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A Favorite Canyon Getaway for Seniors

story by Ann Brock

A re you looking for adventure, excitement and fun? Or maybe you just want to relax and unwind from the hustle and bustle of everyday life and enjoy the peaceful surroundings of all that nature has to offer. Well, you have just found it!

Canyon-rimmed views, golden red sunsets, giant starry night skies, wooden seclusion and delivered firewood for cozy campfires are only a few of the reasons seniors love Red Rock Canyon Campground & Adventure Park in Hinton, Oklahoma.

The 312 acre park is a short 45 minute drive west of Oklahoma City on I-40 and exit 101, nestled just below Pony Bridge on Route 66.

"We love coming here," said Barbara Halle. "There are many trails for great hiking, filled with birds and other wildlife, plus the entire length of the park is flat, which makes for perfect bike riding; we bring our bikes every time we come."

With over 50 RV sites, 50 shaded tenting sites, luxury glamping tents, rentable RV's, a cabin lodge, and glamper campers/with hot tubs, Red Rock Canyon Campground has all the things for a great weekend stay, extended-stay camping experience, or a day trip.

Grandparents bring grandchildren to experience the canyon history of gold rush wagon ruts, horse-thief hideouts, 1700's rock carvings, and buffalo roads. Additionally, a shallow creek for playing, huge summertime pool, volleyball, tetherball, and three gigantic playgrounds make being outdoors lots of fun.

Halle continues, "We visited the park the first time when we attended a wedding and picnic in their outdoor chapel and pavilion; we fell in love with this place. Our children and grandchildren often come with us, and it's a nice, quiet and safe environment for the kids to play freely - plus they love the water slides and splash pads at the pool."

Red Rock Canyon Campground & Adventure Park is privately owned. There is a \$10 a day pass fee at the gate which covers everyone in the vehicle. Yearly passes are also available for \$25 for seniors with an adventuresome spirit. The park also offers Coyote Ridge, which is an overland dispersed camping area.

With 12 miles of marked trails, many of which have easy, paved or graveled walkways, there is exercise and enjoyment for all ages. Pets





"The Best Kept Secret Out West". The new owners of Red Rock Canyon & Adventure Park. Jesse Roberge and his partner Bud Patterson.

are always welcome, and everyone loves the firewood deliveries directly to your site, honeypot services if needed, easily available ice, and even a weekend hot cookie service.

Halle and her husband visit during all four seasons, and tout the beauty of the park year-round, especially early and late times of day. "We love the way the sunlight lights up the western walls of the canyons in the mornings, and then the soft hazy glow of the eastern canyon walls at sunset," she said. Totally Serene!

"The world melts away when we're here," said Halle's husband Richard. We enjoy traveling and have been many places, but this spot in southwestern Oklahoma is our favorite; it's relaxing, affordable, and the new owners are onsite and very attentive to the needs of all the guests here. They are great people who have invested an immense amount of time and money to repair and restore the park."

Those visiting Red Rock will find a catch-n-release pond with

easy access. ADA compliant restrooms throughout the park, and close easy parking to all sites and trailheads. The park's website is www.redrockcamp.com and provides loads of information on events, experiences available on the grounds, plus pricing for all sites, lodging and activities.

Online booking is available to rent sites, RV's, glamping tents, cabin lodge, glamper campers or standard RV sites with hookups. Booking is also available by calling 405-542-6344. Mention this story at the gate when visiting the park and receive a FREE DAY PASS!

Whether you prefer luxury glamping or just roughing it, you can have the best of both worlds in this secret hideaway, far from all the pressure, stress and noise of the world. It's one of the best kept secrets in western Oklahoma just waiting to be discovered. Red Rock Canyon Campground is sure to be a favorite destination for years to come. Making lasting memories with your family and friends can start TODAY!

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Bestselling Author Jodi Picoult to Headline Literary Voices® 2025

This April marks the return Voices®, of Literary an unforgettable celebration of literature and community by the Library presented Endowment Trust. The annual event offers an opportunity to champion the Metropolitan Library System while hearing from one of the most celebrated authors of our time-Jodi Picoult-on April 9 at the Oklahoma City Golf and Country Club.

With an estimated 40 million books in print, Picoult is a literary powerhouse known for her compelling storytelling and thought-provoking social commentary. She has penned 14 consecutive No. 1 New York Times bestsellers, with works spanning from literary fiction to legal thrillers. Her critically acclaimed novels include:

• "My Sister's Keeper," a gripping exploration of medical ethics and family dynamics.

• "Nineteen Minutes," a hauntingly powerful examination of a school shooting's

aftermath.

• "Small Great Things," a poignant story about race and privilege, soon to be a major film starring Viola Davis and Julia Roberts.

Picoult's latest novel, "By Any Other Name," reimagines women's voices throughout history, shedding light on stories long overlooked. In addition to her literary success, Picoult has co-written the Off-Broadway musical "Between the Lines," and adapted "The Book Thief," for the stage.

Supporting the Future of Libraries

Proceeds from Literary social Voices® 2025 will benefit the Library Endowment Trust, which funds vital programs, materials and services for the Metropolitan Library System. Since its founding in 1986, the Trust has supported enhanced outreach services, staff scholarships and expanded programming for all ages. It also collaborates with the Friends of the Library to fund Dolly Parton's Imagination Library (DPIL) in Oklahoma



Jodi Picoult

Photo by Deborah Feingold

County, ensuring young children have access to books that foster a lifelong love of reading. Event Information & Tickets

For tickets, event details, or to schedule an interview, contact development@metrolibrary.org or call 405-606-3760.



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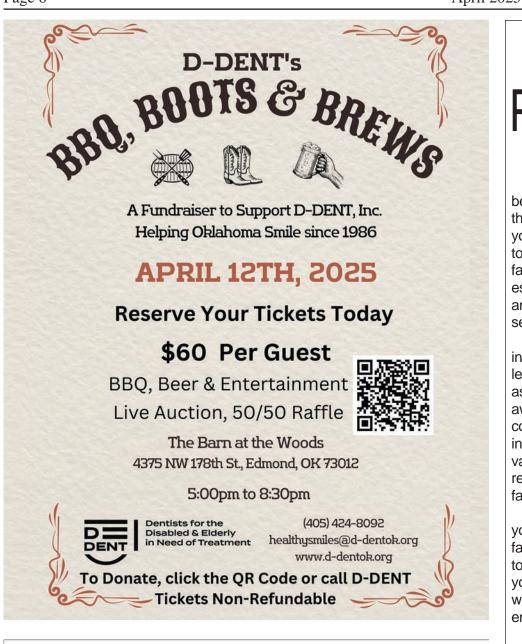
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The Value of Trusts in Preserving Family Wealth

Story by Matt Neil, Oklahoma Real Estate Planner

When you care about your family's wellbeing and future it's important to understand the significant advantages of using trusts in your financial planning. Trusts are powerful tools designed to protect and preserve your family's wealth, especially when it comes to real estate—an asset that typically grows in value and is key to your family's long-term financial security.

One major advantage of placing real estate into a trust is avoiding probate. Probate is the legal process where the court determines how assets are distributed after someone passes away. This process can be time-consuming, costly, and public, negatively affecting those involved and reducing the estate's value through



Matt Neill, the Vibrant Oklahoma Group.

various fees. By using a trust, families can bypass probate entirely, allowing real estate to be transferred privately, efficiently, and exactly according to the family's wishes.

Additionally, trusts simplify property management. With a revocable trust, you keep control of your property and can manage, sell, or modify it as your family's needs evolve. Should you or another family member become unable to manage the property due to illness or other circumstances, a trustee you've chosen can seamlessly take over management responsibilities without court involvement. This continuity provides peace of mind and ensures the property remains well-managed.

Trusts also may offer important tax advantages. A well-structured trust can significantly reduce estate taxes, helping your heirs preserve more of the family's wealth. Currently, the lifetime gift/estate tax exemption is 13.99 million in 2025, so most Oklahomans will not be affected this year. However, in 2026 the lifetime gift/estate tax exemption is projected to decrease to \$7 million. Additionally, trusts can minimize potential taxes that heirs may owe upon selling inherited properties, further enhancing their financial benefits.

Beyond financial and management advantages, trusts provide clear guidelines for how assets are to be distributed among family members. This clarity reduces the likelihood of family conflicts or misunderstandings after assets are passed down. Trusts can include special provisions to protect property from external threats such as creditors, divorces, or poor financial decisions by heirs, further ensuring that family wealth remains intact for future generations.

In conclusion, incorporating trusts into your real estate and estate planning strategy is essential for effectively preserving and transferring family wealth. Trusts provide privacy, streamlined management, tax savings, and protective measures that safeguard your

family's assets. By leveraging these advantages, you can confidently build a legacy that supports and enriches future generations. As Real Estate Planners, we work alongside trust and estate attorneys to help you begin to plan your legacy. Please email us at *www.info@vibrantok.com* or call us at 405-757-9980 to learn more about building a plan to build, protect, and preserve your wealth.

Matt Neill is a realtor who has lived in Oklahoma over 17 years and enjoys spending time with his family creating memories, reading, and cheering on the OKC Thunder.



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Festival of The Arts Celebrates Spring

story and photo by Darl DeVault, contributing editor

Experience the unique charm of the free 59th Annual Festival of the Arts, a four-day celebration of original visual art, performing, and culinary arts. Held from April 24 to 27 in downtown Oklahoma City at Bicentennial Park, this event is a testament to the enduring love of Oklahoma City's art volunteers for the arts and culture.

The Oklahoma City Arts Council's tradition, celebrated since 1967, is a community-driven event. It runs Thursday through Sunday, showcasing the community's creative talents and fostering a sense of togetherness. This long-standing tradition is a testament to our community's enduring love for arts and culture.

"The Festival of the Arts is a tradition that has become an essential part of Oklahoma City's cultural fabric," said Angela Cozby, Arts Council Oklahoma City executive director. "This year, we're thrilled to introduce new features, such as a Creators Collective and the Emerging Artist Tent, designed to showcase more of Oklahoma's creative talent."

A myriad of art forms take over the park, with booths showcasing 144 artists from across America, including 72 new artists making their festival debut. It has been ranked as one of the Top 25 Fine Arts Festivals in the United States, always offering original collectible fine art. The sheer diversity and talent on display, from traditional to contemporary, promise an exciting and enriching experience for all art enthusiasts.

This year's Festival will introduce two new features. A Creators Collective at the NE corner of OKC's City Hall will feature a curated selection of local makers and creators. This new space will showcase handmade goods, locally produced foods, and creative artistry from around Oklahoma.

An Emerging Artist Tent will provide a platform for up-andcoming artists to showcase their talents, with the audience actively supporting the next generation of artists in Oklahoma City. This is a unique opportunity to witness the



Local classical and fingerstyle guitar legend Edgar Cruz, 62, seen here in 2024, will perform from 5-6 p.m. Thursday, April 24, with his Brave Amigos.

birth of new artistic voices and be part of their journey.

On Saturday, April 26, from 11 a.m. to 5 p.m., the "Young at Art Mart" is a one-day juried art sale on the east lawn of City Hall, featuring the creations of children ages 8 - 18.

"The Creators Collective and Emerging Artist Tent are designed to highlight our community's diverse and creative talents. These additions will offer a truly unique experience for Festival visitors," said 2025 Festival Co-Chair Meg Salyer.

Visual artists and performers take to the outdoor stage every hour, making this massive festival arguably the largest Spring art event each year. More than 100 local performers offer an array of musical performances, dance, and theater throughout the event. The organizers kindly request that visitors leave their pets at home.

The event features an

International Food Row, showcasing 30 food booths, food trucks, and a diverse range of cuisine options to suit all tastes, including vegetarian, vegan, and gluten-free options.

The Angels & Friends Celebration preview kicks off the Festival from 4 p.m. to 8 p.m. on Wednesday. This \$100 a ticket VIP event offers an exclusive opportunity before the public opening and supports the Arts Council Oklahoma City's mission. It features live music, food, drinks, and raffle prizes, including a \$2,500 gift card for Festival art.

Children visiting the festival can enjoy interactive activities, including the Children's Art Field, Pottery Place, and face painting. This offering takes over the area surrounding City Hall for a day of family fun and activities. The Youth Art Sale, featuring sculptures and paintings, is always an impressive example of what art students have learned. This one-day event, also known as "Young at Art Mart," will be located on the east lawn of City Hall from 11 a.m. - 5 p.m. on Saturday.

The Festival is requesting that seniors get involved as volunteers. Needing 2,000 volunteers to bring it to life, Arts Council Oklahoma City is inviting community members to join the team.

"Volunteers are the backbone of Festival of the Arts, and without their dedication, this event wouldn't be possible," said 2025 Festival Co-Chair Gus Pekara. "Whether you're helping with event setup, assisting artists, or guiding visitors, there's a volunteer role for everyone."

They ask volunteers to share their interests online so they can find volunteer opportunities that align with their interests. For more information, visit the Festival of the Arts - Arts Council Oklahoma City. Turning 65 or new to Medicare?

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Positive Aging Seminars Continue At Metro Tech

By Eddie Roach, VillagesOKC Media

With the first quarter of seminars "in the books," VillagesOKC is anxious to share it's upcoming schedule of educational events for older adults in the Oklahoma City metro.

VillagesOKC hosts free monthly Positive Aging seminars in the District/Conference Center on the Springlake campus of Metro Technology Centers, 1900 Springlake Dr.

Seminar organizer Gaylene Stiles, VillagesOKC education director, announced the following dates and topics. All seminars are from 10 to 11:30 am.

April 16: Vision Vitality - The doctor gives reasons why mature adults shouldn't miss annual comprehensive eye exams.

May 7: A Matter of Balance - Learn how keeping strong balance can improve your brain and ward off dementia.

June 11: Medicare All Year Long -Keep ahead of changing Medicare rules and connect with a trusted agent. July 9: How to Make Your Money Last a Lifetime - Steps to take now and how to create a plan for your future.

Aug. 13: Hear Today, Hear Tomorrow - Explore the different types of hearing aids available, their benefits and latest advancements. Sept. 10: Don't Die Without These Documents - Critical legal documents every individual should have in place.

Oct. 8: Successful Sleep - Actionable insights to help you achieve sleep success.

Nov. 12: What is a Good Death? -The emotional and psychological journey of healing after experiencing loss.

Dec. 10: Mindset Makeover - How shifting our mental approach can lead to improvement in our personal and professional life.

Stiles said the seminars are free thanks to the generous sponsorship of organizations which are provided a table at the seminars to share their offerings without sales pitches.

The sponsors include Providence Home Care, Guardian Angels



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Concierge Services, Sam's Club, Complete OK, Concordia Life Plan Community, Stretch Zone, Oklahoma Human Services, Nerve Renewal Neuropathy Clinic, Wright Law Firm, Avem Health Partners, Directors Life Assurance, Oklahoma City Rehabilitation Hospital, Wellness & Longevity, NewView Oklahoma, Hearts for Hearing, Navigating Medicare and Senior Living Truth Series.

The Positive Aging events also offer free hearing and vision screenings as well as limited transportation. Please call for details. The events are free with pre-registration at *www.LoveYourAge.org* or by calling (405) 990-6637.





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OPINION



How Seniors Can Save on Auto Insurance

Can you offer any tips to help seniors save on their auto insurance? I recently turned 70 and got hit with a 25 percent premium increase on my car insurance and am looking for ways to save.

Older Driver

Dear Senior,

As auto insurance rates across the country continue to rise for all drivers, seniors can face an even bigger price hike, once they reach their 70s and their driving skills begin to decline. Fortunately, there are ways you can reduce your premiums. To find out what discounts may be available to you, contact your auto insurer and inquire about these options.

Increase your deductible: Paying a higher deductible could save you big on premiums. For example, raising your deductible from \$500 to \$1,000 can bring your annual premiums down by 15 to 20 percent, on average.

Adjust your coverage: If you're driving an older vehicle, you may want to consider dropping collision and/or comprehensive coverage if your premium is more than 10 percent of the car's value. Collision insurance covers damage to your car if you're involved in a crash (or if you're the victim of a hitand-run) and comprehensive covers damage caused by acts of nature (such as storm damage), vandalism, theft or fire. But if you're scaling back to liability coverage, make sure you have enough to pay for damages out of pocket if you're in an accident or your car sustains damage due to weather, theft or another non-collision event.

Take a defensive driving course: Some insurance companies offer defensive driving discounts - between 5 and 15 percent - to drivers who take a



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refresher course to brush up on their safety skills. Organizations such as AARP (aarpdriversafety.org), AAA (aaa.com/stop) and The National Safety Council (nsc.org) provide these classes, for around \$20 to \$30 and they can be taken online.

Report your milage: Most insurers offer discounts to customers who drive limited miles each year, which is usually beneficial to retirees who drive less because they don't commute to work every day. These discounts usually kick in when your annual milage drops below 7,500 or 10,000 depending on your provider.

Bundle policies: If your auto insurance policy is issued by a different company from the one insuring your home, call each insurer and ask if bundling the policies would be cheaper.

Sign up for driver monitoring: Some insurers offer discounts based on how and when you use your car. They will monitor things like your acceleration, braking habits, driving speeds and phone use, via smartphone app or a device that plugs into your car's diagnostic port. Drivers can be rewarded anywhere from 10 to 30 percent for safe driving.

In addition, many insurance providers also offer discounts to drivers who do not have any violations or accidents for three or more years.

Ask about membership discounts: Many insurers offer discounts through professional associations, workers' unions, large employers or membership organizations such as AAA, NARFE, AARP, etc. You could even qualify for savings based on the college you attended or the fraternity or sorority you belonged to decades ago.

Improve your credit: You may be able to lower your car insurance premium by paying your bills on time and reducing the amount of debt you carry. Insurers look at how their customers manage credit to get an idea of risk and to price policies. Better rates are given to those with good credit scores, typically 700 or above.

Comparison shop: To find out if your current premium is competitive with other insurers, shop around through insurance marketplace websites like TheZebra.com, Insurify.com, Lemonade.com or Policygenius.com. Or use an independent agent (see trustedchoice.com/agent) to help you compare.

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" book.

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Great is Thy Faithfulness

A phrase from that grand old hymn has been on my mind of late. "Strength for Today, Bright hope for Tomorrow." Because of the Holy Spirit's presence and the promises of God we can pray for and be assured of strength and hope from the One who loves us most.

I find myself asking God for strength for each day. Life is full of struggles and questions and each day brings it share of both. You would think that at my age I would be able to handle things better and be filled with joy even when things do not go well. But with my human frailties, I don't live up the truths I know. But I will keep trusting; knowing that nothing will come my way that hasn't passed through the filter of God's love.

Paul was told by the Father that his weakness allowed the strength of God to be put on display. "My strength is made perfect in your weakness." (11 Cor. 12:8) So, when I get caught up in my self-sufficient lifestyle and in my pride; when I give attention to the applause of men, then I am sure to fall, because God will not share his glory with another. I wish some political leaders would grasp this truth.

We see Lincoln on his knees at Gettysburg. Spurgeon with hundreds of men praying for him in the basement. George Mueller praying for provisions for the orphans under his care. And every pastor worth his salt broken before God before he goes into the pulpit.

And there is that great hope for tomorrow; that eternal promise that gives us strength to carry on when the way grows

SNL April Library Events Metropolitan

Senior Events at the Metropolitan Library System this April

This April, discover something to love at the Metropolitan Library System. Whether you're looking to stay active, explore your creative side or connect with others, the library offers a wide range of opportunities for fitness, crafting and personal growth. Find details and a full calendar of events at metrolibrary.org.

Stay Active and Independent for Life (SAIL)

Stay active and independent with SAIL, a program designed to improve muscle strength, range of motion and daily living activities. Exercises can be modified for all fitness levels.

- Choctaw Library: April 2, 9, 16, 23, 30 at 10 a.m.
- The Village Library: April 2 at 10 a.m.

Total Wellness Classes

Learn practical tips on weight loss, healthy eating and exercise to prevent diabetes and heart disease with the Oklahoma City-County Health Department.

• Midwest City Library: April 15, 22, 29 at 10 a.m.

S.A.L.T. Council (Seniors and Law Enforcement Together) Learn how to avoid scams and crimes targeting seniors in this collaborative effort with law enforcement and senior citizens.

• Warr Acres Library: April 7 at 10 a.m.

Tai Chi Classes

Gentle exercises to improve balance and flexibility for all fitness levels.

- Southern Oaks Library
- Beginner classes April 1, 3, 8, 10, 15, 17, 22, 24, 29 at 9 a.m.
- Intermediate classes April 1, 3, 22, 24, 29 at 10:15 a.m.

weary. We do not operate out of the great wisdom or knowledge of our finite being. Any gift we have comes from the Father as an act of Divine Grace. God speaking through the prophet Isaiah says, "I am the Lord your God, who teaches you what is best for you, who directs you in the way you should go. If only you had



Jim Morrison

paid attention to my commands, your peace would be like a river and your righteousness like the noonday sun. (Isaiah 48:17-19)

The hope for tomorrow is not just for the rewards to be handed out in heaven, but the certainty that God is real, he loves me, and I can trust Him. We may not understand and wonder where he is taking us. But our "God knows the way through the wilderness. All we have to do is follow."

When I am about to lose hope and see the clouds rather than the sun, I remind myself that this too will pass and good days will come if I obey and rest in his faithfulness.

"Lord, may my days be filled with joy and hope. May I not let Satan eclipse the power of faith and obedience as I trust you. Impart to me the strength to see the difficulties of the day as stepping stones to make me more like Jesus." To comment: jhm82@outlook.com or 1580-302-1142

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SNL CENTENARIANS OF OK

Gena Frits

(Right) **100 years old.** Surrounded by loved ones, Geneva was inducted into the Centenarians Hall of Fame. A Vinita resident since 1952, she's been a devoted member of First United Methodist Church and lifelong volunteer. She loves flower gardening and often shares bouquets with loved ones. Geneva has visited all 50 states, Europe, and Mexico. Her advice: "Be honest!"





Cora Briggs

(Left) **100 years old.** Cora Briggs of Owasso celebrated her 100th birthday with family and friends. She was an artist and art teacher before retiring in the 80's. Cora also sang and composed music. She volunteered with CASA and the Project Transformation reading program. Cora loves ice cream and sweets and enjoyed blowing out the candles on her cake today!

Polly Lackey

(Right) 100 years old. At 100, Polly Lackey still drives herself to church! She celebrated with family and friends at First Baptist Church of Sallisaw, where guests wore favorite decade costumes. A Cherokee Native American and 1942 salutatorian, Polly worked as a secretary bookkeeper until retiring in 1994. She now enjoys reading and crosswords. advice: Actions Her have consequences.

Charles Hartman

(Right) 100 years old. Charles 'Tex' Hartman of Tulsa celebrates his 100th birthday! The US Navy Veteran served during World War II. When Tex was a child, the family farm had an outhouse and no electricity. He had a long career as a geologist and lived with his family in eight states. Memorable changes during Tex's lifetime are: the internet, cell phones, the moonshot, Alexa, Al, and the James Webb Telescope. His words of wisdom are: Don't Look Back, It Might Be Gaining on You!





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Pawnee Bill Ranch and Museum to Host Annual Easter Egg Hunt

The Pawnee Bill Ranch and Museum will host its free annual Easter egg hunt on Saturday, April 19, starting at 10 a.m. at the ranch's picnic pavilions. Pawnee Bill impersonator Kevin Webb will be in attendance and signal the start of the egg hunt by firing his pistol.

The egg hunt is spread out over several acres of the historic site. Thousands of eggs

will be hidden, including gold and silver prize eggs containing money and vouchers for treats.

Pawnee Bill started an egg hunt at his ranch more than 100 years ago. Today, the ranch continues to be a place where families can make memories in a beautiful and historic environment.

The egg hunt is co-sponsored by the local

Pawnee Lions Club and the Pawnee Chamber of Commerce.

For more information, please call the ranch at 918-762-2513. The Pawnee Bill Ranch and Museum is located at 1141 Pawnee Bill Rd. in Pawnee.





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Library Booksale **Resounding Success**

story and photo by Darl DeVault, contributing editor

Metro Library Booksale in February expanded to its most extensive offering of books in the last three years, aided by senior volunteers who stepped up to face the challenge of a large crowd.

Thousands of book lovers lined up early on Saturday, February 22, well before the 9 a.m. opening in the Oklahoma Expo Hall at the Oklahoma City State Fairgrounds.

The used book selection and the number of shoppers in the "Better Books" section in the smaller building known for its highquality and rare books showed it was a major draw for many book lovers.

"This event is growing every year, and we are proud of our 1,000 volunteers, many of whom are seniors," said Heather Zeoli, Metro Library System director of development. "Their dedication and sense of community are what make this event truly special. We are so grateful for their support to help us raise funds for our library programs."

It may have been a record crowd for Saturday, but estimating the number of shoppers at an event when the crowd never ends is difficult.

Many customers from out of state consider the book sale a must-attend event every year. In the crowd shopping the better books area, one senior customer said he had never missed a book sale.

John Carpenter, 70, continued his personal tradition of attending every sale over the years. At the table for books by Oklahoma books authors and about Oklahoma, he was so excited that he was willing to brag about his good fortune this year.

An article in "Senior News and Living" documented his participation several years ago. This year, he explained the purpose his wife and he had for attending. which has evolved over the last decade. He and his wife, Jo Ann Hogan, now carefully sift through

The annual Friends of the the Better Books section in search of author-autographed books they can sell online through their eBay bookstore.

The two were proud of what they found on offer this year. "I am buying a book written and autographed by Carl Albert," Carpenter said in an interview. "Carl Albert explains in this OU Press published work "Little Giant" how he was elected to serve in the House of Representatives alongside John Kennedy and Lyndon Johnson. Having read this before, I know it documents his first eight years and even more detail about his election to being the speaker of the house for seven years."

Carpenter, a Choctaw resident and retired United States and Oklahoma probation and parole officer, has become a well-known local yoga and spin class instructor since retiring in 2011. He launched a series of YouTube videos for his Okie Yoga Class at the start of the COVID-19 pandemic in 2020, which remains available online.

The Booksale's popularity has led to a competitive atmosphere among shoppers, who know this is a once-a-year opportunity to find great deals on books and other media. Despite the frenzied atmosphere, the sale remains a favorite among book lovers and bargain hunters alike. It offered a unique opportunity to discover new authors and titles while stocking up on beloved favorites.

Customers came to shop for various reasons. Some tried to select bestsellers. classics. collectibles, and research books needed for school. Others sought to complete their libraries in specific subjects, while parents strive to broaden their children's reading exposure. The children's section was swamped all day.

The sale offered a diverse selection of paperback and hardcover books, CDs, DVDs, magazines, and more for every customer demographic. The hardbound better books and



Jo Ann Hogan and her husband, John Carpenter, display a book they will buy as they stand in the Oklahoma authors section of the Better Books section

paperback books featured a wide range of subjects. They included fiction, nonfiction. cookbooks, biographies, medical books, westerns. romance, children's books, encyclopedias, reference books, and foreign language books. Several thousand large-print books were offered, featuring larger pointsize fonts designed to make reading easier for readers with weak evesight.

Despite the vast number of books on offer, the sale was organized by many senior volunteers in a way that allowed customers to easily navigate through the different sections of tables. The literary sale has become a special event in Oklahoma and beyond, offering book lovers a chance to connect with like-minded readers.

The sale's success was a testament to the enduring appeal of the written word and the passion and dedication of its volunteer organizers and supporters. It serves as a beacon of hope for promoting reading in our community.

Volunteers worked tirelessly to that everything ensure ran smoothly. They went to great lengths to ensure that the thousands of books were wellorganized by subject, allowing shoppers to find what they wanted easily. With so much on offer, getting lost in the sea of books could have been easy, but the volunteers were always ready to help.

The sale raised money to support the Metropolitan Library System. Nearly \$250,000 was raised this year, allowing the proceeds to be distributed as grants to support the system. This means in its 45-year run, the volunteers have now given more than \$5 million in grants to the system. These funds have been instrumental in supporting many library-related community programs.



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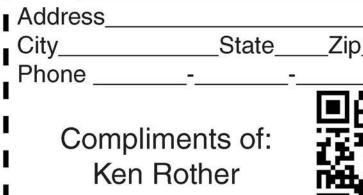
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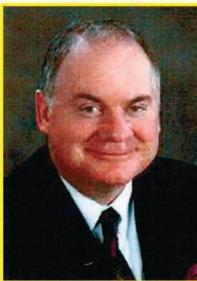
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story by Darl DeVault, contributing editor

Senior marathoners can enjoy being part of one of the nation's most significant feel-good events for fitness in the lead-up to the "Run to Remember" event on Sunday, April 30. The day before the marathon, Saturday, at 8 a.m., the Senior Marathoners complete their event between the 7 a.m. start of the 5K run and the Kid's Marathon of a similar style at 9 a.m.

The course begins at the Oklahoma City National Memorial & Museum and winds through downtown, ending in Scissortail Park!

The Oklahoma City Memorial Marathon is a community-driven event that began in 2001 as a fundraiser for the Oklahoma City National Memorial & Museum. It has been offering seniors this experience for three years. Seniors who walk or run before the marathon on Sunday can support the downtown museum to help honor the victims, survivors, rescuers, and those affected by the April 19, 1995 bombing.

Instead of a quote in this article, we share the mission statement, which is as profound as any comment available: Our mission is to celebrate life, reach for the future, honor the memories of those who were lost, and unite the world in hope. This is not just another marathon. It is a Run to Remember ... and a race to show that we can each make a difference and change the world.

The Senior Marathon, presented by Mercy Hospitals, has grown since its inaugural year, when more than 1,000 seniors participated. Building on that initial success, it now features a Senior Groups program for at least 20 participants, offering two \$500 cash awards.

A \$500 prize will be awarded to the senior group with the highest number of participants. All other groups will be entered into a raffle for a chance to win \$500 toward their wellness programs.

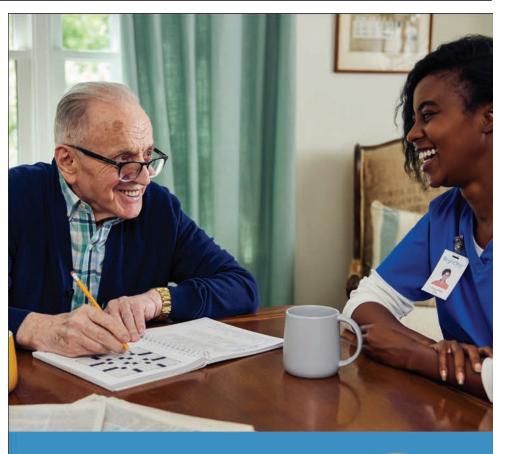
The Senior Groups program also offers early packet pick-up for coordinators who receive free registration, allowing them to collect packets for the group before race weekend. Due to the large number of seniors, special bus and van parking will be available for dropping off and picking up senior athletes at the Start and Finish Lines.

Starting in January, seniors 60+ walked or ran 25 miles (about 1.5 miles weekly). On Race Day, they run or walk the last 1.2 miles of their marathon distance directly south from the Memorial starting line to the finish in Scissortail Park. This allows seniors to feel like "elite" participants because of the on-course support from a massive outpouring of cheering from volunteering OKC residents. The support and encouragement from the community make seniors feel valued and part of a larger cause.

Senior marathoners can enjoy the camaraderie of competition and interaction by visiting the popular Health and Fitness Expo at the Oklahoma City Convention Center at the finish line. The OKC Convention and Visitors Bureau and OU Health present it.

The entry fee of \$30 provides seniors with an event t-shirt, a finishing complimentary medal, and admission to the Oklahoma City ********** National Memorial and Museum that day, courtesy of their bib number. This event can energize many people to participate in an activity that provides good health, a key to aging gracefully. Whether seniors run or walk, this "Run to Remember" is a proven way to stay active and promote good health.

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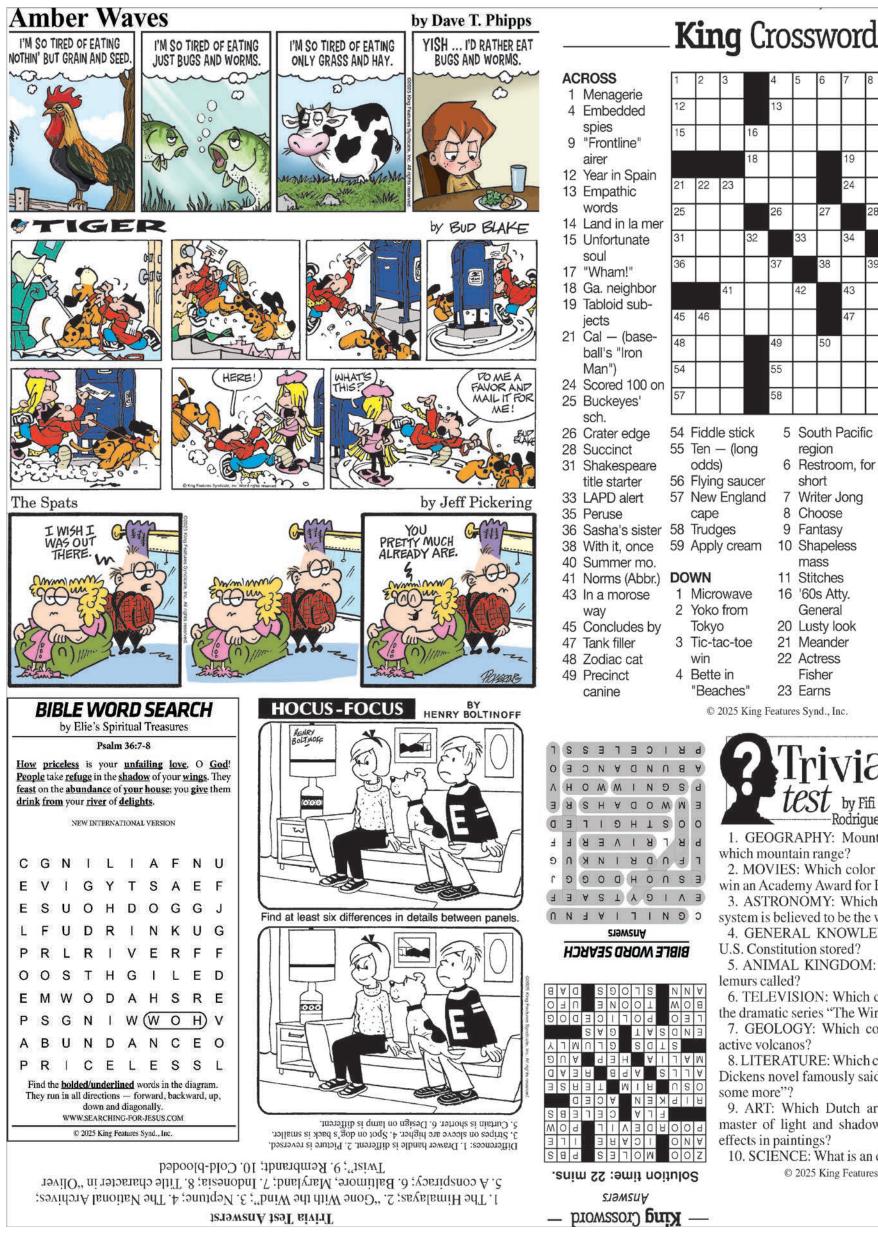
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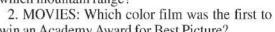


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1. GEOGRAPHY:	Mount	Everest	is	part	of
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win an Academy Award for Best Picture? 3. ASTRONOMY: Which planet in our solar

system is believed to be the windiest?

4. GENERAL KNOWLEDGE: Where is the U.S. Constitution stored?

5. ANIMAL KINGDOM: What is a group of lemurs called?

6. TELEVISION: Which city is the setting for the dramatic series "The Wire"?

7. GEOLOGY: Which country has the most active volcanos?

8. LITERATURE: Which character in a Charles Dickens novel famously said, "Please, sir, I want some more"?

9. ART: Which Dutch artist is considered a master of light and shadow, creating dramatic effects in paintings?

10. SCIENCE: What is an ectothermic animal? © 2025 King Features Synd., Inc.

TINSELTOWN TALKSPianist Richard Glazier Revives Great Songs from Stage & Screen

By Nick Thomas

First it was COVID, then a chronic non-life-threatening illness kept Richard Glazier from performing. This year, he returns to the stage where audiences can again experience the pianist seamlessly blending recitals with fascinating personal stories describing friendships with legendary figures in American Popular Song such as Ira Gershwin.

I first encountered the master musician and music story-teller in 2011 during a four-day cruise to Cozumel, Mexico. Wandering the decks late one Friday night, I was drawn by the sound of piano music to a lounge where Glazier was in full swing.

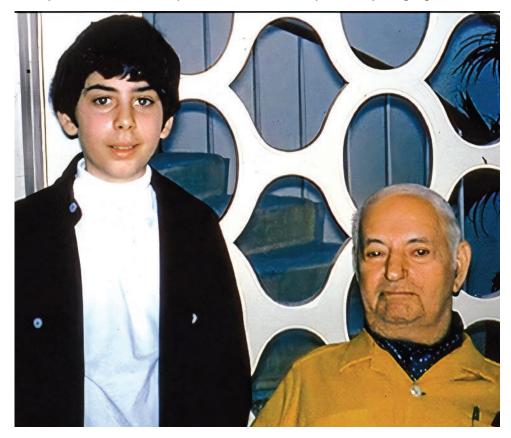
Although he didn't finish until 1 a.m., Richard hung around talking to passengers and posing for photographs. Since that evening, Glazier has released several CDs and his three Public Television specials have been broadcast on PBS affiliates across the country.

His most recent CD was "Pure Imagination - Great Songs from the Stage & Screen." As the title suggests, the recording contains (16) tracks from classics such as "Fiddler on the Roof," "West Side Story," and "Meet Me in St. Louis" (see www.richardglazier.com).

Glazier's journey to the concert stage as a performer and historian of popular Broadway and Hollywood music goes back over four decades when then 9-year-old Richard started digging through his aunt's collection of old 78-records in her Indianapolis home.

"I found an Oscar Levant recording of 'Rhapsody in Blue' and became obsessed with the music," recalled Glazier. "That led me to the library where I learned about the composer, George Gershwin, and his brother Ira."

Glazier was hooked after discovering the 1943 musical film "Girl Crazy" that featured Judy Garland and Mickey Rooney singing Gershwin



A young Richard Glazier and Ira Gershwin. Taken by Richard's mother in the mid 1970s



Richard Glazier

Photo By Matias Antonio Bombal

songs and he began piano lessons.

George, the composer, had died in 1937, but when young Richard learned that lyricist Ira was still living, he wrote to the aging songwriter asking for a photo. That led to a 3-year correspondence between the music legend and his young fan.

"I was a small child who loved Gershwin music, so I think Ira wanted to encourage my passion for their music and my goal of being a pianist," said Glazier who, to his astonishment, was invited to Gershwin's California home to meet his hero.

Accompanied by his mother, Glazier remembers the butler leading them into the living room where Ira sat waiting. "He was very reclusive during his later years and hardly ever had company, but I would never have known since he was very warm and animated."

During the 2-hour visit, Ira showed Richard the Pulitzer Prize for Drama he won in 1932 for writing "Of Thee I Sing." He invited the boy to play a piano in the room - the same instrument on which the Gershwins composed their music such as "Porgy and Bess."

When he departed, the lad didn't leave empty-handed.

"He gave me a picture of George, along with one of his cancelled checks, an autographed photo of himself, and an autographed score of 'Rhapsody in Blue," said Glazier, whose mother also took a photo of her son with Gershwin wearing a monogrammed gold sweater.

Despite his absence from the concert circuit for four years, Richard says he's playing better than ever and shared some emails from audience members who attended a recent concert in Phoenix:

"Loved every minute...your story of the joy a little boy had to meet his idol and play on his piano brought joy to my heart" (Shirley Rosenblum).

"You played with your heart fully engaged... the evening was extraordinary" (Janice M. Hollowelli).

"I couldn't practice for almost 2 years," said Glazier. "But I came out of this difficult time seeing life and music more emotionally and deeper, and that's reflected in my playing which is better than ever. A real triumph for me. I'm definitely back!"

Nick Thomas teaches at Auburn University at Montgomery, Ala., and has written features, columns, and interviews for numerous magazines and newspapers. See www.getnick.org.





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BELMONT

April 2025



A Road Trip to Nebraska

If you

By Marise Boehs



We wanted to see sandhill cranes migrating and where better than the Sandhill Crane Capital of the World, Kearney, Nebraska.

In the end, our bird watching trip was a success. Getting there, however, was a harrowing experience. Caught in a blizzard with no way back and barely a way forward, we snaked on up the road. Only with the benevolence

An early morning walk in a city park

Page 28

Bird watching is certainly not all that this Nebraska city has to offer.

A short mile walk around beautiful Yanney Park was cold and windy but the public art and fresh air was worth every step.





of good Samaratins along the way, willing to push and pull us out of snow drifts, did we finally reach Kearney. Although not our original destination, we decided to stay,

In the early afternoon the next day,

we drove around the countryside and saw many sandhill cranes eating and dancing in the fields. Later that evening, we stood on a public viewing stand and watched them come to the Platte River to roost for the night.



have an interest and get a chance, I would highly recommend this activity. Just check the weather forecast first.

A history lesson and walk along the river

Coming into Kearney on Interstate 80 we passed under a structure built above and across the interstate. The signs touted "The Arch Monument".

First thing next day, we went there. It is an awesome history presentation spanning early pioneer expansion through the developement of Interstate 80. Another highly recommended activity if you are in the area.

And a trail along the river! A nice 2 mile walk before lunch.





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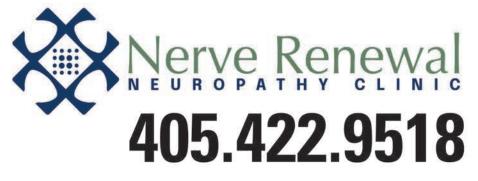
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