



Angus Stakes

► by *Shauna Rose Hermel*, editor

Each day is precious

As I pull this column together, we have just observed the 15th anniversary of the Sept. 11, 2001, terrorist attacks on American soil. It is amazing how soon we put such events behind us only to take that feeling of safety, freedom and opportunity for granted.

Day of impact

Do you remember where you were when you first heard the news? I remember former artist Christy Benigno coming into the office that morning shaken from hearing reports on the radio that the World Trade Center had been hit. At first, I thought it was a hoax, but looking at our computer monitors and seeing the images of the building's collapse via the Internet proved it was no "War of the Worlds" gimmick.

While the physical damage was 1,200 miles away from Saint Joseph, we felt the impact in unison with fellow Americans across the country. How quickly our lives and our circumstances can change. How thankful we are to the servicemen and women who protect us and our borders on a daily basis — whether in the military, a fire station, an ambulance or a taxi cab.

We need anniversaries to remind us that it was not a movie like *Training Day* or *A Knight's Tale* to be pulled from the shelf and

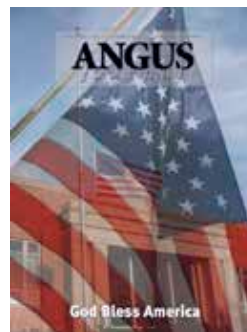
watched when we're in the mood; it was indeed real. The feeling of safety we have today, the freedoms we enjoy and the opportunities we see before us are not free. If we become complacent, those privileges will erode.

Each day a gift

It also reinforces that each day is a precious gift that is not to be taken for granted. I'll share one of my favorite inspirational messages from Successories:

Essence of a new day:

*This is the beginning of a new day.
You have been given this day to use as you will.
You can waste it or use it for good.
What you do today is important because you
are exchanging a day of your life for it.
When tomorrow comes, this day will be gone
forever;*



*in its place is something that you have left
behind ...
let it be something good.*

As a young person, time seems limitless. It takes forever to reach our 16th birthday and get wheels. Then we can't wait to graduate, to go on to college, to find that special someone, to turn 21, to get married, to have children ... Yet at some point in time we begin to realize time is finite. With graduation comes a limit to the time we have with our classmates. If we go on to college or marry outside the community, we realize time with friends and family back home is short. Events like 9/11 remind us we don't control the game clock.

How we react to these adjustments in life sets the tone for the future. Hopefully, the challenges strengthen our faith. Hopefully, the experience makes us wiser. Hopefully, realization that time is limited helps us to appreciate this day forward and consider our priorities in life.

My thanks to an amazing team that purposely traded several days of their lives to compile the information, advertising and inserts in this package. We hope you enjoy it.

EMAIL: shermel@angus.media
@Angus_Shauna

Angus Journal

3201 Frederick Ave., Saint Joseph, MO 64506; 1-800-821-5478;
fax: 816-233-6575; office hours: (M-F) 8 a.m.-4:30 p.m. (Central)
home page: www.angusjournal.com

Staff are listed by name, phone extension and email prefix. All direct phone numbers are "816-383-5..."; all email addresses are "...@angus.media"

General manager — Eric Grant, 118, egrant

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Communications director — Crystal Albers, 134, calbers

Art director — Leann Schleicher, 247, lschleicher

Editorial Department — Editor, Shauna Rose Hermel, 270, shermel ■ Senior associate editor, Kasey Brown, 277, kbrown ■ Assistant editors, Shelby Mettlen, 276, smettlen; & Linda Robbins, 245, lrobbins ■ Artist, Mary Black ■ Intern, Bridget Beran

Field editors — Barb Baylor Anderson, 305 Valley View Dr., Edwardsville, IL 62025, 618-656-0870, anderagcom@sbcglobal.net ■ Kindra Gordon, 11734 Weisman Rd., Whitewood, SD 57793, 605-722-7699, kindras@gordonresources.com ■ Paige Nelson, 4112 E. 550 N, Rigby, ID 83442, 208-317-3095, paigenelson7236@gmail.com ■ Becky Mills, 185 Lovett Farms Rd., Cuthbert, GA 39840, 229-938-1698, beckymills81@yahoo.com ■ Troy Smith, 44431 Sargent River Rd., Sargent, NE 68874, 308-527-3483, wordsmith@nctc.net

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