

# The STRAIGHT FORWARD



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## WEEKEND GAZETTE

Volume 2 • Issue 42

Serving Stilwell & Adair County, Oklahoma

Friday June 9, 2023

## TERRY KIMBLE:

### 30 YEARS AT ASSESSORS OFFICE

Terry Kimble celebrated 30 years at the Adair County Courthouse on March 10 with a fitting fete. He has served at the Courthouse longer than anyone else there. In 1993, Terry took on the job of Appraiser for the County Assessor. He recalls the "old days" when the Assessor's Office was stuck in the basement of the old courthouse. It was the "unpleasant" surroundings of the old courthouse basement that was largely responsible for getting a new courthouse. Terry tells of his beginnings as the Appraiser. "In those days, we did everything by hand. Records were kept on individual cards that were filled out by hand after measuring out a property, also by hand, and then filed into a myriad of file boxes. It was painstaking and time consuming work." He earned a degree in engineering and design from Northeastern State University. He fondly recalls driving to school with his mother, who was working on a degree in Elementary Education at the same time, eventually becoming a teacher. Although he did not immediately go to work at the Courthouse, he did work in surveying which would eventually serve him well. After starting his Appraiser job, he

found that being friendly was one of the biggest challenges he faced, since the Appraiser was, in most peoples' minds, considered to be the "tax man" and some of the receptions he got were unfriendly. After all, his evaluations often did result in an increase in property tax. Yet, despite all of that, Terry tells about how his job did become "easier" with the advent of database management via the computer. Today, instead of a bunch of handwritten cards to fumble with, Terry has an array of 3 computers that keep track of everything. Another major change that has happened in the recent past is the incursion of marijuana growers, of which, according to Terry, there are 120 grow operations in Adair County. Their presence, albeit legal, has pushed property prices through the roof. Today, Kimble's office now sits on the top floor of the new courthouse addition. A move "to the top" is a fitting top off for a long and successful career. When I asked Terry if he had any plans for retirement? Here is what he said, "I would like to work as long as possible since I really enjoy what I am doing." Adair County benefits from Terry Kimble's expertise. Congratulations are in order!



Terry Kimble, Adair County Appraiser

## HOSKIN-WARNER WIN BY LANDSLIDE

On June 3, Cherokee Nation voters went to the polls to vote for Principal Chief, Deputy Principal Chief and several Tribal Council seats. The race for Chief, which had a fairly crowded field of 4 candidates, was not close. The incumbent, Chuck Hoskin Jr, in a landslide victory, received better than 60% of the vote. In the Deputy Principal Chief's

race, the incumbent, Brian Warner, similarly won in a landslide, again with better than 60% of the vote. Some folks had conjectured that both races could have ended up in a runoff, but clearly that did not happen. The Hoskin-Warner result should be considered a mandate for 4 more years. However, two of the Tribal Council races emerged

as runoffs: District 3, which will see a runoff between Sara Drywater Barnett and Lisa Robison Hall, who received 28.83% and 43.33% of the vote respectively; in District 8, the runoff will be between Cody Poindexter and Jullian Decker, who received 39.30% and 20.53% of the vote respectively. The runoffs are scheduled for July 8. Wado!

## Stilwell's New Breakfast Venue Coco's Cafe & Catering



Colene Stephenson, Coco's Cafe & Catering Owner, always stands ready to serve..... Story page 2

*Eat breakfast like a king, lunch like a prince and dinner like a pauper.*

*Adelle Davis*

### PROVERB POWER

James 3:16 KJV

For where envying and strife is, there is confusion and every evil work...

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Check it out and enjoy!



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

Number 27

By Donna Boecher

When my grandparents moved from Coon Mountain to Zion, times were simpler. Life included: work, love, and obedience to God's laws. Their home was built simply, and its only book was the Bible. They welcomed nine children into this world; they lost one child to illness, yet they gained a grandchild to rear. Theirs' was a self-sufficiency almost lost today, except for "preppers" who learn skills for survival and stockpile food and other items in case of disaster. There

was no trash pickup in the early years, so they reused, rebuilt, repaired, or found other alternatives. There's a shelf in my house that has empty 1930's small glass containers that she piled in the far northwest corner of the treed area by the hog pasture fence, keeping it away from the animals. The treed area had shaded racks where new potatoes and onions matured and a concrete slaughter slab. In the house, Granny had shelves six feet long from floor to ceiling and three feet deep

supporting her preserved foods which would take her family from one growing season to another. She had the first wood stove pressure cooker in Adair County which can be seen in the museum. The canning process lasted throughout her lifetime and influenced her daughters. The impact was great enough that a few granddaughters still "put up" their own specialties. If "A Farmer Can Fix it"; a ranch or A FARM WIFE CAN PRESERVE IT.



Dear John,

I have played the piano for many years in my home church. I love the old hymns and new songs as well. I can read notes, but sometimes the Spirit leads me, and I play from the heart. Most of the congregation tells me that they love my playing. We have a family that has a daughter who also plays the piano. She can't play most of the old songs and states that they are boring. When I leave, she plays for the congregation, she changes the song line up and adds songs she prefers. She plays for her family when they sing specials. A few Sundays ago, as I was leaving the piano her father said to me, "We need a little change up from all this Southern Gospel piano playing." I just looked at him, I didn't know what to say. Our Pastors' wife also sings, and she likes the music to be note perfect as the original performers, no variations or added rifts. I have played for many great soloists, and they loved how I followed them, allowing them to add their own expressions as they felt led by the Lord. Last Sunday I returned from a vacation and was told that I could play for the congregation, but the young children would sing a special with our young pianist. I didn't have a problem until I heard her dad say to me, "We didn't want all those fancy notes, just play it like it's written." What the old daddy didn't know is that I can play it as written. My pastor's wife was happy to present a fine presentation that sounded just like the one on YouTube. However, that isn't what happened, something didn't go right, and some wrong notes were played. I make mistakes and we all do. I decided to step down from my piano position and let the leading family have it. The pastor tried to change my mind. I said, "The only way for this family to be happy and not stumble over me is to let them lead for a while. Quenching the Holy Spirit and holding every note perfectly." Do you think I did the right thing? I feel better now.

Southern Lady

Dear Southern Lady, the first thing that popped into Dear John's mind is the lampoon tune "Where We Gonna Put The Piano and Who We Gonna Get To Play..."? It is a classic congregational squabble song, funny yet very real. The Holy Spirit is first of all peaceable. He delights in our efforts to serve the Lord. The Psalmist wrote about "making a joyful noise unto the Lord." Who is not capable of making "a joyful noise"? Children naturally make a joyful noise yet at some point in time those natural inclinations get squelched for the sake of "following the script." Tell that to the Jazzman! Those jazzy folks never know what note they are going to sing or play next, mostly because they are moved by the spirit. It makes for a very entertaining form of music. Finally, the composer of a song had a theme and melody in mind. The artists take that which the composer has written and makes it their own. That is the beauty of the art form known as music. It is a joyful noise and music to the Lord's ear!

Sincerely,

Dear John

Have you got a question for Dear John? email: dear-john@writeme.com or snailmail: Dear John POB 885 Stilwell, OK 74960 Real Name Not Used. Copyright 2023. All Rights Reserved.

## Coco's Cafe & Catering



When it comes to finding a place in Stilwell to have a hearty breakfast in a pleasant atmosphere, the pickings are pretty slim. Colene Stephenson, the owner of Everything Nice and Coco's Cafe & Catering, thought so as well. Coco's had been attracting a good lunch clientele for a number of years so why not add breakfast to the Menu and fill a need, was her idea. Colene is a quintessential entrepreneur whose creativity is unmatched. She finds a need

and then fills it. Colene has more energy than 10 horses hitched to a plow. This past week was her entrance into the breakfast scene. I stopped in on Saturday. I ordered 2 pieces of French Toast. It was presented with Strawberry slices and powdered sugar to which I added syrup, as shown in the photo. It was modestly priced and tasty. I also ordered one of the punch like drinks. The ambience can't be beat. Dennis Tibbits provided entertainment with his

**Carry out or sit down...the food will delight the appetite...**

*Commentary by John Bankel*  
guitar while singing some old standards. The service was great. I asked one of the customers, as she was leaving, how she liked it? She said, "I enjoyed every bit of it." The new breakfast venue at Coco's Cafe & Catering should be a huge success as soon as everybody finds out about it. Stop in and start your day, Monday thru Saturday 7am to 10:30 and beyond. Just one more thing. Saturday you can enjoy crepes or a Quiche. Something special! ..



The French Toast was scrumptious...



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P.O. Box 885 • Stilwell, OK 74960  
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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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# Did I dream it? Or was it real?! A MYSTERIOUS SERENADE

A few years ago we developed a mouse problem. An issue we had dealt with once before and were successful in completely eradicating the little varmints. The night before last, my wife claimed she saw a mouse scamper across the floor before diving under our kitchen stove.

I detest those pests and have been on edge ever since. To make matters worse...well...let me just tell you what happened. Because of a severe back issue I have had for many years, I've been forced to sleep in my recliner in our living room. This recliner is a mere five feet from the kitchen door, so any activity in that room I'm aware of.

It was into the wee hours between one and three a.m. and only moments before had I put down the crossword puzzle I'd been working on and doused the light. Minutes later, right on the edge of falling off into a deep slumber, it happened. It was singing! A teeny, tiny little voice barely above the level of a squeak, drifted up to my ears singing this enchanting tune. There were words...or at least I presume there were. I could not make out any that sounded like English, but they were words because it was not just a continuous sound. It had cadence and rhythm.

So tiny. So sweet and melodic. It had a warm and soothing texture that enriched the air carrying it. I was almost caught up in it until suddenly my sleep stupor wore off, and I recognized the oddity of it all. Slowly. Every so slowly, I turned my head toward the kitchen doorway to see if I could see who or what was doing this. I believed it came from the door-sill, right where it met the wall, but in the gloom I couldn't make out a thing. Fully awake now, I began to reason. Or something like reason, for I started from the premise of that mouse my wife had mentioned, and began questioning if it could be the troubadour who has chosen to serenade me. Or maybe it's using the method that all mice use in calling out to others of their kind. But no. That didn't make sense because that had never happened before during our mouse invasion, why would it be now?

I twisted more to my left to take some pressure off my neck and maybe get a better angle so I might yet get a look at this petite songster.

Sadly, my chair made a noise and the singing abruptly stopped. Though I listened for nearly a half-hour it never sang again. I had difficulty going back to sleep that night thinking about that, until I be-

gan to spook myself with questions of the esoteric sort, the spooky things we hear about from the internet and see in the movies. Thus I successfully spooked myself, and little by little became a little afraid.

The following morning I called a local college and somehow managed a quick conversation with a professor of biology who told me there are no singing mice, or at least none that has ever been reported before. He grew very quiet and silent then and I finally said, "Professor? You there?" "Hmm? Oh...yes...yes. I'm sorry. I...I was caught up in an old legend. But it's just superstitious nonsense. Never mind. Is there anything else you need sir?"

"Uhhh...no...I guess not. Thank you sir." And disconnected. So it wasn't a singing mouse. Then it hit me! If not a mouse... then what was it? Now I'm really scared but I'm not ABOUT to go back to that professor and ask him about that "superstitious nonsense"!

By Richard Knight

RL Knight -



★

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## UP COMING EVENTS IN ADAIR COUNTY

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### Acts 2:1-4 KJV

- 1 When the day of Pentecost came, they were all together in one place.
- 2 Suddenly a sound like the blowing of a violent wind came from heaven and filled the whole house where they were sitting.
- 3 They saw what seemed to be tongues of fire that separated and came to rest on each of them.
- 4 All of them were filled with the Holy Spirit and began to speak in other tongues as the Spirit enabled them.

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# THE CONSERVATIVE VIEW

By Russell Turner

## A GOOD MANAGER

Many people who own a business will hire someone to manage the affairs of the business; they are responsible for paying the bills, payroll, and all other business expenses. Good managers know that good times will come and go, it is imperative that they do not spend with the assumptions that good times will last forever. An efficient manager has to know how to get the best bang for the buck; but the biggest item they must know is the fact that the money they manage does not belong to them, it belongs to their employer. Whether we like to admit it or not, the people that we elect to public office are in essence hired to manage the taxpayer money. Too many people's idea of elected officials has been warped by unscrupulous politicians promising something for nothing.

There is an old saying that there is no such thing as a free lunch. Today we often hear the old mantra of making the rich pay their fair share; most people have not taken the time to look at the facts. In America today at least 50% of the people pay absolutely nothing in the form of taxes; when you look at the numbers, the upper earners are already

paying a majority of the taxes to keep the system going. What many people do not take the time to see are the increases of fees and hidden taxes necessary that all of us pay to keep the Ponzi scheme going. Over the past weeks there has been much discussion about the national debt borrowing limit; this trend of spending money that we do not have is not sustainable, the same can be said about state spending as well.

I recently read where State Reps. Tom Gann, R-Inola, and Rick West, R-Heavener, are proposing a Constitutional Amendment to the budget process; it would cap future legislative appropriations, retaining only what is necessary to be responsible in savings for a rainy day and sending back to the taxpayer any excess funds. We Americans are experiencing record inflation mainly because of government spending, too many of our elected leaders are only concerned about increasing budgets for their pet projects and are oblivious to the long-term effects of increasing the size and scope of government. I was once told by a person who was on the government payroll that increasing gov-

ernment employees and increasing their salaries would benefit the economy because they would spend that money, my response was that leaving as much money in the hands of the taxpayer was the true way to grow the economy. Representative Gann was quoted as saying, "In the event of the next economic downturn, revenues will decline while the Legislature's extravagant spending persists. This means not only will there be no meaningful tax reduction, but there will be tremendous pressure on the Legislature to revert to the days of tax hikes to avoid reducing their new spending levels."

History is full of empires that fell because of poor management, a nation cannot remain a world power if its finances are in shambles. I applaud the efforts of Reps Gann and West; it is about time that we have good management in the legislature instead of people spending other people's money to further their political career. HJR1001X is available for consideration during the current legislative special session. If successful, the people of Oklahoma would be able to vote on the plan next year.

## WHAT'S SO PUNNY?

### PUN FUN

Often puns and silliness go hand in hand. We can all get silly now and then. Silly feels good. Silly is fun. So here we go again with some silliness with this assortment of puns. These are the korny kind.

1. Music To My Ear: How do you play a corn cob? By ear!
2. Cornfield Symphony: What do you call the one who leads an orchestra in a cornfield? The conductor.
3. A Maze: Why did the man get lost in the cornfield? He became corn-

fused.  
4. Upper Echelon: What is the highest rank in the cornfield military? That would be a Kernel.  
5. Count It: How many ears of corn make up a dozen? Would you believe 12?

There you have it. A korny jaunt through the corn rows. I always wanted to be a farmer. Why? So I could be outstanding in my field. That's all folks. Til next time, keep it funny and keep it korny. More PUN FUN to come.

## Peanut's Tire Puns

If you have not met the Peanut man then I suggest you do.

1. I was struggling with a flat tire, and my mom came and said, "Don't worry, no pressure".
2. My brother had a joke about a flat tire. He said he would spare us from it.
3. The tire wasn't a great singer. It was flat.
4. The guy at the tire shop retired because he was tired of so much re-tiring.
5. The tire man: Remember to rotate your tires.

Me: Don't they rotate themselves when we drive?

6. The car's front tire said to the rear tire that they would see each other around!



**EXTRA!**  
**EXTRA!**  
**READ ALL ABOUT IT!**

## WEEKEND GAZETTE

We have a state of the art printer and a new delivery day!

### FRIDAY!

### FRIDAY!



REMEMBER SUNDAY IS DOUBLE STAMP DAY AT STOMPING GROUNDS & CAKERY



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**Searching for a Word:** -thicket, a thick patch of shrubbery, small trees, or underbrush.

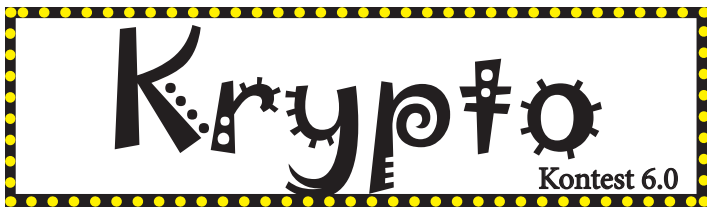
Ex. To give the small trees room to grow, the rancher bushhogged the thicket.



## THE KIPLING KORNER

“. . .and the wind across the grass, and the rain among the deodars  
Say – Hush—hush—hush.”





Konklusion:

This rendition of the Krypto Kontest went into double overtime. The final results will be published in the June 15 issue. There is still time to submit solutions. For those who have missed issues containing Krypto 6.0, go to our website: [straightforwardfreepress.com](http://straightforwardfreepress.com) to page back to the beginning of this kontest and still have a chance to win the \$25 Cash and Calculator prize. Give it a try...

Send solutions to: [themathguy@usa.com](mailto:themathguy@usa.com) or mail to: Krypto Kontest 6.0 POB 885 Stilwell OK 74960



Thank you to all who participated in this week's Summer Reading Activities. We enjoyed the stories that Will Hill shared. The teens traveled to Australia and made boomerangs and fairy bread. Only one was brave enough to take the Vegemite taste dare. 7 more weeks of fun 2 come.

Stilwell Public Library



**Vocabulary Word:** forest— dense growth of trees.

Ex. What was that saying? "I can't see the forest for the trees."

## Community Bulletin Board

Adair County Litter-Free & Green Recycle Day Schedule: April 15, May 20, June 17, July 15, Aug 18, Sept 16, Oct 21, Nov 18, Dec 16. Location: Behind Vonnie's Pawn Shop at 101 W. Walnut St, Stilwell OK. Hours: 9am to noon. For more info. contact Cathy at 696-1178 or Joyce at 696-7316. 10:00 Sunday Morning Service Bethal Church Everyone Welcome

# ON THE CAMPAIGN TRAIL

COMMENTARY BY JOHN BANKEL

Today's Trail Treks To.....

## The Art Of Awful Indoctrination

We live in a world where the "genuine article" is rapidly racing to extinction. Today we live with artificial color, artificial flavor, artificial news (fake news), to mention just a few areas of artificiality. Artificial has never been a good substitute for the "real McCoy", yet here we are in an artificial world. It all started back in 1830 when a German Chemist took a cube of sugar, whose chemical formula is C6H12, and rearranged its molecular structure to form the first synthetic substance. The world of plastic was born. It was the introduction of the internet that really got the artificial ball rolling at mega speed. The keyboard became the pilot of the new generation of fakeness where the flow of information was not only non-stop but mostly unvetted. Fake news and misinformation

had found their platform. The computer started out as a servant of the user. But look out! The computer is rapidly becoming the master. Enter Artificial Intelligence. The name is an ironic oxymoron and stretches the boundaries of who we are as humans created in God's image. When AI runs its course, there will be no more "real intelligence" found anywhere within the human race. We will all be robots, communist robots. The George Orwell prophetic classic, 1984, which was compulsory reading when I was in high school back in the 1960's, is about 40 years early in its depiction of a communist world; nonetheless, here we are in the midst of a communist world takeover. There was another classic prophetic book around the same time by the name of "A Brave New World"

by Aldous Huxley. This book takes a step beyond "1984." Huxley contemplates technology taking over the mind of the individual which in turn engenders some frightening outcomes. Artificial Intelligence is on its way to doing just that. Perhaps a better name for Artificial Intelligence would be "Awful Indoctrination." A brave new world awaits.

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

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



## Ragged Old Flag



I walked through a county courthouse square,  
On a park bench an old man was sitting there.  
I said, "Your old courthouse is kinda run down."  
He said, "Naw, it'll do for our little town."  
I said, "Your flagpole has leaned a little bit,  
And that's a Ragged Old Flag you got hanging on it."

He said, "Have a seat",  
and I sat down.  
"Is this the first time you've been to our little town?"  
I said, "I think it is." He said, "I don't like to brag,  
But we're kinda proud of that Ragged Old Flag."

"You see, we got a little hole in that flag there  
When Washington took it across the Delaware.  
And it got powder-burned the night Francis Scott Key  
Sat watching it writing 'Oh Say Can You See.'  
And it got a bad rip in New Orleans

With Packingham and Jackson tuggin' at its seams.

"And it almost fell at the Alamo  
Beside the Texas flag, but she waved on through.  
She got cut with a sword at Chancellorsville,  
And she got cut again at Shiloh Hill.  
There was Robert E. Lee, Beauregard, and Bragg,  
And the south wind blew hard on that Ragged Old Flag.

"On Flanders Field in World War I  
She got a big hole from a Bertha gun.  
She turned blood red in World War II.  
She hung limp and low by the time it was through.  
She was in Korea and Vietnam.  
She went where she was sent by her Uncle Sam.

"She waved from our ships upon the briny foam,  
And now they've about quit waving her back here

at home.  
In her own good land she's been abused--  
She's been burned, dishonored, denied, and refused.  
"And the government for which she stands  
Is scandalized throughout the land.  
And she's getting threadbare and wearing thin,  
But she's in good shape for the shape she's in.  
'Cause she's been through the fire before,  
And I believe she can take a whole lot more.

"So we raise her up every morning,  
Take her down every night.  
We don't let her touch the ground,  
And we fold her up right.  
On second thought I do like to brag,  
'Cause I'm mighty proud of that Ragged Old Flag."





# The Straight Forward Press

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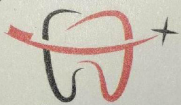
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