

The STRAIGHT FORWARD FREE Press

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Stilwell, Adair County, Oklahoma

Thursday, September 16, 2021



Beauty abounds while traveling down scenic Hwy. 10 along the Illinois River.

Where Is This Fabulous Formation?

By John Bankel

One of the most scenic drives in all of Northeast Oklahoma is along the Illinois River on Oklahoma Route 10, starting from the bottom of the hill, just before the bridge, as one is leaving Tahlequah on Hwy. 62 heading east, take a left

and head north. The road winds so peacefully along the tranquil, emerald green Illinois, whose banks are dotted with sundry resorts and float outfitters.

Then, all of a sudden, around one of the turns, jutting out over the highway, one encounters this

dramatic and unique rock formation. It is fascinating not only in terms of its sculpture magnificence, but also for the wonder of a tree growing out of what seems to be solid rock. A tree's roots can penetrate solid rock? What a wonder!! It is worth the trip.

Chaos in the Commissioners' Office at Meeting

By Donna Boecher

CHAOS, YET CITIZENS' VOICES HEARD, COMMISSIONERS' MEETING, Monday, September 13th.

The "unexpected" happened at the meeting. Pafford EMS did not send the commissioners their amended contract, so the first item on the agenda was tabled. Basically, the rest of the meeting was about asking for and committing monies to county problems that needed American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) monies. Diana Yell, who had completed "pulling a calf," last week was available to ask for ARPA money to: provide ambulances and equipment for Adair County EMS and money for Adair County Central Dispatch, equipment, and remodel fix for the facility. Her items were quickly passed for a total of \$900,000. Monies could not be committed from ARPA for county

employees who had worked on the roads during COVID-19 because the issue was not properly defined on the agenda; the issue was tabled, although the Commissioners were chagrined. The "District One" road crew-in attendance-was exasperated to say the least; nonetheless, they amazingly had time for an 8:30 a.m. meeting. Discussion of ARPA monies for improving water quality and equipment, and for school districts were tabled because of lack of plans.

There were many questions addressed to the Commissioners that they had NO ANSWERS for. The number of questions may have been the result of a packed chamber. The packed chamber made the difference. Perhaps next time, using the "unanswered questions" as a list of information requested by the citizens, the Commissioners

should come prepared with answers to enlighten its constituents at an accommodating time and place. Remember, the County Commissioners are ELECTED to represent and inform its constituents in a timely manner. Times up.

"The Meeting Time question" which was briefly discussed has been added to the agenda for September 20th meeting at 8:30 a.m.

First Christian Church to Host Coat Giveaway Day Sept. 25

The First Christian Church, located at 306 N. 2nd Street in Stilwell, OK, will be holding a Coats for Kids Coat Giveaway Day on Saturday, September 25, from 8:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. We will have coats in the gym for parents to receive for their child/children. The child/children must be present with the parent and the limit is one coat per child. These will be new winter coats ranging in size from 0m to xxl 14.

WESTVILLE UPDATES:

The present mayor of Westville is moving to Arkansas. By September 25th, a new mayor will be chosen from the five council members once the fifth slot is filled. More to come on the city's process and selections.

The Fall Festival has been set for October 23 with many of its annual events.

(Metaphor of America)

The Giant in the Hen House

Part 1

By Donna Boecher

My name's Chicken Jump Up and my genealogy goes way back. I had an illustrious great uncle whose name you might remember, Chicken Little. That's right, the one from the children's book. He was a wonderful storyteller as he got older. He really smartened up after that fateful day when he thought the sky had fallen. But like all us chickens, in our youth we just aren't very smart in those early months just after we come out of the shell. Uncle Little said we shouldn't believe just anything we see, hear, or feel. "Check it out", he said. "Investigate everything." He was so grateful that the King's hunting dogs came along when they did. But all my knowledge of ancestry is hearsay, but I believe it. Why? "Because everyone needs to have family." I never saw my real mother.

I was adopted by this huge metal machine with lights and warm air that helped me grow and peck out of my shell. It was a warm relationship, but there were no hugging feathers to comfort me after my breakout. I don't know what I would have done if I hadn't been surrounded by all my other adopted brothers and sisters." But my story as Chicken Jump Up's didn't start or stop with that single revelation. It seems that even with the love and warmth of

his siblings, I was once again-on my second day out-shipped off to another location where some government people boxed me and others into cardboard and sent us home to giant humans who would give us a dry, warm home with lots of food and water. By day three I was eating and sleeping with forty-nine siblings. There was a small feeder with tiny bits of grain just our size and a small red and white water tank for when we got thirsty. Everything was strange and there had been all my brothers, sisters, and I would run far away from the giant. What to do, what to do? Run left, run right, run back. This way, that way. Run, run, run. Whuh, I was out of breath. But things started to quieten down and repeat themselves. We even began to listen in on the hens that lived next door.

One of the hens was the great-great-granddaughter of THE Little Red Hen. She was so proud of her heritage, and did she go on about what she'd learned from her family. She was a real organizer, that Rhode Island Red. They could hear her advice to the other hens through the walls. She was all about working together to get what they needed from the giant. They clucked, "Don't interfere with the giant and stay away from the yellow broom." Of course, Chicken Jump Up and his family didn't know what a broom was. But they

(See The Giant Continued on Page 4)

Vaccine Mandate: Follow the Bouncing Ball

By John Bankel

The Biden administration is vigorously pursuing the implementation of a nationwide vaccination mandate. It was not all that long ago that he "swore" there would or could never be a mandate for such a thing. Turns out that was just another lie from his lying lips.

Indeed, Biden's cohort in keeping the pandemic alive-heck, look at the political capital and monetary gain the CDC, the WHO and the democrat party have harvested along the way-Dr. Fauci is also on record for having said, "I don't think there will ever be a vaccine mandate." That turned out to be a lie.

Biden has now mandated full vaccinations for all businesses with 100 or more employees or else. And yet he has exempted the entire U.S. Postal Service workforce, more than 600,000 workers, from

getting the vaccine.

Furthermore, he has branded folks that choose not to get the jab as "the unvaxxed" and "dangerous to those that are vaccinated." If Biden only had a grain of a brain, he would see how ridiculous such a pronouncement is.

Who can explain how a vaccinated person is susceptible to be infected from that for which he has been inoculated? Unless the vaccine doesn't actually work? But Biden is not saying that, so when does this mad ball stop bouncing and a modicum of sanity returns to our land?

Meanwhile, the Biden ball of deception keeps bouncing.

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

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Stilwell Indians Sports Spotlight

FRIDAY NIGHT FOOTBALL
Stilwell Stumbles In Season Opener
Commentary by John Bankel

On Friday, 9/10, the Stilwell Indians traveled to Gentry, Arkansas to take on the Gentry H.S. Pioneers in a rematch contest.

In their 2020 meeting, the Indians dominated the game and went home with a 32-8 thrashing. This time, the Pioneers were able to turn the table as they walloped the Indians by a lopsided 42-7 score.

Stilwell, whose September 3 home opener versus Rogers (AR) had to be cancelled due to a COVID outbreak among the team, is now 0-1 on the season.

On Sept. 19, the Indians travel once again to Arkansas as they seek to break into the winning column against the Prairie Grove Tigers. Kickoff is at 7pm. Come on out and show your support.

ANNOUNCEMENT
The Straight Forward FREE Press
is now **ONLINE** on Google!
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PROVERB POWER

"Blessed is the man that walketh not in the counsel of the ungodly, nor standeth in the way of sinners, nor sitteth in the seat of the scornful." - Psalm 1:1 (KJV)

THE CONSERVATIVE VIEW

By Russell Turner
A DANGEROUS PATH

I was raised to believe that we Americans are unique from most other nations in the world, our freedom and self-reliance has been the key to our success as a nation. Throughout our lives we will have decisions that will have to be made, I believe that an informed person will make the decision that best serves his needs at the time. We do not have the luxury of being able to see into the future; with that being said some of our decisions may not be the best choice, but we should be free to make those decisions ourselves and not some government bureaucracy.

Over the past months there has been an increasing drumbeat for vaccine mandates for our military, government employees, and even employees of major corporations in our country. I even read where employees of some companies would be charged an additional fee for health insurance if they refused to take the so-called vaccine for Covid 19. Granted, Covid 19 is dangerous but so is the seasonal flu, heart disease, and a host of other maladies. There have even been some court decisions which supported various companies' right to require their employees to take the shot. We have been assured that the shot is safe, and I hope that is the case, but I have developed a healthy distrust of our government and the mainstream media in this nation. I am not a doctor, but I

believe that each and everyone of us need to decide if the shot is the right thing to do or not to do.

There are many of us who contracted the virus and recovered from it, but all we seem to hear is somebody saying we need to take the shot. From what I have read, various studies have concluded that we have natural immunity and it is better than anything the shot might produce. Would it not be prudent to take a simple blood test and confirm that a person has the antibody to covid 19 and should have natural immunity?

I am very concerned about all of this talk about mandating putting something into our bodies in order to keep a job or to do business. If it is acceptable to mandate a covid shot, what is next, forcing women to take birth control pills to keep a job because the employer's insurance company doesn't want to pay for maternity leave or mandating what foods we are allowed to eat because our current diet might cause some other health problem. The media and a bunch of self-serving politicians have successfully scared many Americans over the covid threat, I have found that people often make bad decisions when they are frightened. Yes, we need to be cautious about our health, but we must avoid the dangerous path that will rob us of our freedom and decision-making abilities.

Health Tips from Larkin...

By Larkin Fouse, CHHP

Organic eating and mental health: We discussed last week the damaging effects upon the metabolic system non organic foods can have, and we all know from being teenager's how hormones out of control means a person out of control! But with non-organic food being what the majority of people consume. Their effects on hormones, peoples' sanity and stability might explain why the majority of people these days don't seem to grow up or

ever get out of their wild phase as teenagers. Could the reason be that all the hormonal disrupting chemicals in our food are doing this to them? I think so, and from a lot of research being done on the subject there are many scientists, holistic and non who agree with this idea. For example depression, anxiety, and Alzheimer's have all gone up directly in correspondence to the amounts of chemicals that have been used in conventional farming. Coincidence I think not.

The Lady in the Blue Sari

Part 12

By Donna Boecher

Well, I changed my mind about breakfast on Saturday. Alex and I hadn't determined when we'd meet for breakfast, and I'd had a short night after having called up all the "couch surfing" places I knew. No "found girl" yet, she was still missing. Texting Alex, I suggested he take the trolley to the French Quarter and we'd meet for lunch at the Central Grocery and share a Muffuletta. They'd been making them since 1906. Wow, that was 125 years! Amazingly, they were only \$25, and they fed four adults. We'd buy 1/2 for \$13. So much Yum!!! They were made on a huge round sesame bun with salami, ham, provolone, mozzarella, green olives, olive oil, etc. My favorite mixture, when I made them at home, was Boscoli's Italian Olive Salad. Mama Mia, I was part Italian when I ate a Muffuletta! We decided to pair it with Barq's Root Beer and some Zapp's Dill chips. Food so good they just kept making it decade after decade. Satiated, we decided we'd take the trolley the other way and go see Lydia. No more killing time with good food.

Armed with God's protection, we watched the century plus Victorina homes pass as we discussed introducing ourselves to Lydia. Alex was nervous; that was to be expected. Hopping off the

St. Charles trolley at S. Carrollton, we walked the few blocks until we reached the gravel that sloped down the batture to Lydia's home. The house fit her; it was white with porches on all sides, with their ceilings painted pale blue to keep birds from nesting in the corners. A winding outside stairway with about 12 steps connected the batture to the elevated home. No clue if she was home, we stepped up! Straightening his shoulders, Alex knocked.

The door opened. It wasn't Lydia. "May I help you?" said the youngster of about 16 or 17. Oh, I almost forgot to add that she was, as my father would say, "as cute as a button." "Are you looking for someone or someplace?"

"Yes, we are," said Alex. "Does a Lydia Singh live here?"

"Yes, she does. She's my Auntie; I'm Teresa." Here we go again, was she related to Lydia or just a friend.

"Good to know. She's looking for me; I'm Alex, the son of her best friend. Do you know when she'll be back?"

"It shouldn't be long; she's checking at the churches along St. Charles for people in need. Come in. I have some sweet tea in the refrigerator. You can sit, relax, and we'll wait together."

Finally, we were going to meet and see Lydia. Hallelujah! But as always, there were still questions.



Dear John,

I have three children, all boys. They are the light of my life. I tried to teach them Christian values. My oldest says I was too strict. He went wild in college, quit school and then joined the Army. Now he has a girlfriend and he wants to bring her home to meet me. He requests that they sleep in the same room, in the same bed! and if they can't, then they aren't coming! Hey, I am not naive. I know what's going on here! The hypocritical part is that I was pregnant with my son when I married his dad. His father left years ago and I am alone. What is your advice?

Mommy Did It Too

Dear Mommy Did It Too,

Unless I miss my guess, your son and his girlfriend are both adults. And, since you are alone, your son no longer lives with you. Your Christian values are, no doubt, very important to you and it seems like your son should be well aware of that. Perhaps, the next time you speak with him about coming over for a visit with his girlfriend, a gentle reminder may well be in order. It may not have any immediate effect, but it may just give your son pause about his request and how his insistence may be dishonoring his mother. It's worth a try. In any event, do not yield to his inordinate request. Stick with your values. The worst that can happen is he does not get a chance to see his mommy, but that would be his loss.

Sincerely,

Dear John

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

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Mullin It Over: 20 Years Since 9/11

By Congressman Markwayne Mullin

This year marks 20 years since the horrific attacks of September 11, 2001. It also marks 20 years of American resiliency and bravery. 20 years since first responders and bystanders ran towards the scene to save others instead of running away to save themselves. 20 years since countless Americans joined our armed forces, many sacrificing their lives in the fight against terrorism. 20 years of our country never forgetting but rising from the ashes.

There will never be enough words to comfort those who lost their sons, daughters, moms, dads, uncles, aunts, grandmothers, grandfathers, cousins, neighbors, and friends in this senseless act. We lost seven Oklahomans amongst the nearly 3,000 innocent lives taken that day. We've also lost almost 7,000 members of our U.S. military defending our homeland against terror in the years since. But while we mourn their loss, we will always be grateful for the sac-

rifices they made for freedom.

To honor those who lost their lives, we must remember how we felt on the days after. We were all one—we were all Americans. We did not live in fear like the terrorists intended. Instead, we came back stronger. We checked in with our neighbors. In what may have been our nation's darkest hour, Americans stood united on a day that would mark the beginning of a long battle against evil.

Our nation is a beacon of hope, and our flag represents freedom across the world. Under extreme pressure is when we show what we are truly made of and on 9/11, Americans proved liberty and justice will always prevail.

Today and every day, we must never forget.

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.

Adair County High School Football Roundup

By John Bankel

Watts High School Varsity Football: On Friday 9/10, the Engineers were scheduled to play Oaks Mission in a Class B, 8 man football contest. Unfortunately, Watts had to forfeit the game. It was recorded as a 46-0 loss. Watts is now 0-2 on the season. They are next at home versus Wesleyan Christian of Bartlesville who come into the contest with a record of 0-2 having lost to Webbers Falls

and Drumright. The Engineers will seek their first win of the year. Kickoff is at 7 pm.

Westville High School Varsity Football: On Friday night, 9/10, the Yellowjackets continued their winning ways with a 28-16 triumph against visiting Foreman (AR) High School. Westville is now 3-0 on the season. On Friday, 9/17, the Yellowjackets travel to Kansas where they will seek to continue their winning streak. Kickoff is at

7 pm.

Cave Springs High School Varsity Football: On Friday night, 9/10, the Cave Springs Hornets hosted the South Coffeerville Lions in a Class C, 8 man football contest. The Hornets swarmed all over their opponent to register their first win of the year by a final score of 64-14. The Hornets next travel to Webbers Falls on Friday, 9/17. Kickoff is at 7 pm.

Vocabulary WORD of the DAY

Chagrin

- distress or embarrassment at having failed or been humiliated.

The
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Truth is Our Target

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Donna Boecher.....Editor
John Bankel.....Journalist
Joy Coleman.....Composing

PROVERBS 29:2—"When the righteous are in authority, the people rejoice: but when the wicked beareth rule, the people mourn."

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Adair County Young Writers' Page, & Our Readers' Voice

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

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

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"Our Readers' Voice:" A page dedicated to the expressed opinions of our readers. Send your opinion to: straightforwardpress21@gmail.com.

Obituaries

Brenda Faye Guinn

July 20, 1956 – September 7, 2021

Brenda Faye Guinn, daughter of Jay Kenneth Guinn and Renie (Carter) Guinn, was born July 20, 1956, in Santa Monica, California. She departed this life on September 7, 2021, at the age of 65 years, 1 month, and 18 days.

She was a retired cosmetologist and salon owner.

She was preceded in death by her father, and 1 sister: Alana Diane Levy of Calabassas, California.

Brenda is survived by her mother; 2 sons: Christopher Ex of Oklahoma City, Oklahoma, and Benjamin Ex of Siloam Springs, Arkansas. 1 granddaughter: Mackenzie Ex of Enid, Oklahoma; 1 grandson: Sevayeth Ex of Siloam Springs, Arkansas; 1 great-granddaughter: Jackalynn Ex of Enid, Oklahoma. 1 sister: Lagretta Perkins of Checotah, Oklahoma; 2 brothers: Drannon "Skip" Guinn of Checotah, Oklahoma, and Rex Guinn of Stilwell, Oklahoma. Many nieces, nephews, other relatives, and many friends.

Graveside Memorial services will be held at 11 am on Saturday, September 18, 2021 at Stilwell City Cemetery, Stilwell, OK. Interment to follow under the direction of Roberts/Reed-Culver Funeral Home, Stilwell, OK.



Byron Dean Block

July 26, 1961 – August 31, 2021

Byron Dean Block, better known as Sonny to the family, was born July 25, 1961, in Enid, Oklahoma to Kenneth and Dorothy (Fleig) Block and departed this life to his heavenly home on August 31, 2021, on Stilwell, Oklahoma.

He was a 1980 graduate of Westville Schools. He worked at Baldor/ABB for 39 years. He was part of the Harvest Time Fellowship family in Westville, where he loved to sing and play his guitar.

He was an avid OU fan and loved to watch the Sooners play. No truer words were ever written, Sooner born and when I die, I will be Sooner dead. In fact, it was often joked his wardrobe consisted of "which" OU shirt will I wear today. He also was a huge Pittsburgh Steeler fan and so occasionally he would throw everyone off by throwing in wearing a Steeler shirt.

He loved his family and friends and would do anything for them at the drop of a hat. He was not one to say it in words, but if he picked on you, joked around with you or "gave you a hard time," you were special to him. He was slow to anger and easy to forgive, a lesson a lot of people need to learn. He lived his life with ease and love and followed his Lord and Savior and now he has his great reward for a life well lived but gone too soon.

He was preceded in death by his brother: Damon; his maternal grandparents: Charlie and Bessie Fleig, and his paternal grandparents: Ben Block and Mary Mickalowski; his aunt: Betty Fleig, and uncles: Richard Fleig, Vincent Fleig, Victor Fleig, Raymond Fleig, and Duane Block.

Left to mourn his death are his parents: Kenneth and Dorothy Block of Westville; 1 sister: Dalana and her husband Michael Leach of Westville; his cousin, aka, other sister: Roblynn and her husband David Chance of Siloam Springs, Arkansas; two special munchkins: Abigail and Jack Canner of Broken Arrow, Oklahoma, that he loved dearly. Along with many friends and relatives.

Graveside Services were held at 2:00 pm Wednesday, September 8, 2021, at Westville City Cemetery with Bro. Navil Vaughan officiating. Interment followed at Chulio Cemetery, Stilwell, Oklahoma. Under the direction of Roberts & Hart Funeral Home, Westville, Oklahoma.



Carolyn Claphan

October 14, 1927 – August 31, 2021

Carolyn Claphan was born October 14, 1927, in Stilwell, Oklahoma to Sam Joe Doublehead and Adeline (Bunch) Doublehead. She went to be with the Lord on Tuesday, August 31, 2021, at her home in the Cherry Tree Community in Stilwell, Oklahoma at the age of 93.

Carolyn attended school at Zion and graduated High School at Haskell Institute in Lawrence, Kansas. She worked as a waitress and learned how to upholster furniture. She returned to Stilwell and worked as a waitress. She later worked a short time at the Flying J truck stop in Clines Corner, New Mexico. She returned to Stilwell where she met and married the love of her life: Harry Vernon "Jack" Claphan in July 1952. She also worked at Zion School as a teacher assistant for many years until she retired.

She attended Fairfield Baptist Church. Carolyn was a Cherokee First Speaker. She loved doing yard work, coloring, doing puzzles, and playing dominoes with grandchildren and she liked keeping score for some reason. She loved the Sooners.

Carolyn is preceded in death by her parents: Sam Joe and Adeline (Bunch) Claphan; her husband: "Jack" Claphan; two sons: Sammy "Jack" and JR.; four sisters: Janana Daugherty, Lydia Young, Emmaline Teehee, and Dorothy Gonzales; four brothers: Adam, Denton, Hiner, and Charlie Doublehead.

Carolyn is survived by two daughters: Brenda Bean of Stilwell, Oklahoma, and Wanda Hatfield, and Jim Hawk of Oklahoma City, Oklahoma. One brother: John Doublehead of Stilwell, Oklahoma. Grandchildren: Tasha Privett and husband Michael, Amber Claphan, McKenzie Lopez and husband Danuel, Meghan Claphan, Shy Claphan, and grandson: Erik. Seven great-grandchildren: Kinley, Jarvis, Ali, Santana, Darrian, Haylin, and Adeline.

Funeral services were held at 1 pm on Wednesday, September 8, 2021 at Roberts/Reed-Culver Chapel, Stilwell, OK with Alec Hernandez officiating. Interment followed at Doublehead Cemetery, Stilwell, OK.



Creek Tyler Johnson

September 2, 2021 – September 2, 2021

Creek was born a perfect angel at 10:59 am on Thursday, September 2, 2021 at Hastings Hospital in Tahlequah, OK to Chase and Emma Johnson.

Creek was already loved by so many and will forever be missed here on this earth. We take comfort in knowing the first thing he saw when his little eyes opened was the face of Jesus. We will see you soon, Angel Boy.

Creek is survived by his parents: Chase and Emma Johnson of Stilwell, OK, paternal grandparents: Jeromy and Jody Johnson of Stilwell and Annette Studie of Tahlequah, OK, maternal grandparents: Jeremy and Kay Thompson of Stigler, OK, great-grandparents: Barry and Kathy Johnson of Stilwell, OK, Charlie Studie of Tahlequah, Connie and Jerry Thompson of Stigler, the late Ernie and Emily Renfroe of Stigler, uncles: Tye, Cole, Wyatt, Cord, Will and Clay, aunts: Kinley, Abby, Bridgett and Adriana.

He is also survived by many great aunts, great uncles, cousins and friends.

Graveside services were held at 10 am on Tuesday, September 7, 2021 at Spade Mountain Cemetery, Stilwell, OK.

Roberts/Reed-Culver Funeral Home



Gerald Brian Jones

September 20, 1935 – August 30, 2021

Gerald Brian Jones was born in Claremore, Oklahoma on September 20, 1935, to John Butler Alberty and Clara Mae Workman and departed this life on August 30, 2021, at home.

He is preceded in death by his parents: John Butler Alberty and Clara Mae Workman; and one brother: William "Bill" Claphan.

He is survived by his brother: Charles Claphan of Stilwell, Oklahoma, wife: Cora Jones of the home; their children, son: Bryon Jones of Stilwell, Oklahoma, son: Dwayne Jones of Stilwell, Oklahoma, son: Steven Jones of Stilwell, Oklahoma, son: Mitchell Jones of Sallisaw, Oklahoma, daughter: Renee Sanders and husband Jeff Sanders of Stilwell, Oklahoma, and one daughter: Karen Gonzales of Hickory Corners, Michigan from a previous marriage. His grandchildren: Tiffany Jones, Carlis Jones, Cale Jones, Collin Sanders and wife Kayse Sanders, Lorna Sanders, Katie Chuculate, Bryanna Butler and husband Cory Butler, Denton Jones and wife Alexa Jones, Mackensey Colombo and husband Anthony Colombo, Hailey Jones, Cricket Darin and husband Nathaniel Darin, Mauro Gonzales, and Tommy Matthews. Great-grandchildren: Kynden Jones, Kynlee Jones, Westyn Sanders, Lexington Sanders, Laikyn Kaye Sanders, Mason Colombo, Kanton Jones, Oaklyn Jones, Bryleigh Annette Butler, Asa Gonzales, and Mia Gonzales.

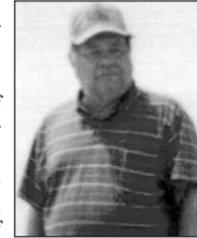
At the age of 16 he went to Rifle, Colorado to work on the Ward Ranch, he spent a year there and then on to California where he would later join the Marine Corps. He spent 3 years in Okinawa, Japan. He was extremely proud of his country and glad to have been a Marine. After the Military, he moved back to Stilwell and started driving Semi-Trucks, which took him to 48 states and to Canada. He enjoyed taking his wife, children, and grandchildren on the Semi-Trucks with him. All though he liked driving big trucks, he got his feet wet with law enforcement. He was the town Marshall in Walsh, Colorado and Deputy Sheriff in Lincoln, Arkansas. The money wasn't substantial so back to driving the big trucks. He drove for 50 years and retired from driving at the age of 77.

He enjoyed family cookouts, playing horseshoes, dressing up as Santa for his grandchildren, and fishing; always trying to catch the most.

Gerald attended church at Guiding Light, but he lost his hearing and he stopped going. He still read his Bible and made himself ready to meet Jesus. Before his passing he talked about going to church one more time.

He will always be missed, but his memory will always be with us.

Graveside services were held at 10 am on Wednesday, September 8, 2021 at Stilwell City Cemetery, Stilwell, OK with Bro. Channing Howard officiating. Interment followed under the direction of Roberts/Reed-Culver Funeral Home, Stilwell, OK.



Howard Lee "Sonny" Patterson

January 2, 1960 – September 1, 2021

Howard Lee "Sonny" Patterson, son of Edwin G. Patterson and Delois Nofire Patterson, was born January 2, 1960, in Tahlequah, Oklahoma. He passed from this life and joined his Heavenly Father on September 1, 2021, at the age of 61 years, 7 months, and 29 days.

Sonny was a former teacher and currently worked as a construction contractor. He loved hunting, fishing, and spending time with his family. The light of his life was his daughter: Chelsea. He found great pleasure in making others laugh and telling stories.

He is preceded in death by his son: Jacob Shane Patterson; his father: Edwin G. Patterson; grandparents: Samuel and Verna Patterson, and Mitchell and Johnnie Nofire; and several aunts and uncles.

Sonny is survived by his daughter: Chelsea Patterson; his mother: Delois Patterson; granddaughters: Makayla, Maddy, and Annie all of Stilwell, Oklahoma. Brothers: Dwayne Patterson of Stilwell, Oklahoma, Jeff Patterson and wife Valerie of Welling, Oklahoma, and Carl Patterson and wife Terri of Keys, Oklahoma, and a host of nieces, nephews, other relatives, and friends.

Funeral services were held at 1 pm on Thursday, September 9, 2021 at Roberts/Reed-Culver Chapel, Stilwell, OK with Bro. Gary Flynn officiating. Interment followed at Stilwell City Cemetery, Stilwell, OK.



Justin Turner

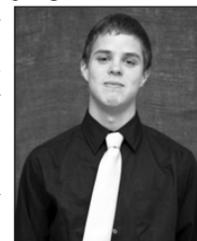
November 9, 1993 – September 6, 2021

Justin Turner, aged 27, was born on November 9, 1993, in Sheffield, Alabama and joined our Heavenly Father on September 6, 2021, in Springdale, Arkansas.

He is survived by his son: Ballard Green; his father and stepmother: Ron and Karen Turner; brothers and sisters: Kristina Turner, Jessica Shumar, Johnathan Gaertner, Sarah Haney, Philip Gaertner, Matthew Gaertner, and Joshua Turner; 18 nieces and nephews; his girlfriend: Becca Long; and numerous aunts and uncles.

He is preceded in death by his mother: Tammy Turner; his grandparents: Ray and Maurine Turner, and Gary and Julie Davis; and nephew: Nathan Newman.

Graveside services were held at 2 pm on Friday, September 10, 2021 at Westville City Cemetery, Westville, OK with Bro. Marty Jones officiating. Interment followed under the direction of Roberts & Hart Funeral Home, Westville, OK.



Shirley Fay Leming

March 12, 1946 – September 2, 2021

Shirley Fay Leming was born on March 12, 1946, in Redrock, Arizona and passed away on September 2, 2021, in Siloam Springs, Arkansas at the age of 75 years, 5 months, and 21 days.

She loved to dance and fish. Shirley loved her grandbabies and great-grandbabies. She worked in home health and loved yard sales.

She is preceded in death by: Tennessee Sue Leming; Azlily, and John William Leming; Renee Sanders; Denise Cole; 2 grandsons, and 9 siblings.

Shirley is survived by: Shantel Shelly of the home and children: Sarah, Keonna, and Princeton; John Hale and wife Hope of Lincoln, Arkansas and children: MaShayla, Marissa, Letasha, Johanna, Mia, Evan, and 3 grandchildren; Scott and wife Rhonda Hale of Westville, Oklahoma and children: Kassi, Brandon, Tiffany, Johnathan, Kiley, Cash, Xyler, Kerryonna, Easton, Hudson, and 9 grandchildren; Jessica and husband Robert Burdick of Sapulpa, Oklahoma and children: Addilynn, Serenity, Kacin, and Daelyn; Cynthia Hale of Tahlequah, Oklahoma and children: Jacob, Beth, and 7 grandchildren; Andrew, and Kaitlyn; Makayla and her 3 grandchildren.

Graveside services were held at 6 pm on Wednesday, September 8, 2021 at Summers Cemetery, Summers, AR. Interment followed under the direction of Roberts & Hart Funeral Home, Westville, OK.



Flynn, Lydia, 82, resident of Stilwell, OK. Passed on 9-7-21. Services will be held at 10 am on Wednesday, September 15, 2021 at Roberts/Reed-Culver Chapel, Stilwell, OK.

Squirrel, Lena, 73, resident of Stilwell, OK. Passed on 9-10-21. Services are pending. Roberts/Reed-Culver Funeral Home, Stilwell, OK.

Bunch, Joe, 83, resident of Stilwell, OK. Passed on 9-10-21. Services are pending. Roberts/Reed-Culver Funeral Home, Stilwell, OK.

Taber, Vivian, 71, resident of Stilwell, OK. Passed on 9-7-21. Services were held at 2 pm on Tuesday, September 14, 2021 at Roberts/Reed-Culver Chapel, Stilwell, OK. Obituary to follow next week.

Maxine Cartoonist, John Wagner, is Talented Artist

By Donna Boecher

John Wagner, the "Maxine" cartoonist, has talent as an artist. Many Free Press readers may have guffawed upon seeing one of his goofy all-encompassing portrait-cartoons with its one-line statement. I always felt they were personally written for my mother since her name was Maxine. The cartoon and my mother are/were special. But there's more to John's story. Family saw his talent as a child and encouraged him to draw, even investing monies for art school at the appropriate time. John is not the only artist in America or in the world. Every family is made up of "Johns." We all have "talent." They are God-given.

Jesus told the parable about TALENTS (Matt. 25:14-30). In the story, the master gave varying amounts of talents to his servants and God, like the parable's master, wants us to use them. Today, we have athletes, seamstresses, writers, mathematicians, muralists, parents, bakers, and the list goes on forever. Don't forget to seek out and develop all your talents and those of your family. Even one talent from God is a blessing! Develop it and see where God will take you. I know your journey will be profitable "on earth as it is in heaven."

THE KIPLING KORNER

"War is an ill thing, as I surely know. But 't would be an ill world for weaponless dreamers if evil men were not now and then slain."

* * *

"Borrow trouble for yourself, if that's your nature, but don't lend it to your neighbours."

Donations for Disaster Relief Being Accepted

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

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

Thank you for your help.

ON THE CAMPAIGN TRAIL

Commentary by John Bankel

Today the Trail Treks to the Taboo of Money, Part 4 CRAZY CRYPTO: CURRENCY DE-CENTRALIZED

This week we will look at money from the other side of the coin (pun intended). But first, just a short re-cap of the origin of our present banking system. It was Maier Rothschild, the father of modern day banking, who, in the 16th century, famously said, "Allow me to control the world's money supply, and I will control the world. He made good on his prediction. The World Bank, through its international Reserve Bank branch network, controls the world's money supply and the World Bank, a privately held corporation, is controlled by the Family Rothschild, along with 20 of the world's wealthiest families, names like Rockefeller, Kennedy, Ford, Carnegie, et. al.

In July, 2010, this system saw an upstart appear on the world monetary stage. An intruder. An interrupter. A maverick. An interloper. All fitting terms for

the entrance of BitCoin and the launch of Crypto Currency. Today BitCoin is practically a household word but then it was regarded as a fad, foolishness and fundamentally unsound by the gurus of the financial industry. Yet history has proven otherwise. Notwithstanding that BitCoin suffered through a period of wild swings over its first few years, today it maintains the predominant position in crypto currency market place with a valuation that has exceeded 1 trillion dollars with a per coin price (think share price) exceeding 60,000 USD and a valuation of over 1 trillion dollars, bigger than any other corporation doing business on this planet!

At the time of this writing the per coin price is \$45,000 with some folks predicting 100k by the end of 2021. Any blind man can see that BitCoin has evolved and has achieved market "stickum." So,

the question is: how did this come about? Tune in on the next installment of "On The Campaign Trail" for the answer.

For today, the Trail has come to an end and as Roy Rogers and Dale Evans used to sing, "Happy trails to you, until we meet again." May your trail end up on the right side of the fence. Till the next time.

John Bankel is a freelance journalist and a retired math teacher who can be reached at: wrightwrite@journalist.com.

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New Puzzle Page:
Crossword, Word Search
and Soduko Fun!

Puzzle Page

KRYPTO KONTEST WEEK 10

With 3 weeks left before the Krypto Kontest ends, David W. now has 3 Kryptos under his belt to hold the lead. Kevin H. is in second place with 1 Krypto. In the event of a tie, a coin toss will determine the winner of a calculator and a \$25 gift card.

Today's Krypto uses 11 as the answer while playing with these 5 numbers: 3, 8, 25, 17, 7. Remember, all 5 numbers must be used, but each one only once, in an expression that equals 11.

What's So Punny? PUN FUN

Two men were walking in the woods when one of them cried out, "Snake! Run!" His companion laughs at him and says, "Oh, relax. It's only a baby. Don't you hear the rattle?"

Moral of the Story: When you're walking in the woods and you hear a rattle, skeedaddle!

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

Try it out, just for fun. Send your answer to: **Krypto Kontest, POB 885, Stilwell, OK 74960.**
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The Giant (Continued from Page 1)

expected to learn. They still ran from the giant, but now they would run over to nibble from the water and feed as soon as the giant was gone. That is, until the day the giant brought in the tall, tall metal water can. It was four times as big as their little red and white water can. Of course, when it first came into their room, they didn't know what it was. It was scary. It took up so much room in their shelter.

Some of the brothers immediately made reconnaissance raids against it. They'd quickly sweep in from the left and race out on the right without touching the walls of metal. The can remained. It didn't move. More raids were made. Some were quiet and casual forays with sidelong glances at the giant metal walls.

The Giant in the Hen House Part 2 will appear in next week's paper.

(Copyright Donna Boecher)

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 **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.

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