

from our viewpoint...

## Moments of silence tragic reminders

Looking back through life we all have moments we remember, and know exactly where we were when things happened in our town, nation or world.

Sept. 11, is one of those days, and the United States took time out Thursday to remember the more than 2,700 people who lost their lives in the terrorist attacks on the Twin Towers in New York City, the Pentagon in Washington and those patriots who lost their lives on United Airlines Flight 93 in a Pennsylvania field.

Seven years ago, the attacks rocked the U.S. and for more than a few days we all stopped and held our breath waiting to see what else was going to happen.

People found themselves stranded all across the country as all airplanes were grounded, trains and buses stopped. Some people found themselves landing at Renner Field and trying to find a car to take them to where they were going when the order came to land all planes.

In the days that followed, we heard about relatives from Goodland who had survived the attacks and many harrowing stories about those who perished.

Seven years later, those memories are as vivid as they were that morning, and as the country celebrated Patriots Day, we had that same feeling of emptiness as we watched the replays of that day and heard the relatives of those killed reading the names and remembering their loss.

When we left home Thursday morning we did find a symbol of pride in our town with all the Kiwanis, American flags flying around Goodland demonstrating the pride in our nation those terrible events rekindled. The Kiwanis flag project that began in May has grown to more than 200 around town, and we expect it to get bigger next year. Originally when the Kiwanis flag project was established, Patriots Day was not one of those listed as a day for the flags to be put out, but it was wonderful to see them flying in the breeze.

Those tragic events remind us of other times we remember including the assassinations of President John F. Kennedy, Bobby Kennedy and Martin Luther King.

We remember events created by Mother Nature in tornadoes that wipe out towns and blizzards that leave people stranded. Hurricanes are other memorable events like Katrina and Andrew. We watch the track of hurricane Ike with trepidation knowing that wide storm will have an impact on thousands of people along the Texas coast.

It is good to remember these sad events, and as we hold moments of silence for those who perished in the terrorist attacks, we remember others who have laid down their lives for this country in many places around the world. — *Tom Betz*

### Letter Policy

The Goodland Star-News encourages and welcomes letters from readers. Letters should be typewritten, and must include a telephone number and a signature. Unsigned letters will not be published. Form letters will be rejected, as will letters deemed to be of no public interest or considered offensive. We reserve the right to edit letters for length and good taste. We encourage letters, with address and phone numbers, by e-mail to: <star-news@nwkans.com>.

## The Goodland Star-News

(USPS No. 222-460. ISSN 0893-0562)

Member: Kansas Press Association

Inland Press Association Colorado Press Association  
National Newspaper Association

e-mail: star-news@nwkans.com

Steve Haynes, President

Tom Betz, Editor

Pat Schiefen, Society Editor

Sharon Corcoran, Reporter

Jordie Mann, Jessica Corbin, Advertising Depr.

Sheila Smith, Office Manager



### Nor'west Press

Jim Bowker, General Manager

Richard Westfahl, Betty Morris, James Jackson

Lana Westfahl, James Ornelas, Tasha Shores

Barbara Ornelas, Elizabeth Brock, Judy McKnight



nwkansas.com

N.T. Betz, Director of Internet Services

(ntbetz@nwkans.com)

Evan Barnum, Systems Admin.(support@nwkans.com)

Published every Tuesday and Friday except the days observed for New Year's Day, July 4th and Christmas Day, at 1205 Main Ave., Goodland, Kan. 67735.

Periodicals postage paid at Goodland, Kan. 67735; entered at the Goodland, Kan., Post Office under the Act of Congress of March 8, 1878.

POSTMASTER: Send address changes to The Goodland Star-News, 1205 Main Ave., Goodland, Kan. 67735.

TELEPHONE: (785) 899-2338. Editorial e-mail: star-news@nwkans.com. Advertising questions can be sent to: goodlandads@nwkans.com

The Goodland Star-News assumes no liability for mistakes or omissions in advertising or failure to publish beyond the actual cost of the ad.

SUBSCRIPTIONS: In Sherman County and adjacent counties: three months, \$29; six months, \$46; 12 months, \$81. Out of area, weekly mailing of two issues: three months, \$39; six months, \$54; 12 months, \$89 (All tax included). Mailed individually each day: (call for a price).

Incorporating:

## The Goodland Daily News

1932-2003

### The Sherman County Herald

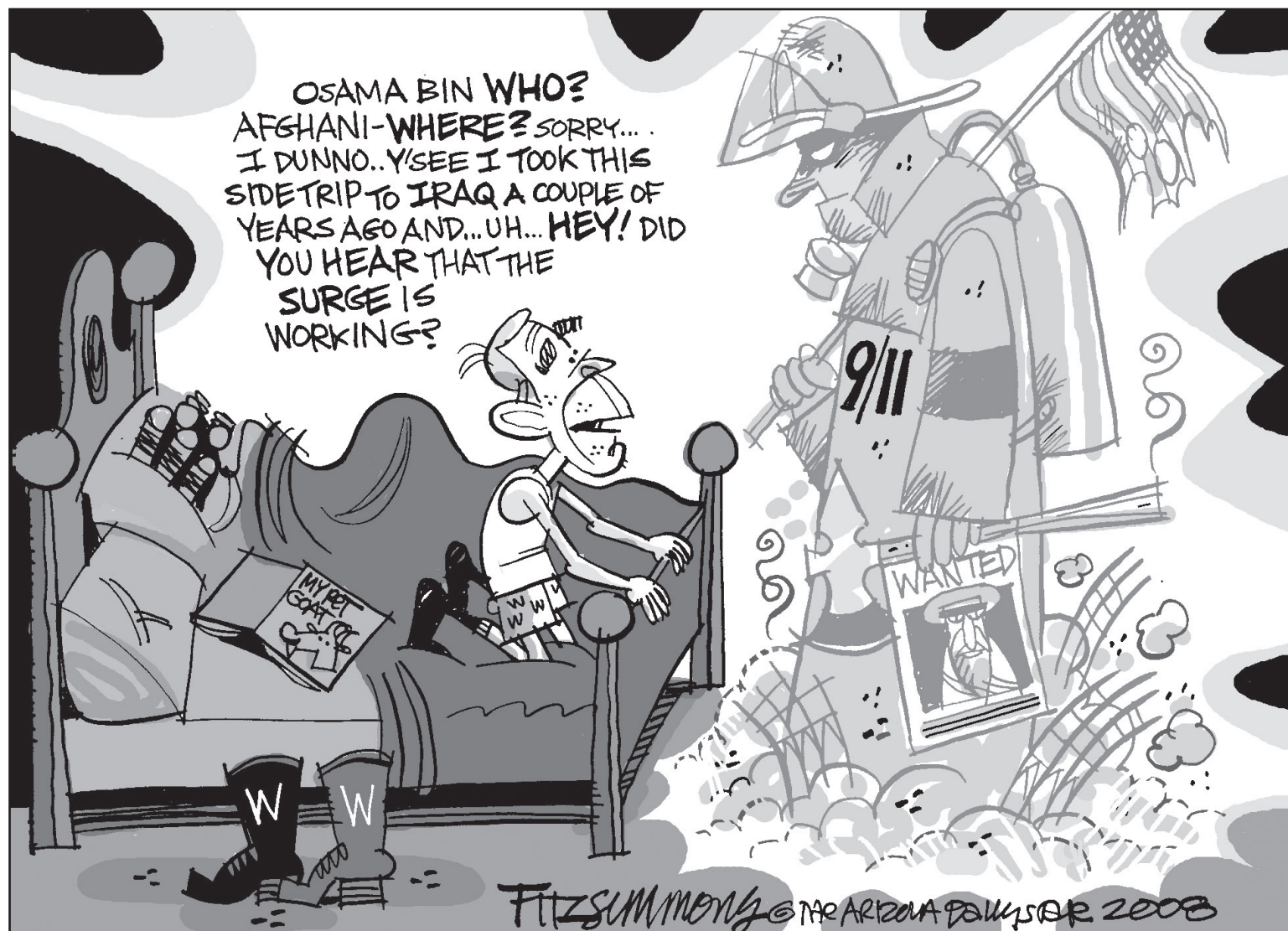
Founded by Thomas McCants  
1935-1989

### THE SHERMAN COUNTY STAR

Founded by Eric and  
Roxie Yonkey  
1994-2001

### Nor'West Newspapers

Haynes Publishing Company



## Welcome back, Dad



**michael  
reagan**

• making sense

I've been trying to convince my fellow conservatives that they have been wasting their time in a fruitless quest for a new Ronald Reagan to emerge and lead our party and our nation. I insisted that we'd never see his like again because he was one of a kind.

I was wrong!

Wednesday night I watched the Republican National Convention on television and there, before my very eyes, I saw my Dad reborn; only this time he's a she.

And what a she!

In one blockbuster of a speech, Alaska Gov. Sarah Palin resurrected my Dad's indomitable spirit and sent it soaring above the convention center, shooting shock waves through the cynical media's assigned spaces and electrifying the huge audience with the kind of inspiring rhetoric we haven't heard since my Dad left the scene.

This was Ronald Reagan at his best — the same Ronald Reagan who made the address known now solely as "The Speech," which during the Goldwater campaign set the tone and the agenda for the rebirth of the traditional conservative movement that later sent him to the White House for eight years and revived the moribund GOP.

Last night was an extraordinary event. Widely seen beforehand as a make-or-break effort — either an opportunity for Sarah Palin to show that she was the happy warrior that John McCain assured us she was, or a disaster that would dash McCain's presidential hopes and send her back to Alaska, sadder but wiser.

Obviously un-intimidated by either the savage onslaught to which the left-leaning media

had subjected her, or the incredible challenge she faced — and oozing with confidence — she strode defiantly to the podium and proved she was everything and even more than John McCain told us.

Much has been made of the fact that she is a woman. What we saw last night, however, was something much more than just a woman accomplishing something no Republican woman has ever achieved. What we saw was a red-blooded American with that rare, God-given ability to rally her dispirited fellow Republicans and take up the daunting task of leading them — and all her fellow Americans — on a pilgrimage to that shining city on the hill my father envisioned as our nation's real destination.

In a few words, she managed to rip the mask from the faces of her Democratic rivals and reveal them for what they are — a pair of old-fashioned liberals making promises that cannot be kept without bankrupting the nation and reducing most Americans to the status of mendicants begging for their daily bread at the feet of an all-powerful government.

Most important, by comparing her own stunning record of achievement with his, she showed Barack Obama for the sham that he is, a man without any solid accomplishments beyond conspicuous self-aggrandizement.

## Regulation without representation



**tom  
purcell**

• commentary

"President Bush is the first president to accomplish what?"

"He's the first to propose a budget that tops \$3 trillion. Only six years ago, he was the first to propose one that topped \$2 trillion. America is the proud owner of the largest government on Earth."

"That's a lot of government."

"It gets worse. Clyde Wayne Crews of the Competitive Enterprise Institute says that 'the government's reach extends far beyond the taxes that Washington collects and the deficit spending at which it excels.' He's talking about the cost of government regulations. He explains in detail in 'Ten Thousand Commandments: An Annual Snapshot of the Federal Regulatory State.'"

"How do government regulations cost us money?"

"In some cases the federal government imposes new rules and regulations on lower governments, and those governments must raise taxes to cover the cost of compliance."

"I see — the old bait and switch."

"And complying with regulations costs private-sector organizations big money, too. They pass the costs along to us through increases in the price of consumer goods."

"So regulations end up costing us hard money just as taxes do?"

"Precisely. Crew's report calculates that regulatory compliance costs hit \$1.16 trillion in 2007 — an amount almost half the size of the federal budget itself. Federal regulations gobbled up nearly 10 percent of what the U.S. economy produced last year."

"That's a lot of gobbling."

"In 2007, nearly 3,600 new rules and regulations were added — since 1995 when the 'small-government' Republicans took over Congress, 51,000 rules and regulations have been added!"

"Small government, my eye."

"The Federal Register, which contains all the rules and regulations, is more than 72,000

pages thick — down a touch from previous years, but still massive nonetheless."

"Where do all those regulations come from?"

"It all starts with lawmaking. In response to a social or economic need or problem, Congress passes a law. The appropriate regulatory agency then interprets that law and writes regulations that define how the law will be implemented."

"Can you provide an example?"

"The FDA creates its regulations under the authority of the Food, Drug and Cosmetics Act, the Controlled Substances Act and several other acts created by Congress over the years. Based on the acts, the FDA creates specific regulations that determine what food and drug companies can and cannot do."

"Do you mean government bureaucrats, not elected officials, are really the ones determining what people and organizations can and cannot do?"

"Yep. There are more than 50 regulatory agencies in the federal government and each is empowered to create and enforce rules and regulations that are backed by the might of federal law. Individuals, and organizations, can be

Like Ronald Reagan, Sarah Palin is one of us. She knows how most of us live because that's the way she lives. She shares our home-spun values and our beliefs, and she glories in her status as a small-town woman who put her shoulder to the wheel and made life better for her neighbors.

Her astonishing rise up from the grass-roots, her total lack of self-importance, and her ordinary American values and modest lifestyle reveal her to be the kind of hard-working, optimistic, ordinary American who made this country the greatest, most powerful nation on the face of the earth.

As hard as you might try, you won't find that kind of plain-spoken, down-to-earth, self-reliant American in the upper ranks of the liberal-infested, elitist Democratic Party, or in the Obama campaign.

Sarah Palin didn't go to Harvard, or fiddle around in urban neighborhood leftist activism while engaging in opportunism within the ranks of one of the nation's most corrupt political machines, never challenging it and going along to get along, like Barack Obama.

Instead she took on the corrupt establishment in Alaska and beat it, rising to the governorship while bringing reforms to every level of government she served in on her way up the ladder.

Welcome back, Dad, even if you're wearing a dress and bearing children this time around.

Mike Reagan, the elder son of the late President Ronald Reagan, is heard on talk radio stations nationally. E-mail comments to Reagan@caglecartoons.com.

fined or thrown in jail for violating them."

"That sounds ominous."

"It can be ominous, which is why regulators must be kept in check. But where regulations are concerned, Crews says nobody is doing that."

"So how do we keep the regulators in check?"

"Disclosure and accountability. Crews argues that regulatory costs should be accounted for just like federal spending. Cost-benefit analysis should be provided before a regulation is imposed. And when a regulation will cost more than \$100 million to comply with, the Congress should be required to vote on the regulation BEFORE it becomes binding."

"Sounds like common sense to me."

"He also argues that Congress should create a regulatory report card to monitor regulatory agencies. And while they're at it, the Congress should create a bipartisan commission to expose and eliminate harmful regulations. In other words, we should 'end regulation without representation.'"

"That Crews fellow has some really good ideas, but isn't the overlooking the primary benefit of an incredibly thick Federal Register?"

"What's that?"

"If the Iranians don't shape up, we can threaten to drop it on them."

Tom Purcell is a nationally syndicated humor columnist. Visit Tom on the web at www.TomPurcell.com or e-mail him at Purcell@caglecartoons.com.

### where to write

U.S. Sen. Pat Roberts, 109 Hart Senate Office Building, Washington D.C. 20510. (202) 224-4774; web address — roberts.senate.gov

U.S. Sen. Sam Brownback, 303 Hart Senate Office Building, Washington D.C.

20510. (202) 224-6521; web e-mail address — brownback.senate.gov/CMEmail.me

U.S. Rep. Jerry Moran, 2202 Rayburn House Office Building, Washington, D.C. 20515. (202) 225-2715; Fax (202) 225-5124; web address — www.jerrymoran.house.gov