

The STRAIGHT FORWARD FREE Press

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Value: Priceless!



Volume 1 • Issue 11

Stilwell, Adair County, Oklahoma

Thursday, September 9, 2021



Labor Day at the Adair County Fair

Cowboys and cowgirls start their training early in life. All it takes to begin are the strong arms of mom or dad. They get into the rhythm promptly at birth once the swaddling clothes are replaced by jeans, shirts, and boots—be it pink or blue. It's an Adair County entitlement. The future cattle wranglers of 2035 and beyond!



Local residents, Pat and Bill Eaton and Jett Starr Spear, enjoying the activities during the Adair County Free Fair going on now at the Adair County Fairgrounds in Stilwell. The Premium Auction will be held Thursday, September 9 beginning at 7:30 p.m.

Special Report...

Faith In Action: Mullin's Miraculous Mission Condemnation? or Commendation?

By John Bankel

Faith without works is dead. Congressman Markwayne Mullin, above all, is a man of faith. He doesn't just give his faith lip service to his faith, he gives his faith service, service to his fellow man, service to his country. During the course of the recent Biden administration's botched attempt to evacuate Americans and their Afghani civilian collaborators, Mullin got a phone call from a colleague who expressed great frustration over the number of Americans who were left stranded behind enemy lines, especially over the plight of a mother and her 3 children.

Markwayne Mullin has always been a man of action. As a youngster in school he excelled at football and wrestling and later became a mixed martial arts fighter. One might say he has the warrior gene. In addition, he is an Oklahoma "cowboy" and a very successful businessman who took over the family plumbing business at the tender age of 20, shortly after getting married, and built it to what it is today. All in all, he is a servant leader who finds a way to get it done.

His response to his colleague's plea was immediate. He set the wheels in motion, undaunted by the enormous and, perhaps, impossible task he was about to undertake.

("Mission Impossible" comes to this writer's mind). Yet, a man of faith knows that "faith as small as a mustard seed, can move mountains." And moving mountains is what Mullin did.

Despite the repeated obstacles that he and his team faced, mostly from the U.S. state department, who Mullin appealed to on a number of occasions for help and instead was met with opposition, Mullin's team forged ahead and found a

way around these constraints as God moved these mountains. From what this writer learned, Mullin succeeded in rescuing 22 Americans, who are now walking again freely in the USA.

There are still around 100 Americans left behind hoping and praying that their rescue is forthcoming. It may take another "miraculous mission" to do that, but it won't be Markwayne Mullin this time.

In some people's eyes he is a true American hero, although he would be the last person to think so. In other people's eyes, those who refuse to see, he is a reckless risk-taker who needlessly endangered many people. Yet, how much more danger can one be in than to be in the hands of merciless



Congressman Markwayne Mullin

barbarians like the Taliban? Thank God for Markwayne Mullin's Miraculous Mission.

Commentary by John Bankel, freelance writer and retired Math teacher. Comment? Email: writewright@journalist.com.

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Several Issues Discussed at Commissioners' Meeting

By Donna Boecher

PACKED THE COMMISSIONERS' OFFICE ON TUESDAY, September 7th at 8:32 a.m.

There were several issues discussed and approved at the meeting. Of special interest was ambulance service and an equipment donation to Delaware County.

When the issue of establishing a one-year contract between Pafford EMS (emergency medical service) and Adair County was brought to the floor for discussion, the Pafford EMS owner said she had made 11 trips to Adair County to get help in defraying the past OVERWHELMING payroll costs that had kept 3 ambulances in the county during COVID-19 for the past 18 months. This \$10k/month commitment with the county would help Pafford defray costs of finding and keeping qualified paramedics (costs partly due to a rise in their salaries) on the ambulances. It was recapped to the Commissioners that, BY LAW, ADAIR COUNTY must provide ambulance assistance to the county. Commissioner Sam Chandler acknowledged this fact, and said he was willing to guarantee \$10k/month through this fiscal year. The Commissioners asked how soon a

contract could be drawn up. Pafford said that could happen this week. With the updated contract, the Commissioners set next Monday's meeting to commit to the contract. Hopefully, under Diana Yell, who was at her property "pulling a calf," the communities will pull together to achieve ambulance coverage for all of Adair County.

County Sheriff Jason Ritchie was present to "surplus" and then "donate" a truck-size animal cage to Delaware county. Both issues were passed. It was an uplifting meeting. Come join the onlookers next Monday, September 13th at 8:30 a.m.

COMMUNITY ANNOUNCEMENT

Donations for Disaster Relief Being Accepted

Donations for victims of hurricane Ida are being received daily from 1 p.m. to 5 p.m. at the Stilwell VFW. A list of items can be found on VFW Facebook page.

For questions, call Ricky VanSyckle at 918-575-7965.

Thank you for your help.

Recycle Day—Every Third Saturday

September Recycle will be on the 17th from 9am to noon. Collection location is at the Adair County District 2 Barn on Hwy. 59 North and Fairfield Road (across the highway from Maryetta School). Acceptable items are paper, magazines, books, cardboard, glass, metal, aluminum, and plastic bottles. Some rules apply on these items and a detailed list can be found on our Facebook page-Adair Litter-Free & Green (a non-profit group) or call 918-696-1178 or 918-696-7316.

ANNOUNCEMENT

The Straight Forward FREE Press is now **ONLINE** on Google!
www.straightforwardfreepress.com

Check it out and enjoy!

PROVERB POWER

"Buy the truth and sell it not: also wisdom and instruction and understanding."— Proverbs 23:23 (KJV)

THE CONSERVATIVE VIEW

By Russell Turner
ALONE

We humans can be one of the most arrogant creatures on this planet. It is very easy to forget how much we rely upon other people who have a different occupation; it is easy to develop a belief that what we may do is all important, and whatever someone else does is of no importance. I have developed the belief that whatever someone does for his or her career is a part of what makes the world go around. Too many people take for granted the people who grow their food, prepare it, and provide the services such as repairing your auto or household appliances. If those individuals were all of a sudden to disappear, we would immediately experience a huge hole in our lives. What I have just talked about is on a personal level, but the same principle applies to nations of the world.

Because of the actions of resident Biden and his group of fools, we Americans are going to find ourselves having to stand alone in the future when bad things happen. I can remember 20 years ago when the Twin Towers were destroyed by terrorists flying commercial air planes into them. I also remember how civilized nations across the world rallied around the United States and were willing to help and support our efforts to punish those responsible. The action of the Biden administration has angered our allies across the world, in the future I can see a scenario where those allies will not be willing to stand up for us because of the debacle in Afghanistan. Biden likes to use the words of former President Harry Truman "THE BUCK STOPS HERE" while at the same time blaming a host of other people for his ineptitude. I have no doubt that if Truman was alive, he would have some words about Biden's action and I would lay odds they would not be very kind. America is a powerful country, but even with all of that might we cannot stand alone against the entire world.

Biden's actions have already demoralized our troops, that one

thing will haunt our military for decades. We seemed to be a country that swings wildly and lacks the focus to be a true super power. We are allowing ourselves to be dictated to by a bunch of uneducated goat herders from a country barely out of the stone age. On Tuesday I listened to resident Biden address the nation about all of the Americans stranded in Afghanistan; instead of focusing upon the severity of the situation in that country and the harm that could come to our people, he started his speech about his 3.5 trillion-dollar budget that the democrats were pushing through the House of Representatives. Our fellow Americans are facing torture and death and all he can think about is spending our country into oblivion. I firmly believe that the presidential election was stolen from President Trump, but I have also come to the conclusion that a huge number of Americans voted for Biden. The promise of free stuff I guess is just too big a piece of bait for many people to see through. In the future we will have to stand alone in the world because of the abandoning of the people who put their necks on the line to help us in Afghanistan; the stain of their blood will not wash away quickly. Was this obsession with free stuff worth losing our standing in the world? When we are standing alone, we will have time to think about it.

THE KIPLING KORNER

"Be slow to judge for we know little of what has been done and nothing of what has been resisted."

"An unhappy childhood was not an unsuitable preparation for my future, in that it demanded a constant wariness, the habit of observation, and the attendance on moods and tempers – the noting of discrepancies between speech and action, a certain reserve of demeanor, and automatic suspicion of sudden favors."

The Lady in the Blue Sari

Part 11
By Donna Boecher

Checking church records in India—both Catholic and Saint Thomas Christians—I found out that there was a Catholic Marriage Bann record of Lydia's wedding at St. Francis Assisi Catholic Cathedral in Kochi, Kerala to an Indian. However, the full name of her husband was omitted maybe for "security" reasons. The name was Singh; so, it might as well have been Smith!!! It did say he was born in the state of Himachal Pradesh. I was amazed they said that much, but then it was a large state and a common name. It didn't matter. The lovely city of Shima is in that state. I could imagine them meeting there on the promenade looking north to the lofty Himalayas. I felt like I was in one of Kipling's spy stories. Rudyard Kipling's father had done a stain glass window in the church near the promenade. I wondered if they had visited that church. Had they driven the four-hour twisting road to Rajasthan when leaving? Was Singh an international agent for Interpol working with the French? I imagined Singh's mother being French; aha, "the French connection." I chuckled at my inventiveness! Maybe, that was why Lydia was so close-mouthed about everything. Would Singh try to come see her in America? Always there were more questions. At least I now knew she was married and the probable cause of her illisiveness.

My P.I. skills were getting better. At least, now, I had no need of a firearm. I take that back; at no time will I need a firearm; God is and will be my protector. Adding the new information and suppositions

to Alex's file, I stuffed it into my overcrowded righthand desk drawer. Besides working with Alex, I had picked up a new client who was looking for his missing teenage daughter. I was hoping the new case would be short and sweet. He knew the names of her friends in New Orleans, but no address for her. I guessed she was "couch surfing" most nights since she wasn't employed as far as he knew. Turning out the lights, I closed and locked the office door behind me. I would have a lot to tell Alex when we met for breakfast tomorrow at The Camellia Grill. Thank you, Lord for another blessed day.

Tire Collection Day Set for September 25

Adair County Litter-Free & Green fka Adair County Trash Off will be hosting a free tire collection on Saturday, September 25th from 9am to noon. The location for this event is at the old Adair County District 2 Barn on Hwy. 100 E. Tires accepted include the following: cars, trucks, motorcycles, and small tractors. Large tires from industrial machinery or semi-trucks are not accepted. This event is for Adair County residents with the exception of commercial tire businesses or tire shops. Adair County Litter-Free & Green is a non-profit group that operates on donations and volunteers to provide this and other events free of charge to citizens. Donations are always welcome. For more information visit us on our Facebook page or call 918-696-1178 or 918-696-7316.



Dear John,

A few days ago I was talking to my boyfriend on the phone. The doorbell rang. He left to answer the door. I heard a woman's voice. He came back to the phone and said, "A friend has come to visit and I have to go." We said goodbye. He thought he had turned off his phone, but he hadn't. I couldn't believe it!? A moral dilemma. Should I hang up the phone or stay on? I stayed on. I heard him saying her name, so I went to his FB friend list and I found her. I heard her singing Janis Joplin songs to him and reminding him of the "good old days." There were silent moments where I couldn't tell what they were doing? I am tied up in knots about what I overheard. Should I confront him?

Peeping Smart Phone

Dear Peeping, I surmise that in your mind you heard a prelude to "friendly persuasion" and you may have gone down that road yourself before, perhaps with your boyfriend. Your decision to stay on the phone to eavesdrop turns out to be a very normal human response in a circumstance like this. You two have probably shared some intimate moments and the "invasion" of another woman into what you believe to be your sacred territory is, frankly, unbearable for you. To repair this breach you must prepare yourself for a gut wrenching confrontation with your boyfriend and allow him to "come clean" with what may have happened on this day. It will then be up to you to decide if this episode is fatal to your relationship.

Sincerely,
Dear John

Have a question for Dear John? Send it to: dearjohn@write.me.com. Real names will not be used. (Copyright 2021. All rights reserved.)



Mullin It Over: Investing in Everything but Infrastructure

By Congressman Markwayne Mullin

There's no denying the infrastructure needs of our district. Whether it's driving to work, getting kids to school, or stopping by the grocery store on the way home—Oklahomans are reminded daily that our crumbling roads and bridges are in desperate need of repair.

There's also no denying this \$1 trillion "infrastructure" package is not going to fix any of it.

\$1 trillion sounds like a number that will show real tangible improvements here in the Second District. Sadly, this is not the case. Only \$110 billion, around 10 percent, of this package, will go towards improving roads and bridges. And Oklahoma will only receive a small fraction of that money. This means roughly 90 percent will go to socialist projects and Green New Deal spending that guarantee inflation and debt for generations to come. Our children are the ones who will pay for this infrastructure bill.

Take the McClellan-Kerr Arkansas River Navigation System

(MKARNS) for example. This waterway generates over \$4 billion a year for our state, allowing our district to act as a key player in the distribution of goods in America and across the globe. The critical backlog need has more than tripled since I have been in office from \$68 million to \$300 million in just 9 years. This backlog means the system has a 50-50 chance of failing at any given moment. This is true infrastructure. Our waterways are the backbone of our economy and have a massive impact not only on our state, but also on the entire Midwest.

Neglecting our infrastructure translates into real impacts on hard-working Oklahomans. Investing in infrastructure means getting from point A to point B across the district and providing constituents with the resources they need for their businesses and families to thrive.

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.

Health Tips from Larkin...

By Larkin Fouse, CHHP

Organic eating part 3: Metabolic benefits: As we discussed last week, non-organic farming creates an internal bodily environment that may lead to autoimmune diseases. Yet there can be another problem with eating non organic foods on a regular basis, metabolic disorders. For example, the pesticides and herbicides used in the food are toxic and the main detoxifier in the body is the liver. Not only is the liver our biggest detoxifier, but it also regulates the majority of our hormones. So when the liver is too bogged down with trying to keep you from dying from chemical exposure, guess what's not happening? Hormonal regulation! And we all know from watching teenagers what out of control hormones can do to you! So there is yet again another wonderful reason to shift our diets to organic foods, and who knows, perhaps after doing so, you will find that losing weight is no longer a problem for you, as your body will be clean enough to regulate its hormones to keep your metabolism running like it's supposed to!

Vocabulary
WORD
of
the
DAY

Patriotism
• love for or devotion to one's country.

The
STRAIGHT FORWARD
FREE Press

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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Obituaries

Joseph “Joe Mike” Michael White July 8, 1955 – August 31, 2021

Joseph “Joe Mike” Michael White was born on July 8th, 1955 in Tahlequah, Oklahoma and departed this life to be with the Lord on Tuesday, August 31st, 2021. Joe Mike is the son of the late Noel Joe and Erma Lorene White.

Joe Mike was a 1973 graduate of Stilwell High School. As a child, he was very interested in dinosaurs, was active in Boy Scouts and loved climbing trees. In high school, he was active in football and wrestling. Upon graduation, Joe Mike joined the Marine Reserves where he served our country for 7 years. He was a jokester who loved spending time with family and friends and would do anything for anyone.

Joe Mike attended Oklahoma State University where he majored in Fire Protection. While at OSU, he was a member of the Pi Kappa Alpha Fraternity and was loved by all. Upon completing his degree, he went on to work as a Fire Protection Engineer at the City of Dallas Fire Department, City of Phoenix Fire Department, City of Austin Fire Department, and the Los Alamos National Laboratory in Los Alamos, New Mexico. He was passionate about fire protection and shared his knowledge with many fire protection professionals.

Joe Mike was a sweet man with a caring soul. He was a devoted animal lover who was active in several animal rescue organizations and often rescued Persian cats. His Persian cats (he lovingly called “the herd”); Mikey, Tommy, Kami, Jesse, Boots and Oscar were his pride and joy.

Joe Mike is preceded in death by his parents, Noel Joe White and Lorene White of Westville and sister-in-law, Melvonna Dunaway.

He is survived by his sister: Debra Hummingbird of Baron, brother: Ron Dunaway and wife Jennifer of Tulsa, sister: Wendy Kimble and husband Jeff of Westville; nephews, Heath Watt and his wife Maegon of Westville, Hunter Littlejohn of Westville, Dylan and his wife Luz Kimble of Westville; nieces, Rachel Hummingbird of Baron, Rebecca and her husband Bret Barton of Stilwell, Courtney Kimble of Westville, Dara Fountain of Stilwell, Cara and husband Hunter Stevens of Stilwell, Sara Fountain of Rogers, Arkansas and Mackenzie Duncan of Tulsa; great nieces and nephews: Ellie and Edie Barton, Julia Littlejohn, Aiden Kimble, Blaze Christie, Everly Christie, Ridge Stevens, and Ruger Osbourn. A host of other family and friends also survive him.

In lieu of flowers, donations can be made to the following animal rescue organizations where Joe Mike rescued many Persian Cats or the animal rescue of your choice:

South Texas Persian Rescue: <http://www.stxpr.org/>
Contact Number: (210)-658-0914
Email: stxpersianrescue@gmail.com
Res-Q-Pets: <https://www.resqpets.org/>
Contact Number: (609)-944-8866
Email: info@resqpets.org

Graveside services were held at 2 pm on Friday, September 3, 2021 at Stilwell City Cemetery, Stilwell, OK with Bro. Mack Crittenden officiating. Interment followed under the direction of Roberts/Reed-Culver Funeral Home, Stilwell, OK.

Marsha Sue Grigsby February 18, 1962 – August 27, 2021

Marsha Sue Grigsby, daughter of Winfred Grigsby and Narcie (Wolfe) Vann, was born on February 18, 1962 in Tahlequah, Oklahoma and passed from this life on Friday, August 27, 2021 at home surrounded by her loved ones in Tahlequah, Oklahoma at 59 years of age.

She loved spending time with her grandbabies and family. Her grandbabies were her pride and joy.

Marsha enjoyed sitting on the front porch, watching the deer and eating watermelon with a glass of ice tea.

She worked at Stilwell Nursing Home for several years and Greenleaf Nursery.

Marsha was preceded in death by her husband: Billy Barnett of the home in Tahlequah, OK, daughter: Amanda Eubanks and husband Troy of Stilwell, OK, her grandbabies: Winter, Tristan, Lakota, Jaden, Lane and Alexis, brothers: Winfred James Grigsby, Jr. of Stilwell, OK, Larry Grigsby (Charlene) of Stilwell, Mark Vann (Billie) of Stilwell, Chris Vann (Cynthia Walton) of Ada, OK, sisters: JoAnn Livers (Joe Morton), Leona Grigsby of Okmulgee, OK, Margaret Duncan and her adopted sister: Terri (Leuthje) Brown.

She is also survived by several nieces, nephews, other relatives and friends from throughout her life.

Memorial services were held at 11 am on Thursday, September 2, 2021 at Roberts/Reed-Culver Chapel, Stilwell, OK with Herbert Wolfe and Bro. Bill Woods officiating.

Historic Tours Announced

By Regina McLemore,
ACH&GA Secretary

Adair County Historic and Genealogical Association (ACH&GA) will host a free guided bus tour of five historic spots in Adair County on **Thursday, September 9**, and **Tuesday, September 21**. All participants are required to be 18 or older, in

good health, and will provide their own lunch and water for the trip. The tours will begin at Stilwell’s Kansas City Southern Depot at 8:30 a.m. and will return there by 3:30 p.m. Space is limited, so anyone wishing to go on either tour should call the Depot at 918-696-2535 or 918-696-7845, Tuesday through Friday, from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m.



STILWELL

Jones, Gerald, 85, resident of Stilwell, OK. Passed on 8-30-21. Graveside services at 10 am on Wednesday, September 8, 2021 at Stilwell City Cemetery, Stilwell, OK. Roberts/Reed-Culver

Claphan, Carolyn, 93, resident of Stilwell, OK. Passed on 8-31-21. Funeral services at 1 pm on Wednesday, September 8, 2021 at Roberts/Reed-Culver Chapel, Stilwell, OK.

Patterson, Howard, 61, resident of Stilwell, OK. Passed on 9-1-21. Funeral services at 1 pm on Thursday, September 9, 2021 at Roberts/Reed-Culver Chapel, Stilwell, OK.

Johnson, Creek, of Stilwell, OK. Passed on 9-2-21. Graveside services were held at 10 am on Tuesday, September 7, 2021 at Spade Mountain Cemetery, Stilwell, OK. Roberts/Reed-Culver.

WESTVILLE

Block, Byron, 60, resident of Westville, OK. Graveside services at 2 pm on Wednesday, September 8, 2021 at Westville City Cemetery, Westville, OK. Roberts & Hart

Morrison, John, 72, resident of Westville, OK. Services are pending. Roberts & Hart.

Wing, Paul, 75, resident of Westville, OK. Family Services at a later date. Roberts & Hart.

Leming, Shirley, 75, resident of Stilwell, OK. Services are pending. Roberts & Hart.

Stilwell Sports Spotlight Indians First Game Falls To Covid

Commentary by John Bankel

The start of Stilwell’s 2021 season was interrupted by an outbreak of Covid. As many as 20 members of the squad had to be quarantined. As of this writing, it is unclear as to the status of the affected team members and

as to the likelihood that the next scheduled game will take place. In any event, the most important thing is that there will be full recovery for all those who have tested positive. Stay tuned for further developments.

Adair County High School Football Roundup

By John Bankel

There are 4 high schools in Adair County. Each one plays in a different class so that they do not play each other very often, if ever. The schools are: Stilwell, Class 4A, Westville, Class 3A, Watts, Class C (8 man), and Cave Springs, Class B (8 man). Three of the 4 played last week, Stilwell had to cancel because of a COVID outbreak. Here are the results:

The Westville Yellowjackets continued their winning ways with a convincing 30-14 win over visiting Lincoln (AR) H.S. boosting their record to 2-0. Jax Unger carried the Yellowjackets to victory with 97 yards rushing and 3 TDS earning Player Of The Game honors. Westville next hosts Foreman (AR) Friday, 9/10 at 7 pm.

On Thursday 9/2, the Watts Engineers opened their season playing a home game versus Welch in a Class B, 8 man football matchup. The Engineers just couldn’t get the

wheels rolling in the right direction as Welch ran them over 48-0. Welch goes to 2-0. Watts is now 0-1. The Engineers will next try to get on the winning track in an away game versus Oak Mission on 9/10 at 7 pm.

The Cave Springs Hornets have gone to the well twice now and have come up empty both times. In a Class C, 8 man football home game on 9/2 against Quinton, the Hornets were stung by a lopsided score of 56-0. The Hornets will next try to dent the winning column in a home game against South Coffeerville (0-1) Friday 9/10 starting at 7 pm.

The Stilwell Indians are scheduled to play an away game at Gentry (AR) on 9/10 at 7 pm. As of this writing, the certainty of this contest is still in question due to a COVID outbreak that left as many as 20 players in quarantine. The next issue will have a final update on the status of this contest.

“Deliver Us from Evil”

By Donna Boecher

Oops! DON’T SPEAK to others unless they are words of encouragement. The devil has plenty of discouragement without any help. Blessings service both people involved—they uplift. When thinking of others with kindness, good ideas flow into hearts and minds. Each morning the voice of HIS nature calls with: bird song, the bellow of a cow, the bleat of a sheep, the squeal of a pig, the cluck

of a chicken, or the meow. Man and HIS creations cry out, Good morning, “LORD, I’m here!

A call for forgiveness blurts forth, beginning the new day. There are new blessings and new chances to correct and resolve hurtful issues from yesterday. A new day to begin again, to cast away imprudent words. Always ask HIM first. HE knows the who, what, when, where, why, and how of every situation. Embrace the light of HIS

WORD. Then discuss and learn of it with family, friends, and those gathered. Remembering, always, HE shelters with us—in and through every “seeming” crisis (Psalms 91).

HE delivers us from evil, often when we’re not aware of the devil’s advance. Sometimes evil leans against an open doorway, closes The Good Book when it should remain open, or tries to shut the door to healing prayer. BUT, God is always there to deliver us.

Bravery in the Face of Evil

By Donna Boecher

Over 75? You may remember many occasions when we sent our patriots into battle because of evil! The first I remember was **KOREA** (1950-53, 1966-69), then **VIET NAM** (late 1950s to 1974), **LEBANON** (1958 and 1982-84), **DOMINICAN Civil War** (1965-66), **GRENADA** (1983), **Invasion of PANAMA** (1989-90), **GULF WAR**—Iraq Kuwait, Saudi Arabia, and Israel (1990-91), **IRAQ** No Fly Zone Enforcement Operations (1991-2003), Intervention in **SOMALI Civil War** (1992-95 & 2007-21), **BOSNIAN War** (1992-95), Intervention in **Haiti** (1994-95), **KOSOVO War** (1998-1999), war in **AFGHANISTAN** (2001-21), **IRAQ WAR** (2003-2011), **War on TERROR** in Indian Ocean

(2009-16), Intervention in **LIBYA** (2011 & 2015-19), Observant Compass in **UGANDA** (2011-16), and Interventions in **IRAQ** and **SYRIA** (2014-present).

Call them wars, interventions, peace keeping, observation, **OUR TROOPS WERE DISPERSED AS GUARDIANS OF DEMOCRACY AND FREEDOM**, but on **September 11, 2001**, evil infiltrated America. This Saturday will mark the date when we were unable to stop the enemy before they reached America. *I had two children in Washington, D.C. who survived that day.* Thousands died and their loved ones still grieve. **To those lost on that day and to those who battled against evil in these conflicts, I bow my head in prayer and thanksgiving for their sacrifice.**



Adair County Young Writers’ Page

YOU can be a young writer at any age and get your writing on this page...Prose or Poetry.

Send your writing to: straightforwardpress21@gmail.com or snail mail to: **Straight Forward FREE Press, POB 885, Stilwell, OK 74960.**

Puzzle Page

KRYPTO KONTEST--WEEK 9

After this week, there are 3 more weeks to go...David W. continues to hold the lead with 2 Kryptos under his belt...with the Kontest ending in the September 30 issue, there is still time to get in and vie for the prize: a calculator and a \$25 gift certificate from a local merchant to be named...

Today's Krypto has 9 for an answer and the numbers you are playing with are: 2, 19, 7, 23, 5... remember, all 5 numbers must be

used, but each one only once, in the expression that equals 9. Give it a try...just for fun...

Send your Krypto to: Krypto Kontest, POB 885, Stilwell, OK 74960.

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IF YOU GOT A STORY?

We'd love to print it...just e-mail it to: **straightforwardpress21@gmail.com.**

What's So Punny?

PUN FUN

This one will surely stick with you...

Q: Why did the bubble gum cross the road?

A: It was stuck to the chicken's leg!

Stick around for more PUN FUN in the next issue...

Got a funny one? Send it to: **straightforwardpress21@gmail.com.**



Feeders Supply, LLC
12 West Oak St.
Stilwell, OK 74960
Brad Kimble, Owner
918-696-7322

The Muffler Shop LLC

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AAA ABSTRACT CO., INC.
(918) 696-2770
E-mail: aaaabstract@windstream.net

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SWAP MEET
YARD SALE
1020 S. 2nd - Stilwell
Hwy. 59 & Rooster Barn Antiques Shop
Saturday, Oct. 2nd
8 a.m. - 3 p.m.
Info. 918-575-9344

Late Night CHIROPRACTIC
& Massage Therapy
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Noon to 7pm: M & F from
and T&Th 9am to 6pm
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ON THE CAMPAIGN TRAIL

Commentary by John Bankel

Today's Trail Takes Us to the Taboo of Money, Part 3

WHEN MONEY FLOATS IT SINKS

In Part 2 we learned that there was a time when a dollar bill could be redeemed for 1 ounce of silver on demand at a bank. Thus the dollar bill had "Silver Certificate" printed across its top over the image of George Washington. Some folks still remember. Likewise, a 20 dollar bill could be redeemed for 1 ounce of gold and it had "Gold Certificate" printed across its top above the image of Andrew Jackson.

If one looks at a dollar bill or a 20 dollar bill today, one will instead find "Federal Reserve Note" printed across the top. How did that change happen?

Up until 1933, the American dollar was backed by silver and gold, that is to say, 1 oz of silver was worth 1 dollar and 1 oz of gold was worth 20 dollars. The currency remained stable and predictable and had real value; it was tied to

the anchors of gold and silver.

And then FDR came along and changed all of that. He took the dollar off the gold standard and confiscated all the gold from the American citizenry under penalty of fine and imprisonment. Gold immediately rose to \$38/oz. and the dollar's purchasing power sank with it. Under this scheme, the dollar's purchasing power continued to diminish over the years, where today an ounce of gold costs about \$2000. Think on that for a moment?

What cost \$20 pre-1933 now costs \$2000? The printing of money then became an exercise in inflation increase. The more money printed, the less value it will have.

One of the worst examples of this phenomena in modern times is the devastating experience of the Weimar Republic, post WWI

Germany, where money was printed willy nilly without regard to anything of value backing it. It got really ugly really quickly. This writer has personal knowledge from his mother, who, born in 1920 Germany, grew up during that time and the time thereafter when Adolf Hitler assumed his dictatorship. She tells the story of her father, in the 1920's, loading up a wheelbarrow full of Deutschmarks to go into town to buy a loaf of bread, whose price had skyrocketed to 5 billion!

In our present time, we are experiencing the pangs of inflation since the Biden administration has taken office. The democrats are pushing for the printing of additional trillions of dollars, all of which will continue to erode the purchasing power of the U.S. dollar, which has been left floating on air. The idea that one can get themselves out of a financial hole by digging it deeper, that is, borrowing money to get out of debt, is, as they say in German, "Wansinn" (insanity) and, moreover, blatant fiscal irresponsibility.

Don't be fooled into believing otherwise, for the reality is "when money floats, it sinks."

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

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