

The STRAIGHT FORWARD

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Writing: My Second Career

By Regina Philpott McLemore,
Author

Born and raised in Stilwell, I taught in the Stilwell School system for approximately 24 years. While I was teaching, I wrote a book, *The Women of Our Family*, which was a multi-generational historical fiction novel, but I couldn't find a publisher. I laid it aside until my retirement in 2010. I finally had time to fully pursue my dream, to be a published author. Beginning in 2012, I was published in various magazines, newspapers, etc.

In 2016, my book was accepted by Oghma Creative Media for development and editing. An editor convinced me to create a trilogy, "Cherokee Passages." After I had written all three books: *Cherokee Clay*, *Cherokee Stone*, and *Cherokee Steel*, *Cherokee Clay* was released in 2020.

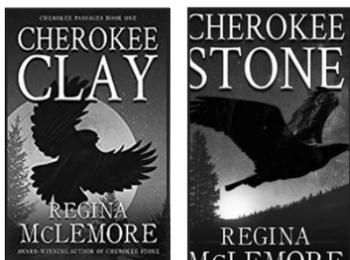
My first book has done very well, winning major awards, including the Will Rogers Medallion Award. Signed copies can be purchased locally from the Adair County Historical and Genealogical Association, housed at the Kansas City Southern Depot in Stilwell, and at Lawley House Antiques in Cookson. It can also be purchased online through www.youngdragons.press, Amazon, Barnes & Noble, Kobo Books, Google Play, etc.

Cherokee Clay relates the story of Bluebird, a young Cherokee girl, who hides to escape capture by the US military in 1839. The book continues with the story of Bluebird and her descendants, including real events and notable people in Indian Territory days.

The second book, *Cherokee Stone*, begins with Bluebird's



Author Regina Philpott McLemore on a hike for her story.



Cherokee Clay and *Cherokee Stone* are two of the books in the trilogy, "Cherokee Passages," the third book being *Cherokee Steel*.

great granddaughter's life in a Cherokee Mission School at the turn of the century. It is scheduled to be released on August 10, 2021. ACH&GA is hosting a signing for my new book on August 19, during their community meeting, from 6 p.m. until 8 p.m., at the Kansas City Southern Depot. The meeting will feature an interesting program, refreshments, and door prizes, including signed copies of my books.

Dismissal of God's Words to His People—Are You Listening?

By Donna Boecher

The Adair County Commissioners' meeting was a "sign of the times." Asked early on, "Why is the grass so high along county roads?" Answer, "We can't get parts anywhere for broken machinery." Our nation is seeing the limitations imposed by shutdowns; people are being paid "not to work," and the result is less production, less products, and idle, broken-down equipment. In one area of the courthouse, rent for offices was waived for six months because their income flow was cut in half due to the Supreme Court ruling on McGirt. Still listening? Another employee announced that Adair County has money in its

coffers that it can't use because the federal government has not sent instructions as to how and when the money can be used! **Unusable money** in the bank! The Commissioners are listening, but their hands are tied. Perhaps it's time to talk to our representatives and senators. How can we help? **WE'RE LISTENING!**

Jeremiah **warned** about what was happening in the land and that it had to stop. Those in power paid no attention on several occasions. In fact, the warning was cut with a knife and burned, yet it was written again. What he heard from God happened. We need to pray, repent, and listen. (Jeremiah 36).



New Beginnings

Adoptions & Inaugural Use of Permanency Bell

By Donna Boecher

Today (August 3, 2021) at Fletcher Park in Stilwell, the "Permanency Bell" was inaugurated with the adoption of children into their new families. The Caldwell, McGaugh, Lindsey, Young, Orman, and Thomason children got to ring the permanency bell which announced to those listening that they were loved and wanted!

A sign is attached to the base of the bell; it reads, "For This Child I Have Prayed" (1 Sam.1:27). "The ringing of this bell celebrates the union of a family and the beginning of a new chapter."

The Permanency Bell was donated by: Judge Liz Brown, Big G Welding, and the Stilwell



Several families took part in the adoption ceremonies at Fletcher Park on Tuesday.

Kiwanis. The adoptions were formalized by Judge Brown within view of the bell, while entire families surrounded the adoptees.



Pictured above is Robert St. Pierre representing Stilwell Kiwanis, Judge Liz Brown, and Wagoner attorney Terri Craig.

Stilwell City Council Tackles a Big Agenda

Reported by John Bankel

The Stilwell City Council met Monday, August 2, 5:30 pm at the Council Meeting Room located in the Stilwell Community Building, 6th and Poplar. The Agenda for this meeting included 27 items, some of which will be reported here. Among the items which were of particular interest was a decision to purchase a new Kenworth sanitation truck at a cost of \$108,879, funds to be taken from the Capital Improvement Account. In addition, the Council accepted the resignation of payroll clerk John Fite and the commensurate hiring of Tiffanie Martin as Fite's replacement effective August 2. Charity Curtis was hired as a dispatcher, also effective August 2. The Council also approved 3 events to take place in downtown Stilwell. These are to be found elsewhere in this newspaper under "Community Announcements."

ACH&GA Membership Meeting Set for August 19 at KCS Depot

Wanda Elliott,
ACH&GA President

The Adair County Historical & Genealogical Association will hold an "in person" Membership Meeting on Thursday, August 19 beginning at 6:00 p.m. at the KCS Depot (and ZOOM) in Stilwell. The August meeting has been named "Off the Wall," and we encourage you to bring something that is significant to you—off your walls—to share with the group. We will also be making a special presentation to the Mann Family, and Regina McLemore will have a Book Signing of her second book in the series—*Cherokee Stone*! See you on the 19th.

In the July 2021 issue of *The Adair County Depot Dispatch* four of our SHS students' art is featured. Special thanks to Ms. Faith Phillips for making items available from these amazing students. An Adair County Arts Council has been organized, and ACH&GA is proud to be one of the display locations.

Ms. Phillips says, "When I agreed to teach at Stilwell High School I had no idea what to expect. I knew what the statistics said about our community, and I'd certainly been made aware of some of the negative national press coverage about our county. When I stepped into the school, it took

some time to earn their trust. Once they realized that I genuinely cared about them and that I was there to serve them, they completely opened up and allowed me to see their artistic abilities, which were astonishing. I've never seen any one group of people stocked with so much raw artistic talent. It poured out of them, on post-it notes, scribbles on my dry erase board, in writing assignments; it was just a daily onslaught of art. I started challenging them to make their work known, to share it and compete. Suddenly we had organizations like Chicago Field Museum, Frontline PBS, Oklahoma English Teachers Association, Oklahoma Arts Council, and many more clamoring to take the art of my students and take it back for display in their own communities. I have teachers from around the state contacting me to ask how we wrote and put on our own original play. I began to think it is time for us to create a place for our artists, all Adair County artists, to display their work, receive recognition, and establish new economic opportunities based on our talents. A grassroots movement is taking off to make this happen. More exciting details about this endeavor will be available to the public very soon."

COMING SOON

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

COMING SOON

The Straight Forward
FREE Press
ONLINE...Stay Tuned!

PROVERB POWER

"A gracious woman
retaineth honor: and strong
men retain riches."
Proverbs 11:16 (KJV)

Mullin, Bustos, Cole, and Butterfield Join More Than 700 Health Advocates to Launch New Congressional Social Determinants of Health Caucus

Today, U.S. Representatives Markwayne Mullin (R-OK), Cheri Bustos (D-IL), Tom Cole (R-OK), and G. K. Butterfield (D-NC), alongside community health advocates from Aligning for Health, the YMCA and CareSource, announced the founding of the bipartisan Congressional Social Determinants of Health Caucus.

Co-Chairs Mullin, Bustos, Cole, and Butterfield joined more than 700 advocates for a virtual event to launch the Caucus, which will focus on putting forward solutions to tackle health disparities and empower community leaders to combat the persistent social factors that harm long-term health. These social and environmental barriers to health include access to fresh food, stable housing, reliable transportation, provider shortages, among others.

"Quality health care is more than just treating an illness, ailment, or chronic condition. Social determinants, or non-medical contributors, of health are an important part of our strategy to improve overall health and wellbeing of Americans. In order to improve health outcomes in the long run, we must look at the full picture of patients' lives and address these social determinants of health. I am proud to join my colleagues in forming this caucus to work towards solutions that improve health care for all Americans," Mullin said.

"The COVID-19 pandemic exposed many deep disparities in our health system and greatly exacerbated the already persistent barriers to health that many families in Illinois and across our country face, such as a lack of access to fresh foods, affordable health care and safe housing to name just a few," Bustos said. "The Social Determinants of Health Caucus will serve as a platform for Congress and community leaders to come together to put forward the solutions we need to finally tackle these longstanding issues at the root. I'm pleased to join my bipartisan Co-Chairs Cole, Butterfield and Mullin today to launch this key initiative and foster strong partnerships moving forward."

"I am delighted to join my colleagues in the Congressional Social Determinants of Health Caucus to develop strategies to address factors that adversely impact health outcomes and improve the well-being of Americans," Cole said. "By focusing on these non-medical factors, we can

work toward a healthier population and more efficient spending of federal and state health care dollars."

"There is no denying there is a health disparities crisis in our country," Butterfield said. "Patients in minority, rural, and underserved communities experience higher incidences of disease and worse health outcomes than their peers. We know there isn't a single cause for this disparity, but rather, many factors that contribute to the health of an individual. Congress must take a holistic, whole-person approach when considering policy solutions to address health disparities. I am proud to join my fellow co-chairs to launch the Social Determinants of Health Caucus, which will serve as a hub for collaboration and evidenced-based information sharing as Congress considers policy solutions to address these important issues."

"We are thrilled to see Reps. Bustos, Cole, Butterfield, and Mullin taking action on the growing evidence that social factors deeply impact health and wellbeing. This Caucus will catalyze important policy development that will ultimately improve wellbeing, health, and other positive outcomes in communities across the country," Krista Drobac, Co-Chair, Aligning for Health, said.

"On average, 80 percent of a person's health outcomes are determined by what happens in their community, outside the clinical setting. We cannot improve outcomes in our country unless we address these social determinants of health. The Y commends Representatives Bustos, Butterfield, Cole and Mullin for their leadership in forming the Social Determinants of Health Caucus and their commitment to improve coordination across federal departments and agencies, so that more people get the support they need to live their healthiest life," Kevin Washington, President and CEO, YMCA of the USA, said.

Economic, environmental and social conditions have a powerful impact on our health and wellness. Stable housing, reliable transportation and access to healthy foods are all factors that can make a difference in the prevention and management of many health conditions like diabetes, asthma and heart disease. Known as the social determinants of health, a focus on these non-medical factors can improve health outcomes and wellbeing.

During the launch, the Congress-

sional Social Determinants of Health Caucus released a Request for Information to gather more details about how different social factors across the country impact communities and spur ideas to advance legislative solutions. Community members are encouraged to submit their experiences by going to <https://congressionaldohcaucus.org>.

For questions or additional information on the Congressional SDOH Caucus, please contact Liam Steadman in Congresswoman Cheri Bustos' office at Liam.Steadman@mail.house.gov, Shane Hand in Congressman Tom Cole's office at Shane.Hand@mail.house.gov, Caitlin Van Sant in Congressman G.K. Butterfield's office at Caitlin.VanSant@mail.house.gov, or Kaitlynn Skoog in Congressman Markwayne Mullin's office at Kaitlynn.Skoog@mail.house.gov.



Dear John,

I'm in a situation I never thought I would be in. My husband of 12 years, the father of my 3 children, has done something to me that is unforgivable. He doesn't know I know yet but just yesterday, I found out that he cheated on me... Cheated on me with MY BEST FRIEND! She doesn't know I know either. I know seeking revenge isn't the right thing to do but ruining my marriage... my family... I can't just let that slide. So Dear John, I guess my question would be... Do I cheat back with my "best friend's" husband? So they can both feel my pain and suffering. I know it sounds awful but I want to ruin what she has ruined for me. I could really use some advice right now cause I have no one... no husband, no best friend.

Blowing Wind

Dear Blowing Wind, cheating back with your "best friend's" husband is not wise. It will solve nothing. As a matter of fact, it will only complicate an already disastrous situation. Neither is divorce, which I am sure you have already considered, the answer. The children should be your primary concern as you sort out your emotions. As for your husband, who has committed what many would believe to be the unpardonable sin within a marriage: adultery, he will need to fess up and ask for your forgiveness. The restoration of your marriage will require much work on both of your parts, and, to be honest, can actually forge a stronger relationship than before, one filled with greater honesty and, therefore, intimacy. Take a deep breath and gird yourself in the knowledge that the effort will be worthwhile, albeit arduous. The first thing to do, after you have composed yourself, is to have a heart-to-heart "pillow talk" about what you have found out, perhaps start the talk with "Honey, you know I love you, don't you?" and perhaps, if you are a Bible believer, read 1 Corinthians 13 first. There is an old saying which goes like this: "To err is human...to forgive divine...to forget diviner yet."

Sincerely,
Dear John

Got a question for Dear John? Email to: dearjohn@writeme.com or snail mail to: Dear John, POB 885, Stilwell, OK 74960... Real names will not be used... (Copyright 2021. All rights reserved.)



Mullin It Over: Democrats' Spending Spree

By Congressman Markwayne Mullin

You can't spend more than you have without acquiring debt. And eventually, you will have to pay that debt. I believe most people understand this basic principle of fiscal responsibility.

Every day, families make choices on how they plan to spend their hard-earned paychecks without taking on crippling debt. It's unfortunate that Democrats in Congress don't seem to understand this.

Despite an economy that is well on the path to recovery, Democrats are continuing down the path of reckless spending. This week, they rammed through a massive \$600 billion spending package. It provides unprecedented increases for their socialist priorities, like heavy-handed government regulations, the Green New Deal, and mass amnesty for illegal immigrants, all while underfunding our national defense.

This is not Monopoly money. This is taxpayers' money. The more we spend, the higher infla-

tion rises. And right now, inflation is rising at a rapid pace. In fact, it has risen every month President Biden has been in office. This means families are paying more for just about everything from gas to building materials. According to a recent study, 83 percent of Americans said they noticed price increases on their commonly purchased groceries or household goods in June and July. Further, more than half of Americans are moderately or significantly concerned about future price increases.

Make no mistake: President Biden and Congressional Democrats' spending spree is causing this inflation. We cannot continue this out-of-control spending because it's American families who will ultimately pay the price.

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.

The Lady in the Blue Sari

Part 6
By Donna Boecher

What was Lydia up to now? She had changed out of her sari, uncovered her hair, picked up a backpack, and headed toward Carrollton. What was in the backpack? Always there were more questions. We followed her for the next two hours. She ate at the Camellia Grill, my favorite countertop restaurant handled by white clad servers, who cooked the meals right-before one's eyes. Her path led to several shops winding north then west, but always following the river. In and out of doorways, and as she went, the book bag became slimmer and lighter. What material was she leaving?

Finally, we reached the residential area that separated businesses from the bend in the Mississippi River where Orleans Parish became Jefferson Parish. Where was she headed?

"Look, Tom! She's crossing to that area of the batture (land between the river-bed and the levee); where those small, raised homes have been located for a hundred years."

"They probably have been. Look Alex, she's going into that business that sells the snow cone

machines." Through the glass, we saw her lay down a flyer, then turn and walk out. Noting that, we kept our eyes glued to Lydia. She had turned back to the houses built on stilts in the batture. That area would appeal to Lydia since there is no paved road, and owners can only add to their existing raised dwellings. The water rises and retreats as the river swells with the melting of snows to the north insuring privacy because many weeks she would wade through standing water. She walked westward and finally disappeared at the edge of the batture.

"What I hear you saying, Tom, is that we can't meet her at her front door until we're willing to confront each other. Is there some point from which we can see which home is hers? This sounds like yet another riddle to be solved."

"Alex, I think it's time for you to rent somewhere near Carrollton and the river. Then we'll have an excuse to be in the area if she gets suspicious and starts investigating US. What do you think?"

"I'm game. The puzzle pieces are starting to fit together. Let's start looking. You never know when Auntie will show up."

"Tom. Let's not forget; we need to see what's written on the flyer.

Almost Time for Annual Adair County Free Fair

The Annual Adair County Free Fair is set to begin Monday, September 6 at the Fair Grounds in Stilwell, OK.

Exhibitors may bring their entries beginning at 8:00 a.m. Thursday, September 2 for ribbon judging.

The horse show will be held at the Westville Rodeo Arena on Saturday, September 4 beginning at

9:00 a.m. After the fair, grounds clean up will be held on Friday, September 11 from 8:00 a.m. to 12:00 noon. See you at the Fair!

What's So Punny? PUN FUN

I just found out that the company that makes yardsticks won't be making them any longer.

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.

What's Up?

Gas prices!...The only question is: How high will they go?

If you have a What's Up?, send it to: straightforwardpress21@gmail.com.

Puzzle Page

KRYPTO KONTEST - Week 3

Last week's contest, a re-run of Week 2, produced a Korrekt Krypto from Kevin H.

Here is his result: $3 + \{[15 - (19 - 8)]\} = 5$

2

Congratulations to Kevin, who is now the leader of the pack with 1 point. The Krypto Kontest will run until the end of September. Whoever has the most points at the end will receive the winning prize of a calculator and a \$25 gift

certificate from a local merchant to be named.

For this week's Krypto, you are playing with these numbers: 12, 4, 17, 9, 3 and the answer is 13. Remember, you must use all 6 numbers and any combination of addition, subtraction, multiplication and division and use each number ONLY ONCE in your expression. Give it a try.

Send your entry to: **Krypto Kontest, c/o Straight Forward FREE Press, POB 885, Stilwell, OK 74960.**

The STRAIGHT FORWARD FREE Press

Truth is Our Target

P.O. Box 885 • Stilwell, OK 74960
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Donna Boecher.....Editor
John Bankel.....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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THE CONSERVATIVE VIEW

By Russell Turner

THE 2% MINORITY

We humans have a bad habit of justifying all kinds of actions we might take in life because of some wrong that may have been committed in the past. Recently the new administration in Washington has come up with a scheme that is supposed to help the farmers in this nation. The plan is supposed to write off government loans that are owed to the government and for the government to issue a cash payment to the borrowers to the tune of 20% of what the initial loan was for. We can all agree that without the farmers this nation would become hungry very quickly, and we can also agree that roughly only 2% of the population of this country are in the agriculture business. If you look at it objectively, the American farmer is a minority of the population. With that in mind the payments have one big caveat, the program only applies to minorities such as blacks, Eskimos, native American tribal members, etc.

We keep hearing politicians, especially on the left of the aisle, use the race card to garner support for their party, they are very good at using the word discrimination to divide the people of this nation. I ask a simple question, who are the racists now? Is it the hard-working people of this nation regardless of their skin color, or the worthless politicians who are ready to use taxpayer funds to benefit certain groups based upon their skin color or ethnicity? These politicians who are riding their high horse of self-righteousness have no concept of what America is all about. I have lived on the farm all of my life and I know that the farming population is some of the most color blind individuals in our country. I have seen farmers who are ready to help a fellow farmer when they are in need, such as sickness or injury; very, very rarely does race or skin color make any difference. We also need to realize that all farmers are in competition with each other, this proposed program removes a level playing field. This program will also cause resentment and division at a time when we Americans need to be unified.

Borrowing money is a fact in almost all businesses, agriculture included. In my business I have also borrowed money, but I accepted the responsibility to pay the loan off. I always tried to avoid as much debt as possible, usually that involved buying older second-hand farm

equipment and doing the never-ending repairs necessary to keep it working. Fortunately, through hard work and good management, I have achieved a debt-free operation but it has taken years, now with this program the people who borrowed more money than they could pay back are getting a huge jump most of us never had. Maybe these high-minded politicians think that this program is some kind of reparations for wrongs done in the distant past, my words for them are simple ones, "TWO WRONGS DON'T MAKE A RIGHT". For our country to be a truly color-blind country all people need to be treated equally and all discrimination needs to stop and that means right now, that also includes government sponsored discrimination. Many years ago, Martin Luther King made a profound statement about his vision of the future, he said, people should be judged upon the content of their character and not the color of their skin. It is sad that many of the liberal elected leaders cannot understand by supporting state sponsored discrimination they are only making the problem worse.

Hume Wins Door Prize at Recycle Day



This is Nancy Hume and she was the door prize winner at July's Recycle Day sponsored by Adair County Litter Free & Green. Items were all about reducing, reusing, and recycling.



Adair County 4-H'ers recently attended the 100th 4-H Roundup in Stillwater.

Students Attend 100th 4-H Roundup

By Sam Patterson,
Adair County 4-H Reporter

Roundup has just recently happened at OSU campus in Stillwater and boy was it a blast. Even though it was shorter this year due to not knowing whether or not we would be able to go, because of COVID, but

that didn't stop us from having a good time. While a majority of the time was spent on the ceremonies the rest was used on parties, caricatures, and food. We even got to see a hypnotist while there! It's always fun when you get to go on a 4-H trip, you gain new friends and memories.

ON THE CAMPAIGN TRAIL

Commentary by John Bankel

Today the Trail Tumbles to Tokyo IN DEFENSE OF SIMONE BILES

This writer has not paid a whole lot of attention to the 2021 Olympics. One reason is that elite sports figures have decided to turn the enjoyable entertainment of watching a sports contest, which should be confined to entertaining the audience, into a political platform. A total turn-off for many. The stinging 3-0 defeat of the USA women's soccer team at the hands of the ladies from Sweden was a real eye opener since the USA team has engaged in some of the political protests. This writer believes they have lost focus on what their real mission is. And then

the news of Simone Biles retreating from participation was a shocker to everyone and could not be ignored. However, Ms. Biles has always conducted herself in an exemplary manner while representing the USA. So what happened? The reaction from the sports writers' world was less than exemplary. This writer caught some of the cruel comments directed at a bona fide Olympic champion by folks who have no clue what it is to perform the astounding stunts that Ms. Biles has perfected. The worst ones called her a coward, a chicken, a betrayer of her team. Yet nothing

could be further from the truth. At 24, she is one of the "old folks" in gymnastics and when she is done, will have left an unparalleled legacy in Olympic history. Who, in their right mind, can gainsay that? People expressed their frustrations over her decision to withdraw from further competition solely based upon her less than convincing explanation of having to work on her "mindfulness and mental health." While those reasons should be accepted, there is more to the story than that. It turns out that Simone had a very troubling experience during one of her vaults in which she did an incomprehensible "dipsy doodle" the likes of which no other gymnast would dare to perform. She said she had lost her orientation while in mid air, literally not knowing which end is up? Frightening? You bet! In addition, the judges told her that she would be downgraded in order for the other competitors to have a chance. What nonsense! Is this where individual effort is headed? Down the slope of "everyone gets a trophy", in the name of political correctness? That shook her up as much as her disorientation. Can anyone blame her for not going on? And yet she was lambasted unmercifully by the so called "PRESS." As of this writing, Ms. Biles decided to take on the balance beam, in what this writer predicts will be her final act in the pantheon of Olympic athletic achievement. She performed well enough to earn a BRONZE MEDAL and put her in a tie with Shannon Miller as the most decorated USA gymnast of all time!! Not too bad for a GOAT*.

*NOTE: GOAT is the acronym with which Simone Biles identifies meaning "Greatest Of All Time"... and so she is!!

The Trail, for today has come to an end...may your Trail lead you around the next bend...till we meet again...

Please send your comments to: writewright@journalist.com or mail to: John Bankel, POB 885, Stilwell, OK 74960...your feedback is welcome...

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Capitol Update from Rep. David Hardin

House District 86

As the summer starts drawing to an end and we begin our interim studies, I wanted to provide you all with an update about issues I am working on as well as issues that could affect our district. I am going to begin doing these periodic updates as a way to keep you connected to what is going on in our district and at the state house. As your state representative, it is my hope that you will be involved in the legislative process and that these capitol updates will help you better understand how to make that happen.

Many steps were taken this year to focus on protecting the individual freedom and liberty of Oklahomans. Through a number of bills we reiterated the sovereignty of our state and the constitutional freedom of our citizens. As we continue to see increased government overreach at the federal level, your Oklahoma elected officials will keep pushing back to keep big government at bay. Specifically, House Bill 1236 which was signed into law by Governor Stitt, allows the legislature to examine federal orders for their constitutionality. We have not used this power as of yet, but as we continue to see the federal government overstep its bounds, this tool could be used to

protect the citizens of Oklahoma.

I am still working on a farm tax credit issue with the Oklahoma Tax Commission. We have not found a suitable solution to the problem yet, so there is an interim study planned to continue discussing options further.

On August 17, there is a meeting at the Baron Community Building to discuss imminent domain issues and getting fair property values for many constituents who live where a new highway is planned to be constructed. Representatives from the Oklahoma Department of Transportation (ODOT) will be there to answer questions, and I encourage everyone to show up and let their voices be heard on this issue. I am currently working to get a Cherokee Nation judge to issue a cease and desist order on this development until the Supreme Court makes a decision regarding the issue of the state having imminent domain rights on Native lands. It is my personal view that we should err on the side of caution and delay this work until the issue has been settled.

That's it for now, but stay tuned for the next update. If I can help you with anything, feel free to call my Capitol office at (405) 557-7394 or email me at david.hardin@okhouse.gov.

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.

Obituaries

Alicia "Girlie" Martinez March 8, 1989 – July 25, 2021

Alicia "Girlie" Martinez was born on March 8, 1989, in Tahlequah, Oklahoma unto Pedro "Pete" Castillo and Pauletta Wolfe Perez, and departed this life on July 25, 2021, in her home in Stilwell, Oklahoma.

Alicia was the first-born granddaughter, niece, and cousin. But mostly a darn good momma to her 3 beautiful girls! You'd always see a smile on her face. Nobody knew she'd be the one to take on a battle that nobody would take on for 7 years, she never once complained, done it with a positive effort and never showed pain until the Lord called her home. She was the real Super-Woman!



Alicia was a Zion Jet and a Stilwell Indian. She was known as "Beyonce" to her family and known as "Skittles" in High School. Alicia worked at Mrs. Smith's, CNI, and Walmart. She made friends with anyone who she met, always had a bubbly personality. She'd always surprise you with different hair colors and styles. She was a good older sister to her younger siblings. Alicia was always singing and dancing.

On May 2005 at the age of 16 she met the love of her life: Fernando Martinez, at the carnival through their friend: Lousia. Then became parents on January 27, 2008, and had 2 more daughters.

Alicia is preceded in death by her father: Pedro Perez-Castillo; her Grandpa "Duda": Adam Wolfe, and grandmother: Lucille Ross-Wolfe.

She is survived by her loving husband of 16 years: Fernando Martinez; their daughters: Alexandra, Rocio, and Annaleigh Martinez, all of Stilwell, Oklahoma; her mother: Pauletta Wolfe Perez of Stilwell, Oklahoma; her siblings: Shawn Perez, Steppen Wolfe, Pedro Perez, and Angela Perez, all of Stilwell, Oklahoma. Many brothers-in-law; sisters-in-law; nieces; nephews; aunts; uncles, and many cousins.

Girlie will be dearly missed by all her family, friends, and co-workers.

Funeral services were held at 1:00 pm on Thursday, July 29, 2021 at Roberts/Reed-Culver Funeral Home, Stilwell, OK with Ross Wolfe and Angela Perez officiating. Interment followed at Stilwell City Cemetery, Stilwell, OK.

Daniel Dean Grigsby April 10, 1928 – July 26, 2021

Daniel Dean Grigsby, the son of Ollie White and Dianiel Grigsby, was born April 10, 1928, in Stilwell, Oklahoma and departed this life on July 26, 2021, in Stilwell, Oklahoma at the age of 93 years.



Dean loved to farm, one of the best strawberry growers around. He loved to fish and hunt. He married Genora Hummingbird Grigsby in Fort Smith, Arkansas on February 15, 1952. He worked many years for Cherokee Nation and Reese Tire Company. He also cut wood for many years. There were many times in his younger years he would hunt and bring squirrel and deer to feed his family.

He is preceded in death by his parents; wife: Genora; his siblings: Louise Thompson, Crystal Leonard, Aaron, and William (Jim) Grigsby.

Dean is survived by his loving family that includes his children: Mary Gregory and husband Travis of Stilwell, Oklahoma, Marilyn Grigsby of Stilwell, Oklahoma, Jim Grigsby and wife Elizabeth of Stilwell, Oklahoma, and Connie Walker and husband Michael of Stilwell, Oklahoma.

Grandchildren: Eric Ketcher, Jesse Ketcher, Greg Grigsby, TJ Grigsby, Deanna Gregory Parker, and Andrea Gregory. Great-grandchildren: Braxton Osbourne, Aubree Smith (Ketcher), Ayana Ketcher, Avere Gregory, Braven Ketcher, Liam and Lakin Gregory, and Baby Ryker (Ottis) Ketcher. Several nieces, nephews, friends, and other relatives also survive him.

Funeral services were held at 10:00 am on Friday, July 30, 2021 at Roberts/Reed-Culver Chapel, Stilwell, OK with Darrell Self officiating. Interment followed at Tyler Springs Cemetery, Stilwell, OK.

Logan Andrew Wolf October 7, 2004 – July 26, 2021

Logan Andrew Wolf was only 16 years old. He was born on October 7, 2004, in Tahlequah, Oklahoma to his parents Rhonda and David Wolf. He passed away on July 26, 2021.

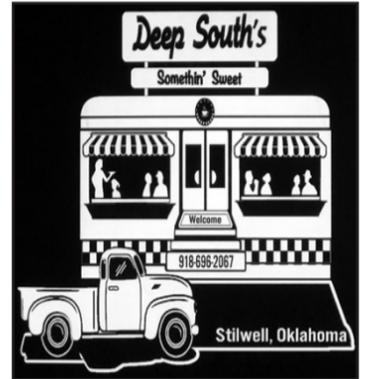
Logan is preceded in death by his brother: Zachary Aaron; his sister: Timber A. Wolf, and his grandfather: Terry Olive.



Logan is survived by his parents: Rhonda and David; his sister: Kimber Ann Wolf, and brother: Flint Allen Wolf and wife Cindy Wolf. Niece and nephew: Jammie and Xander Wolf of Tahlequah, Oklahoma; his grandparents: Connie and Bodie Fatherree from Dry Creek, Oklahoma, and Joyce and Harlan Wolf of Stilwell, Oklahoma. Uncle: Billy; aunt: Misty, and Tommy Blatchford of Cleveland, Oklahoma. Many aunts, uncles, cousins, other family members, and friends also survive him.

Logan loved his family. He was very outgoing, and he loved spending time with his friends and family. He was always happy and loved to be outside. He loved going camping, swimming, and traveling. He loved nature and going to museums. Logan was very loved.

Graveside services were held at 10:00 am on Tuesday, August 3, 2021 at Spade Mountain Cemetery, Stilwell, OK with Eugene and Anita Blatchford officiating. Interment followed under the direction of Roberts/Reed-Culver Funeral Home, Stilwell, OK.



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Vocabulary WORD of the DAY
Conundrum
1. An intricate and difficult problem;
2. A question or problem having only a conjectural answer;
3. A riddle whose answer is or involves a pun.

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