# SENIOR NEWS & LIVING Settling in UCO's new

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UCO's new president ready

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Information for Oklahoma Seniors

SEE PAGE 2



Nancy Klepac, LPN, Certified Dementia Practitioner, Executive Director at Willowood at Mustang is making the senior residence outstanding in the Mustang Community.

alking into Willowood you're bound to see someone sitting at the piano playing a tune or relaxing on one of the couches in the grand entryway reading a book.

There's a feeling of home inside Willowood that Executive Director Nancy Klepac, LPN, Certified Dementia Practitioner, and her staff work hard to foster.

Care and comfort combine at Willowood, which will undergo a facelift this year thanks to a new owner.

Klepac is excited about the plans guided by Heart Living Centers for the community that has enjoyed a long history in the wonderful and quaint city of Mustang. by Bobby Anderson, Staff Writer

"In the next few months I know Heart Living Centers will be diligently working to get our permits and reconstruction underway and I'm looking forward to the residents seeing the new construction and feeling the new construction," Klepac said. "It will give everyone a breath of fresh air and give Willowood the distinction it deserves."

Situated along State Highway 152 Willowood's stately columns hint at what waits inside.

Details have been carefully thought out to meet resident needs.

Klepac has spent a quarter century caring for seniors and their details.

"We offer a variety of services and we have a very high bar of care that is exemplary for our residents that are living here," said Klepac, whose innate calling has always been caring for elderly people.

Heart Living Centers represents new beginnings for Willowood with renovations and many updates to come.

Meeting with new ownership was a satisfying feeling for Klepac.

"It was very exciting," Klepac said of partnering with Heart Living Centers. "This home has a long history and has been in need of a few things. It's ready for its

See WILLOWOOD Page 3

# Settling in UCO's new president ready

by Bobby Anderson, Staff Writer

Like many people, Patti Neuhold never saw the next big thing in her life coming.

But as the dust began to settle and spring had finally sprung, Neuhold was getting her head wrapped around the fact later this summer she would become the next president of the 16,000-student University of Central Oklahoma.

"I'm excited about it. Every day I realize more is going to come my way and opportunities I'll get to be a part of and it's exciting," said Neuhold.

Earlier this year, the Regional University System of Oklahoma announced Neuhold will become UCO's 21st president following the June retirement of current President Don Betz.

Neuhold is the Vice President for Finance and Chief Financial Officer for the University of Central Oklahoma. She has a deep knowledge of UCO, having served in leadership in finance and budget, administrative and professional development departments, joining the university in 2007.

With two degrees earned and a third almost completed Neuhold is a proud product of education.

"I would not be where I'm at today without education and that's a fact," Neuhold said. "It is, in my opinion, a life changer. Education equals freedom for so many people. It can change the trajectory of an entire family for generations to come."

"For me, to be able to open that door is so rewarding. I want to make sure other people have



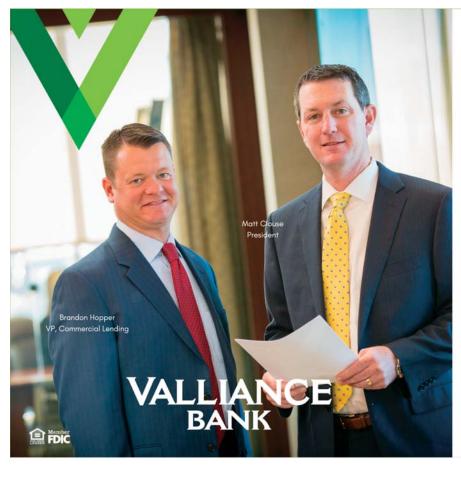
Patti Neuhold will step into the role of president of the University of Central Oklahoma later this summer.

the opportunity to grow and shape their destiny the way I have."

Neuhold balanced UCO's \$187 million budget through years of the

most significant declines in state support and declining enrollment. She facilitated business process

See NEUHOLD Page 11



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#### WILLWOOD Continued from Page 1

updates so it's exciting to see what Heart Living Centers with their resources and progressive experience in the industry can

Klepac's experience with senior living runs the gamut from nursing to leadership.

From a very young age, Klepac began caring for family. She became a nurse aide at 14. "This is a calling for me," Klepac said. "I knew that when I was six years old and so did my family that my innate calling was for the caring of elderly people. When I became a nurse I didn't work in any other field other than long term care."

She was eventually drawn to Willowood, starting as the director of wellness.

"I believe our care is something we do very well," Klepac said. "We are also very respectful of residents and allowing our residents to do what they would like to do as long as it is same for them."

"I'm very strong on residents making their own decisions about their care."

That's near and dear to Klepac's nurse heart.

You'll see her in scrubs on some days helping out where she is needed.

"Scrubs wash easily," Klepac laughs, recounting the times she's pitched in to help wherever a resident might need her.

"My nursing foundation is probably the most important thing to me in serving as the executive director," she said. "And I do believe it's a service. It allows me to look at things clinically as well as from the business aspect in the community."

It's also why she's looking to help Willowood expand its reach to potential residents with chronic illnesses that are often underserved by traditional senior living communities.

In the coming months Klepac said you'll see Willowood offer services for chronic disease management not typically seen.

And she won't do it alone.

Her staff is her extension throughout the building.

"I have a very strong team here at Willowood. They care for our residents. They put our residents first, which in this day and time is a hard thing to find in our industry," Klepac said. "They are on-call 24 hours a day, seven days a week without exceptions to all of our residents to the residents and their and their families."

"All of of our residents have our personal telephone numbers, myself and all my department heads."

That means availability for Willowood residents. Whether it's something that doesn't work in the middle of the night or the middle of the day, residents have the ability to reach out.

And even if they don't need anything, Klepac and her staff are their to love on them.

"The care I see them provide families is just exemplary," Klepac continued. "In this industry it can be draining to give all day long and then go home to their families, yet my team never seems to be short on the ability to give."

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Senior Classes (residents age 55+) Will Rogers Senior Center 3501 Pat Murphy Drive Call 297-1455 for details. WRITING TO HEAL:

Poet Sarah Webb leads a seminar using writing to heal from past experiences. 2-4PM April 7. FREE.

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225 S Howard Avenue in Moore All ages and skill levels are welcome. For more information, contact Mr. Kissinger at

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#### APRIL 3

April 3 9:30-Noon

Oklahoma Gardeners Association monthly meeting at Will Rogers Gardens Auditorium. 3400 NW 36th Street . Open to the public Speaker: Schroeder Wilson Oklahoma Gardeners Association member and regular writer for Oklahoma Gardener magazine will present new plant selections for 2019.

April 6 · Outdoor Fitness Court Grand Opening. Join OKC Parks and the National Fitness Court Campaign at 9AM April 6 for the grand opening of our fitness court at the OKC Boathouse District near Riversport Drive and Lincoln Boulevard. There will be music, food, fitness challenges and

workouts. FREE. Call 297-2279 for details.

#### APRIL 11

April 11th at 10:30AM - 11:30AM First Baptist Church of Tuttle Professional Senior Education Panel 14 SW 2nd, Tuttle OK 73089 **FREE and Open to Public** 

#### APRIL 13

April 13 · Egg Hunt 5K. Search for eggs along the course in the Egg Hunt 5K at Stars & Stripes Park, 3701 South Lake Hefner Drive, from 8AM to noon April 13. All ages 5K is \$35 (or \$40 day-of). Tiny tot egg hunt (ages 0-5) \$5, bunny hop fun run (ages 6-12) \$5. Visit okc.gov/parksignup and search key-word 19064 or call 297-2279 to sign up.

Military Family Day When: Sat., April 13, 2-4 p.m. FREE. www.ou.edu/fjjma/Events

Phone: 405-325-3272. Join us for an afternoon celebrating and supporting military families. Together we will explore works of art created in the spirit of collaboration through a guided tour and art activity for the whole family.

#### APRIL 16

April 16th | 5PM-7PM Willowood at Mustang Professionals Networking Event 1017 W. State Hwy 152, Mustang, OK 73064. FREE and Open to Public

#### APRIL 18

April 18th | 3PM-5PM Craft Show - Willowood at Mustang 1017 W. State Hwy 152, Mustang, OK 73064. FREE and Open to Public

#### APRIL 19

April 19th | 3PM-5PM Craft Show - Emerald Square 701 N. Council Road, OKC, OK 73127 FREE and Open to Public

#### APRIL 23

April 23rd | 10:30AM - 11:30AM Mustang Community Center - Professional Senior Education Panel 1017 W. State Hwy 152, Mustang, OK 73064. FREE and Open to Public

#### APRIL 25

April 25th | 10AM-1PM Norman Senior Center - Senior Vendor Expo. 329 S. Peters Ave, Norman, OK 73069. FREE and Open to Public

#### APRIL 27

April 27 | 9:30 am-1:00 pm Urban Mission 3737 N. Portland. OKC, OK. Oklahoma Gardeners Association Annual Plant Sale Offering beautiful plants - flowers, herbs, vegetables, and shrubs - for your garden. Arrive early for best selection.

Sat, April 27 | 9:00am - 10:30am. Location: Ed Lycan Conservatory. Learn from the experts at the historic Horn Canna Farm about how to properly thin & transplant Canna rhizomes. The Canna at Will Rogers Gardens, came from Horn Canna Farms in the 30's and 40's. All ages. FREE. Visit okc.gov/parksignup and search keyword 21226 to register.

#### Location

OSU/OKC Campus 900 N Portland Ave Student Center - 3rd Fl

#### Registration

To register call the **OKC Action Center** at **297-2535** by April 5. Seating is limited.

Registration for door prizes and the continental breakfast starts at 8 a.m.

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Recognizing and Treating

**Depression in Retirement** 

#### PINION & MORE

#### Dear Concerned

Depression is unfortunately a widespread problem among older Americans, affecting approximately 15 percent of the 65-and-older population. Here's what you should know, along with some tips and resources for screening and treatments, and how Medicare covers

#### **Identifying Depression**

Everyone feels sad or gets the blues now and then, but when these feelings linger more than a few weeks, it may be depression. Depression is a real illness that affects mood, feelings, behavior and physical health, and contrary to what many people believe, it's not a normal part of aging or a personal weakness, but it is very treatable.

It's also important to know that depression is not just sadness. In many seniors it can manifest as apathy, irritability, or problems with memory or concentration without the

#### Dear Savvy Senior,

Since retiring a few years ago, my husband has become increasingly irritable and apathetic. I'm concerned that he's depressed, even though he may not admit it. Where can we turn to get help with this, and what, if anything, does Medicare pay for? Concerned Spouse

depressed mood.

To help you get a handle on the seriousness of your husband's problem, a good first step is for him to take an online depressionscreening test.

He can do this for free at Mental Health America, a national nonprofit organization that offers a variety of online mental health screening tools at MentalHealthAmerica.net - click on "Take a Screen" in the menu bar. Or at HelpYourselfHelpOthers.org, which is offered by Screening for Mental Health, Inc.

Both of these tests are anonymous and confidential, they take less that 10 minutes to complete, and they can help you determine the severity of your husband's problem.

Get Help

If you find that he is suffering from depressive symptoms, he needs to see his doctor for a medical evaluation to rule out possible medical causes. Some medications, for example, can produce side effects that mimic depressive symptoms - pain and sleeping meds are common culprits. It's also important to distinguish between depression and dementia, which can share some of the same symptoms.

If he's diagnosed with depression, there are a variety of treatment options including talk therapy, antidepressant medications or a combination of both.

Cognitive behavioral therapy (CBT) is a particularly effective type of talk therapy, which helps patients recognize and change destructive thinking patterns that leads to negative feelings.

For help finding a therapist who's trained in CBT, ask your doctor for a referral, check your local yellow pages under "counseling" or "psychologists," or check with the Association for Behavioral and Cognitive Therapies (FindCBT.org), or the Academy of Cognitive Therapy (AcademyofĆT.org).

And to search for therapists that accept Medicare, use Medicare's Physician Compare tool. Go to Medicare.gov/physiciancompare and type in your zip code, or city and state, then type in the type of profession you want locate, like 'psychiatry" or "clinical psychologist" in the "What are you searching for?"

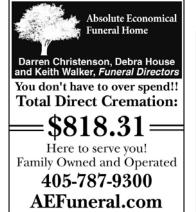
#### Medicare Coverage

You'll be happy to know that original Medicare currently covers 100 percent for annual depression screenings that are done in a doctor's office or other primary care clinic. They also pay 80 percent of its approved amount for outpatient mental health services like counseling and therapy services, and will cover almost all medications used to treat depression under the Part prescription drug benefit.

If you and your husband get your Medicare benefits through a private Medicare Advantage plan, they too must cover the same services as original Medicare but they will likely require him to see an in-network provider. You'll need to contact your plan directly for the details.

Send your senior questions to: Savvy Senior, P.O. Box 5443, Norman, OK 73070, or visit SavvySenior.org. Jim Miller is a contributor to the NBC Today show and author of "The Savvy Senior"





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Apr 9/ Tuesday/ Yukon/ 9:00 am - 3:30 pm/ 350-7680/ Kruck Dale Robertson Center - 1200 Lakeshore Dr.

Apr 12/ Friday/ Okla. City/ 9 am - 3:30 pm/ 951-2277/ Edwards S,W. Medical Center - 4200 S. Douglas, Suite B-10

Apr 12/ Friday/ Okla. City/ 9 am - 3:30 pm/297-1449/ Palinsky Southern Oaks Recreation Center - 400 S.W. 66th St

Apr 13/ Saturday/ Chandler/ 9 am - 3:30 pm/ 834-2348/ Brase First United Methodist Church - 122 West 10th

Apr 23/ Tuesday/Okla, City/ 8:30 am - 3:30 pm/ 773-6910/ Kruck Healthy Living Center - 11501 N. Rockwell Ave.

May 2/ Thursday/ Okla. City/ 9 am - 3:30 pm/ 951-2277/ Varacchi Integris 3rd Age Life Center - 5100 N. Brookline

May 9/ Thursday/ Norman/ 9 am - 3:30 pm/ 307-3177/ Palinsky Norman Regional Hospital - 901 N. Porter Ave.

May 10/ Friday/ Okla. City/ 9 am - 3:30 pm/ 951-2277/ Edwards S.W, Medical Center - 4299 S. Douglas, Suite B-10

The prices for the classes are: \$15 for AARP members and \$20 for Non-AARP. Call John Palinsky, zone coordinator for the Oklahoma City area at 405-691-4091 or send mail to: johnpalinsky@sbcglobal.net

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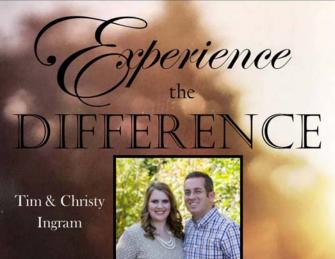
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## Sister Act: Archer sisters leave lasting legacy

by Bobby Anderson, Staff Writer

Go into any health care facility in the metro and you're bound to find at least one or two nurses trained by a unique trio of sisters that have quietly been inspiring the next generation for more than a decade now.

The Archer sisters – married and known as Kay Wetmore, Robin McMurry and Cindy Milam – have always been close. They began working in the family office supply business early in their middle school years.

And as each grew up and found their own paths into the nursing profession none are surprised they're working together again as faculty for the Oklahoma City Community College nursing program.

Wetmore and McMurry came to OCCC 12 years ago.

At the time, McMurry was the CNO at Moore Medical Center when it was sold to Norman Regional.

She had a five-year-old and decided teaching was a better schedule.

"You can only individually touch so many patients but as a teacher I think that number is exponential," McMurry said. "We daily see people when we go into the hospital that we taught. I think that's really rewarding when they graduate and go on to be caregivers."

"I think one of the most rewarding things I've ever done is teaching. It's meaningful work."

"Office supplies are good but



Sisters (left to right) Cindy Milam, MS, RN, Kay Wetmore, RN and Robin McMurry, PhD, RN, are leaving a lasting legacy training tomorrow's nurses at Oklahoma City Community College.

See VOLUNTEERS Page 9





#### **VOLUNTEERS**

Continued from Page 8

when you go around in second grade and someone says 'what do you want to be when you grow up' no one wants to sell office supplies."

Both Wetmore and McMurry have backgrounds in OB.

Milam joined her sisters eight years ago and oversees the clinical skills lab.

"We've always worked together," Milam said. "I like the fact we are affecting future nurses and caregivers and trying to set the standard as high as possible for good, quality nurses."

Not only did they choose to become nursing professors but they chose to teach students in arguably the toughest program in the metro.

Baccalaureate to Associate Degree Nurse Accelerated Pathway – or BADNAP – takes students with existing bachelor's degrees and compresses all of the nursing processes into 10 consecutive months.

"They're coming back at a time in their life where they've probably stopped working so the stakes are very high for these students and so is the anxiety," McMurry said. "Sometimes it's more important for us to nurture than it is to teach."

"We say everyone gets one good cry in BADNAP. But students need to feel like they're in an environment where we care about them."

"It's the hardest way to get a nursing degree and there's so much at stake when they come to us."

BADNAP grad Nick Hargis remembers that initial meeting with the feisty McMurry.

"Robin walked up to me and said 'I can turn you into a nurse in 10 months," remembers Hargis, now an ICU nurse at SSM Health St. Anthony. "I thought it was a nice offer, but it was actually a command."

Graduate Emerson Oden said

he was constantly amazed at how much the sisters would pour into students.

"Those sisters could be making way more money in nursing by doing other things, but they've decided to dedicate an incredible amount of their time, energy, and sanity towards making us into nurses," he said. "(BADNAP) was equal parts caffeine, smarts, encouragement and butt whoopins."

It's how the Archer girls were raised.

After their father, Jim, passed last November, the sisters were instrumental in helping make sure future nursing students would always have help from their family at OCCC.

A scholarship was established by their mother, Judy Archer, and the four daughters. Sister Chris Eskew is a librarian at a Yukon elementary school.

OCCC Nursing students now benefit from the endowed Jim & Judy Archer and Ed & Eva Pope Nursing Scholarship, currently valued at more than \$111,000.

There are eight nurses in the Archer family, and four of them started their training at OCCC. Those eight nurses have earned two master's degrees, a PhD and one doctor of nursing practice degree.

Their specialties include labor and delivery, education, pediatrics, surgery, intensive care, emergency medicine, oncology, community health and adult and pediatric sexual assault forensic nursing.

Eskew, the librarian, also earned her master's degree.

"It leaves a legacy," Wetmore said. "It not only leaves a legacy in the healthcare profession by creating more nurses it also leaves a legacy within those individual families because we're affecting their ability to support their families in a way that's flexible and workable."

"When you only have to do three 12's a week you can be involved in your children's lives."

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## Significant Women in Oklahoma Agriculture

Highlight: Mattie Jeffries

by Betty Thompson

JAY—There's no place like home.

Mattie Jeffries grew up on beans, cornbread, and hard work.

The second to youngest of eight children and raised by a single father, Jeffries was familiar with gender equality in their home. She chopped firewood, helped with outside chores, cooked, and cleaned alongside her four brothers and three sisters.

Though her mother was not around when she was growing up, Jeffries said she looked to her older sisters as an example of how to be a lady. Over the years, she changed from the little girl who just threw a cap and boots on.

"Just because I work like a man doesn't mean I have to look like one," Jeffries said. "My hands might be rough and calloused but at least my fingernails are pretty in pink. The old saying is true, 'Even an old barn looks better with a new coat of paint.""

Her father, Leslie Currey, was a welder by trade and taught Jeffries and her siblings to weld as well. Her four brothers are all welders today, and all eight children own their own businesses.

"Dad raised us to be independent," Jeffries said. "I've heard the more you know the more you'll have to do, but my philosophy is, the more you know the more you can do yourself."

As a little girl, Jeffries dreamed of owning her own horse ranch.

"When I was little we didn't have much, so we went to ride our neighbor's horse," Jeffries recalled. "I fell in love with horses and the freedom you feel when riding them."

Eventually, she did get her own horse, and Dolly played a bigger role in Jeffries' life than just being part of her horse farm dream.

She did not know Navada Jeffries well at the time, but she See JEFFRIES Page 11



Mattie Jeffries pictured on her farm feeding cattle. Jeffries is being recognized as a Significant Woman in Oklahoma Agriculture.

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#### **JEFFRIES**

Continued from Page 10

remembered the former athlete and fellow graduate of Jay High School who sold hay. And she needed hay for Dolly.

"I didn't even pay attention to him in high school," Jeffries laughed. "I was the country girl, and he was the preppy sports guy. He might have played football, but I never saw."

The two hit it off after that hay delivery, and less than a year later, they were married.

While she did not wind up with the horse ranch she once dreamed of, Jeffries said she has something even better—a cattle ranch, with a few horses sprinkled in.

She and Navada built N & M Farms (named for Navada and Mattie) from the 100 cows Navada had when they began dating. When they first started the farm, they leased all of the land to run the cattle on.

"Together, with God, we grew what we have," Jeffries said. "Neither my husband or I were given anything, we've had to work for everything."

In the early years of their marriage, Jeffries was working at the bank in town and helping Navada with the farm in her spare time.

"I tagged along with him after hours and on the weekend," Jeffries said. "He had a hired hand at the time to help him bale hay and work cattle and I told him, 'Well I can do that!' He told me I couldn't, but I proved him wrong."

Jeffries began working side-byside with her husband on the tractor, mowing, raking, baling and hauling hay. She even helped him clean out chicken houses for fertilizer.

"I love being outside," Jeffries said. "We work hard, and I don't mind working hard."

She worked at Navada's side right up to the night before she had their first child, a daughter they named Dakota. She was back on the tractor just a little over a week later, loading up Dakota's car seat and taking her anywhere from feeding stockers and baling hay, to working cattle and building fence.

Not much changed when their second daughter River came 13 months later, she just took both of them along in the cab of the tractor.

"I've raised two daughters in the tractor," Jeffries said. "It was like having twins, the girls are 13 months apart." At the end of those long summer days in the hay field, Jeffries still made time to cook dinner for the family, and keep up with the other household chores, even if it was at 10 p.m.

"I'm a full-time farmer, full-time wife, and full-time mother," Jeffries said

While she admits those three jobs are very exhausting, she would not trade it for anything.

In 2003, eight years after beginning their farm, they were able to buy their first piece of property. Since then, they have continued to purchase more land and cattle.

"We think the same, and we have the same goal," Jeffries said of working with her husband. "I believe it has strengthened our marriage being able to work together like this."

Their third child came in 2009, a son named Navada Baler, who Jeffries describes as a "100% total farm boy."

"He's being raised in the tractor too," Jeffries said. "He can already drive it."

Over the years, hard manual labor took a toll on Jeffries back. In October 2015, an MRI revealed she had four ruptured discs and was on bed rest for an entire month. Friends and family told her she needed to quit working on the farm because they feared she would end up paralyzed.

"I didn't want to have surgery but if that was what it was going to take for me to continue working on the farm then I was determined to do it."

A friend told her about a spine specialist about an hour away in Owasso, and desperate for relief, Jeffries scheduled the first available appointment.

"I hadn't been able to walk because of the pain," Jeffries said. "He adjusted me and asked me to walk around the room. It was like flipping a switch on the pain. I'm not a crier, but I just started crying right then."

It has been three years since that first doctor's visit and Jeffries is back on her feet doing what she loves—working side-by-side with her husband and children. She said she cannot imagine doing anything else with her life.

"Owning a piece of our great nation is truly the American dream," Jeffries said. "There is no place I'd rather be than in the tractor seat on a smooth piece of ground, on horseback gathering cattle, or being with my family on the farm making great memories. There isn't any place like home."

#### **NEUHOLD**

Continued from Page 2

reviews that resulted in savings, higher retention of faculty and new leadership development opportunities.

"Patti Neuhold has the leadership experience, and vision for the university that will help prepare our students to contribute ideas, innovation and solutions to the marketplace," said Mark Stansberry, RUSO regent chair. "Her blend of financial acumen, organizational development and understanding of what industry needs will help UCO continue to lead in education and workforce development."

Neuhold was approved by the board of regents after a national search.

"This is not something I had been working towards," Neuhold said. "This really wasn't on my radar for some time."

But when President Betz announced his retirement last year the wheels started turning. And Betz had already been preparing her.

"He was always very encouraging and helpful in helping me see the possibilities that were ahead of me," she said.

These are challenging times for higher education in Oklahoma.

"It's no secret the State of Oklahoma has withdrawn its financial support from higher education across our state," Neuhold said. "I - like all the other presidents in the state - will be dealing with our allocation from the state and building a relationship with legislators where they understand where we are coming from and what we're trying to do."

"Society in general is pushing back against higher education and really forcing all of us to justify our existence, which seems counterintuitive for many of us. I think we'll be dealing with changing our stories and making sure people understand what is going on behind the curtain and doing everything we can with what we have."

From its main campus in Edmond and facilities throughout the metro area, UCO is recognized nationally as a military-friendly school and for its high student engagement through service-learning and volunteerism and its workplace environment.

"I hope that No. 1 we can pair our innovative thinking with innovative action. I really want to



UNIVERSITY OF

## Central Oklahoma

see UCO move ahead," she said. "We have so many great problem solvers on our campus - so many innovative thinkers - and I would love to see all of that paired with action."

"I want UCO to be marked by progress, and potential and possibility."

She stood out in the selection process but Betz already knew she would.

"Patti has been a key member of the university cabinet for several years, and has exercised significant leadership on a number of highly relevant issues to the university," Betz said. "I believe that Patti will serve the UCO community, the metro and the state with energy, insight and distinction. I will work closely with her throughout the transition. I am delighted, and I sincerely look forward to the successful future of the university under her leadership."

#### STRANGE BUT TRUE

**BBT** In North Carolina, it is against the law for dogs and cats to fight.

**BBT** In Singapore, it is illegal to chew gum.

**SBT** In Cleveland, Ohio, it is unlawful to leave chewing gum in public places.

**BBT** In Virginia, chickens cannot lay eggs before 8:00 a.m., and must be done before 4:00 p.m.

**BBT** In New York, it is against the law for children to pick up or collect cigarette and cigar butts.

#### TRAVEL/ ENTERTAINMENT

## Comfort in Palm Springs, California (Part One)

Photography and Text by Terry "Travels with Terry" Zinn t4z@aol.com

Just mentioning Palm Springs brings up the clichi thoughts of well to do celebrities, escaping Hollywood to a retreat oasis out of the lime light and adoring fans, with incomparable warm weather never to disappoint. While that is true, today, Palm Springs is a tourist's mecca with many festivals and events that may make the town over crowded where reservations for a mid-day lunch is mandatory.

I visited there for four short days in Mid-February in the midst of the popular midcentury architectural festival. There seems to be something commercially happening in Palm Springs most weekends, if not at least once a month, making an enjoyable, leisure stay a challenge. With this information in hand you can find your way to the preferences that fulfills your holiday wish list.

Having visited Palm Springs off and on for over thirty years, I have seen it change and my preferences have also changed. I still like the romantic idea of passing by the places where celebrities lived, and the remains of their houses through a formalized celebrity house bus tour. This was accomplished surprising well with Celebrity Tours, with their office and pick up point in neighboring Cathedral City.

#### www.PalmSpringsCelebrityTours.com

Your bus driver narration is the key to your enjoyment and my Jeff, could not have been more informative or entertaining. Many of the houses in the Movie Colony Section are surrounded by high fences and vegetation, making it difficult to even get a peek at the property. The Las Palmas area houses are much easier to view. Some of the celebrity houses and stories that are seen and lives told about included celebrities of old: Liberace, Elvis, Frank Sinatra, Ava Gardner, Debbie Reynolds, Bob Hope among others, and contemporaries like Cher and Matt Damon. The breif history of some of these celebrities are told with humor, but the ending of their lives gives one pause with a touch of sadness. Many of the houses viewed today have fallen into disrepair or are smaller and less glamorous than you

The reason Palm Springs became

a Hollywood oasis was during a time when the actors were under contract to movie studios. Back then using film, some of the scenes would need to be re shot on short notice to the actors. Their contract read that they must be able to show up on a twenty-four-hour notice, and Palms Springs was close enough to allow such.

After sightseeing or shopping your thoughts and stomach might turn to dining. I found all my pre-reserved dining options to surpass expectations. You might think in fine upscale dining establishment that you might want to order something experiential or exotic. I prefer to test restaurants with some of the staples of dining. If they can knock my socks off with comfort food, then they can do anything.

What's more comforting than meatloaf, which happens to be the specialty of TRIO, https:// triopalmsprings.com. I started with their batter artichoke hearts with Caper Aioli dipping sauce. homemade meatloaf entree with red wine reduction and caramelized onions near sour cream mashed potatoes, was quickly served and the combinations of meat flavors were excellent, living up to its reputation. I ordered my traditional extra cold martini and it arrive so cold it was bubbling! Asked how this was accomplished was told there was a special machine that deep froze the bottom of the glass and when the Vodka was added, it bubbled like dry ice. The visual was stunning although it made the beverage a bit bitter - but enjoyable just the same. Located on the very popular Canyon Drive, it can often be over crowed and noisy, which might add to your celebrity watching.

Also on North Palm Canyon Drive, is Copley's (https:// www.copleyspalmsprings.com) with its welcomed Valet parking. is situated in a long ranch house style compound once owned by Cary Grant. With expansive patio seating and fire pit prime for outdoor dining, I preferred inside from the cool night air where elegant tables invite you to step away from the intimate popular bar area and begin your culinary adventure. One of my comfort staples is a lemony Cesar





Salad, which I ordered and was delighted to see it was served with smoked bacon, Padano cheese and roasted pineapple as a crouton substitute. Extraordinary as the citrus added that zest, I usually get with lemon. The dressing was just enough, and the diced lettuce easily satisfied. What goes well with Cesar but a prime grilled filet in port wine reduction, which I had prepared Medium Plus - another test for any fine dining establishment. Again perfection and with one more beverage with blue cheese olives for dessert, I topped off a posh evening.

If your appetite has been teased, be sure and see next months issue with more dining suggestions, as I end my Palm Springs comfort food foray. Until then check out, www.greaterpalmsprings.com.

## Mr. Terry Zinn - Travel Editor

Past President: International Food Wine and Travel Writers Association http://realtraveladventures.com/author/zinn

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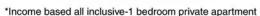
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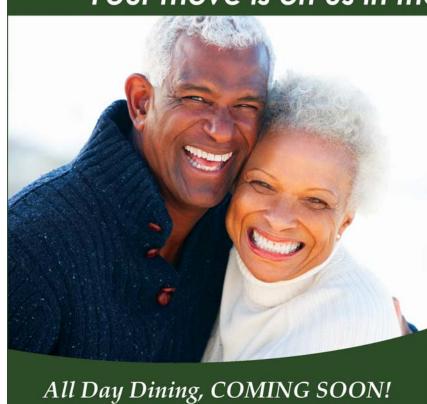


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## ARE YOU OVER THE AGE OF 55?

#### JOIN US FOR SENIOR DAY AT CROSSINGS COMMUNITY CHURCH MAY 10TH

Key Note Speakers including Elaine Dodd, Oklahoma Banking Association and Berry Tramel, Sports Editor Daily Oklahoman PM. Do you understand Social Security or how to choose a retirement community? Have you researched Alzheimer's' caregivers, Veterans benefits, or the million-dollar business in Oklahoma called Medicare? Senior Day is designed for those who are interested in diving deeper into these specific issues. There will be a selection of break out classes with topics like these for attendees to select and a very special Key Note speaker at lunch, Sports Editor Berry Tramel with the Daily Oklahoman.

This year there will be a raffle for "DUDE'S NIGHT OUT WITH BERRY TRAMEL, the host will be Lance Ward Pastoral Staff Crossings. Raffle tickets will be available at registration. Elaine Dodd, Oklahoma Banking Association will also present on how to limit elder fraud. Elaine worked with the OSBI for over twenty years and is well trained on how to identify and stop bank fraud for Seniors. Kim Lopez, TRIAD Director Oklahoma County Sherriff's Office, will share how to shop safely in a mall or grocery store. We have a new presentation this year- how to Use your I Phone! Mia Munnerlyn, Media Director for Well Preserved, will share some easy to follow tips for the I Phone. Ray Walker, Director Medicare Assistance Program will be thoroughly explaining Medicare. Jose' Olivero, Public Affairs Specialist with Social Security, will share your options Security.

have Blair Schoeb, Director of Area Wide Aging for Oklahoma, Canadian, Logan and Cleveland County. Area Wide serves over 25,000 seniors a year. Blair recently returned from the National Association of Area Agencies in Washington, DC. There will be classes on downsizing your home. Nikki Higgins Lifestyle Realty will conduct a panel for an easy transition for a Senior home owner. How to choose a retirement community, presented Jill Huff with Spanish Cove. Who needs Memory Care? Presented by Keri Dennis with Stone Creek Assisted Living in Edmond. What is Adult day care? Presented by Brian Rush, Director of the Daily Living centers. Daily Living Centers have four locations in the metro and Edmond. Kathy Logsdon will share the amazing story of Epworth Villa. There will also be Vendor displays for attendees to find out information from business that support Seniors in the Metro Area.

Last year the Crossings 4th Quarter event donated \$2900.00 to RSVP. RSVP is a volunteer organization that serves 130 nonprofits in the Metro. This year, proceeds will be donated to non-profits that serve seniors in the metro area. Our thanks to the Title Sponsors Quail Creek Bank, Epworth Villa, Lifestyle Realty, Spanish Cove & Well Preserved Advisory Group,

Those topics plus many more will be explained on May 10th. If you are a Senior and want to come and learn---- JOIN us for SENIOR DAY at Crossings Church, 14600 N Portland, OKC Social - on May 10, 2019. Registration will begin at 8:30AM. This will We are very excited to be an all day event and will



Corporal Kim Lopez, Oklahoma County Sheriff's dept. TRIAD with Eunice Khoury of Well Preserved and Elaine Dodd, oklahoma Bankers Association, trains oklahoma Bankers how to stop elder fraud.

finish at 4:30. Registration is only \$12.00 and that includes CROSSINGS.CHURCH/SENIORlunch.

register DAY or call 848-5790 for more

#### What About Cremation? So You're Considering Cremation...

The reasons for choosing cremation vary from individual to individual. But as with all funeral arrangements, there are many options available regarding the cremation itself, services, price ranges, and what to do with the ashes. Please send for this informative brochure to help answer any questions you may have. It's free & you'll learn about the endless choices available to you.



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## Understanding social security survivors benefits

By Jose M Olivero, Social Security Public Affairs in Oklahoma City

Unfortunately, tragedy can strike without any warning. The loss of the family wage earner can be devastating both emotionally and financially. Social Security helps by providing income for the families of workers who die.

Some of the Social Security taxes you pay go toward survivors benefits for workers and their families. The value of the survivors benefits you have under Social Security may even be more than the value of your individual life insurance. When you die, certain members of your family may be eligible for survivors benefits. These include widows and widowers (and divorced widows and widowers), children, and dependent parents.

Here are the people who can get survivors benefits based on your work:

Your widow or widower may be able to get full benefits at full retirement age. The full retirement age for survivors is age 66 for people born in 1945-1956, with the full retirement age gradually increasing to age 67 for people born in 1962 or later. Your widow or widower can get reduced benefits as early as age 60. If your surviving spouse is disabled, benefits can begin as early as age 50.

- Your widow or widower can get benefits at any age if they take care of your child younger than age 16 or disabled, who is receiving Social Security benefits.
- Your unmarried children, younger than age 18 (or up to age 19 if they're attending elementary or secondary school full time), can also get benefits. Your children can get benefits at any age if they were disabled before age 22. Under certain circumstances, we can also pay benefits to your stepchildren, grandchildren, stepgrandchildren, or adopted children.
- Your dependent parents can get benefits if they're age 62 or older. (For your parents to qualify as dependents, you must have provided at least half of their support.)



can read about Survivors Benefits at:

www.socialsecurity.gov/pubs/ EN-05-10084.pdf.

How much your family can get from Social Security depends on your average lifetime earnings. The more you earned, the more their benefits will be. For more information on widows, widowers, and other survivors, visit www.socialsecurity.gov/ planners/survivors.

Social Security is with you through life's journey. Be sure to tell friends and family about our Survivors Benefits and how we can help in times of need.

## strange

**BBT** In Massachusetts, it is against the law to put tomatos in clam chowder.

**BBT** In Washington State, you can't carry a concealed weapon that is over 6 feet in length.

**BBT** In San Francisco, there is an ordinance, which bans the picking up and throwing of used confetti.

**BBT** In Kentucky, it is illegal for a merchant to force a person into his place of business for the purpose of making a sale.

**BBT** It is against the law in Connecticut for a man to write love letters to a girl whose mother or father has forbidden the relationship.

**BBT** In Michigan, married couples must live together or be imprisoned.

**BBT** In Phoenix, Arizona, you can't walk through a hotel lobby with spurs on.

#### CROSSWORD CORNER

#### Across

- 1 Pilothouse wheels
- 6 Sphere in a library
- 11 Cheering syllable
- 14 Use a broom 15 Lubricate again
- 16 Touchdown approx.
- 17 Adjusted sales figure on which some royalties are
- 19 Bus. get-together
- 20 Gentle touch
- 21 Letter that opens with
- a click
- 23 Headache treatment
- 26 Concerning, on memos
- 27 Seasonal bug
- 28 Wood-finishing tool
- 33 Tennessee senator \_\_\_
- Alexander
- 36 Zoo critter with striped
- 37 Brass instrument played 8 "Uh-oh!" like a trumpet 42 "Sure, I'll give you a
- ride"
- 43 Sleep audibly 45 Long, narrow mollusks
- 50 Hotel divs.
- 51 Poet Khayy‡m
- 52 Place for meditation
- 55 Intense personality
- 57 Response to a clever put-down

- 59 Actress Hagen
- 60 Motto for the cautious ... or a hint to the starts of 30 Ref's ruling
- 17-, 28-, 37- and 45-Across 31 Retired newsman
- 65 Washington MLBer
- 66 Mount in Exodus
- 67 Lucky break
- 68 Genetic info letters 69 Seagoing mil. training
- 70 Spine-tingling

#### Down

- 1 OVC rival
- 2 Baaing mom
- 3 Tennis do-over
- 4 Gracias, across the
- **Pyrenees** 5 Hurled weapon
- 6 "The Heart of the
- Matter" novelist Graham 7 Hawaiian floral rings
- 9 Stand-up routine
- 10 Besides
- 11 Send back, as to a lower
- court
- 12 Clothing
- 13 "Marvelous" Marvin of
- 18 Bed with high sides
- 22 Yellow "Despicable Me" character

23 CIO partner

- 24 Balkan native 25 Shoe company with a
- cat in its logo 29 Doone of Exmoor

- Donaldson
- 32 LAPD alerts
- 34 1990s veen
- 35 Camper driver, for short
- 38 And so on: Abbr.
- 39 Shop \_\_ you drop
- 40 Par
- 41 Clever Bombeck
- 44 Contractor's fig.
- 45 Portly
- 46 "The Joy Luck Club" novelist
- 47 Mexican revolutionary
- played by Brando
- 48 Word before "Pizza" or "River," in film
- 49 PlayStation maker 53 Social faux pas
- 54 Lots and lots
- 56 Part of AAA: Abbr. 57 Point \_\_ return
- 58 Qualifying race 61 conditioner
- 62 Capek's robot play 63 Slide down the slopes
- 64 Collarless shirt

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Answers on page 25

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What's your favorite thing about spring? Emerald Square Assisted Living

Gardening and being outside. I like to help plant.



Jean Miller

Warm weather, the birds and the flowers.



Jean Sczerbacki

Each Month We Visit With Seniors Throughout The State



please email the Editor at:

SENIOR TALK
or call
SENIOR NEWS AND LIVING
405 - 631 - 5100

The thing I like about spring is it's a new beginning for us all.



Leta Ringwald

I love the flowers, being outside and being able to wear shorts again.



**Billy Stevenson** 



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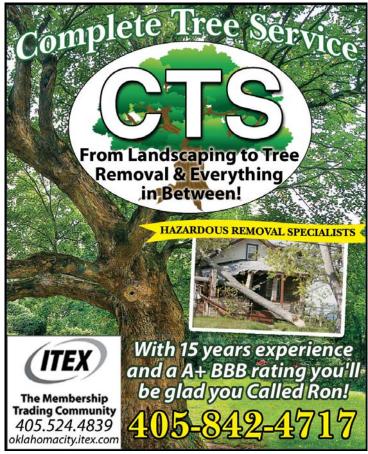
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## Identity theft is an increasing threat



Did you know that Identity theft is an increasing threat to all Americans, including senior citizens? numbers of people that are unreported income or multiple victimized by identity theft continue to increase each year. Older adults are particularly vulnerable and deeply concerned about this threat to their financial assets.

Below is a summary of how Identity Theft happens, the warnings signs to watch out for, how to protect yourself and what to do in the event it happens to you.

#### How Does Identity Theft Happen?

- Opportunistic e.g., stolen or lost wallets or purses, misappropriated credit or debit cards, re-approved credit applications that you've discarded
- Intentional schemes e.g., asking for personal information in emails, calls or letters (called phishing), pretending to be you to use your benefits, applying for loans in your name
- Warning Signs of Identity Theft • ATM or bank withdrawals you
- didn't make Credit card charges you don't recognize
- Bills from medical offices you haven't visited

- Mail you're expecting that doesn't arrive
- Calls from debt collectors
- Unfortunately, the Notices from the IRS about tax returns

#### **Protect Your Identity**

- Don't share personal or account information on social media or emails
- Shred documents others could steal
- Check your credit reports
- Report any suspicious financial transactions immediately to limit

What to Do If Your Identity Is Stolen

- Don't be embarrassed—act!
- Call your bank and credit card issuers immediately so they can close your accounts
- Put a fraud alert on your credit reports to prevent opening of new accounts
- File reports with police and Federal Trade Commission
- Follow up with the IRS, Social Security Administration, and the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Service for theft of benefits
- Keep a record of who you contacted and when

For more information, visit aba.com/Seniors



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#### 2019 CAREGIVER OF THE YEAR AWARD RECIPIENTS

Krista Beucke, Activity Caregiver of the Year Wellington Parke Assisted Living, Memory Care & Independent Living, Del City Jonna Warrick, Administrator of the Year

Iris Memory Care, Edmond
Kimberly Beard, Dietary Caregiver of the Year
Emerald Square Assisted & Independent Living,

Emerald Square Assisted & Independent Living,
Oklahoma City
Anita White, Caregiver of the Year
Brookdale Edmond Danforth, Edmond
Karla Osborne, Longevity Caregiver of the Year, 28 years!
West Wind Assisted Living, Marlow
Jim Delzell, Maintenance of the Year
Tealridge Assisted Living, Memory Care &
Independent Living, Edmond
Stephen Williamson, Marketing of the Year
Brookdale Senior Living, Statewide
Sandy Sitter, RN, Nurse of the Year
Tealridge Assisted Living, Memory Care &

Tealridge Assisted Living, Memory Care & Independent Living, Edmond Jessie Motsinger, Team Member of the Year Iris Memory Care, Edmond





April 15, 16, 17 & 18

September 8 - 14

Nov 7, 8 Dec 4, 5, 6

September 10

November 5

**November 19** 

December 12

#### MARK YOUR CALENDARS

\*Lunch-n-Learn **Argentum Sr Living Conf** Survey Prep (New in 2019) **Boot Camp** 

Statewide BINGO Day

**Holiday Open House** 

Aug 22, 23 Sept 18, 19, 20 RCAL Admin Cert Class 2 National Assisted Living Wk. **AL CEU Seminar RCAL Admin Cert Class 3** Survey Prep (New in 2019)

Tulsa San Antonio Tulsa Tulsa (location change) **OKALA Office** Statewide Statewide Oklahoma City **OKALA Office** Oklahoma City **OKALA Office** 



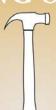
April 3

May 16 July 18

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#### meadowlakesretirementvillage.com

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Senior News and Living monthly newspaper. It worked well for me." I will also be escorting a Village Tours bus trip to LAKE OF THE WOODS in Minnesota for Walleye fishing on June 23, 2012.

Don Wallace, The Wallace Wildlife Show

For a brochure & details about the Canadian Trip Call me at 405-470-5106

# NORMAN-BASED ORGANIZATION ANNOUNCES OPENING OF NEW ADULT DAY CARE FACILITY

Norman, Oklahoma. Full Circle Adult Day Care Center dedicated its new facility on March 26th with a ribbon cutting ceremony and an open house. The new location is 4223 28th Avenue NW, Norman, Oklahoma, in the Franklin Business Park. Established in 1995 out of an urgent and growing need for adult day services in the Norman community and surrounding areas, Full Circle provides person-centered care. Our Program Coordinator plans and implements a variety of stimulating activities based on our members' interests and abilities. The comprehensive program addresses all areas of wellness including intellectual, physical, emotional, vocational, spiritual, and social health, through both group and individual activities such as pet visits, community outings, an intergenerational program, art classes, cooking groups, entertainment, holiday celebrations, special events, and more. Nutritious meals are provided and special diet needs are met by the kitchen staff. Costs are kept as low as possible and we accept DHS, Advantage, VA benefits, and private pay. Scholarships are also available to those who qualify. Our new facility is state of the art, with families as our top priority.

Our Licensed Professional Nurse (LPN) monitors dietary and health needs of our members. Certified Nurses Assistants (CNAs) provide assistance with activities of daily living and personal care needs. Medication is administered by our LPN or a Medication Administration Tech (MAT) as directed per physician's orders. Any concerns regarding the wellness and care of our members are communicated to the family and physician.

Full Circle has been referred to as the "missing piece" for caregivers struggling to keep loved ones at home as long as possible and a respite for those caregivers needing a welcome break to look after their own health and wellbeing. Full Circle would like to extend a warm invitation to everyone in the community to come see what we have accomplished and what we have to offer. For more information, please call us at 405-447-2955 or visit us at www.fullcircleok.org.

## Brightmusic's Fifth Concert of the 2018-19 Season

#### Mozart: From Salzburg to Vienna

The Brightmusic Chamber Ensemble will present its fifth and final regularseason concert, Mozart: From Salzburg to Vienna, Tuesday, April 16, at 7:30 p.m. This all-Mozart evening will feature his most popular work, Eine kleine Nachtmusik.

Mozart's String Duo No. 1 in G (K. 423) for violin and viola was written when the child-genius was only 17 to help out a colleague—Joseph Haydn's brother, Michael—who was unable to complete a commissioned work due to illness. By this time, Mozart had been composing for over a decade so, though it is a youthful work, it does not lack maturity. Like Eine kleine Nachtmusik, the Quintet for Clarinet and Strings in B-flat (K. Anh. 91), for two violins, viola, cello and clarinet, was published after the composer's death at the early age of 35. The quintet, like a number of Mozart's later works, was finished by another, in this case, the renowned Mozart scholar R.D. Levin. The program will include Mozart's enchanting violin sonata No. 24 in B-flat (K. 378/317d), transcribed for clarinet quartet (violin, viola, cello and clarinet).

Capping the evening is a work that has long been considered Mozart's best loved, his serenade Eine kleine Nachtmusik—literally "A Little Night Music" (K. 525) for two violins, viola, cello and double bass. This work was among a bundle of manuscripts that Mozart's young widow took to a publisher hoping to generate some badly-needed cash. Though it is thought to be missing a movement, there is plenty of charm in the surviving four movements.

Musicians appearing in this concert are: Gregory Lee and Katrin Stamatis (violin), Samuel Formicola (viola), Meredith Blecha-Wells (cello), George Speed (double bass) and Chad Burrow (clarinet).

Brightmusic Chamber Ensemble, Oklahoma City's own chamber ensemble, presents fine classical chamber music in the beautiful and acoustically-rich St. Paul's Cathedral at 7th and N. Robinson near downtown Oklahoma City. Tickets are \$20 at the door. Children, students and active-duty military personnel admitted free with ID. Free parking south of the cathedral. For more information, visit us at www.brightmusic.org

# Helping Seniors Stay Informed

by Sheryl Presley, TRIAD Coordinator for all of OKC Police Department

An event that our Police Department is proud to put on for our seniors is Informed Senior Seminar. Event will be on April 12th at 8:30am at OSU-OKC 900 N Portland student Center 3rd floor. Event is FREE. You do need to register by calling our City of OKC action Center at 297-2535 by April 5. Event will start at 8;30am. We start with a panel discussion and this year our panel discussion will be active incident. We will have MSGT.

Loruse and Captain Samuel from our agency Oklahoma City Police Department and 2 other officers from other agencies on the panel. You will be able to ask the officers anything related to this topic. Then we will provide 4 breakout sessions that will repeat after the 1st session on nutrition and fitness, scams, Medicare updates and transportation for seniors. We have a wonderful committee that works hard to provide different programs every year to educate and inform our seniors. OSU-OKC has been a great partner to allow us to have Informed Senior Seminar here for almost 17

We look forward to having this event and providing resources for our seniors for FREE. Any questions please contact Sheryl Presley at 405-316-4336.

Spring has arrived and with it the scammers come out of the woodwork. Some of the most common scams are home repair frauds. This is the most common and costly of all property crimes. Some tips and red flags to protect yourself from becoming a victim. NEVER, NEVER, NEVER agree or engage the services of anyone who solicits door to door. If the contractor does not have a local address and arrived in the area following the disaster. If the contractor claims to have materials left over from a previous job and offers to use them on your project for a steep discount. The contractor does NOT use a written agreement for the project. Always get 3 estimates and check

the company and or name of person representing the company. This can be done by going to your computer and typing in OSCN.NET and checking to see if the person or company has any claims or lawsuits against them. Also check the company name by contacting the better business bureau by calling 405-239-6081. If you are needing roof repair to make sure the contractor is registered with the Oklahoma Construction Industries Board ( www.ok.gov/cib/ or 405-521-6550. Also avoid using workmen or services found in flyers delivered door to door or placed on your car in a parking lot. Ask for the business address and verify the address. Never pay upfront for services that have NOT been completed. Ask for references of other people that have used the business or person you are wanting to do the work. Deal with local contractors who have been in your community and have a good reputation. Make sure you have everything in writing that you are agreeing to have done and the exact amount it will cost. Never sign anything up front. Don't allow yourself to be rushed or price is only good for TODAY only. If you are a person living alone if possible have someone with you when you have contractors out for estimates and then when you decide on having the work done. In today's time you don't want to let the worker or workers to know you live alone. You can also report and fraud to the Attorney General's Office Consumer Protection Unit at 405-521-2029. In Oklahoma we have had our share of disasters. Tornados and Ice storms have hit us hard over the years. Having a plan and knowing what to do will help you. In our local Triad meetings in the metro we discuss how to handle the storms and prepare. We have

speakers and information that we provide in the meetings. This information will help keep you from being a victim.



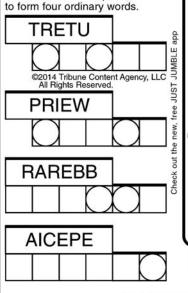
Animal Crackers By Fred Wagner STOP RUBBERNECKING, YOU IDIOTS, AND MOVE!! 6 2017 Tithune Content Agency, LLC All Rights Reserved

#### Gasoline Alley

By Jim Scancarelli



Unscramble these four Jumbles. one letter to each square,



THAT SCRAMBLED WORD GAME by David L. Hoyt and Jeff Knurek



suggested by the above cartoon.

Print your answer here:





March

Answers

Jumbles: ADMIT **PLUME** 

ORNERY HUMANE Answer. The tree wasn't growing coconuts like it should, and in order to find out why, they hired a - PALM READER

#### Application deadline is nearing Hearing Loss Association

Application deadline is nearing. Central Oklahoma Chapter of Hearing Loss Association of America (COC HLAA) is offering two scholarships of \$1,000 each. These scholarships are available to students attending higher education in the fall of 2019. The main requirements are that the applicant must have a hearing loss, be an Oklahoman, attending an Oklahoma institution of higher education. Applications may be mailed to COC HLAA, PO Box 42801, OKC 73123, or delivered to the Hearing Helpers Room, 5100 N Brookline, Suite 100, OKC 73112. Application deadline is April 8, 2019, 5PM.

If you know of a student who might be interested, OCO HLAA encourages you to inform them of this scholarship and suggest they make application immediately

COC HLAA has been providing assistance to Oklahomans with hearing loss for 27 years. 2019 holds hope for returning servicemen & women with hearing loss as COC HLAA reaches out with assistance to veterans. 2019 offers a place with COC HLAA to find answers and hope for families of children with hearing loss. 2019 expects to see many more public places joining the Loop OKC initiative to become more hearing friendly and ADA compliant. Central Oklahoma Chapter of Hearing Loss Association of America stands ready to welcome all. Two meetings monthly that are free and open to the public; 2nd Monday monthly at 6:30 PM and 3rd Thursday monthly at 1:30 PM held at the Lakeside Methodist Church 2925 NW 66. Visit the website for more information. WWW.OKCHearingLoss.org.

## SO THEY SAY ....

**BBT** Your ribs move about 5 million times a year, every time you breathe!

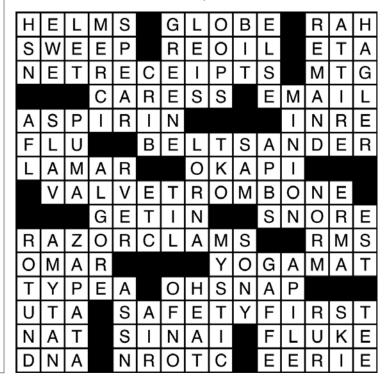
**BBT** In the White House, there are 13,092 knives, forks and spoons!

**BBT** Slugs have 4 noses!

**BBT** Recycling one glass jar, saves enough energy to watch T.V for 3 hours!

**BBT** Lightning strikes about 6,000 times per minute on this planet!

SBT The average American/ Canadian drinks about 600 sodas a year!



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#### The View Through My Door

## I CAN SEE!

**By Darlene Franklin** 

I can see close to twenty-twenty for the first time since I was a little girl. Cataract surgery has restored my sight to near perfect vision. New glasses will fix what remains unclear.

I can't wait.

A couple of year ago I began to notice the middle of hymn pages faded out while I played the piano. No amount of blinking or leaning in closer brought them into focus. Since I know most hymns fairly well, I only stumbled for a few notes here and there.

At first, I blamed the situation on poorly reproduced copies. Although the print was small and the ink somewhat faded, I gradually realized it was my eyes. I couldn't deny it when I had time writer. the same problems reading fine print or when working on my computer.

According to the American Academy of Ophthalmology, approximately fifty percent of all Americans have cataracts by age seventy-five. My mother's experience had left me a little on edge. She had felt uncomfortable when she felt pressure on the eye. But when I asked the surgeon-especially when he talked about using knives-and he basically said I would be too out of it to notice.

Maybe not. But regardless, I wanted to see again.

I did feel the pressure, but it didn't hurt at all. When he began cutting into my cornea, I saw pretty pink squares. The surgery itself took less than ten minutes per eye.

If you're like me, you take your sight for granted. I know a few authors who are also blind. But since I've always had my sight, learning to function without it would be difficult beyond what I care to imagine. I am thankful for the surgery.

We're all born with poor vision when it comes to spiritual things, and the older we get, it only worsens. At my salvation, God performed surgery, removed my dead eyes and replaced them with eyes that could take in more and more of his glory. My corrected "far vision" allows my breathless voice to break through in power when I sing, "This is how I fight my battles-I am surrounded by You." It allows me write poems and books that praise God.

My near vision-other people-remains pretty dense. I frequently ask God to help me to see them as He does.

That requires me to truly look at them. The problem is, especially here at the nursing home, I expect them to look at me.

Sometimes I get it right. Recently, when a worker who'd always been kind and loving to me, gazed in the distance, her mind clearly on something else.

"You look like you're having a bad day.

"How'd you know?" She asked. "Yes, I am. A terrible day."

She didn't tell me what was troubling her, and I didn't ask. And I was tempted to leave it at that. Instead, I asked if she wanted to pray and, yes, she did.

"You don't know how much that helped."

The next day, she was doing much better

I wish I had that kind of sight all the time, to sense when people are in pain and simply need someone to care.

To my shame, often I'm grumpy because an aide has been inattentive or short with me, only to find out later they spent the night at the hospital with a sick baby. I overlook the fact they are first of all individuals dearly loved by God, and that they choose to work with me and for me.

Nurses, certified nurse's aides, and other professionals in the nursing home environment often feel a strong calling for what they're doing. They want to help people. For the Christian, that makes me not only their job, but also their ministry.

How easy that is to forget that when I am tired, sore, and I've been waiting for help.

Although God has given me new sight, I might not following His aftercare

instructions correctly. I may not be applying the ointment of His word to the area where I have the most vision problems. Perhaps my eyes are dry from spending too much staring at things of little or no value.

Please join me in praying that God will cause us to see the people around us as He does, and to act accordingly.

Darlene is a resident at Heritage Manor in Oklahoma City. Check out her other writing at https:// www.darlenefranklinauthor.com/

#### strange **BUT TRUE**

**BBT** During your lifetime, you'll eat about 60,000 pounds of food, that's the weight of about 6

SO THEY SAY ...

elephants!

Darlene Franklin is both

a resident of Crossroads

of Love and Grace in

Oklahoma City, and a full-

**BBT** Some ribbon worms will eat themselves if they cant find any

**BBT** Dolphins sleep with one eye open!

**BBT** The worlds oldest piece of chewing gum is over 9000 years mouth at over 100 m.p.h.!

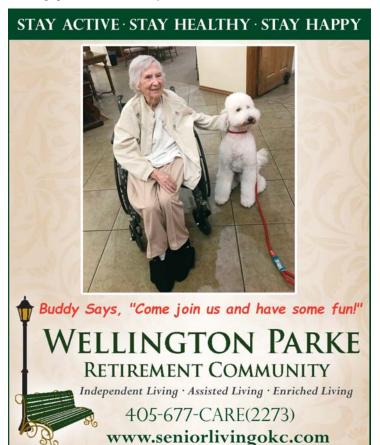
**BBT** In space, astronauts cannot cry properly, because there is no gravity, so the tears can't flow down their faces!

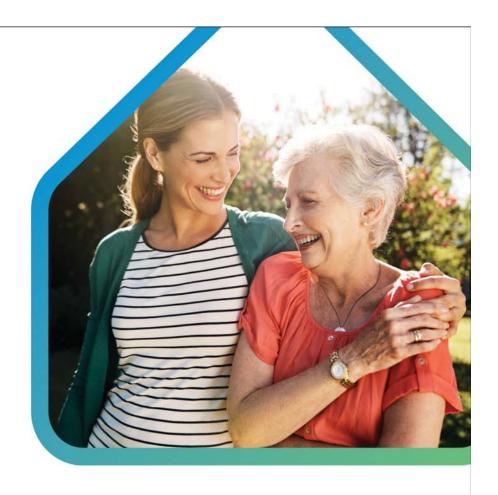
**BBT** There are more plastic flamingos in the U.S, than real ones!

**BBT** About 3000 years ago, most Egyptians died by the time they

**BBT** More people use blue toothbrushes, than red ones!

**BBT** A sneeze travels out your





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