

The STRAIGHT FORWARD FREE Press



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Volume 1 • Issue 10 "A Mini Milestone Is Reached"

Stilwell, Adair County, Oklahoma

Thursday, September 2, 2021



Oklahoma Home and Community Education (OHCE) members of Zion-Stilwell and Country Acres recently met at the Exhibit Hall at the Adair County Fairgrounds to set up tables in preparation for the upcoming Adair County Free Fair.

OHCE History Dates Back to 1800s

History of Rural Women Bonding to Succeed

By Donna Boecher

Early on, after we gained independence from Britain, Americans had a need for solutions to many problems that had sprung up. The Smith Lever Act in 1914 established a partnership with "land-grant" universities for

research and education. It only applied to RURAL America, but then 50% of America was rural. Think back to your own families. My grandmother reared 9 children on the farm; one was a grandchild. Sound familiar? It's happening again today. Granny had the first pressure cooker in Adair County; it covered half of her wood stovetop. If you needed a quilt quickly for newlyweds, you called your neighbor ladies. One incident I am reminded of was in the depression of the 1930's. The cattle price was so low that the farmers couldn't afford to feed them. The government (1935 Drought Relief Service) stepped in and paid a flat rate, but the cattle had to be slaughtered. Granny and most of the rural ladies cooked, canned, or pressure cooked as much as they could. Today rural

women are still bonding to meet their goals and succeed.

This weekend at the Adair County Fair the Exhibit Hall will be filled with items that both 4-H members and adult members of the OHCE (Oklahoma Home and Community Education) have made. OHCE members of Zion-Stilwell and Country Acres gathered this past Tuesday to set up tables and prepare for the exhibiting of their skills—whether it's in food preservation, fine arts, photography, or needlework. If you're planning to see the youngsters lead sheep or corral pigs, come earlier than normal, and walk through the Exhibit Hall. It's worth the few extra steps and you might learn something new. That's what it's all about—education and sharing; we've succeeded.

New at this Year's County Fair

By John Bankel

The 2021 Adair County Fair launches, with a lot of pent-up enthusiasm, Wednesday, September 1 at 9 am till 2 pm, with exhibitors from OHCE and open 4-H bringing in their exhibits. The rest of the Fair schedule can be seen on the Fair Facebook page and on Page 5 of this issue of The Straight Forward FREE Press.

This year the Fair will offer something new: The First Annual Farm Hand Olympics. This event should be fun to watch. It will be a 4 team relay format with each team member getting a crack at showing their skills in events like hay chucking, water trough bucket hauling, plank walking and some other farm chore to be named later. This event is sure to be a delight and give the spectators a chance to chuckle. It will be held Thursday, September 9 at NOON at the animal exhibit center. This event is sponsored by Acres 4-H and is open to 4-H and FFA members from elementary to high school.

Cleanup will follow at 1 pm to close this year's Adair County Fair. Come on out and have a good time... See you there...at the Fair.

Pack the Commissioners' Office on Tuesday, Sept. 7

By Donna Boecher

PACK THE COMMISSIONERS' OFFICE on TUESDAY, September 7th at 8:30 a.m.

Today, August 30th, the Commissioners received information from Steve Garrett about the America Rescue money and how Adair County can use it. I give accolades to him for his ability to plow through H.R. 1319. He will have more information on the topic in a month.

Pafford EMS (earlier in the month) rebutted questions as to why they needed a contract with the county for ambulance service. (The city of Stilwell and Westville have contracts with them.) Their CEO stated that, although they are

primarily in Arkansas, they keep 3 ambulances in Adair County presently. Having a contract with the county would help them defray costs. Stilwell residents have experienced inconsistencies in timeliness! The Commissioners tabled the issue until September 3rd. An alternative to ambulance care is membership in AirMedCare which will fly patients into and out of Stilwell for a paltry yearly fee. Whatever your choice, let Pafford and the Commissioners know you are concerned. BY LAW, it is the responsibility of ADAIR COUNTY to provide ambulance services for the county. PACK THE COMMISSIONS' OFFICE!



The large group above is made up of Cherokees from all over the United States on a tour sponsored by Cherokee Nation and ACH&GA. Betty Christie Frogg is talking to them about the Watt Christie Cemetery and Ned Christie.



Local group of folks touring the Howard Hotel with owner Phyllis Hagan being the guide.



Lyle Starr talking to a local group about Starr Springs.

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.

ANNOUNCEMENT

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is now **ONLINE** on Google!

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PROVERB POWER

"Through GOD we shall do valiantly: For he it is that shall tread down our enemies." – Psalm 108:13 (KJV)

THE CONSERVATIVE VIEW

By Russell Turner

COLD HEARTED BUZZARD

As I watch the evening news, I am sickened by the worthless excuse of leadership that is currently residing in our nation's capital, namely the White House. The debacle that happened in Afghanistan will haunt this nation for decades. We witnessed the fall of South Vietnam in the 1970's, and it took many years for our nation to overcome the stigma that happened there. It was once said that we humans never seem to learn from history and are inclined to repeat the same mistakes time and time again. We humans are supposed to be a kind and gentle species but history proves differently; when given the opportunity, humans will commit unspeakable evil against anyone who does not prescribe to their twisted beliefs. I can remember the killing fields of Cambodia, the gassing of the Kurds in Iraq, the list can go on. Because of the utter stupidity of the current resident of the White House, history will show how the good people of Afghanistan endured murder, torture and rape at the hand of a murderous group called the Taliban.

I have already heard reports where young girls, some as young as 12 and 13 years old, have been taken from their home to be sexual slaves to these thugs. We need to remember that the people of Afghanistan have lived in a free society for 20 years; how would we Americans feel if a bunch of murdering thugs took control of our nation and committed those kinds of atrocities? Getting back to this brain-dead resident of the white house who interrupts his vacation at Camp David to address the nation and says that the buck stops here, but all I could hear was him blaming President Trump, the Afghan People and their leaders for the defeat of the country. During the last presidential campaign Biden stayed hid out in his basement, now he stays hid out in Camp David while refusing to tackle the problems facing the world. The president of the United States is supposed to be the leader of the free world, all I can say is the free world is in sad shape with the likes of Joe Biden.

Biden pulled out all of the support that the Afghans needed to defend themselves, they had no intelligence or air support to fight an enemy that were evil and ruthless. An analogy would be how you wean someone off of drugs when they become addicted, you cannot cut them off cold turkey, the addiction must be gradually achieved. I would like to say thank you to an equally inept organization, the mainstream media. The media has run interference for an individual who is in cognitive decline and is nothing but a puppet to radical liberal zealots. If Biden would have devoted one-fourth the time to preventing bloodshed in Afghanistan as he did promoting AOC's climate agenda and trying to destroy the American economy, we all would have been much better off. One thing that Biden did do was to leave some of the best military hardware in the world, paid for by the American taxpayers, for the Taliban to equip their fighters. Now they are one of the best equipped military forces in the region. Also, all of the terrorists that were in the prisons in the country are now free and able to wreak havoc upon the world. For anyone to be able to turn a blind eye to the suffering of people who worked with the Americans for 20 years has to have some cold blood running through their veins. It was never our place to stay in Afghanistan forever, but someday we Americans may face a similar threat, and who in the world would be willing to help us when we have a track record of abandoning people facing nothing short of genocide. A final word for the people of this nation, are you ready to allow a complete fool who let the debacle in Afghanistan happen destroy the American economy and way of life with socialist policies and unbridled spending that have failed everywhere they have been tried. The current administration is doing their best to put lipstick on a pig over this debacle, but the problem is simple, you still have a pig. I guess all is well for the time being, the cold-blooded buzzard Biden is back at Camp David and is content to play with his little toy trucks while the world goes to hell.

The Lady in the Blue Sari

Part 10

By Donna Boecher

So according to Lydia's flyer, she was looking to gift Alex, her friend Amy Marie's son, and Amy had sent Alex to find Lydia.

I thought back to that moment when Lydia stepped off the trolley. I'd seen an embedded cross on a tiny gold filigreed leaf on a gold chain. Ramifications? Whether in American or Indian dress, she wore her Kerala cross. That cross and the red bindi at the 6th chakra indicated she was married. Was she married? Where was her husband? Why the secrecy? Why the gifting?

There were more questions to be asked. Did I know the right questions to ask? I'd ask Him first. I needed to spend time on my knees. A new tomorrow came with His blessings. I was working on my article for The India Times-Picayune when the phone rang; it was Alex.

"I'm in, Tom. I've met the extended family: Mother (Miss Alice), Father (Giles Contractor), daughters—Angel, Carissa, and Lisa, and the grandparents. Thought I'd remember all their unusual names. Mind blowing. First off, you were right! They said I was fortunate to have such an auspicious birthdate and time. They handed

me the keys to the apartment and an electronic device for the gate, if I come home after 10."

I laughed out loud, and I'm sure Alex could see my broad grin on the cellphone air waves! "Forgive me, Alex. I couldn't hold back the laughter. They are such a forthright traditional Indian Christian family. Let me get serious for a moment.

I have a lead, a trail to backtrack Lydia's life. There will be US Customs and Border Protection records for 5 years, including the dates and reasons for her travel. With that information, we can find out her real name. There will be a record of her marriage in one of the St. Thomas Christian churches there. I'll ask Father Luke or one of our church elders and see if they can check for an American marrying an Indian while living in India. That's all for now. Do you need any help in moving in?"

"No, I've got it Tom. When I'm through, I'm making it an early night. Let's go to church tomorrow and then have dinner to celebrate. That will be an auspicious day—Sunday, August 24, 2031. Maybe we'll see Lydia."

"Yes, that would truly make it a super auspicious day, Alex."



Dear John,

What's the matter with me? I have been with the same beautician for over 30 years. She and I have experimented with many hair styles. Short, long and in between. Not to mention colors. However, I have been trying not to be at the shop every six weeks. It gets expensive and you know inflation is everywhere. So, I needed information from my beautician and I called her. After I got the information I needed, she said "It's about time to do your hair". I didn't want a haircut but I blurted out "Sure, I need my haircut." I was very happy with my current haircut, so when she said "Just a trim"? I said "No, let's get creative". Bad choice of words. So, I hate my haircut. My husband says it looks good but I think he is lying. How do I say "no" to my beautician?

Bad Hair Day

Dear Bad Hair Day...By now your hairdresser probably knows you very well. And I would think that you know her well also. Your subconscious mind got the best of you since you are locked into a habit of getting your hair cut every six weeks. Now you hate your haircut and you are probably also mad at your yourself because you said "Yes" when you should have said "No." And that makes matters worse than just having a bad haircut. Here is your takeaway. Your hair will grow back and, as it does, you will get used to it. And this time, do not go back to your hairdresser until you are good and ready; break the six week habit. Just one more thing. If you find it hard to say "No", then practice responding with a little softer answer like "maybe another time", "not now", "I am too busy", or "I'll call you." Those answers are called, "Say 'no' like a pro."

Sincerely,

Dear John

Got a question for Dear John? Send it to: dearjohn@writeme.com. Real names are not used.

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Mullin Statement on Withdrawal from Afghanistan

WASHINGTON—Congressman Markwayne Mullin (OK-02) released the following statement after it was announced the withdrawal of American forces from Afghanistan was completed.

"This is a sad day for our country," Mullin said. "Americans have been stranded in Afghanistan by the Biden Administration and are now left to defend themselves from terrorists overrunning the country. One motto of our military is 'leave no man behind.' But today, that's exactly what President Biden did. American exit did not have to be this way and there must be accountability for this complete and utter failure. The service and sacrifice of our service members and their families was not made in vain, and it will never be forgotten."



Mullin It Over: Another Democrat Power Grab

By Congressman Markwayne Mullin

Democrats in Washington will do just about anything to keep themselves in power, including federalizing our election system.

H.R. 4, which the House passed this week, is an unprecedented power grab. It gives Biden's Department of Justice and federal courts the authority to insert themselves in state and local election laws. They will stop at nothing to take power away from the states and place it directly into the hands of bureaucrats in Washington.

They will try to tell you that this bill is necessary to increase access to voting and eliminate voter 'suppression,' a term Democrats now use to intimidate anyone who opposes their ballot power grabs. Even if we ignore the label, that's a flat out lie. More Americans voted in the 2020 election than ever before, despite a global pandemic. They can't have their cake and eat it too.

We have seen this act before. Earlier this year, I opposed H.R. 1, the "For the People Act," for the same reasons. Like the first failed attempt, this new bill is

unconstitutional. Article 1, Section 4 of the U.S. Constitution explicitly gives states the power to set their own election laws. Even our founding fathers feared this overreach.

States are fully capable of running their own elections and Oklahoma sets the standard. Oklahoma is one of 36 states that require an ID to vote, and more than 81 percent of Americans support this. All Americans use identification to go about our daily lives. Renting an apartment, boarding a plane, buying a lottery ticket—to a name a few—and none of these are discriminatory. What makes voter ID any different?

Voting is one of our most fundamental rights as American citizens and fair and honest elections are a pillar of our democracy. It should be easy to vote and hard to cheat. The Democrats' power grab is not the way to do it.

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 2: Environmental Benefits: When in the business of organic farming, chemicals are things of the past. And this brings so many benefits, for it is a common problem that in non-organic farming communities that asthma is a major problem. Why? The reason being that with constant exposure to unnatural chemicals, the body begins to build up to its toxic threshold and once that threshold is passed, illness sets in as the body tries to clean

itself out, and chemicals have a nasty habit of causing autoimmune diseases like allergies or asthma. The reason being that the body is trying to clean out the toxins from the tissues of itself, but the chemicals are so well ingrained into your tissues, that your body begins to attack its own tissue to try and get the chemicals out of itself. Thus resulting in autoimmune disorders. This is just one problem with modern chemical farming. Next week we will discuss how they wreck your metabolism.

Vocabulary
WORD
of
the
DAY

Paltry

- Inferior, Trashy
- Mean, Despicable
- Trivial
- Meager, Measly

The
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Truth is Our Target

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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

Bobby Jo Gann

June 20, 1975 – August 17, 2021

Bobby Jo Gann, son of Tommy and Nellie (Flynn) Gann, was born on June 20, 1975 in Tahlequah, Oklahoma and departed this life on Tuesday, August 17, 2021 in Tulsa, Oklahoma at 46 years of age.

Bobby had a big love for the Rodeo Life, and he attended as much as he could. He loved to ride horses and even tried his hand at bull riding. He enjoyed hanging out at the Rodeo with his daughters.

He spent many years as a volunteer firefighter in his community (Lyons Switch).

Bobby had a heart of gold—always helping others out in any possible way; never expecting anything in return. He had an infectious smile that would always light up every room or crowd whenever or wherever he showed up. Bobby never met a stranger. He befriended everybody that came in contact with him. He was an avid OU fan. He enjoyed spending time with family and friends—at cookouts or just hanging out. Bobby also enjoyed going fishing with his buddies. He loved to jokingly argue for fun with certain people and you were lucky if you won that argument. He enjoyed road trips and the views of the many sceneries that he came across. He was always cracking jokes with those he was close to or knew.

He was a member of Stokes Smith Ceremonial Grounds in Vian. Bobby was a master griller of ribs, hamburgers and hot dogs. He enjoyed his time with his close friends at the Bunch garage.

Bobby was preceded in death by his father: Tommy Gann, grandparents: Ned Jr. and Rosie Flynn, uncle and aunt: Jasper and Ruth Smith.

He is survived by his mother: Nellie Flynn, sisters: Kathy Ross and husband Jimmy, Bridgett Gann, brothers: Billy Gann, Jack Flynn and Earl, nephews: Evan Ross and Trent Ross. 2 special friends whom he was very close to, Clifton Tidwell and wife Regenia of Tahlequah, OK. They were like a brother and sister to him and were always looking out for him. Bobby is also survived by several aunts, uncles, nieces, nephews, other relatives and many friends.

Funeral services were held at 1 pm on Tuesday, August 24, 2021 at Roberts/Reed-Culver Chapel, Stilwell, OK with Bro. Jackie Bush officiating. Interment followed at Mulberry Tree Cemetery, Stilwell, OK.

Roberta (Grimmett) Bunch

October 19, 1948 – August 20, 2021

Roberta (Grimmett) Bunch was born on October 19, 1948, in Stilwell, Oklahoma to Beart Grimmett and Eliza (Vann) Grimmett and went to be with the Lord on August 20, 2021, in Ada, Oklahoma at the age of 72 years, 10 months, and 1 day.

Roberta was loved and cherished by many people. She loved her family and cherished every moment with them.

She was preceded in death by her parents; her daughter: Rachel Duncan and husband, Sam Bunch, Jr.; Turner Grimmett; George Grimmett; Rufus Grimmett; and Louise Wofford.

Roberta is survived by her loving family that includes her children: Scott Grimmett; Jeffery Bunch; and Patricia Bunch; her brother: Roy Grimmett; sister: Linda Washington; and grandchildren: Dalton Duncan; Sheldon Duncan; Scotty Grimmett; Kent Grimmett; Jaron Tiger; and Jaslyn Tiger. Many aunts; uncles; nieces; nephews; cousins; and friends also survive her.

We lay to rest our beloved mother: Roberta Bunch. She will be deeply missed.

Graveside services were held at 11 am on Wednesday, August 25, 2021 at Doublehead Cemetery, Stilwell, OK with Wayne Bunch officiating. Interment followed under the direction of Roberts/Reed-Culver Funeral Home, Stilwell, OK.

Viola (Vi) Miller

January 26, 1947 – August 12, 2021

Viola (Vi) Miller was born on January 26, 1947 in Stilwell, Oklahoma to Hulus (Gule) Dugger & Thelma Dodgins. She departed this life on August 12, 2021 at Washington Regional Hospital in Fayetteville, Arkansas.

Vi and her brother Arvil were raised on an apple orchard in the Wauhullau community by their dad. She attended grade school at Freewater and then attended Stilwell High School until her Junior year when she married Jerry Pruett but later went with her son Jerry Dale to get their GED.

Vi and Jerry Pruett Sr. owned and operated the Citgo Gas Station at the North end of Stilwell. Connected to the station was Vi's beauty salon. She did hair for a while and later her husband opened a Liquor Store in the salon building. The family home where she raised her children beside the station still stands today. In the summer of 1976 they moved to Baron. They owned & operated a gravel pit in Baron community from my dad's uncle Leonard's land on which my Grandpa Pruett lived. Vi worked at CNI for many years. She always took the kids on summer vacation. Pam remembers going to Noel, Missouri where they would paddle boat, swim in the pool at our motel, go to Dog Patch, Silver Dollar City or Worlds of Fun. She always made sure the kids had fun.

She married the love of her life, Claude Miller, on December 13, 1997. She took her marriage vows (in sickness and in health) seriously and retired early from Campbell Soup to care for Claude. She made sure Claude had the best care possible without putting a burden on others.

Her & Claude were married 26 years and they enjoyed going to yard



sales, having huge family dinners, picnicking at Grey Springs & traveling to over 40 States & Canada. Vi loved having a big garden & canning all the things she grew when she lived in Baron. She also loved her flower gardens. Her daughter Pam always bought her flowers to plant for Mother's Day, Easter and really about every she would receive one to plant or a beautiful bouquet of fresh flowers.

Fall drives to look at the Fall leaves changing & the Christmas lights in Muskogee, Oklahoma became a family tradition for all who could participate. Poppa Claude would then buy dinner for everyone no matter how many people were there. Also every year Vi would cook a big meal including fried pies and would take it to the White Rock Mountains for a family outing. There was never an excuse to leave Vi's house hungry as she usually prepared enough for several to take their favorite leftovers home. Vi made delicious homemade salsa, had a signature Coconut Cake, Meatloaf, Broccoli & Rice Casserole, Hashbrown Casserole, Smoked Ribs, Ham, Bacon Grease Gravy, Buttermilk Biscuits, Fried Rice and Pies. Every Christmas she made homemade Chocolate covered Peanuts, Pecans Clusters, Peanut Butter Cups, Chocolate & Peanut Butter Haystacks, Peanut Brittle, & Chocolate Turtles to give to family & friends. Vi's love for cooking rubbed off on her daughter Pam. One Holiday Season, Pam remembers asking Vi if it was ok if she started doing Thanksgiving and Christmas Dinner. She said knock yourself out. So, Pam made those dinners ever since. Vi always made the giblet gravy, ham and her signature Coconut Cake and Pies. They enjoyed cooking together. Once a month, Pam and Vi would have a Girls Day Out, where they would get their nails done in Siloam and then have lunch at La Hacienda in West Siloam.

Vi attended First Baptist Church in Stilwell in her younger years before attending The Lighthouse Church where Brother Aaron Barton was her Pastor. Pam has fond memories of going to Brush Harbor Church on Hwy. 100 and for years they went to every Revival from Stillwell to ten buck 2 with Thomas & Jessie Still. Pam has such sweet memories of Vi raising her family in church. When Vi & Claude moved to Fayetteville they went to a few different Churches until God led them to The Living Faith Church where her Pastor was Buel Curtis. After his retirement, his son Steve took over the Ministry. Vi was a prayer warrior for many, she also served in the jail ministry and helped feed the homeless in Fayetteville.

Vi was preceded in death by her parents, husband Claude Miller, brothers: Raymond & Willard (Chooch) Dugger, Lester, Robert, Leon, & Kenneth Ritchie, sisters: Lovola, Sarah, & Christine Ritchie, step-grandson: Sheldon Miller, Brother-in-law: Clifford Miller. Two very dear friends: Marie Edens, & Sharon Coffey.

She is survived by her daughter: Pamela Ruth Burleson & husband Brent, Son: Jerry Dale Pruett Jr., Granddaughters: Samantha Fay-Ann McClure & Fiance Dale Russell, Britney Middleton & Husband Cory, Grandson: Winston Lee Pruett, and a Granddaughter by Choice: Rachel Williams, Brother: Arvil (Bud) Dugger & Wife Donnie, Brothers-in-law: Dale Miller, Oscar Miller & Wife Mary, Sister-in-law: Mary Lou Spencer, Great-Grandchildren: Kyle McClure, Keegan Russell, Ryder Laffon, Kolton Fought, Landon Oglesby, Braxton Pruett.

Step-Children: Wayne Miller & Wife Gala, Henry Miller & Wife Brenda, Robin Cole & Husband Steve, Step-Grandchildren: Dyanna Moyer & Husband Jerry, Weston Miller, Jason Miller, Jonathan Miller, Brent Miller, Morgan Miller & Wife Charis, Justin Sims, & Wesley Sims, Kinsley Drake & Fiance Bobby Romagnano, Kevie Drake and Camden Blake Nelson. Step-Great-Grandchildren: Cheyenne Holliday & Husband Cody, Caleigh Sue Watlington & Husband Coe, Sheldon Miller, Dixie Miller, Thorin Miller, Alissa William's & Husband Blake, Jacob Sims, Step-Great-Great-Grandchildren: Clay Holliday, Lucy Williams, Ella Miller, Hannah Miller, Paxton Miller, ex son-in-law: Donnie McClure and wife Jenifer, god daughter: Brittany Wood, ex daughter-in-law: Ruth Sellers, many nieces, nephews, cousins, ex in-laws that still love her dearly, a host of friends & extended family also survive her.

Memorial services will be held at 11 am on Saturday, September 4, 2021 at the Christian Worship Center, Stilwell, OK with Bro. Kevin Davis officiating.

With the assistance of Roberts/Reed-Culver Funeral Home, Stilwell, OK.

Neal F. Tatum

April 20, 1928 – August 26, 2021

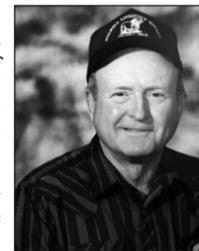
Neal F. Tatum, son of Mr. Joe Tatum and Mrs. Una Tatum, was born on April 20, 1928, in Pawnee, Oklahoma and departed this life at home on Thursday, August 26, 2021.

He joined his wife of 73 years. They are now united for eternity, leaving 2 daughters, Wanda Gibson of Muldrow, OK and Nancy Boydston of Muskogee, OK, 2 grandsons: Wesley Neal Gibson of Ft. Smith, AR, Raymond Neal Boydston of Muskogee, OK, 3 great-granddaughters: Alexis Faith Gibson of Van Buren, AR, Kayleigh Marie Boydston and Brooke Bailey Edger, both of Muskogee, OK.

He leaves behind family and memories. He also leaves behind friends, though many have gone before him. At 93 years of age, he still drove from Muldrow to Stilwell every Wednesday, to see friends and check on the cattle prices at the Stilwell Sale Barn. When Covid came around, he decided to stay home. Due to hearing problems and poor eyesight, he stopped his trips and as time went by, his health went down. He never forgot his friends, and he and his trusty phone kept the lines hopping. He had to leave it behind when God called him home. So, everyone is safe. LOL.

Graveside services will be held at 10 am on Friday, September 3, 2021, at Westville City Cemetery, Westville, OK.

Roberts & Hart Funeral Home, Westville, OK.



Tatum, Neal—former resident of Westville, OK. Passed on August 26, 2021 in Muldrow, OK. **Viewing will be held from 4-7 on Thursday, September 2, 2021 at Roberts & Hart—Westville.** Graveside services will be held at 10 am on Friday, September 3, 2021 at Westville City Cemetery, Westville, OK.

Grigsby, Marsha—former resident of Stilwell, OK. Passed on August 27, 2021 in Tahlequah, OK. Services are pending. Roberts/Reed-Culver, Stilwell, OK.

Morrison, John—resident of Westville, OK. Passed on August 27, 2021 in Westville, OK. Services are pending. Roberts & Hart, Westville, OK.

THE KIPLING KORNER

"Beware of overconcern for money, or position, or glory. Someday you will meet a man who cares for none of these things. Then you will know how poor you are."

Saved by Grace

By George S. Roberts

Alright, 2nd Timothy 2:15 says for us to study to show ourselves approved unto God. As members of the Body of Christ in the earth we are now Ambassador's, 2nd Corinthians 5:20. We will align this with how an employer or contractor expects their folks to eventually become skilled to do the job correctly.

Now in this time frame we are saved by Grace and immediately put into the Heavenly Kingdom when we believe the gospel of 1st Corinthians 15:1-4, not of any works of our own, Ephesians 2:8-9. God would like for us to become skilled at his word to a place we can discuss and teach others what he is doing presently. In other words, for the workman to know there is a difference in prophecy and mystery and to be able to teach others correctly. We are currently in the mystery part which we know was given to Paul written in Romans through Philemon.

Unlike an earthly employer who expects performance, or we lose our job. God has saved us by his Grace and if we never do anything for him, we will still go to be with the Lord at the rapture or when we pass from earth. Absolutely no prophecy, which was given to Israel under Old Testament, or Matthew, Mark, Luke, and John and Hebrews through Revelation is being fulfilled presently. Only the Revelation of the mystery is what God is doing presently, Romans 16:25.

So in conclusion this week, a workman of God's word has got to diligently study to teach correctly, as an earthly employee does for their employer. More on this next time.

THE GOSPEL THAT SAVES

"I declare unto you the gospel which I preached unto you, which also ye have received, and wherein ye stand; by which also ye are saved ... how that Christ died for our sins according to the scriptures; And that he was buried, and that he rose again the third day according to the scriptures." 1st Corinthians 15:1-4 (KJB)

Blessings to all.



Pictured, on the left, is the McLemore store in around 1910 and how it appeared in 2004 with the McLemores' great-granddaughter, Samantha Ray, in front of it (right picture).

Wild Onions and Lyons Switch

By Regina McLemore

When the first green sprouts of spring begin shooting up from the cold winter ground, many of the Cherokees in northeastern Oklahoma start talking about wild onions. Depending on the mildness or severity of the winter, this can happen anywhere from late January to early March. Those Cherokees, who prefer the easy route, like the author, ask the question, "Where can I buy wild onions this year?" Others, like my in-laws, just went out and picked their own.

My husband's parents, Jack and Lillian McLemore, were fortunate to have this delicacy growing by the little branch that has flowed through McLemore land for over one hundred years. This old homestead is located in the southern part of Adair County in a community called Lyons Switch. In the May 1987 issue of *The Goingsnake Messenger*, the newsletter for

the Goingsnake District Heritage Association, writer Bess Mitchell Strafford described the McLemore house and the Lyons community as they appeared in 1910...." It (Lyons) was a town of several hundred with a post office, two stores, and a black smith shop.... McLemores owned the big general store and received supplies by the train daily. The supplies and the mail both came by train, and it was the habit of the townspeople to hurry through thru the morning chores and walk down the rocky slopes to the village, there they awaited their mail and supplies and exchanged the news, and visited.... The most beautiful of the homes was the McLemore's that set on a hill overlooking the town. It was a two-story, white frame house with porches and a frosted oval glass in the front door..."

Jack McLemore was born in this same house on September 26,

1924, and lived there most of his life until he passed away at home on October 5, 2017. When Jack and Lillian still enjoyed good health, you could sometimes find them in the late winter or early spring, out digging wild onions. If you were fortunate, you might get invited to a delicious meal of wild onions, brown beans, and cornbread, accompanied by some kind of entrée, anything from fresh catfish to roast venison. Sometimes Lillian might include other Cherokee cuisine like dumplings made with pinto beans or wild grapes.

Lacking an invitation, there are easy steps to cooking wild onions yourself. But first, here are a couple of useful tips. Wild onions look a lot like wild garlic so don't get them confused. You can easily tell the difference by the smell. Uncooked wild onions can be frozen, but in my opinion, they don't taste nearly as good as the



Jack and Lillian McLemore on the front porch of their old family home in 2001 with their great-granddaughter, Samantha Ray.

fresh ones.

Now for the steps. First, you must find a place to buy them, which may be difficult because they aren't sold at any store. You must rely on word of mouth, a keen eye, and a working knowledge of the geography of Adair, Cherokee, and the surrounding counties in Oklahoma. More than likely, you will spot someone selling onions by the side of the road. Hopefully, they will have cleaned them because even though the price is lower for uncleaned ones, you will have to spend a fair amount of time working to remove all of the dirt.

Once they are clean, you cut off the tiny roots that are attached to the heads, and chop the onions into fairly small pieces. You place them in a large, heavy skillet and cover them with water. Then you place a lid on the skillet and steam them over moderately high heat until they are tender. If any water remains in the skillet, you will want to pour it off.

Next add three to five slices of chopped bacon to the onions and cook them on moderate heat until the bacon is fairly done. Then add four to six beaten eggs to the mixture and cook over low heat. When the eggs appear to be cooked, you remove the onions from the heat, and enjoy a rare treat.

Jack and Lillian McLemore no longer grace our lives with their presence, but warm memories of their authentic Cherokee food and hospitality remain with us.

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.**

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

She Plays with Light Just Call Me "The Cat Lady"

By Donna Boecher

I have an indoor cat and sometimes I feel guilty that she doesn't run and play with the outside cats. But I like having her all to myself since I am a widow. I've tried to see if she would go outside, but she hesitates. My house is her world and sole domain. She is content to play with me and with THE LIGHT. The light is her toy and it's always changing. No physical toy I buy her is ever played with. How is that you say? Maybe it's because she can never catch it. It's the ultimate toy. So, she's content being surrounded by light.

She waits for the morning light, either from the carpet or atop the sofa—snug in a soft padded head cushion. Seeing the first light, she jumps across the furniture onto the arm of my chair. Watching me as I move my eyes from line to line in my open Bible, she softly walks across the light that is reflected on the WORD. Stepping off, she allows me to read.

Next, she jumps to the carpet ever following the beaming light which streams into a God-protected home. She sees the LIGHT AS REALITY and tries at times to pick the carpet apart. At that point, I must distract her. These beams of light are an ever-changing singular playmate she thinks she's pinned to the carpet.

She plays in every room—in tiny splits between the curtains, through clear glass. She sees this light that is never moved by the wind or waving limbs outside. Like David in the Bible, she sets a good example by leaping, twirling, and hugging the light. She loves the light, as we should.

God is our constant companion lighting the way to daybreak. So, like David let's dance with the light and give thanks for His presence. I think I have a Godly cat. If nothing else she sets the best example. She is ever at peace.

Excise Board Takes No Action on County Budget

By John Bankel

The Excise Board, which has the authority of final approval of the annual Adair County operating budget, met Thursday morning, August 26 in the Commissioners' Board Room at the Adair County Courthouse. All members of the Board were present: Chairman S. Joe Crittenden, Dan Collins and senior member Russell Turner.

The agenda had several items to consider, one of which was review and final approval of the 2021-22 fiscal year Adair County operating budget. This budget had received preliminary approval by the Board Of Commissioners at a special meeting earlier in the week. Russell Turner took some time at the onset to explain the "Use Tax", an item on the budget. He went on to say that the money in that fund could be used by the Commissioners for taking care of county business.

In a resolution passed by the Commissioners, each Commissioner had appropriated \$60,000 each by resolution from this fund, which, at that time had a balance of around \$297 thousand dollars. Neither Mr. Crittenden nor Mr. Collins, both being relatively new to the Board, had been informed of this fund. Mr. Turner said, "The primary function of the Excise Board is to take care of the taxpayers' tax dollars." The preliminary budget also has a

HEAT Leaders Blast Biden Administration for Selling Out American Consumers to OPEC

WASHINGTON, D.C.—Today, House Republican Whip Steve Scalise (R-La.) and HEAT Co-Chairs Rep. Jeff Duncan (R-S.C.) and Rep. Markwayne Mullin (R-Okla.) released the following joint statement after the White House urged OPEC and its allies to produce more oil in an effort to counter skyrocketing gas prices and increasing inflation, making America more reliant on energy from foreign countries and crushing American energy independence:

"It is embarrassing that after killing the Keystone pipeline, and just one day after praising a bill built on the anti-American oil Green New Deal, President Biden turns around and begs OPEC+ to increase production of foreign oil to meet our economy's needs and offset the skyrocketing prices at the pump created by his Administration's mile-high inflationary policies. President Biden's inflation agenda has now made our country more reliant on energy from foreign nations, many of which don't like us and have weaker environmental standards. Instead of begging OPEC+ to increase production in order to lower energy costs for Americans, the United States would be better off putting Americans in the energy sector back to work producing American energy resources to meet the needs of both our economy and the global economy by, once again, becoming a net exporter. The world should be able to rely on the U.S., not OPEC+ or Russia, to provide oil and gas."

provision for salary increases. A vital discussion ensued regarding the efficacy of a pay raise at a time such as this, what with many business owners struggling to cope with the impact of COVID, during which time County employees did not miss a beat in getting paid.

Finally, since a hard copy of the budget was not yet available, the Board decided to take "no action." A motion for adjournment was made, seconded and easily passed, as almost all motions for adjournment do. It was 9:28. Other than this writer, no other member of the public was present.

Adair County Football Highlights

By John Bankel
Westville Football

In their home opener Friday night, Westville throttled Hulbert 40-0. The Yellowjackets ground Hulbert down with 317 rushing yards and a total offensive output of 361 yards while Hulbert mustered only 52. Westville next plays Lincoln, Friday, Sept. 3, at home in a non-district match up. Kickoff is 7 pm.

Watts Football

The Watts Engineers kickoff the 2021 Football season with a home game against Welch, Friday, Sept. 3 at 7 pm.

Cave Springs Football

On Friday, August 27, in their home opener against Hidden Valley, the Cave Springs football team lost a squeaker 14-12. The next game is Thursday, Sept. 2 at home at 7 pm.



Stilwell Sports Spotlight

Indians Football 2021

Commentary by John Bankel

The Stilwell Indians Football 2021 season opener happens Friday, Sept. 3 at 7 pm with a home game versus Rogers, a Class 7A Arkansas school, whom the Indians played in their first game last year at Rogers. In that game, despite the school size difference, the Indians played them tough for the first half but ended up getting worn down and by the end of the game the score was not close.

With 2 controlled scrimmages under their belt, one in Westville, the other at home this past Thursday

against Grove, this week the Indians are putting the final touches on their preparation for the season opener.

Rogers will prove to be a big challenge and before a robust home crowd cheering them on, perhaps the Indians can pull-off what would be a big upset win. In any event, at the end of the game, the 2021 season will have begun.

Come on out, cheer 'em on and have some fun.
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No, the Beginning of Blessings

By Donna Boecher

There is no "but" when God says NO. He has a reason; it's for a blessing. Is the human mind above that of God's? The answer is NO.

Sometimes the human worldly mind speaks YES when God would have it otherwise. Then chaotic results lead the way. Oh, how the wobbly path twists everyway but straight. So, start and end each hour speaking to God

openly. Seek and ask Him first. He'll check each decision and give you the blessings. Are you seeing YES within your heart and mind? Confirm first with Him, the right answer may be NO.

Community Announcement:

STILWELL NUTRITION CENTER

has **RE-OPENED** for Lunch and Recreation: Pool, Cards & Conversation.

*Come on By...
Bring a Friend!*

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 Inc.**, 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.

•2021 ADAIR COUNTY FAIR SCHEDULE OF EVENTS

Wednesday, September 1

9:00 am – 2:00 pmEnter OHCE/OPEN/4-H Inside Exhibits

Thursday, September 2

8:00 am – 10:30 amEnter OHCE/OPEN Inside Exhibits
11 amJudge OHCE/OPEN Inside Exhibits

Friday, September 3

8:00 am – 10:30 amEnter 4-H/FFA Inside Exhibits
1:00 pmJudge 4-H/FFA Inside Exhibits

Saturday, September 4

8:00 – 8:30 am Exhibitor check in and provide Coggins papers for all animals
THIS ALSO APPLIES TO OPEN CLASS
8:30 am.....Weanling and Yearling registration papers due to Equine Superintendent
9:00 am.....Horse Show, Westville Arena
Bred and Owned show will follow showmanship.

Monday, September 6 (7:00–10:00 am Check in for all animals to be shown Monday)

10:00 am.....Westville School Show
11:00 am.....Super Star Show followed by 8 under Open Show
12:00 pm.....Jr. Division Dairy Goat Showmanship & Bred & Owned Dairy Goat Show
..... Jr. Division Dairy Goat Show
1:00 pm..... Judging Open Division Poultry
3:00 pm..... Jr. Division Cow/Calf Pair Show
Immediately following.....Jr. Division Bull Showmanship
..... Jr. Division Bull Show
4:00 pm..... Jr. Division Breeding Meat Goat Showmanship
.....Jr. Division Breeding Meat Goat Show
Immediately following.....Jr. Division Breeding Sheep Showmanship
.....Jr. Division Breeding Sheep Show

**All animals will be released,
EXCEPT those selected for premium auction.**

Tuesday, September 7 (7:00–10:00 am Check in for all animals to be shown Tuesday)

8:00-10:00 am Jr. Division Poultry Blood Testing
11:00 am Jr. Division Poultry Show-Pullets and Broilers

12:00 pmJr. Division Rabbit Show/ Bred and Owned
Immediately following Poultry and Rabbit Showmanship
..... Judging of Variety Poultry Classes
3:00 pm Swine Showmanship & Bred & Owned
Market Swine Show
Immediately following Jr. Division Breeding Swine Show
Immediately following Jr. Division Market Swine Show
..... Swine Sale Order
Immediately following the Swine Show Swine Sale
Order Pictures

**All animals will be released,
EXCEPT those selected for premium auction.**

Wednesday, September 8

(7:00–10:00 am Check in for all animals to be shown Wednesday)

*Sale Order Selection and Pictures immediately following each Division below.

12:00 pmDairy Cattle Showmanship & Bred & Owned Show
.....Jr. Division Dairy Cattle Show
1:00 pmHeifer Showmanship
.....Jr. Division Heifers Show
2:30 pmSheep Showmanship & Bred & Owned
Market Lamb Show
.....Jr. Division Market Sheep Show
4:00 pmSteer Showmanship & Bred & Owned Beef Show
.....Jr. Division Market Steer Show
5:30 pmMarket Goat Showmanship & Bred & Owned
Market Goat Show
.....Jr. Division Market Goat Show

**All animals will be released,
EXCEPT those selected for premium auction.**

Thursday, September 9

9:00 am4-H and FFA Educational Judging Contests
Immediately following judging contests.....Tractor Driving Contest
12:00 pmFarm Hand Olympics
1:00 pmGrounds Clean-Up
7:30 pmPremium Auction

*All trailers must remain west of the baseball field until conclusion of the Premium Auction.

**ALL AWARDS WILL BE PRESENTED IN SHOW RING
AT TIME OF SHOW**

Puzzle Page

KRYPTO KONTEST WEEK 8

The Krypto Kontest is still anyone's game...David W. has the lead with 2 Kryptos...the Kontest ends September 29, so there is still time to get in and win a calculator and a \$25 gift certificate from a local merchant to be announced...

Today's Krypto has 12 as the answer...you are playing with: 7, 9, 23, 16, 2...remember you must use all 5 of these numbers, but each one

What's So Punny? PUN FUN

3 IN ONE:

Kids' Punny Wisdom...

1. Never let your dog watch your food. Patrick, 10
2. Never pee on an electric fence. Peter, 12
3. If your dad is mad and asks you, "Do I look stupid?"...don't answer. Kevin, 14

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

only once, and any combination of addition, subtraction, multiplication and division to write an expression that equals 12. Give it a twirl and have some Krypto fun!

Send your entry to:

Krypto Kontest c/o Straight Forward FREE Press, POB 885, Stilwell, OK 74960.

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LET US KNOW WHAT YOU THINK?

Drop us a line to:
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ON THE CAMPAIGN TRAIL

Commentary by John Bankel

Today the Trail Travels to the Taboo of Money, Part 2 MONEY MATTERS

This writer had planned commentary on the Biden administration's total failure in handling America's Afghanistan withdrawal, but so much has already been expressed that this writer's 2 cents seem moot. Perhaps a penny's worth?

Biden's fiasco, in this writer's mind, should go down in history as "Biden's Bloody Blunder." Enough said.

Money still makes the world go round and the love of money is still the root of all kinds of evil.

In a previous column, we learned that the father of modern banking is Maier Rothschild who said, way back in the 1500s, "Allow me to control the flow of the world's money, and I will control the world." Today the flow of the world's money is controlled by the World Bank and its sundry branches. The American monetary system became part of the World

Bank in 1913, when Woodrow Wilson, the first "progressive/left-wing" president, was paid a visit by two German bankers by the names of Warburg and Loeb. They persuaded Wilson to join America to the World Bank and set-up a branch, The Federal Reserve Bank, aka, The Fed, to control the flow of money in the U.S. This was done by having the U.S. Treasury borrow the money that the economy would need from the Federal Reserve Bank on an ongoing basis. Of course, the Fed charged the Treasury interest.

The other piece of this puzzle was the enactment of the federal income tax, which was implemented to pay for the interest on the Treasury's borrowed money. To make sure that the people paid this new tax, a collection agency was formed, the Internal Revenue Service.

Interestingly enough is that both of these organizations are privately held companies? Who

owns them? Rothschild?

At that time, U.S. dollar was backed by gold and silver whose prices were kept stable, gold at \$20/ounce and silver \$1/ounce. A dollar bill could be exchanged, on demand at any bank, for a silver dollar (an ounce of silver) and a \$20 bill could also be redeemed for a \$20 gold piece (an ounce of gold).

Today we know that is no longer so. So what happened?

(To be continued in the next ON THE CAMPAIGN TRAIL.)

Today's Trail has come to an end and as Roy Rogers and Dale Evans would sing, "Happy trails to you until we meet again"...may your Trail end on the right side of the fence...

John Bankel is a freelance journalist and retired math teacher... he may be reached by email: writewriter@journalist.com.

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