Jewish people in Israel just a short time ago.

Fortunately many people are seeing through these flim flam artists, Joe Biden's dwindling poll numbers are evidence of his incompetence. I hope there are enough of us who are seeing what is going on and have the numbers to get rid of the traitors who are in the majority; however, we need to remember that the flim flam union is very strong and united. The mainstream media and many of our government agencies are already corrupted; if we fail in our next election to get rid of this flim flam culture, our country will not survive as the free nation we all grew up knowing.

## WHAT'S SO PUNNY? **PUN FUN**

Hello boys and girls. Are you ready for a new batch of rib ticklers, funny bone jostlers and knee slappers? We have a bunch for you. Get a load of these hilarious funny puns. Today we serve up puns about puns.

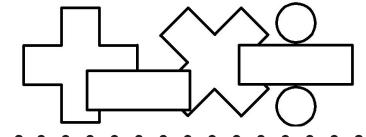
- 1. The UnPUNished Pun: How would you describe a pun about a pun? They are pun-ishingly bad.
- 2. Take It Away: Why do thieves have a hard time understanding puns? Because they take things liter-
- 3. Bun Pun: What did the new pun mom say to the new pun dad? We have a pun in the oven.
- 4. No Pun Fun: What happened to the pun that misbehaved in school? He was pun-alized with detention.
- 5. Reel Life: What is a pun's favorite movie? It's A Punderful Life.

That last one was a perfect ending to this bevy of belly rolling puns. Keep the laughter going. Nothing like a smile on your face. Until next week, so long.



Howdy all you Krypto fans. This Kontest is really heating up and with only 4 more episodes to go, the time she is quickly running out for those who have not yet gotten involved. However, one can go back to all the previous episodes on our website: www. straightforwardfreepress.com and "start from scratch." Krypto Kontest 9.0 is still wide open. Today's Krypto answer is: 6...you are playing with 8,22,5, 9,15... remember, you must use all 5 numbers and any combination of addition, subtraction, multiplication or division to write an expression that equals 6. You can do ti if you give it a try for the \$25 cash and calculator prize.

Submit solutions to: themathguy@usa.com or mail to: Krypto Kontest POB 885 Stilwell 74960





## WATER EXERCISE CLASS

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Call Mary for more information (918)-575-2995

Volunteers teach the class. The Benefits to your health are enormous.

### ON THE CAMPAIGN TRAIL

COMMENTARY BY JOHN BANKEL

**Today's Trail Treks To..... Congress And The Slippery Slope** 

A 2/3 majority is needed to expel a member of the U.S. House of Representatives. In a 435 member body, 290 votes would be required. On December 1, the House voted to expel New York 3rd Congressional District Representative George Santos. 311 voted in favor. Santos is out. He is the 6th House member so treated; yet unique in one respect: the other 5 were convicted of a crime in a court of law. Santos was not. He faces several indictments including misuse of campaign funds. it must be stressed that an indictment is not a conviction. So far Santos is guilty of nothing. It was the ethics committee who usurped the jurisdiction of the court and handed down a "guilty" plea. While not every House member agreed with the ethics ruling, enough did to expel

Santos. So what is wrong with this picture? New York Republican District 21 Representative, Elise Stefanik, believes that Congress has paved a slippery slope by their decision. She said that by Congress circumventing due process for Santos, any Congressional member is now vulnerable for expulsion on what may be no more than mere allegations. Our justice system does not work that way, yet the House has chosen to deviate from the law of the land and at the same time is ignoring a glaring breach of ethics by none other than the Hamas supporter, Rashida Tlaib, whose support of the terrorists is tantamount to treason. With the new precedent established in the Santos case, what is stopping these politicians from enacting the expulsion of Tlaib for the sake

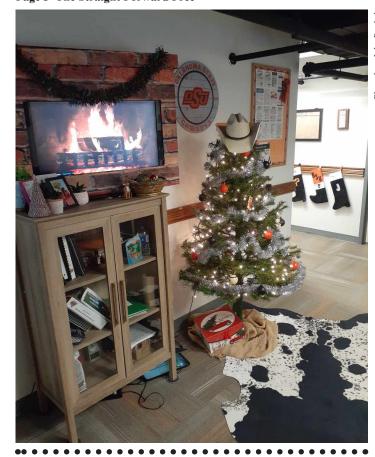
of national security? Is there a double standard at play? Santos is a Republican and Tlaib is a Democrat and a member of the subversive "Squad." In this case the "slippery slope" should work both ways.

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

John Bankel is a freelance journalist and a retired High School Math teacher, wrestling and football coach who can be reached

writewright@journalist.

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## DEAR JOHN....

Dear John,

My business partner is all work and no play. I invited him to Thanksgiving, and he brought business papers to sign. My family thought it was odd that all his conversations revolved around our company. To be honest, I had hoped someday he would develop an interest in me other than business. A few days ago, he took me out to lunch and said, "I have something important to ask you." I figured he wanted to pop the question if you know what I mean. I got all dressed up and met him at McDonalds where he asked me to watch his dog for the weekend. I know it was crazy to think it might be life changing to meet him at a fast-food restaurant. He did not even offer to buy my happy meal. I have wasted 2 years with this man. My family thinks that I have lost my mind, but I really do love this guy. Should I move on? Maybe look at the new Taco Bell to find a more committed man? Help me dear John.

### Wendy

Dear Wendy...some things are worth waiting for, even if it takes a lifetime. A man probably isn't one of them. There are all different sorts of men. The one you describe is what one may call the "out of sorts" sort? He has not yet discovered the mystery of the female and he may never get 'round to it. You can keep trying to get his interest re-directed, but that will probably be a long shot. It is curious to note that you say you love this guy? Have you seriously explored the reason why? Perhaps you are the sort of woman that likes to open a can of sardines with her teeth? For that is what it will probably take to open this guy up. Dear John believes you better move on. Taco Bell here you come!

Sincerely,

Dear John

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



## OSU Extension.....Christmas Open House



Photo by John Bankel

A gathering at the OSU Extension meeting room in the nether region of the Adair County Courthouse. Wednesday December 6th. Great fellowship with our community friends.

#### Stilwell and Westville 4H Participate in Parades





Adair County 4-H members participate in both the Stilwell and Westville Christmas parades, Saturday December 2nd.

## **Westville FFA**

Accepting new or slightly used boots or shoes of any size.

Drop off at Westville Ag Building From now - December 15

For more information contact Kody Whiteley (479) 422-2603 or Charlie Jenkins

(918) 931-0901



**Boot Drive** 

### Masonic Lodge #11 Hosted Annual 4 H Pancake Breakfast

The Masonic Lodge #11's steadfast and generous support for Adair County 4-H has played a crucial role in empowering and nurturing the youth of our community. Their commitment to the annual pancake breakfast 4-H fund raiser has given us resources to continue to offer programs and opportunities county wide to our youth.

We hosted our annual pancake breakfast fund-raiser in November, and it proved to be yet another remarkable event. Masonic Lodge #11 continues to show their dedication to the betterment of our community. The turnout and enthusiasm displayed by Adair County residents at this event shows how important our youth development program is to our community. It was so encouraging to see how much the people of our county care for one another.

The funds raised through this event will go towards providing educational opportunities and resources for the young members of Adair County 4-H. These experiences play a critical role in shaping the character and essential life skills of our youth, preparing them for a future where they can make meaningful contributions to society. We extend a heartfelt thank you to the Masonic Lodge #11 and our Adair County community, we would not be where we are today without your continued support and dedication. Thank you, Adair County, for your unwavering support of our youth and for fostering a community where everyone plays a part in shaping a better tomorrow.





## Dreamstar Connections Pageants 2023 Queen of Queen's Court



Age Division 3-5 Years
Ariel Teehee 2nd finalist, Queen of Queen's is Miss
Kashlynn Vann, and 1st Finalist Briella Crittenden.



Age Division 7-9 Years
Emma Vizueth 2nd Finalist, Queen of Queen's &
Dreamstar Connections VIP is Miss Alyssa Einsele,
and 1st Finalist Laniston Welch &

## **Thank You Note**

To all the young girls who were contestants.

You all looked so lovely. Everyone of you set a fine example of well behaved young ladies.

Your parents can have much pride knowing they have done an excellent job teaching you how to set a good example.

Thank you for giving us the opportunity to know you. The judges.





Age Division 13-17 Years
Chloe Ward 2nd Finalist, Queen of Queen's is Miss
PRESLEY HAMMER, and 1st Finalist Jayla Muskrat.



Age Division 10-12 Years

Judith Woods 2nd Finalist. Queen of Queen's is MISS

Zayda Winkler, and 1st Finalist Lola Workman



Dreamstar Pro Ams Jaylynn Vermeer & Bralie Byrd & Mía Vizueth!



Mini Pro ams Tessa Swift & Alia Vizueth.



Dreamstar Connections Director's Choice Lilly Vizueth!



Mini Queen of Queen's is Kashlynn Vann & age division 3-5yrs! Sr. Division ages;13-17yrs Queen of Queen's Miss Presley Hammer.

## **Obituaries & Funeral Announcements**

## ROBERTS & HART



Charles Sasnett March 12, 1944 -November 25, 2023





Steven Ray Weaver was born in Purcell on January 7th, 1963, and departed from this life on November 30th, 2023 in Oklahoma City.

He is preceded in death by his father Raymond Glenn Weaver and mother-in-law Claudette Parker.

Steve is survived by his mother Rozena Maxine Weaver, brother **Timothy Charles Weaver** and wife Gina, son Colt Ray Weaver, wife Beth Weaver, Aaron, Jacob, Miles and Cherish Crocker, and Bob Parker, grandchildren Emeri, Marshall and Aero Crocker, nieces Randi Hutchens, Camila Rose Biswell and husband Jonathan. Steve is survived also by a host of family, friends, and many students whom he loved.

Steve was doing a man's work by age 12 and by 14 he was running a hay hauling business. By 18 he built his parents a new home. Steve had perfect attendance at school both as a student and as a teacher until his last year working, where we think he missed one day. After high school, he attended NEO A&M and then graduated with a bachelor's degree from the University of Arkansas. He then taught 2 years of Agricultural Education at Fayetteville High School. Following the loss of his father, Steve taught for 3 years at NEO before coming back to Westville and finishing out his teaching career in his hometown. Poultry Judging and show hogs were his things. He trained many state winning poultry teams and traveled all over the country judging. One team in particular included Miles, and Steve was especially fond of those memories.

He was in love with old cars, trucks, and anything Ford, especially Model A's and Mustangs. He was the definition of enthusiast. One time he went from Canada to Mexico in a '32 Chrysler hooked up on natural gas.

Steve was a man of many talents, loved lots of things and had many hobbies. He spent a lot of time with his wife in their garden growing all sorts of things, riding horses, going Jeeping, mushroom hunting, and being at the lake. Colt and Steve had an extensive model train collection, and loved to bowl or ice skate together. After retirement, Steve spent most of his time at the lake house. He went to all of his grandkids' activities and even had the privilege of running Papa's Preschool for his grands.

Steve devoted much of his life to his school, his community, and his FFA chapter. He loved every minute of it. Steve Weaver was all about others and spent most of his life "Here By The Owl".



## ROBERTS-REED-CULVER

FUNERAL HOME



Mary Young July 12, 1938 -November 22, 2023





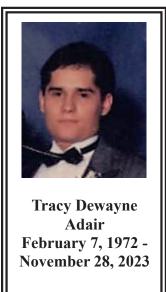
Rachel Florine Hagan March 24, 1926 -November 29, 2023



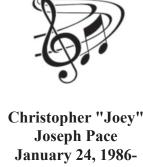


Judy Mae Guess April 27, 1947 -November 27, 2023

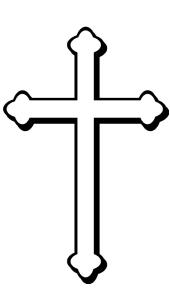












**Continued story ......** 

## Cathy Dillard Unger: A Hound Dog On A Ham Sandwich

When the Cherokee Nation Landfill closed down for a couple of years, the "Trash Off" was put on hold. Cathy's persistence never wavered. She could envision a cleaner Adair County as well as a well organized re-cycling enterprise. All of that led to the name change from "Adair County Trash Off" to "Adair County Litter Free and Green" which operates as a 501 (C3) non-profit company. Meanwhile, Cathy annually visits 3d graders in all 9 area schools to teach about the importance of litter pickup and re-cycling. She said that children at that age are open to those ideas and almost all of them have

a heart for animals. She shows photos of distressed animals caught in garbage. These photos leave a lasting impact on the children. Cathy hopes that her efforts will pay off in future generations that will break the litter chain and that will help their environment by keeping Adair County Litter Free and Green. They recently won an award given by the Great American Cleanup: Keep Oklahoma Beautiful organization. The ceremony was held in OKC at the National Cowboy and Western Heritage Museum with Mary and Joyce Crider joining Cathy. Along with a trophy and a framed certificate, ACLFG received \$500. It was a mighty proud moment for Adair County Litter Free and Green. For the future, Cathy said she would like to "break the litter chain" and persuade the City of Stilwell to get on board with a citywide re-cycling program. With Cathy's unyielding passion for her mission, Adair County Litter Free and Green should meet that challenge. After all, Cathy Dillard Unger is "a hound dog on a ham sandwich."



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Jeffrey Bryant Jones Attorney at Law



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Amos 5:8 Seek him that maketh the seven stars and Orion, and turneth the shadow of death into the morning, and maketh the day dark with night: that calleth for the waters of the sea, and poureth them out upon the face of the earth: The Lord is

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