

The STRAIGHT FORWARD FREE Press

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Stilwell, Adair County, Oklahoma

Thursday, July 15, 2021



Pictured, left to right: Regina McLemore, Rachelle Horny, Donna Boecher and Cathy Unger.

SPLFS Presents Books to Library

By Regina McLemore

Dr. Pai and Dr. Landge recently donated \$1,500 to the Stilwell Public Library Friends Society (SPLFS) to purchase books for the young people in our community. These books were ordered by the Friends and delivered to the Stilwell Public Library a few weeks ago. SPLFS wants to thank Dr. Pai and Dr. Landge for their generous gift.

In this picture, you will see SPLFS officers (left to right) : Regina McLemore, Donna Boecher, and Cathy Unger presenting a few of the purchased books to our new librarian, Rachelle Horny.

The Friends plan on having a book sale and a yard sale on the library grounds in a few months. Be watching for more information about these events and others in this paper in the coming weeks.

Big Problem Faces Adair County

By Donna Boecher

At the 2nd Commissions' meeting of the 2021-2022 fiscal year beginning July 1, there were several issues of importance—COVID and emergency related. The most complex was the need for an alert system for the cooling lake dam in Gentry, Arkansas for Flint Creek Power Plant—called SWEPCO dam (managed by Southwestern Electric Power Company). The proposed alert system is costly (\$4-8,000/year); however, it could save many lives. It allows immediate and simultaneous notification to first responders from either side of the affected areas. Within two hours of a “sunny day break,” a “significant rain” event, or both, the people in the area, whether homeowners or visitors, would be alerted,

evacuated, and the roads closed to protect travelers. Should any of the scenarios happen, the Carnes Ford Public Access would have from 5-28 ft. of water above the roadway in two hours, and Chewy River Bridge could have 10-15 ft. over the bridge. Who knows the water depth in half that time! Tina Longshore of 911 gave an excellent presentation of the urgency for the alert system. The dam is leaking clear water now which is pumped back into the dam; tomorrow it might be sediment—crisis and immediate action. She alerted the Fire Fighters Association to the need, from the affected departments, on how to accomplish notifying and evacuating the people. This issue was tabled by the Commissioners due to its complexity.

Community Announcement: STILWELL NUTRITION CENTER

has **RE-OPENED** for Lunch and Recreation:

Pool, Cards & Conversation.

Come on By...Bring a Friend!

IF YOU GOT A STORY?

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

COMING SOON

Stilwell Indians Sports Spotlight
All-Sports Recap & Highlights
of the 2020-21 Season
2021 Fall Sports Forecasts...

PROVERB POWER

*Whoso findeth a wife findeth
a good thing and obtaineth
favour of the Lord.*

Proverbs 18:22 KJV

Checker Town Barber in Business for 62 Years

By Susan Cox

Vonnie Jones is a well-known businessman who has lived in the Bell Community all his life. He was raised at Bell, he said he didn't know there was any other place. He was the fifth generation at Bell. Both sides of his folks were there before statehood, their names were: Isaac Kester and Jim Phillips. He graduated from Stilwell High School. He attended NSU one year, and then worked construction. Then he went to barber school, and became very good at cutting flat-top haircuts. Vonnie said, “For fifty years I claimed I could out cut anybody on a flat-top haircut. I couldn't

prove it. But I claimed it!” His barber chair is ninety-seven years old. He is one of the sixth oldest businesses in Stilwell. During these years he has faced hard times, his first barber shop burned down and he had to rebuild, his wife Shirley passed away, and about three years ago he lost his sight in one eye to Macular Degeneration. This hasn't stopped him from running the pawnshop and cutting hair though.

Vonnie has been a barber for 62 years at the Checker Town Barber Shop. Vonnie said, “They say his area got the name of Checker Town back when Horace Carson's livery stable used to be around here. The men would set around this area and play checkers, and that's how it got the name of Checker Town.”

He married Shirley in 1958, and they have four children: Cathy, Dayna, Paul, and David. Vonnie said, “Shirley was a perfect wife, because she'd do everything I asked her to do and she liked to go fishing and would brag about catching more fish than me, because it took all my time putting the bait on her hook.”

When he got started in the pawnshop business Vonnie said, “I was cutting hair one day and Sonny Boy Hamlin came running in the door with an automatic shotgun, that had deer blood all over it, and he sat it over in the corner, and said, “give me twenty dollars,” and I said, “OK,” and he took the money, and out the back door he went. Other people would have things and borrow against it, too. An that's the way I started this business, unintentionally, in 1972.

I built Vonnie's Pawn Shop in April of 1976. I put my barber chair in the shop, (and with the help of my wife and family), we ran the pawnshop, and I cut hair. Then we started the check cashing business about ten years ago,” he said. He cashes all kinds of checks for people.

Vonnie said, “My favorite scripture is (John 1:12: But as many as received him, to them gave the power to become the sons of God, even to them that believe on his name.), and it's the scripture I remember the preacher read to me the night I was saved...when you Believe in Jesus name, not when you behave.” I was around twelve years old when I became a Christian. During these years I have led singing, served as a deacon, taught Sunday school, and Wednesday night Bible Study: it's been a blessing to be in very good churches. Vonnie has taught Sunday school around 65 years.

The greatest thing is having God in my life and good churches to attend. God gave me a perfect wife, and wonderful kids that are all serving the Lord, and wonderful grandchildren. I enjoy by job!

Vonnie is a hardworking, loyal, kind, Christian man. I truly enjoyed visiting with him, while my dad



Pictured above is Vonnie Jones standing by his ninety-seven year old barber's chair.

was getting his haircut. He is a very interesting man to visit with.

Go check out Vonnie's Pawn Shop!

Stilwell City Council Considers Contract

By John Bankel

At a special meeting held on July 12 at 5:30 pm in the Council room in the Stilwell Community Center, the Council heard a presentation from GTG (Got To Go) Corp., an ambulance service provider seeking to become the countywide EMS provider, as a replacement for Pafford, the current company.

After the presentation, the floor was opened for questions from those in attendance, among which were Tina Longshore, Adair County 911 Coordinator and Mid-County Community Association Emergency Management Director, Diana Yell. At the end of the question period, at 6:33 pm, the council moved into Executive Session, ostensibly to vote on approval of a contract. The Council resumed the public portion of the meeting at 7:13 pm and took a vote on a motion to make no decision at this time. The motion passed unanimously. At 7:16, the meeting was adjourned.

Those in attendance for the City were:

Coye Nettles, Ward 1

Joe Adair, Ward 3

Jim Spray, Ward 4

Lane Kindle, Ward 5

Jeff Jones, City Attorney

Larry Nettles, City Clerk

Debbie Johnson, Ward 2, was absent. The next regular City Council meeting will be August 2 at 5:30 pm. The public is encouraged to attend. The Agenda will be posted at City Hall 48 hours before the meeting date.

Dear Readers,

Innovation and imagination are the hallmarks of American ingenuity. Pure genius may be another way of saying it. And FREEDOM makes it all happen.

At The Straight Forward FREE Press, we are re-imagining the LOCAL NEWSPAPER. First of all, we bring only local news, local events, local people, local places. We believe that is what local folks want. Secondly, we believe that the LOCAL NEWSPAPER should be FREE to the reader. Finally, we believe that the LOCAL NEWSPAPER should operate as a community service, an outreach channel, a not for profit enterprise.

The Straight Forward FREE Press is sponsored by The Golden Mind Learning Foundation, a non-profit, faith based community outreach organization. Our mission is to provide not only information but also interesting and entertaining content. We are developing an innovative newspaper model. And as we move forward, we invite our readers to participate, in what we believe, will be an exciting journey into the future of Adair County, not only in reading the paper, but also in giving us feedback.

Let us know what is on your mind or if you have a newsworthy item, send it to: straightforwardpress21@gmail.com. Looking forward to serving you, our Reader.

The Staff,

The Straight Forward FREE Press

P.S. A special thanks goes out to our advertisers and to all those who have given us encouragement. Without their support, we could not carry on and keep the paper FREE. And, since we are a non-profit enterprise, we also accept donations. If you would like to donate any amount you may mail a check or money order made payable to "Straight Forward FREE Press," POB 885, Stilwell, OK 74960.



4-H Awards Banquet Held June 22

4-H is alive and well in Adair County as a bevy of awards were given out before an enthusiastic, lawn chair sitting audience, of about 75 people, on this perfectly pleasant, sun-splashed evening at the Kiwanis Stage in downtown Stilwell.

The Lady in the Blue Sari

Part 3

By Donna Boecher

I didn't catch up with Lydia (The Lady in the Blue Sari) that day nor could I find her residence, phone number, or Facebook site. It was as if she was off the grid. Occasionally that year, I would see her blue-edged white sari with its colorful pallu draped over her left shoulder, as she slipped around many a block's corner in the View Carre (old quarter). I knew, if it were God's plan, we would meet.

As a free-lance reporter, consummate "go between" for members of the Indian community, and Private Investigator, I'd established fairness from non-Indian businessmen. I was doing well; I was blessed. I'd even started the paperwork to get American citizenship. Then the day came in 2031 when my first non-Indian client saw my Decatur Street office and read my gold inscribed office door sign—"P.I. for Indians." He hired me then and there. I remember the day because it was Monday, June 2 which was the day after Pentecost; it was a very auspicious day.

A young man of 25, he was tall, broad-shouldered, blond like the Macedonian Greek ruler and explorer; he could have been Alexander conquering part of the Indian sub-continent in late 4th century B.C. Handsome, strong, and willful, any Indian mother and father would be ready to post the marriage banns of their daughter to him. But why was he coming to me? The answer, from his mother's will, he'd learned of an "Auntie" who was known as "the lady in the blue sari." He needed to find her. I was intrigued!

Before he gave me the "why" of his search, he stuck out his right hand to shake mine.

"By the way, my name's Alex Maloy, short for Alexander." I wasn't surprised.

"Nice to know you Alex, my name is Thomas Abraham, but you can call me Tom."

My instincts were right-on.

What's So Punny? PunFun

If the person who named Walkie Talkies named everything:

- Stamps—Lickie Stickle
- Defibrillators—Hearty Starty
- Bumble Bees—Fuzzy Buzzy
- Pregnancy Test—Maybe Baby
- Bra—Breastie Nestie
- Fork—Stabby Grabby
- Socks—Feetie Heatie
- Hippo—Floatie Bloatie
- Nightmare—Screamy Dreamy

To OUR readers: If you have a funny pun, please send it in by email: straightforwardpress21@gmail.com or to Straight Forward Free Press, P.O. Box 885, Stilwell, OK 74960.



Today Dear John hears from one of our young readers...

Dear John, I am nervous about school starting. What do I do?

Sincerely,

Secret

Dear Secret, starting a new year in school is always a somewhat frightening experience. There are so many things to think about. Trying to imagine what it's going to be like in a new grade, with a new teacher, a new classroom or maybe even a new school can stir up a lot of nail biting anxiety. It is common to us all to be nervous about doing something new and important. The best thing you can do is prepare yourself as well as you can like wearing an outfit, perhaps a new one, in which you feel comfortable; be sure you have all the supplies you will need, be an eager listener and most of all know that the Lord is with you and you will come through with flying colors.

Have a great first day of school!

Sincerely,

Dear John

Westville Summer Slam Set for July 17

Westville SUMMER SLAM, will be held on Saturday, July 17.

Sponsor: Westville Chamber of Commerce.

Activities: 10 am—Arts and Crafts vendors and Car Show; 5 pm—Live Music, Chamber Hot Dog and Hamburger Fundraiser; Dark—Fireworks by the Smith Family.

Come on out and have some FUN and support a good cause!

Stilwell Nutrition Center Crew: They are Heroes Too!

By John Bankel

"When the doors shut, we kept moving," so said Karla Caughman, Nutrition Center site manager. The impact of COVID hit everyone hard, yet little did she nor any of her crew members, John Green, Lisa Vann and Deana Waterdown, have any idea what they would be up against. Not only were they short-staffed, but their work load would double, providing meals to the many seniors who had come to depend on the Nutrition Center for their daily sustenance.

Now, instead of the people coming to visit the site for not only their meal but also to enjoy the daily social activities of conversation, card playing, music and shooting pool, the Crew was faced with going out, Monday thru Friday, to far flung areas of the Stilwell region as far away as Belfonte to personally deliver a hot meal or packaged food. As many as 115 were served this way. It made for a very long day.

The day started with Karla arriving at no later than 6 am to begin food preparation. A drive-up service was set-up with Lisa

Vann bringing the food to the door, carefully masked and protected. Still, the mask could not hide Lisa's cheerful countenance. She always had a good word for those who came to the door. Lisa was a reflection of the servant attitude that marks the Crew. Without that, who knows, the task would have been impossible.

The Bible tells us that there are angels among us. Could it be that the Crew at the the Stilwell Nutrition Center are a "band of angels"? Perhaps.

In any event, they are heroes who get the job done in the face of seemingly insurmountable obstacles. We owe them our deepest gratitude.

The Center is now back in business full tilt. Its opening was delayed because of bathroom renovation. New furniture was donated by Means Furniture. A new look and a fresh start is going forward.

So come on over and enjoy a meal and fellowship. The music is scheduled to start Thursday, July 22.

And when you come, don't forget to thank the Crew.

• COMING SOON •
ON THE CAMPAIGN TRAIL
Commentary by John Bankel
On the "Politics of Living Life"



Truth is Our Target

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John Bankel.....Columnist/Ad Man
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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Mullin' It Over: Defunding the Police Created a Crime Crisis

By Congressman Markwayne Mullin

It is no secret the Biden Administration and radical Democrats have sought to defund or abolish the police. Our country is now seeing the consequences of their actions.

In Democratic-run cities across the country, defunding the police has resulted in increasing crime rates and less safe communities. For example, the Los Angeles Police Department announced in November that they would cut their budget by \$150 million. Seven months later, homicide rates are up 41 percent in Los Angeles. Last summer, New York City officials agreed to take \$484 million away from New York Police Department after calls to defund the police overwhelmed the city. Now, reported shootings are up 64 percent compared to this time last year. In Portland, where anarchists have ruled the streets, homicides are up a staggering 533 percent from this time last year.

This is a direct result of the left's anti-police rhetoric. Yet when he was asked about the recent surges in violent crime in blue cities, President Biden dodged and deflected responsibility, even go-

ing so far as to blame law-abiding gun owners for the rise in crime. Just this week, White House Press Secretary Jen Psaki accused Republicans of wanting to defund the police because they didn't vote for his trillion-dollar bailout. This blatant lie is another attempt by this Administration to avoid taking responsibility for their actions.

Any effort to defund the police sends a dangerous message throughout our country that our laws do not have to be enforced. It also puts the men and women of law enforcement, who work tirelessly to keep our communities safe, at risk.

Every day, law enforcement officers put their lives on the line to protect our communities. They sacrifice time away from family and friends to serve the public and are always among the first to respond in a crisis. They deserve nothing but our utmost respect and unrelenting support.

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](https://www.house.gov/newslettersignup).

Mullin, Trone, Fitzpatrick, Kuster, Herrera Beutler, and Butterfield Introduce Bipartisan Legislation to Help Overdose Victims

U.S. Representatives Markwayne Mullin (OK-02), David Trone (MD-06), Brian Fitzpatrick (PA-01), Ann Kuster (NH-02), Jaime Herrera Beutler (WA-03), and G.K. Butterfield (NC-01) recently introduced legislation to help overdose victims by closing a dangerous information gap that keeps prescribers uninformed about a patient who overdoses. The Improving Medicaid Programs' Response to Overdose Victims and Enhancing (IMPROVE) Addiction Care Act would require state Medicaid programs to use jointly funded drug utilization review programs to increase access to treatment and boost safeguards for those on Medicaid who have experienced a non-fatal, opioid-related overdose.

"In order to safely and effectively treat a patient who has previously experienced a non-fatal overdose, it is critical prescribers have access to their patient's overdose history in order to prevent it from happening again," Mullin said. "This legislation breaks down barriers to help Medicaid benefi-

ciaries get access to the treatment they need and ensure providers have a clear picture of the patient's history with opioid-related overdoses. We all know someone who has been affected by the opioid epidemic, whether it's a family member or loved one, and it's going to take all of us working together to put an end to this crisis."

"We must do everything in our power to work together to prevent fatal opioid overdoses," Trone said. "The IMPROVE Addiction Care Act will ensure that state Medicaid programs alert prescribers to their overdose history and connect them to treatment, saving countless lives."

"Annual mortality from drug overdoses increased by over 30 percent last year," Fitzpatrick said. "As Co-Chair of the Bipartisan Addiction and Mental Health Task Force, I am proud to support the Bipartisan IMPROVE Addiction Care Act, which seeks to prevent fatal overdoses by ensuring doctors are better informed about the medical histories of their patients."

"Physicians need to know when the opioids they have prescribed were involved in the overdose death of their patient, and providers need access to a patient's full opioid use history to prevent future substance misuse and fatal overdoses," Kuster said. "The IMPROVE Addiction Care Act would close dangerous loopholes in our health care system to ensure those on the frontlines of the addiction crisis have the information and resources they need to improve treatment for patients in New Hampshire and across the country who are struggling with addiction."

"Long before COVID exacerbated the issue, the opioid epidemic was already touching every corner of Southwest Washington. That's why I'm helping introduce the bipartisan IMPROVE Addiction Care Act which will provide prescribers with the information they need to help protect patients who have suffered from a nonfatal overdose, improve provider education on the risks of prescribing opioids, and connect addiction survivors to treatment options," Herrera Beutler said. "I'm pleased to work with my colleagues on this crucial legislation to advance our goal of ending the destruction caused by opioid addiction."

"This bipartisan, common-sense bill will close the loop and inform providers of their patient's previous nonfatal and fatal overdose following receipt of a legal opioid prescription," Butterfield said. "By giving Medicaid providers access to this critical information providers will be better able to assist their patients and connect Medicaid beneficiaries to appropriate opioid use disorder treatment. Providers will gain insight into their own treatment and prescribing methods and will be able to make necessary adjustments to protect their patients and reduce risk of future overdoses."

The IMPROVE Addiction Care Act would require that state Medicaid programs use their existing drug utilization review (DUR) programs to:

- Alert prescribers to their patient's previous nonfatal and fatal overdose;
- Provide notice to providers if opioids prescribed to a patient were involved in an overdose;
- Connect survivors to treatment after identifying individuals who have suffered a nonfatal, opioid-related overdose; and
- Perform ongoing reviews of prescribing patterns and offer provider education.

LET US KNOW WHAT YOU THINK?

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OR
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Stilwell, OK 74960.

* * *

The best and most beautiful things in the world cannot be seen or even touched—they must be felt with the heart.

—Hellen Keller

Mullin and Colleagues Announce Bipartisan Legislation to Expand Community-Based Mental Health and Addiction Services Nationwide

U.S. Representatives Markwayne Mullin (OK-02), Doris Matsui (CA-06), Angie Craig (MN-02), David B. McKinley, P.E. (WV-01), Brian Fitzpatrick (PA-01), and Paul Tonko (NY-20) recently introduced the Excellence in Mental Health and Addiction Treatment Act of 2021, legislation that gives every state the opportunity to fully fund the establishment of Certified Community Behavioral Health Clinics in their communities to expand access to high-quality mental health and addiction services. This legislation builds on the Certified Community Behavioral Health Center (CCBHC) program that was established through Congresswoman Matsui's Excellence in Mental Health and Addiction Act, which became law in 2014.

The 2014 legislation created a Medicaid demonstration program currently operating in ten states, where the integrated, sustainably financed CCBHC model for care delivery is alleviating decades-old challenges that have led to a crisis in access to mental health and addiction care. In addition, startup grants provided through Excellence legislation have expanded the number of clinics to more than 300 communities across 40 states, plus Washington D.C., and that number continues to grow. These clinics serve about 1.5 million people across the country.

CCBHCs provide a comprehensive set of services, with an emphasis on the provision of 24/7/365 crisis care, outpatient mental health and substance abuse treatment services; immediate screenings, risk assessments, and diagnoses; and care coordination including partnerships with emergency rooms, law enforcement, and veterans' groups.

"The Certified Community Behavioral Health Clinic (CCBHC) pilot program in Oklahoma has provided assistance for those battling mental illness and substance abuse disorders for the last four years and the accomplishments are incredible," Mullin said. "In my district, Grand Lake Mental Health Center has seen a 95 percent reduction in inpatient psychiatric admissions in its seven-county service area because of the program. I am proud to join my colleagues in introducing this bill so the good work being done in our communities can continue and so we can expand this successful program to more states."

"It is past time for behavioral health to be treated on a level playing field with the rest of our nation's health care system," Matsui said. "This bipartisan, bicameral legislation has been and will continue to be the right step forward in achieving true parity between physical and mental health care. By increasing access to high-quality mental health and addiction care, this legislation will expand nationwide the opportunity for states to access the resources they need to better serve patients and their families in their communities. This legislation is vital for patients to continue to receive the necessary and comprehensive mental health and addiction support services they depend on and Congress must act now to extend this critical program."

"In Congress, I'm working with colleagues on both sides of the aisle to ensure that every American – regardless of their zip code – can access affordable mental health treatment within their own community," Craig said. "In Minnesota, Certified Community Behavioral Health Centers have proven especially effective at connecting patients in need with the services they depend on. Today, I'm proud to co-lead this commonsense legislation to build on that momentum by expanding and extending access to CCBHCs for Americans all across the country."

"Over the last year, millions of Americans have struggled with anxiety, depression, and substance use due to the pandemic," McKinley said. "Our bipartisan bill will help expand Certified Community Behavioral Health Clinics across the country to ensure every American, especially those in rural communities have access to good-quality mental healthcare if and when they need it."

"Now, more than ever, it is imperative we provide crucial support for the millions of those struggling with mental health in our country," Fitzpatrick said. "As a Co-Chair of the Bipartisan Addiction and Mental Health Task Force, I am determined to push the federal government to educate, raise awareness, and take action to expand resources for all Americans struggling with mental and behavioral health issues."

"I am proud of my work with Congresswoman Matsui as we stood shoulder to shoulder to get the original Excellence in Mental Health Act signed into law, and I could not be more excited to stand with her and our colleagues to further expand access to community-based mental health and addiction services with this new legislation," Tonko said. "Certified Community Behavioral Health Centers are a critical, proven part of the health-care networks currently serving the needs of our communities, and this legislation would provide needed resources to ensure these lifesaving services can continue for the people who need them most. As we continue the work of rebuilding, we must redouble our efforts to invest in and prioritize mental and behavioral health services and this bill does exactly that. I urge my colleagues in the House and Senate to advance this legislation without delay."

"We need swift action to combat the rise in reported mental health conditions, overdose deaths and a shrinking mental health workforce, and Certified Community Behavioral Health Clinics – CCBHCs – are proving to be an effective solution," Chuck Ingoglia, President and CEO of the National Council for Mental Wellbeing, said. "They provide rapid and timely access to comprehensive mental health and substance use treatment services and are helping close the treatment gap in hundreds of communities across the country. This important legislation would allow every state the option of joining the CCBHC demonstration and expand access to mental health and substance use treatment to millions. We encourage Congress to pass the Excellence Act."

THE CONSERVATIVE VIEW

By Russell Turner

CRITICAL SPECIES FACT

Over the past several months the idea of Critical Race Theory (CRT) has been in the news. The supporters of this theory have proposed teaching it in our public school system and also making it part of the training in our military. In my opinion this idea is just another ploy to cause hatred and division in our nation. Basically, the supporters are wanting to blame the Caucasian race for any and all ills that have plagued our nation. First of all, it would be very hard to find many pure Caucasian people in this nation. We are a people that have a very diverse gene pool, there is an old saying that America is the melting pot of the world. Throughout history humans have committed all kinds of atrocities to each other, sometimes it can be one race or clan that does it to each other, but there are also many instances where people of the same race will do unspeakable things to each other. What many people fail to understand is, we humans are infected with a disease called sin and we all are carriers.

In the Bible we are taught that all have sinned and come short of the glory of God. Devout Christians will be the first to admit that we are far from perfect. The liberals that concoct the hair-brain theories such as CRT seem to have a superiority complex, they are painting everyone with a broad stroke who does not agree with them. I have news for them, they are just as fallible as the rest of us. It is said that all of our greatest accomplishments are as dirty rags to God; for we believers it is a constant struggle to make ourselves better humans. I have a hard enough time working to better myself, worrying and beating myself up over what other people

did a couple of centuries ago is a waste of time.

America was founded by people who wanted to better themselves and create a nation that was based upon Biblical principles. Did they make mistakes along the way? Sure, they did, but I believe that quest to be better people is the reason that our nation has been blessed. Now people are wanting to destroy all aspects of our national heritage. There are many things that I wish people in the past had done differently; if the world had embraced Jesus Christ instead of crucifying him, we would have a world without pain and all of the other ills that are plaguing us today. It would be stupid to go out and persecute Italians because what their ancestors did 2,000 years ago, the modern-day Italians had nothing to do with it. We humans have a bad habit of buying into lies and half-truths, throughout history it has cost countless lives and bloodshed. Critical Race Theory is just another half-truth designed to cause continued hatred in our country. It is just a few days away from the Fourth of July; we celebrate the act of the forefathers who declared our independence from Great Britain, but we also should remember the sacrifice and blood that was shed to form our nation. I would like to ask a simple question of those who continually criticize and demean our country. If we are such a deplorable people, why is it we have people sneaking in across our southern border and dropping their children over walls into the United States? Until the people of this nation understand the Critical Species Fact that all have sinned and come short of the glory of God, we are just spinning our wheels.

ATTN: Adair County

Let us know if you have any news items, pictures and/or upcoming events you would like announced in [The Straight Forward Free Press](http://TheStraightForwardFreePress.com).

You can e-mail them to: straightforwardpress21@gmail.com.

Obituaries

Anthony (Tony) Wayne Martinez June 19, 1974 – June 29, 2021

Anthony Wayne Martinez (Tony) was born June 19, 1974, to Martin and Karen Martinez. He grew up in Stilwell, Oklahoma with his brother: Mike and sister: Jeana and passed away on June 29, 2021, at the age of 47 years, and 10 days.

He attended Stilwell Schools and after graduation he left for San Diego, California to attend Marine Corps boot camp. Upon returning to Stilwell, he married and had three children: Ricky Wayne, Kylee Jo, and Lisa Marie. His happiest days were those spent with his children.

A construction worker by trade, he earned a living traveling the country building pole barns, or remodeling homes.

Tony was an avid hunter and fisherman, spending many hours in the woods to fill his mom's freezer with fresh meat. He always claimed she was the best cook he knew, except for enchiladas which he said his grandma Louise made the best and the best homemade biscuits, he gave credit to his grandma Vadia.

He loved telling stories about his exploits. One was about a time he and his buddies hit a deer with a car and decided to load it up and take it home. When shutting the trunk, the deer woke up and started to fight Tony. He threw a few punches before the deer got the better of him. He said he had never screamed so loud and ran so fast.

Tony spoke often of fond memories he had of growing up, playing with his brother and many cousins at his grandparents' home, going to chicken fights with his dad, working with his uncles, and he especially loved his aunts who he claimed spoiled him rotten.

Tony was a kind soul who would help anyone he could. He had a loud unique laugh that his kids, nieces, and nephews would mimic and tease him about. He had a great singing voice and would sometimes join his brother in song. He was loved and will be missed.

He is preceded in death by his grandparents: Larry and Louise Martinez, and Luther and Vadia Ross. His aunts: Janice Hall, and Lucy Wheeler; cousins: Davey Nast, and niece: Anastasia Leigh Patrick.

Left to mourn his passing are his parents: Marty and Karen Martinez; brother: Michael Martinez and wife Gina; sister: Jeana Martinez. His children: Ricky Wayne Martinez and fiancé Mikayla Shell, Kylee Jo Martinez and fiancé Chris Frayar, and Lisa Marie (Martinez) Thurmond and husband Marco. Grandchildren: Jase, Keenan, Elias, Elliana, Everly, and Estella; nieces and nephews: Meghan, Ryker, Chloe, Macy, Mataya, Mason, Emily, Asher, and Max and fiancé Melissa Stapp. Great nieces



and nephews, aunts, uncles, cousins, and special friend: Rachel Watkins also survive him.

Robin Sue Miers August 2, 1968 – June 29, 2021

Robin Sue Miers, daughter of Cecil and Ina Byington, was born on August 2, 1968 in Tennessee and passed from this life on June 29, 2021 in Siloam Springs, Arkansas at the age of 52 years.

She was a resident of Kansas, OK and worked at the Kansas Tobacco Outlet.

She is survived by her husband: Owen Miers of the home in Kansas, OK, children: Jeremiah Byington and wife Jamie of Greenville, TN, Sharon Navarrete of Kansas, OK, Adam Miers and wife Brittany of Siloam Springs, AR, Brittany Brooks of Grove, OK, mother: Ina Presley and husband Rick, sister: Abbey Presley, all of Chucky, TN, aunt: Sherley of TN, many grandchildren and too many friends to count.

Private family services to be held in Tennessee.
Roberts & Hart Funeral Home, Westville, OK.

Floyd "Bo" Eugene Dugger January 31, 1972 – July 3, 2021

Floyd "Bo" Eugene Dugger passed away on Saturday, July 3rd, 2021 at Mercy Hospital, Ft. Smith, Arkansas at the age of 49 years, 5 months and 3 days. He was born on January 31, 1972 in Tahlequah, Oklahoma to Raymond and Nova Dugger.

He was a 1990 Stilwell High School Graduate.

Bo truly lived life to the fullest through simple pleasures: fishing, camping, playing pool, spending time with family, talking on the CB radio and attending dirt track races at Crawford County Speedway. He was proud to tell everyone that his son-in-law, Nick, was his favorite racecar driver.

He was always willing to help his family and friends when they needed him. Bo was very proud of his entire family, which includes his wife Angel, three daughters, Linda and her husband Nick, Stephanie and husband Everett, Brianna and husband William and his two sons Darrel and companion Ally, Billy and wife Sophia. Bo had 12 grandkids that he was very fond of. His grandchildren include: Kamree, Kinsley, Chase, Adalynn, Noah, Zander, Grayson, Joanlea, Rebecca, Aneah, Marvlon and he has one on the way. Bo's siblings are Scottie, Jimmy, Helen, Steven, Janet, Ann, Don, Earl, Jerry, Richard, Raymond and Darrell. He had many other siblings, aunts, uncles, cousins, nieces, nephews and friends not included.

Graveside services were held at 10 am on Friday, July 9, 2021 at Freewater Cemetery, Stilwell, OK with Bro. Jack Marler officiating. Interment followed under the direction of Roberts/Reed-Culver Funeral Home, Stilwell, OK.



If—

Rudyard Kipling – 1865-1936 (Submitted by the Kipling Lady)

If you can keep your head when all about you

Are losing theirs and blaming it on you;

If you can trust yourself when all men doubt you,

But make allowance for their doubting too;

If you can wait and not be tired by waiting,

Or, being lied about, don't deal in lies,

Or, being hated, don't give way to hating,

And yet don't look too good, nor talk too wise;

If you can dream—and not make dreams your master;

If you can think—and not make thoughts your aim;

If you can meet with triumph and disaster

And treat those two impostors just the same;

If you can bear to hear the truth you've spoken

Twisted by knaves to make a trap for fools,

Or watch the things you gave your life to broken,

And stoop and build 'em up with worn-out tools;

If you can make one heap of all your winnings

And risk it on one turn of pitch-and-toss,

And lose, and start again at your beginnings

And never breathe a word about your loss;

If you can force your heart and nerve and sinew

To serve your turn long after they are gone,

And so hold on when there is nothing in you

Except the Will which says to them: "Hold on";

If you can talk with crowds and keep your virtue,

Or walk with kings—nor lose the common touch;

If neither foes nor loving friends can hurt you;

If all men count with you, but none too much;

If you can fill the unforgiving minute

With sixty seconds' worth of distance run—

Yours is the Earth and everything that's in it,

And—which is more—you'll be a Man, my son!

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- Sunday School - 10 a.m.
- Church - 11 a.m. & 6 p.m.
- Wednesday - 7 p.m.

Delight Night
1st Wednesday of Month
Supper 6 p.m. / Service 7 p.m.

If my people, which are called by my name, shall humble themselves, and pray, and seek my face, and turn from their wicked ways; then will I hear from heaven, and will forgive their sin, and will heal their land.
— 2 Chronicles 7:14 (KJV)

Vocabulary WORD of the DAY

“Auspicious
Showing or suggesting that future success is likely.
”

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