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FREE Press SM

WEEKEND GAZETTE

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Friday December 22, 2023



JUL • 65

Christmas 1964 was a very exciting time for me. Santa always brought gifts personally to the house on Christmas Eve. A new tricycle how exciting! My nephew Little Danny was afraid of Santa, mom got the picture taken before he had a meltdown.

Stephanie Cullinane
Composer

In the early 1950's as a young child living in Beaumont, Texas, I remember singing "Over the River and Through the Woods to Grandmother's House We Go." We were taking an almost annual trip to be with my grandparents in Zion Community. I'd ask, "Are you sure Santa Claus will know where I am on Christmas morning?" Mother would answer, "Of course Santa knows where you are!" Sure enough, he made it down the chimney which is now 95 years old. This year I'm hoping for a sprinkling of snow!

Donna Boecher
Newspaper Editor
Columnist of They Risked It All



PROVERB POWER

Isaiah 9:6 KJV

For unto us a child is born; unto us a son is given: and the government shall be upon his shoulder: and his name shall be called Wonderful, Counselor, The mighty God, The everlasting Father, The Prince of Peace.



I was 8 years old when we celebrated our first Christmas in America. I remember it well. In the German tradition, we, my Mother, Father, older brother, younger sister, and I attended a Christmas Eve service at the German Lutheran Church in our neighborhood in Chicago. The choir and congregation sang a number of traditional hymns; the pastor read from Luke 2, a story which yet stirs my soul. Still, I could not wait till we got home. Christmas Eve is when we opened presents!

Frohe Weihnachten!
John Bankel
Co-Editor and Journalist

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



Odd Maudes Legacy Diner; A New Restaurant in Downtown Westville



Expansive nicely appointed dining room...



Eye catching mural by local artist...

DEAR JOHN.....

Dear John,

My mother In-Law is very old fashioned. She wants Christmas Eve every year and she will not let me cook, because only she and her daughter know how. Well, I said, "This year I want to make something." She said, "Ok, make the rolls or buy them if you can not do it." I will make the rolls from scratch because I have been doing them for years in my family. My husband is very afraid of his mom. I say this because he got his ear pierced and hid it from her. I want him to deliver my homemade rolls with an ornament hanging from his ear. I want her to find out he got his ear pierced this Christmas Eve. I did a double dare with hubby that he did not have the guts to let her see his ear. He took up the bet. I shared this information with a friend, and she said, "You are going to make Christmas Eve miserable for everyone." Do you think this will turn into a holiday tragedy or will it be a much needed change of pace?

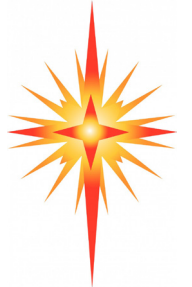
The Grinch Who Made Rolls

Dear Grinch, your husband may be coming out of a long hibernation that had prevented him from doing some growing up. There is a time and season for everything under the sun. What is in store for him when he shows up at his mom's with a dangle from his ear is anyone's guess? Shock on his mom's face comes to mind and perhaps a loud shriek. And a feeling of inner triumph on your husband's part when he realizes he has overcome a nagging fear. After the initial shock wears off, and it will, the rest of the family get together will always be remembered as "the grinch who made the rolls" that broke down a barrier.

Sincerely,

Dear John

Have you got a question for Dear John?
email: dearjohn@writeme.com Real Name Not Used.
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For unto you is born this day in the city of David a Savior, who is Christ the Lord. Luke 2:11

Scripture sponsored by:

Faith Tabernacle
Corner of Hwy. 51 & Piney Road
Stilwell, OK

THE KIPLING KORNER

"It is well on the threshold of a journey to be taught reverence and awe."

The **STRAIGHT FORWARD FREE** Press 

Truth is Our Target
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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Vocabulary Word:

deft. Quick and skillful, dexterous.

Ex. The deft raccoon easily tore up the Styrofoam ice chest with its hands.



STILWELL Sports Spot Light

Commentary by John Bankel

Stilwell At Locust Grove

On Tuesday, December 19, the Stilwell Indians and Lady Indians traveled to Locust Grove to tangle with the Locust Grove Pirates and Lady Pirates. The Ladies began the evening's contests.

Lady Indians vs. Lady Pirates

The Lady Pirates have a very good team. The Lady Indians did not play well. One may be able to guess the rest? Locust Grove took a 30-17 lead deep into the second quarter. They had a distinct height advantage over Stilwell. Yet, that was not the real reason that the Lady Pirates were able to hang the first loss of the season on the Lady Indians. Except

for a scoring spurt at the beginning of the second half when Snowda Watie drained 2 triples that tied the score at 34, Stilwell had difficulty finding the bottom of the net. Along with many a missed shot underneath, the 3 point game was not there. To make matters worse, their defensive intensity was sporadic, at best; it was that intensity that had propelled the Lady Indians to a 6-0 record, including a nail biting win over the #2 Ranked Lincoln Christian squad in the finals of the Vinita BIG DAWG Shoutout Tournament this past Saturday. Going flat after their terrific tournament triumph is not unusual. The final score: Locust Grove 69 Stilwell 59.

The Lady Indians must now focus on the Lincoln Christian Tourney in Tulsa on January 4, 2024. Pairings to be announced in next issue.

Indians vs. Pirates

From the opening tipoff until the end of the first quarter, this game was never in doubt. Led by Keller Hitchens' 22 point assault on the basket, the Indians would pillage the Pirates by a lopsided score of 77-39. The Indians now own a record of 5-2 as they prepare for a run at the championship of the Lincoln Christians Tourney on January 4. Pairings will be announced in the next issue.



Merry Christmas

CHRISTMAS DAY HOURS
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'Twas the Night Before Jesus Came

'Twas the night before Jesus came and all through the house

Not a creature was praying, not one in the house. Their Bibles were lain on the shelf without care In hopes that Jesus would not come there.

The children were dressing to crawl into bed, Not once ever kneeling or bowing a head. And Mom in her rocker with baby on her lap Was watching the Late Show while I took a nap.

When out of the East there arose such a clatter, I sprang to my feet to see what was The matter. Away to the window I flew like a flash Tore open the shutters and threw up the sash!

When what to my wondering eyes should appear But angels proclaiming that Jesus was here. With a light like the sun sending forth a bright ray I knew in a moment this must be The Day!

The light of His face made me cover my head It was Jesus! Returning just like He had said. And though I possessed worldly wisdom and wealth I cried when I saw Him in spite of myself.

In the Book of Life which He held in His Hand Was written the name of every saved man. He spoke not a word as He searched for my name; When He said "It's not here" My head hung in shame!

The people whose names had been written with love He gathered to take to His Father above. With those who were ready He rose without a sound While all the rest were left standing around.

I fell to my knees, but it was too late; I had waited too long and this sealed my fate. I stood and I cried as they rose out of sight; Oh, if only I had been ready tonight.

In the words of this poem the meaning is clear; The coming of Jesus is drawing near. There's only one life and when comes the last call We'll find that the Bible was true after ALL!

Source unknown (Variously attributed to Randy Story, Stormy Gale, Lou Pinter, and Audrey Patricia Woolverton)

We Wish You A Merry Christmas

The Muffler Shop

A Small Slice Of Me In A Childhood Christmas Memory

by John Bankel

After having emigrated from war torn Germany not long after the end of WW2, my family and I celebrated our first Christmas in America when I was 8 years old. I remember it well. On Christmas Eve, we all, my Mother, Father, older brother, younger sister and I, went to St. John's Lutheran Church in our neighborhood in Chicago for their Christmas Eve service, which started at 6 pm. The Church was decorated modestly yet displayed the feeling of Christmas with a resplendent tree, all in white lights, in the front. The Choir, standing behind the pulpit area, began

the service with "O, Come All Ye Faithful." The Pastor took his place at the pulpit and began with a prayer and then read from the Book Of Luke, Chapter 2, the account of the Lord's birth. I remember being thrilled by those words. I also remember how anxious I was to get back home, for it was on Christmas Eve that we opened presents. After singing several Christmas songs, we finished the service with Silent Night, first in English, then in German. At home, Mom and Dad made us stay out of the living room for what seemed like forever, as they prepared the

Christmas scene. Finally, the moment arrived to come in and see. The German tradition was for the children to sing "Ihr Kinderlein Kommet," (O Come Children, Come), "Tannenbaum, O Tannenbaum," (Christmas Tree, Oh Christams Tree). We ended with "Stille Nacht, Heilige Nacht." (Silent Night). I wish I had a recording of our singing, yet it still lingers in my mind. And then we opened presents, which by any measure, for a child, was the most exciting part! We were glad for the birth of the Christ child! Frohe Weihnachten!

THE CONSERVATIVE VIEW

By Russell Turner

WIRED DIFFERENTLY

Those of us who are professing Christians have a strong belief that the God of the Bible has a direct impact upon the rise and fall of nations. It is written that any nation that will humble themselves, and turn from their wicked ways, and seek his face, he will heal their land. I can vividly remember a sermon where a preacher talked about the people who founded this nation; the people who settled our nation were searching for religious freedom, whereas many other nations were settled by people merely hunting for riches. Most of those nations settled by fortune hunters may have prospered for a while, but for the most part they collapsed very rapidly; our nation became the wealthiest country on the planet because of the humility our founders possessed. While our nation is far from perfect, ask yourself some questions. How much law enforcement do you need in a Christian community? How much welfare do you need in a Christian community? How many people are homeless and hungry in a Christian community? The answer to all those questions is very little. I believe that when you become a Christian your perspective and the wiring of our brains become dif-

ferent, all of a sudden, our mind is wired differently. We Christians believe in an upgrade to our wiring, but those who do not believe in the Christian religion think it is total nonsense and they simply do not have the ability to see the world as we do. Recently I read an article that shows how far our country has slipped over the past decade.

Many of us can remember James Carville from the Clinton presidency; in a recent article he was quoted, accusing "Speaker of the House, Mike Johnson, of being a "Christian nationalist" who poses "a bigger threat than al-Qaeda." Carville went on to say, "Mike Johnson and what he believes is one of the greatest threats we have today to the United States." I do not know all the beliefs of Speaker Johnson, but I do know that the people who have a strong belief in God are a treasure to this nation. I agree there are many so-called Christians who like to wear their religion like a coat that they can take off when it gets too hot, we all need to be aware of hypocrisy and to avoid it. Hypocrisy is the biggest threat to the spiritual health of our nation, anytime we hear people tell us what to do, when they refuse to obey the same suggestions they

make to us, downgrades society.

In a recent speech in Philadelphia resident Joe Biden said, "I believe we are in a battle for the soul of this nation." I can agree that there is a war going on for the soul of America, but I am not ready to join the forces of Biden and all his radical left wing ideologies. Our country was founded as a Christian nation and I make no apologies for that, but we are witnessing the removal of God's blessings. Just look at the crime and homelessness in our large cities, too many of our people place very little value upon human life. We are in the Christmas season, and we need to remember the God who became man to help us to get our wiring straightened out. We are lucky that God's promise is still valid about healing our land, however it is up to us to accept his promise.

WHAT'S SO PUNNY?

PUN FUN

For all you pun lovers out there in Punsterland, we have another rib tickling round of knee slappers for your laughing pleasure. 'Tis the season for a sleight of Santa and Christmas puns which will keep you dashing for your hanky as you laugh yourself to tears. Here we go: Sleigh it ain't so!

1. That's The Spirit: I can feel the Christmas spirit from my head to my mistletoes!
2. Chirp, Chirp: Who is Santa's favorite cartoon character? Chimney Cricket.
3. Heat Lamp: Watch where you light the Christmas candles this year---you don't want Santa to become Krisp Kringle, do you ?
4. Right Christmas, White Christmas: There's snow place like home for the holidays.
5. A Lasting Christmas: Have a Merry Christmas for a santamental reason.

Well, we will have to put those puns on the sh-elf til next year. May your laughter and smile linger until then. More PUN FUN to come in 2024! Have yourself a Merry Little Christmas!



ON THE CAMPAIGN TRAIL

COMMENTARY BY JOHN BANKEL

Today's Trail Treks To..... The Power Of Peace

December 25 has been set aside by the Body of Christ for celebrating the birth of Emmanuel, God with us, Yashua, God's Savior. We call it Christmas. The Bible records many names for him, more than 300. One of those names is "The Prince Of Peace." Mankind has always found itself in wars throughout its history. Tribes and kindreds set against one another in battles ranging from local skirmishes to all out worldwide conflicts. The aims of war have always been manifold. The result of war has always been a treaty for peace. To the victor went the spoils: more territory, booty, glory and power. The thirst for power within mankind is seemingly insatiable and the means for achieving it are brutal. Many

a slaughter has taken place. One such slaughter happened on October 7, 2023, when armed Hamas terrorists ambushed peace seeking, innocent Israelis celebrating the Feast of Booths (Sukkot). The savagery of their attack was unparalleled. The Israeli Defense Force (IDF) sprung into action with one goal in mind: eradicate Hamas and restore peace. Yet, there will be no peace among mankind until "The Prince Of Peace" returns to set up His Kingdom here on good old terra firma. In John 16:33 KJV, we read Yashua's words: "These things I have spoken unto you, that in me ye might have peace. In the world ye shall have tribulation, but be of good cheer; I have overcome the world." Let the Lord dwell in your heart so that

you may have the Power Of Peace in these troubled times as we await Yashua's return.

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, football and wrestling coach who can be reached at: writewright@journalist.com
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Pledge of Allegiance Timeline

September 18, 1892: Francis Bellamy's pledge is published in "The Youth's Companion" magazine to celebrate the 400th anniversary of the discovery of America.

October 12, 1892: The pledge is first recited in American schools.

1923: The original wording "my Flag" is replaced by "the flag of the United States of America."

1942: The pledge is officially recognized by the U.S. government.

1943: The U.S. Supreme Court rules that requiring a person to say the pledge is a violation of the First and Fourteenth Amendments to the Constitution.

June 14, 1954: At the request of President Dwight D. Eisenhower, Congress adds "under God" to the pledge.

1998: Atheist Michael Newdow files suit against the school board of Broward County, Florida to get the phrase "under God" removed from the pledge. The suit is dismissed.

2000: Newdow files a lawsuit against Elk Grove Unified School District in California arguing that forcing students to listen to the words "under God" is a violation of the First Amendment. The case reaches the Supreme Court in 2004, where it is dismissed.

2005: Joined by parents in the Sacramento, California, area, Newdow files a new lawsuit seeking to have the phrase "under God" removed from the Pledge of Allegiance. In 2010, the 9th Circuit US Court of Appeals denies Newdow's appeal finding that the pledge does not represent a government endorsement of religion, as prohibited by the Constitution.

May 9, 2014: The Massachusetts Supreme Court rules that because reciting the Pledge of Allegiance is a patriotic, rather than a religious, exercise, saying the words "under God" does not discriminate against atheists.

ByThoughtco.com

Press Release

Pugh files VET Act

To Recruit Military Retirees to Classrooms

OKLAHOMA CITY – Sen. Adam Pugh, R-Edmond, has filed legislation to attract military retirees from around the country to Oklahoma's classrooms. Senate Bill 1311 would create the Veterans Entering Teaching (VET) Act and pay for veterans' schooling to become educators if they agreed to teach in the state for three consecutive years.

"We've made tremendous strides in the last couple of years to get more teachers in our classrooms, but we still currently have more than 3,700 positions being filled by emergency certified teachers. We're grateful for these individuals stepping up and helping in our time of need but we're missing a major opportunity to utilize our highly trained and qualified military veterans as they look to begin their second career," Pugh said. "We need certified teachers, and this is an opportunity to let America's heroes utilize their vast expertise and experience to guide Oklahoma's future generations."

The VET Program would create a revolving fund to provide tuition and mandatory fee assistance for up to five years to students to earn a degree from an approved teacher preparation program at an institution of higher education within the Oklahoma State System of Higher Education. To qualify, veterans must have been honorably discharged from the military within three years of enrollment. Students would be required to sign an agreement that they would earn a bachelor's degree from an approved teacher preparation program, meet teacher certification requirements, and agree to teach in a school district for three consecutive years. Those who failed to comply with the agreement would be required to repay their assistance or get a hardship waiver.

"We've been working hard to make Oklahoma the top state for veterans, and this is just another opportunity to help entice them to make our great state their home," Pugh said. "Not only would they be helping strengthen our education system by filling these teaching gaps and sharing their incredible skills, knowledge, and leadership with Oklahoma's students, they'd also be providing a much-needed economic boost for our local communities and state."

SB 1311 will be available for consideration when the Legislature convenes in February.

COME OUT OF HIBERNATION  **DONATE BLOOD & SAVE LIVES THIS WINTER!**

NATIONAL BLOOD DONOR MONTH 2024

Stilwell Memorial Hospital Blood Drive

Thursday, January 4
11 a.m. - 4 p.m.

Look for the Bloodmobile!

To make an appointment,
email Jessie Collins at
jjcollins@stilwellmemorial.com,
or visit obi.org.



Oklahoma State News Room

Governor Stitt Celebrates Launch of Oklahoma Parental Choice Tax Credit

Thursday, December 07, 2023

Governor Kevin Stitt today celebrated the launch of the Oklahoma Parental Choice Tax Credit program and revealed the Oklahoma Tax Commission (OTC) received over 30,000 submissions within the first 90 minutes of launch. OTC, alongside its operational partner Merit, began accepting applications on Wednesday, December 6, 2023, at 2:00 p.m. CST. To date, approximately 140 accredited schools have been registered to participate.

"I'm elated that parents and students are taking advantage of the most transformative change to Oklahoma's education system in decades," said Governor Stitt. "School choice should be for everyone, not just the rich. What we've accomplished is a victory for students and a step towards true education freedom. It is amaz-

ing to see the demand for this program, and I hope the legislature will consider ways to allow more families to apply for this tax credit in the future. I applaud the team at the Oklahoma Tax Commission for a successful rollout, and I look forward to cheering on students as they enroll in a new era of educational excellence in our state."

Signed into law by Governor Stitt in May 2023, the Parental Choice Tax Credit program gives parents more control over how and where their children are educated. The program gives Oklahoma parents up to \$7,500 per tax year for private school expenses, tuition and fees, and parents who homeschool their child qualify for a \$1,000 tax credit.

Keisha Booth, an Oklahoma mom of four in Clinton, OK, praised the program: "As a single mother of four children, I can

attest this program comes at a pivotal and crucial time for my family and our country. The oldest of my children is a senior in high school and the youngest will just be starting his education in August 2024. I am honored and grateful to have the opportunity to put our tax dollars to great use while securing a promising education for my children."

The Oklahoma Tax Commission will give priority consideration to applicants with a household income under \$150,000 Adjusted Gross Income and there are no fees to apply. To receive priority consideration, taxpayers must submit their applications on or before February 5, 2024.

Genifer Gifford, an Elk City, OK mother of five, is thrilled to have easy access to more education options: "I'm beyond grateful for the tax credit because it allows

parents to choose schools that are a better fit for their child. I have some children in public schools, but this helps with having one child who has done much better in the private school setting. The process was self-explanatory and simple. I was able to complete the whole process in under 2 minutes."

Oklahoma taxpayers interested in the program can visit www.parentalchoice.ok.gov to explore participating schools and submit an application.

QR Code to Parental Choice Website.



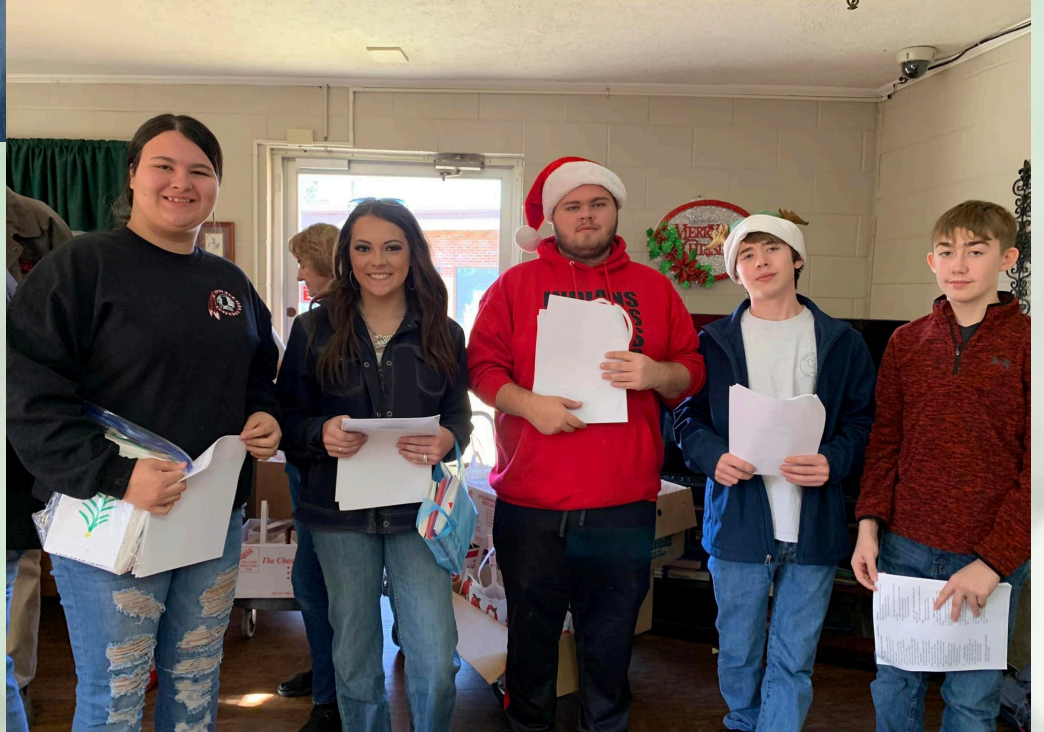
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AND DIE
FOR YOUR
FREEDOMS,
INCLUDING
THE RIGHT
TO SAY...

MERRY
CHRISTMAS

OSU Extension Office - Adair Co. Oklahoma



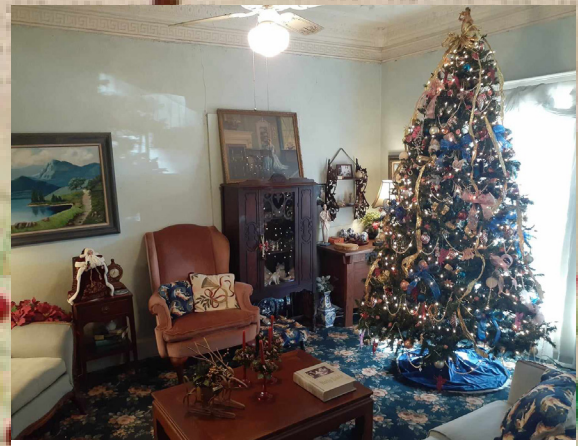
Adair County 4-H had the privilege of joining Kiwanis Tuesday, December 19th to carol for the Stilwell Nursing Home residents. They also got to visit with residents and pass out Christmas cards that were made by local 4-H clubs. It was a great visit for all!!



Adair County 4-H Officer Team had their annual Christmas party and did "Reindeer Games" for the 12 Days of Christmas at Fletcher Park. We all had fun!



Watts... The Howard Hotel...the icon on the knoll...



Step into the festive foyer...



The Hotel's owner, Phyllis Hagin, telling a story to an eager listener...



The Hotel's comfy living room...



A holiday cookie array in the old time kitchen...



Obituaries



**Mary Jo Duncan
July 29, 1934 -
December 11, 2023**

Mary Jo (Sawney) Duncan was born July 29, 1934 to Joe and Ollie (Gonzalis) Sawney in Stilwell, Oklahoma. Mary Jo passed away at the age of 89 years on December 11, 2023 at Stilwell Nursing Home in Stilwell, Oklahoma.

Mary Jo married Joe Duncan Sr. and this union was blessed with three children, Jimmy, Joe and LouAnn Duncan.

She was preceded in death by her parents, husband Joe Duncan Sr., grandson Jimmy "Tootie" Duncan Jr., daughters-in-law Edna Duncan and Belinda Duncan, great grandson River Kyle Beaver, great granddaughter Taylor Nicole Duncan-Augare, niece Janice Sawney, sisters Edith Vann and Sallie Sawney and great grandbabies Hernandez-Torres.

Mary Jo was a homemaker and worked at Cherokee Nation Industries for 40+ years. She also worked as a provider until she finally retired.

Mary Jo was a member of Cherry Tree Baptist Church.

She enjoyed canning kraut, looking for wild onions and picking up hickory nuts to make kaunuchi. She enjoyed watching wrestling, going to yard sales and having yard sales. She loved sitting outside, watching the grandsons do yardwork and cruising her scooter because Duda didn't want to share his. She enjoyed collecting ceramic roosters for her kitchen. Most of all, she loved cooking on Sundays so she could see her children and her grandchildren along with other family. Everyone called her Granny.

Mary Jo is survived by her children, Jimmy and wife Mary Alice Duncan, Joe Duncan Jr. and LouAnn Duncan all of Stilwell, Oklahoma; grandchildren Robert Duncan and wife Veronica, Jeremy Duncan, Jason Duncan, Alicia and husband Tyler Sam, Amy Jo and husband Mark Augare, Etta and husband Anthony Littledeer, Wanda Duncan all of Stilwell, Oklahoma, Amanda and husband Josh Foster of Siloam Springs, Arkansas. She also leaves behind 27 great grandkids and 13 great-great grandkids. Several nieces, nephews, other family and friends also survive her.



PRESS RELEASE

FOR RELEASE: December 20 , 2023

CONTACT: Jan Wilhite , Secretary of Adair County Election Board,
918-696-7221 or adaircounty@elections.ok.gov

BOARD OF EDUCATION PRIMARY ELECTION ANNOUNCED

The Adair County Election Board has announced that a Primary Election will be held for Board of Education Office No. 1 in Dahlongegah School District, and Office No. 4 in Westville School District on Tuesday, February 13, 2024 . State law mandates a primary election be held if more than two candidates file for the same school board office. The candidates are: Dahlongegah: Kenny Limore, Jr., Randy McCarter, and Michael Brown.

Westville: James Hinkel, Jeremiah Atha, and Charlotte Wood .

According to Adair County Election Board Secretary Jan Wilhite , if one candidate receives more than 50% of the votes, that candidate will be declared the elected official. If no one receives more than 50% of the votes, the top two candidates will vie for the office in the April 2, 2024 Board of Education General Election.

OPTIONAL TEXT: Candidates who filed for office but will appear on the General Election ballot ONLY are as follows: (LIST SCHOOL DISTRICT, OFFICE, CANDIDATE NAME)

OPTIONAL TEXT: Candidates who filed for office unopposed and will NOT APPEAR on the General Election ballot are as follows: (LIST SCHOOL DISTRICT, OFFICE, CANDIDATE NAME) Voters who are registered and reside at an address within the geographical boundaries of the Dahlongegah and Westville Public School District are eligible to vote in both the Board of Education Primary Election and General Election.

If you have questions about eligibility, contact your County Election Board at 918-696-7221 or adaircounty@elections.ok.gov .

You can also find your district information using the State Election Board's OK Voter Portal at oklahoma.gov/elections/ovp.



**Betty Saenz
March 26, 1946 -
December 13, 2023**

Betty Saenz, a beloved individual known for her generosity, kindness, and love, passed away on December 13, 2023. Her departure leaves a void in the hearts of her family, friends, and all those whose lives she touched.

Born on March 26, 1946, Betty lived a life filled with compassion and selflessness. To many,

she was more than just a friend or family member; she was a mother figure and a hero. Her nurturing nature made everyone feel welcome and loved.

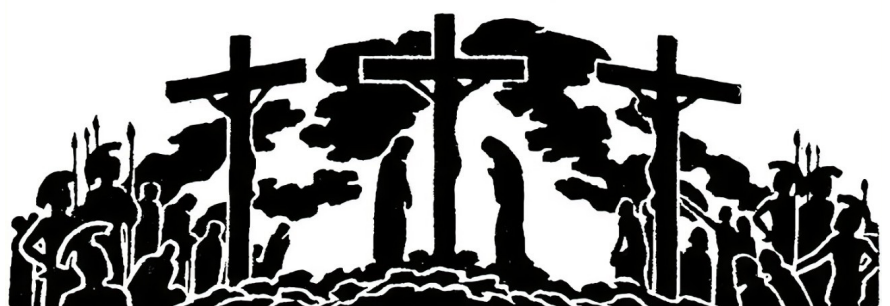
Betty had a heart full of love for her family. She cherished spending time with her loved ones and created memories that will be treasured forever. One of her joys was watching movies with her grandchildren, bringing them smiles and laughter that filled the room with warmth. The Hallmark channel and FBI Files were among her favorite shows. Betty also enjoyed reading her Bible and singing.

Betty is preceded in death by her husband Ruben Saenz, who shared a deep connection with her throughout their journey together. She is also preceded by her brothers Frank Telford, Jerry

Telford, Steve Telford, and Bill Telford and her cherished fur-baby Lucy Lou.

Betty is survived by her daughters Brenda Thomas and Bonnie Thornock, along with her son Mark Parrott, sisters Lena Bacon and Karen Telford and a host of grandchildren, nieces, nephews and close friends whom she considered as part of her extended family.

Betty will be remembered for the love she shared and the lives she touched. Her legacy of kindness, generosity, and unwavering love will continue to inspire those who had the privilege of knowing her. Though our hearts are heavy with sorrow, we can find solace in knowing that Betty's spirit will live on in the hearts of all whose lives were brightened by her presence.



The Straight Forward


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Revelation 1:7

7 Behold, he cometh with clouds; and every eye shall see him, and they also which pierced him: and all kindreds of the earth shall wail because of him.
Even so, Amen.

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