

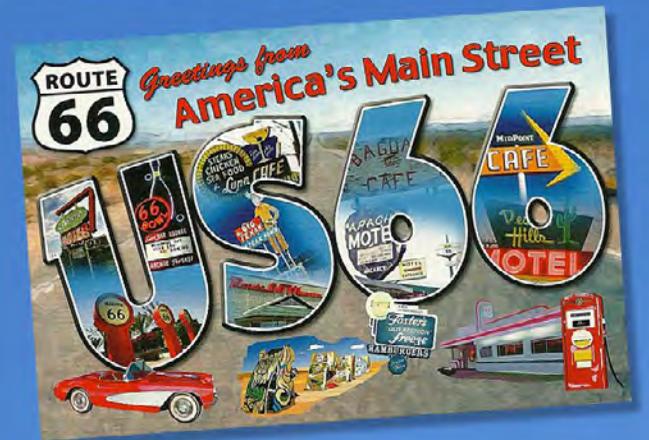
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story on page 2

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Season Opens

Page 22 - Planning for
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Centennial Year Events

You want to drive it – here's where to go - to see events in Oklahoma towns through July, 2026.

By Richard Stephens, staff writer

For each event, dates and town are listed in bold wording, then general information follows. Events are on Route 66 unless otherwise noted. Fee = payment required. Events have food trucks and merchandise vendors. Times for one day events are listed, if known.

April 25, Weatherford, Big Band Hanger Dance, Stafford Air and Space Museum. Oklahoma Route 66 Association (go to events page), <https://oklahomaroute66.com/>

April 25, Miami, 9:00 a.m. – 4:00 p.m., Miami-Ottawa county Arts & Humanities Route 66 Mural Fest. Oklahoma Route 66 Association (go to events page), <https://oklahomaroute66.com/>

May 2, El Reno, Burger Day, 10:00 a.m. – 3:00 p.m. Watch as the Fire Department cooks the world's biggest onion burger (850 pounds) and puts it on a bun for visitors to eat! Car show and two stages hold musical acts. Family games. HOME | Burger Day, <https://www.elrenoburgerday.com/>

May 9, Bristow, Tabouleh Festival, 9:00 a.m. - 3:00 p.m. Middle

Eastern (Lebanese) food, a live band, family entertainment (petting zoo, etc.). HOME | Tabouleh Fest, <https://www.bristowtaboulehfest.com/>

May 23, Bethany, Bethany 66 Festival, 9:00 a.m. – 3:00 p.m.. Car show, live music, children's march. Bethany 66 Festival — Bethany Improvement Foundation, <https://www.bethanyimprovementfoundation.com/bethany-66-festival>

May 30, Oklahoma City, Kickin' It On Route 66, Scissortail Park (not on '66), 6:00 – 10:00 p.m.. Farmers market, live entertainment, drone light show. <https://www.route66centennial.org/>

May 30, Tulsa, Route 66 Capital Cruise: World-Record Classic Car Centennial Parade. The cruise route will encompass 5.5 miles of Route 66 within Tulsa's city limits. <https://www.route66centennial.org/>



The Blue Whale of Catoosa used to carry swimmers in the 1970s and now, strollers and walkers. It was 50 years old in September 2022.

May 30, Catoosa, Route 66 Blue Whale Run (fee), 8:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m. Oklahoma Route 66 Association (go to events page), <https://oklahomaroute66.com/>

June 5-6, Vinita, Vinita Route 66 Centennial Celebration. Children's demonstrations, car show. Vinita Rt 66 Centennial Celebration | Vinita, OK, <https://www.cityofvinita.com/66centennialcelebration>

June 6, Sapulpa to Edmond, Route 66 100 Greatest Miles Road Rally 2026 (fee). Cruise 100 miles on Route 66 packed with nostalgia, scenic views, and classic Americana. Go to checkpoints and end at the Chicken Shack, Arcadia. Route 66 100 Greatest Miles Road Rally 2026, Oklahoma, Bristow, 6 June 2026 | AllEvents, <https://allevents.in/bristow/route-66-100-greatest-miles-road-rally-2026/100001983163123287>

June 6, Yukon, Route 66 Centennial Celebration, 10:00 a.m. Oklahoma Route 66 Association (go to events page), <https://oklahomaroute66.com/>

June 5-7, El Reno, A Small Town Weekend. Friday evening is a swap meet, Power Wheels competition for children and city-wide

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open cruise. On Saturday, see a car show, burnout competition and a closed route cruise (fee). Sunday brings open competition drag racing (fee), also on Route 66. The El Reno Cruisers - A Small Town Weekend, <https://www.elrenocruisers.com/>

June 12-13, Elk City, Route 66 Festival, Ashley Park. Block party, car show and cruise, contests, art displays, fireworks, park attractions. Elk City 2026 Route 66 Festival | Facebook

June 13, Stroud, 4:00 – 10:00

The Braum's milk bottle is on Route 66 at 2426 N. Classen Ave, Oklahoma City. The Milk Bottle Grocery was built in 1930 on Route 66



p.m. Car show, wine tasting (fee), music, fireworks.

2026 Stroud SummerFest, <https://stroudchamber.com/2026-stroud-summerfest>

June 17-19, Oklahoma's entire Route 66, stopping in OKC and Tulsa. June 17: Shamrock to OKC (rest overnight). June 18: OKC to Tulsa (rest overnight). June 19: Tulsa to Joplin. Main Street of America Route 66 Centennial Caravan (a 20-day

trip from Santa Monica to Chicago). Organized by the Road Ahead Partnership and Historic Route 66 Associations, like the Oklahoma Route 66 Association. Any one can join in for free by joining a core group of cars driving the entire Route 66. Route 66 Caravan, <https://www.route66caravan.com/>

June 19-20, Weatherford, Heartland Cruise Car Show. On June 19, look at hundreds of classic cars before their two-hour cruise. On June 20 in Rader Park (not on '66), see the car show, burnout and loud exhaust contests, children's activities (coin hunt, poker walk, demonstrations). Heartland Cruise Car Show Weatherford, OK, <https://www.heartlandcruisecarshow.com>

June 22-23, Oklahoma's entire Route 66, stopping at Claremore, Sapulpa, Elk City. The Great Race (Springfield, IL, to Pasadena, CA, June 20-28). June 22, 11:30 a.m., lunch at Will Rogers Memorial Museum, Claremore. Pit Stop, Dewey Avenue, Sapulpa, 1:30 p.m. Overnight at Stockyards City, Exchange Avenue, OKC. 4:30 p.m. On Tuesday, June 23, 11:15 a.m., lunch at National Route 66 Museum, Elk City. greatrace.com | Great Race, <https://www.greatrace.com/>.

June 27-28, Tulsa, AAA Roadfest, Sagenet Center at Expo Square (not on '66), AAA Roadfest (fee). Hundreds of classic cars, Route 66 through the decades exhibits, family-friendly activity area, vintage RVs. Route 66 Road Fest - Route 66 Road Fest, <https://route66roadfest.com/>

Sayre, July 17-19, Dust Bowl Days Farm & Ranch Fest and Wild Plum Festival. On July 17, antique tractor cruise-in, chuck wagon Bar-B-Q. On July 18, watch a parade and have fun and games at the Shortgrass County Museum (not on '66). That night, listen to western music at the Wild Plum Festival (fee). Sing along Sunday night at the

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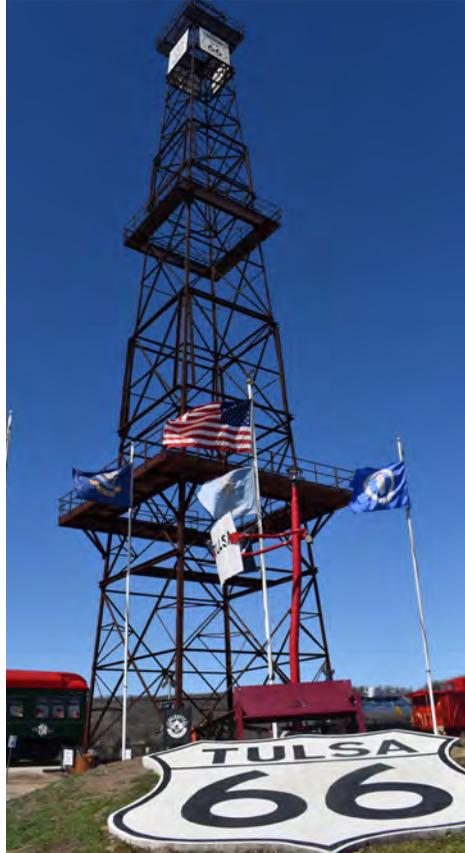
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gospel concert. 6th Annual Dust Bowl Days Farm & Ranch Festival- Oklahoma Events, <https://www.route66centennial.org/index.php/calendar/upcoming-events-all/oklahoma-events/6th-annual-dust-bowl-days-farm-ranch-festival>

July 24-25, Miami, Route 66 Heritage Fest. Two nights of first-rate local bands, car show. Route 66 Heritage Festival 2026 - Miami Oklahoma Convention and Visitors Bureau, <https://www.visitmiamiok.com/heritagefest-2025/>

The oil derrick tower is part of The Route 66 Historical Village on Route 66 in Tulsa. It also has a Frisco 4500 steam engine and gas station.



Rhys Martin, President of the Oklahoma Route 66 Association, provided a statement regarding the build-up to Route 66's Centennial anniversary (November 11, 2026). "Route 66 has something for everyone, whether you like classic nostalgia, quirky attractions, or fun festivals. The Centennial year has amped everything up to 100 - it's a great year to take a trip on the Mother Road!"

To look up more events in Oklahoma, go to TravelOK, TravelOK.com Homepage, <https://www.travelok.com/> or to the Oklahoma Route 66 Association website, Oklahoma Route 66 Association, <https://oklahomaroute66.com/>. For events in all eight states, see Route 66 Road Map, <https://route66roadmap.com/>

Bicyclists pedal past Arcadia's Round Barn during Cycle 66, a bicycle contest that starts in Edmond.



Oklahoma Senior Follies

2026

Saturday, June 6th at 7:00 P.M.
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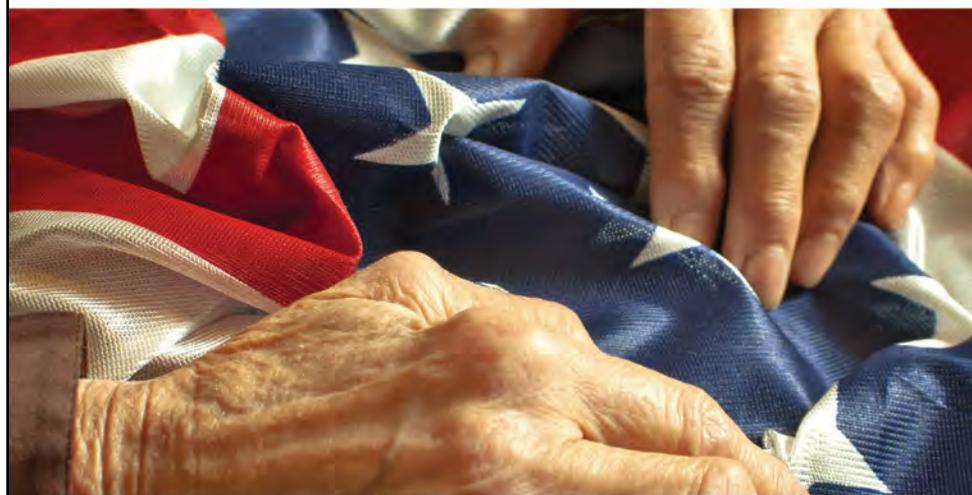
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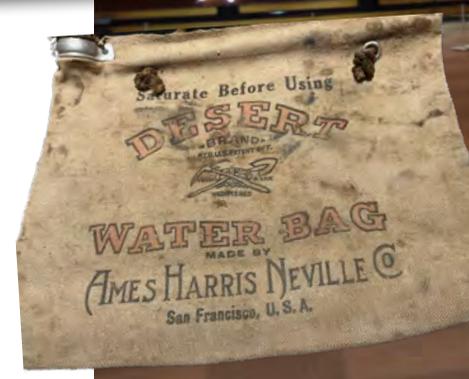
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FAR RIGHT: A replica of a gas station and Western Trail motel neon sign are displayed at the National Cowboy & Western Heritage's Route 66 exhibit.

ABOVE: Beautiful, classic 1948 Chrysler sedan on display

AT RIGHT: Water bags like these were used in the 1920s and 1930s by motorists for drinking and to keep the radiator cool. The bags were soaked in water, filled and then hung in front of the automobile's grills.



From Trails to Truck Stops

Western emigration across America changed dramatically over time – the National Cowboy & Western Heritage Museum's exhibit explains how.

By Richard Stephens, staff writer

During Route 66's Centennial year, the National Cowboy & Western Heritage Museum wanted to inform visitors how the means of transportation people used to emigrate from east to west changed over time. The exhibit, "From Trails to Truck Stops," resulted. The exhibit shows from February 6 – May 3, 2026.

Question. Why would the National Cowboy & Western Heritage Museum – a museum dedicated to informing people about cowboys, American Indians and western movies and displays western art - hold an exhibit about a highway called Route 66?

Answer. "The story of Route 66 is a Western story...And it is certainly a very important part of Oklahoma history," said Seth Spillman, Chief Marketing Officer at the museum. "We are here in Oklahoma because of Route 66."

Spillman said in the 1950s, three cities were finalists to host a national western museum: Colorado City, Colorado, Dodge City, Kansas, and Oklahoma City (OKC). OKC was chosen because "Oklahoma City...donated the land that the museum was on, but that land is on Route 66, and (in 1955)...having that traffic off of Route 66 was an important part of that decision." He added, "I believe it was the 1954 reroute of Route 66 through Oklahoma City that follows the same line that I-44 is now. They just paved I-44 over Route 66 and used that."

Spillman explained, "So, you have the trails and then you have the railroads that followed those trails, and then the highways that followed those railroads in many ways." Each method of travelling replaced the other, shortening times needed to travel.



The exhibit uses maps, photos, vehicles, artifacts and giant information boards to tell the story.

Three rooms of displays

The first room (entrance), named, "Mother Road," shows license plates and various road signs from highways, like Highway 3 that was absorbed by Route 66.

The second, "Ways West," room displays maps (Santa Fe Trail, railroads, highway and a comprehensive "1820-1870 Western Emigrant Trail" map

Also, there's an interactive Google Arts & Culture display called "Route 66 Rewind" that puts you (virtually) in a car, touring towns as they used to look on Route 66. Unfortunately, there is no mention of the Ozark Trail or Jefferson Highway in Oklahoma.

Room three is the most interesting for visitors. Called "Roadside Attractions," it offers diner seating, two classic cars, a buggy, gas station, Western Trail motel sign, ash trays, railroad tools, water bags that used to hang in front of radiators and lots more. Children can pick up a handout called, "Start Your Engines!" with games.

Information boards in each room provide details about the paving, heyday, decline and rebirth of Route 66, how highways led to roadside attractions and why the Cowboy Museum was built in OKC.

What has been customer feedback? Spillman said, "We've been very pleased that they've been pleased with what we've had he". Jim Berryman from OKC commented, "If you've ever travelled as a kid on '66, then you'll definitely want to see this. Very well done."

The museum expects to install a 35-foot-tall cowboy boot called "66 Kicks," made by Cameron Eagle in April. Spillman said it will be installed on the east end of the museum's property adjacent to I-44.

Visit the museum's website, National Cowboy & Western Heritage Museum - Oklahoma City, OK, or <https://nationalcowboymuseum.org/>, to learn more about the exhibit and when "66 Kicks" will be installed.



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VillagesOKC names Tessa Martin board president

Tessa Martin, director of conference services at Metro Technology Centers' Springlake Campus, is the new board president for VillagesOKC, a membership organization offering services and connections to empower adults to age with vitality and purpose.

"Tessa brings exceptional leadership, energy, and vision to VillagesOKC," said Danny Eischen, VillagesOKC executive director and Concordia Life Plan Community CEO. "Her passion for education, community engagement, and lifelong learning aligns perfectly with our mission to help older adults live with vitality, connection, and purpose. I'm excited about the direction she will help lead our organization."

Martin's career experience has been in education, marketing and training. After college, she worked as the market and training coordinator for Ford Audio-Video. She was a teacher for Mid-Del Public Schools and Metro Technology Center. She taught English at the Metro Career Academy and Law Prep I at the Public Safety Academy.

She received the MetroQuest Award at Metro Tech and was named the 2018 Metro Technology Centers Teacher of the Year by the South Oklahoma City Chamber of Commerce. She received the OkACTE Kaleidoscope Award which honors those who demonstrate a strong commitment to creating inclusive environments in career and technology education. She volunteers with MetroFit and Community Health Centers wellness programs.

Serving with Martin on the board are Melissa Holobach, board secretary, and directors Marilyn Olson, Chris Buckelew, Lauren Branch, Julie Davis, Ginny Curtis-Gillespie and Kathy Wilson-Gold.

Holobach has 40-plus years of experience in the corporate world. Currently,



she works as an adjunct professor, leadership trainer, non-profit board member and business consultant and presenter. Olson is co-founder and past executive director of VillagesOKC. She now works with VillagesOKC as a community ambassador.

Outgoing board president, Buckelew is co-founder and chief operating officer of Seniors Real Estate Institute. He and his wife, Nikki, founded the Senior Living Truth Series which is now in its eleventh year of providing free monthly educational seminars for older adults.

Branch is President/CEO of NewView Oklahoma, which since 1949 has served as a life-changing source of hope and empowerment for those in Oklahoma living with blindness and low vision. Davis is marketing project manager at Concordia Life Plan Community, a faith based Continuum Care Retirement Community in Oklahoma City, and Executive Director for the Concordia Community Foundation. She has more than two decades of experience in the not-for-profit sector.

Curtis-Gillespie is owner/agent at Navigating Medicare, which has collaborated with VillagesOKC for several years to provide information about Medicare Supplements, Advantage plans, and the impact of financial, healthcare, and specific physician selections.

Wilson-Gold is a Senior Nutrition Consultant for the Administration for Community Living, U.S. Department of Health & Human Services. She is also founder and owner of KWG & Associates, a consulting firm providing comprehensive nutrition and healthcare expertise.

Eischen said he is excited that the newly constituted board will guide the working relationship between Concordia and VillagesOKC, modeling the state's developing Aging Our Way plan where individual agencies, organizations and businesses work together to make Oklahoma the best place in the nation to age successfully.

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Care Plus Home Care Providing Services to Keep Seniors, Veterans Home

Right: Care Plus Home Care services of Oklahoma City is a family-owned business that has a reputation for giving quality care and attention to their clients, which includes Veterans. Pictured left to right is Katie West, Kristi Brewer-Campbell and Jaiden Campbell.

Care Plus Home Care services of Oklahoma City was established in 1993 by local businesswoman Nancy Brewer and her daughter Kristi Brewer-Campbell.

Together they have earned a reputation for giving quality care and attention to their clients, which includes Veterans.

Care Plus Home Care, located at 9828 NE 23rd Street, provides an alternative for seniors wanting to remain independent and in the comfort of their own home.

"Being family owned and operated, we have been able to provide better one-on-one service to the client," Brewer-Campbell said. "We love helping Veterans because they served our country and we want to help them stay at home."

She continued, "It's so important. If you saw some of the Veterans that we take care of and know there's backstories, you'd understand. Some of these people are young and it's incredible to be able to make a difference for them so they don't have to go to an institution. They get to stay in their own home because of what the VA allows us to do. It's just an incredible program that we're passionate about."

Brewer-Campbell said Care Plus Home Care works with the VA to help clients with respite care options for their primary caregiver.

"Well, let's just say a husband and wife live alone, and the husband's a Veteran and the wife may be ill as well, and so it's hard for her to take care of her Veteran husband," she said. "And so, the VA sometimes will pay for respite each week as well, and so we're able to do more that helps the whole family. We can go in and do housekeeping and laundry assistance, be there and let the family member take a break, because they're the main caregiver."

Brewer-Campbell said once a Veteran is approved for home care via the VA, they will do a nurse evaluation to put the care plan together.

"We go there with our nurse first for their evaluation," she said. "And then we work with a Veteran on their days and times requested. We want to keep them at home. And if they need someone every morning, then that's what we do, we go in every morning and we get them ready for the day. And everybody's different and their needs are different as well."

Care Plus Home Care also offers a variety to its senior clients including:

Round-the-clock care is a cost-effective arrangement that provides individuals 24-hour service.

Transportation is one of the most common needs expressed by older people. If mobility is a concern, the caregiver can attend any function, doctor's appointment or errand with the client. Caregiver transportation services make it possible for individuals who do not drive to obtain rides for all their important appointments.

Alzheimer's & Dementia Care

Most people hope to age safely and comfortably in their own homes, including those managing Alzheimer's & Dementia. As the disease progresses it carries with it a tremendous burden on the family members who are providing the care.

"Our highly qualified caregivers are ready to provide these helpful and necessary services that can reduce the difficult and often stressful aspects of a caregiver for your loved one," Brewer-Campbell said.

Managing medications properly is vital to a loved one's health.

"Our caregivers can assist with opening medication containers, reading labels, and reminding the client of their scheduled medications," she said.

Brewer-Campbell said her company has a motto they strive to reach every day. "Our motto is stay home, stay well. And who doesn't want to be at home?"



It's just part of our passion to be able to help people who want to be at home," she said. "Who doesn't love being home? You're happy if you're at home, you're healthier at home, and it's just how people want to age, they want to age in place, and we help people do that."

Brewer-Campbell praised her office staff for their dedication and service helping seniors.

"We have a really great office staff who's worked for me for 10 plus years," she said. "Every single one of them has worked for me for that long. And we are a good team. We really try to have great customer service. We get compliments all the time because we give attention to our clients, much needed attention. And so, we'll follow up with them. They're not just a number. They're important to us, every single client. And we want every single one to be satisfied and have the best care possible."

For more information about Care Plus Home Care call (405) 769-2551 or visit www.CarePlusatHome.com.
by Van Mitchell, staff writer



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See Sudoku Answers on Page: 19

OPINION

S THE SAVVY SENIOR

Dear Savvy Senior

My adult kids keep warning me about scams, but it's hard to know which calls and messages are dangerous. What scams are most commonly aimed at seniors right now?

Almost 80

Dear Almost,

Your kids' concerns are well founded. Financial fraud is a massive and growing problem for older Americans. In fact, financial fraud cost older adults an estimated \$81.5 billion in 2024, according to the Federal Trade Commission – a staggering figure that reflects both reported losses and the many scams that go unreported.

While many scams today target people of all ages, older adults are often singled out or disproportionately affected. From urgent phone calls and alarming emails to online romance schemes and fake investment opportunities, criminals use every trick in the book to pressure seniors into handing over money or personal information.

Knowing the most common scams is the first line of defense. Here's a list of scams seniors should watch for:

Top Senior Scams and How to Avoid Them

Imposter and government scams: Fraudsters pretend to be from Social Security, Medicare, the IRS, the police, banks, or utility companies. They claim there's a problem requiring immediate payment or personal information and may threaten arrest or loss of benefits.

Tech support scams: Calls, emails, or pop-ups warn your computer has a virus. The scammer offers to "fix" it but instead steals money, personal data, or access to your device.

Grandparent or family emergency scams: Callers pose as a relative—often a grandchild—in distress and urgently request money. Some even use AI to mimic a loved one's voice.

Investment and cryptocurrency scams: Offers for "too good to be true" investments, including crypto or high-yield retirement schemes, often promise big returns but lead to large financial losses.

Romance scams: Scammers build fake online relationships on social media, dating sites and other interactive platforms, then invent emergencies or investment opportunities to get money. Seniors have lost millions to these schemes.

Medicare scams: Calls or texts claim to be from Medicare, asking you to verify your number, offering special plans, or warning of fraud. Medicare will not contact you this way.

Sweepstakes and lottery scams: You're told you've won a prize but must pay fees or taxes first. Real lotteries never require payment.

Charity scams: Scammers call or email, asking for donations to fake charities, often after disasters. Always verify before giving.

Phishing and online fraud: Emails, texts, and pop-ups that look like they're from banks, Amazon, or PayPal try to steal passwords, account numbers, or trick you into clicking harmful links.

Employment scams: Seniors seeking part-time work or ways to supplement their retirement should watch out for fake job offers on LinkedIn, indeed, and other online job sites. Scammers may promise easy income or work-from-home opportunities but ask for upfront fees, personal information, or involve illegal tasks like package reshipping. Always verify employers and never pay to apply.

How to Protect Yourself

Awareness and caution are your best defense. Slow down when a call, email, or text pressures you to act immediately. Scammers want you to react quickly. Hang up, don't click links, and verify requests by calling the organization directly or checking with a trusted family member.

Never send money using gift cards, wire transfers, or cryptocurrency. Legitimate organizations never ask this way. Stay updated with AARP's Fraud Watch Network (aarp.org/fraudwatchnetwork) or the Federal Trade Commission (consumer.ftc.gov).

Protect your accounts by setting up bank alerts, checking credit reports, and using strong, unique passwords. Some seniors find it helpful to have a trusted family member or financial ally review unusual activity. Report suspicious calls, messages, or offers at reportfraud.ftc.gov.

Being informed, cautious, and deliberate can greatly reduce your risk of fraud – giving you and your family peace of mind.



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Send your questions or comments to questions@savvysenior.org, or to Savvy Senior, P.O. Box 5443, Norman, OK 7307

Oklahoma Historians Hall of Fame Inductees

The Oklahoma Historical Society will induct Donald L. Fixico, David W. Levy (posthumous), Linda D. Wilson and Timothy A. Zwink into the Oklahoma Historians Hall of Fame during the Oklahoma Historical Society Awards Banquet on Thursday, March 19, at 6 p.m. at the Oklahoma History Center in Oklahoma City.

Instituted in 1993, the Oklahoma Historians Hall of Fame is the highest honor awarded by the Oklahoma Historical Society. This honor recognizes distinguished and long-term contributions to Oklahoma history through demonstrated excellence in the preservation, collection, interpretation and dissemination of Oklahoma history.



Donald L. Fixico (Muscogee Creek, Seminole, Shawnee, Sac and Fox) is a Regents' and Distinguished Professor of History; Distinguished Scholar of Sustainability; and Affiliate Faculty of American Indian Studies at Arizona State University. He was born in Shawnee and graduated from Muskogee Central High School. A first-generation college graduate, Fixico attended Bacone College before transferring to the University of Oklahoma, where he earned a bachelor's degree, master's degree and Ph.D. in history. He is the author and editor of over twenty books on the American West

and American Indian history, including recent works such as "The State of Sequoyah: Indigenous Sovereignty and the Quest for an Indian State" and "Chitto Harjo: Native Patriotism and the Medicine Way." Dr. Fixico has received numerous awards for his teaching and scholarship, including the National Museum of the American Indian Award in History and Education in 2010. He has also mentored dozens of graduate students and has traveled widely, both nationally and internationally, to lend his expertise on Oklahoma and American Indian history.



David W. Levy arrived at the University of Oklahoma (OU) after receiving his Ph.D. from the University of Wisconsin in 1967. He retired from OU in 2006 as the Irene and Julian Rothbaum Professor of Modern American History. Dr. Levy was best known nationally for his work on American intellectual and political history. He also became the official historian of the University of Oklahoma by publishing two volumes of "The University of Oklahoma: A History." He also researched the Civil Rights Movement in Oklahoma and highlighted the state's importance in national debates concerning equal access

to higher education. His 2020 book "Breaking Down Barriers: George McLaurin and the Struggle to End Segregated Education" received the E. E. Dale Award for the Outstanding Book on Oklahoma History from the OHS. A valued colleague and mentor, Dr. Levy was inducted into the Oklahoma Higher Education Hall of Fame in 2006. Dr. Levy passed away on August 9, 2025. Prior to his death, he arranged for the completion of a planned third volume of his history of the University of Oklahoma.



Linda D. Wilson has written, published and edited articles on Oklahoma and women's history for thirty years. After graduating as valedictorian from Crooked Oak High School in Oklahoma City in 1966, Wilson worked at Tinker Air Force Base. She later transferred to the Veterans Administration Hospital and the Mike Monroney Aeronautical Center. Wilson took classes at the University of Central Oklahoma (UCO) in Edmond in the evenings during this time, earning a bachelor's degree in accounting with minors in business and history. In 2000, at age 44, she returned to UCO and earned a master's degree

in history. She began working for the OHS while pursuing her master's and was eventually hired as an associate editor for "The Encyclopedia of Oklahoma History and Culture." She remains an active contributor to the encyclopedia, having written over 250 entries for the publication. She also writes for the "Biographical Dictionary of the Women Suffrage Movement in the United States." Her 2020 article "An Appeal to Reason': Women's Suffrage in Oklahoma and Indian Territories, 1890-1907" won the Muriel H. Wright Award for outstanding article published in "The Chronicles of Oklahoma."



Timothy A. Zwink earned a Ph.D. in history from Oklahoma State University in 1980. He would spend much of his professional career as an Oklahoma historian and administrator in higher education and for the OHS. Dr. Zwink joined the faculty at Northwestern Oklahoma State University (NWOSU) in Alva after completing graduate work, where he taught courses in U.S. history and American Indian history. While at NWOSU, Dr. Zwink conducted research and developed public programs about Camp Alva, a German prisoner-of-war camp during World War II. He joined the OHS in 2002 after serving over a decade

as Vice President for Academic Affairs at NWOSU. As Associate Director of Development, Dr. Zwink's skills as a grant writer directly contributed to the OHS securing the final funding necessary to complete construction of the Oklahoma History Center. He retired from the OHS in 2016 as the agency's Deputy Executive Director and continues to work as an editorial consultant for books about Oklahoma history.

Each inductee receives the Oklahoma Historians Hall of Fame medal, and their biography is published in "The Chronicles of Oklahoma."

Tickets to the Oklahoma Historical Society Awards Banquet can be purchased online. Guests are asked to RSVP by Monday, March 9. There will be a cocktail reception at 6 p.m., followed by the dinner and program at 6:30 p.m. Cocktail attire is requested. For more information or to inquire about sponsorship opportunities, please contact Development Officer Brittney Berling at brittney.berling@history.ok.gov or State Historian Matthew Pearce at matthew.pearce@history.ok.gov.

The mission of the Oklahoma Historical Society is to collect, preserve and share the history and culture of the state of Oklahoma and its people. Founded in 1893 by members of the Territorial Press Association, the OHS maintains museums, historic sites and affiliates across the state. Through its research archives, exhibits, educational programs and publications, the OHS chronicles the rich history of Oklahoma. For more information about the OHS, please visit okhistory.org.

Senior Follies

Coming in June

Story by Darl DeVault, contributing editor

The 2026 Oklahoma Senior Follies will dazzle audiences on June 6-7 at UCO Mitchell Hall Theatre in Edmond, located on the University of Central Oklahoma campus. This event promises a Ziegfeld Follies-inspired variety show featuring Oklahoma performers aged 50 and older, with singing, dancing, and comedy.

Oklahoma's greatest senior talents will take the stage for a delightful Oklahoma Senior Follies Show. Organized by Oklahoma Senior Follies, Inc., a 501(c)(3) non-profit, this event promotes active social lives for seniors and supports the Alzheimer's Association, strengthening community bonds.

"After an amazing weekend of auditions for the Oklahoma Senior Follies, I am still buzzing!" Marketing Director Rosinna Gies said. "The passion and talent we saw are off the charts, and this year's show is shaping up to be one of the best years ever."

Under the direction of Bina Bramlett, Michael Pone and Matthew Jones, Ph.D., the shows include "Follies Beauties" in choreographed numbers and live musical accompaniment.

See Follies on page 16



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Follies from page 14

“The level of expertise our directors and production staff bring to the show is truly remarkable,” Gies said. “Their seasoned leadership, creative vision, and technical precision create a strong foundation that allows every person to shine.”

Showtimes are on Saturday at 7 p.m. and Sunday at 2 p.m. These flexible options allow families and community members to enjoy this memorable event together.

The memorable event for the entire family, now in its 16th year, has become a cherished part of the senior social calendar, fostering a sense of belonging and tradition among community members.

This year’s Follies will feature the talents of Beauties SiSi Amini, Marie Burns, Kesha Lashay Bell, Marti Rickman, Lisa Synar, Tammy Weiss, and Joyce Wooliver.



Tickets are now available at the new Oklahoma Senior Follies website, OKSeniorFollies.org.

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Renamed OKC Comets Begin Second Season

story and photo by Darl DeVault, contributing editor

Seniors who want to catch every baseball game need to get their tickets soon; purchase online at okccomets.com before the first game on March 27, as early-bird discounts end soon. The season kicks off on March 27 against the Albuquerque Isotopes (Colorado Rockies) with a new affordable pricing plan. Single-game tickets now start as low as \$9 (specifically for Section 120), with many prices remaining flat or decreasing from 2025.

Chickasaw Bricktown Ballpark has hosted Triple-A baseball for 28 years, beginning with its opening in April 1998. In 2020, it was named the “Best of the Ballparks” for Triple-A facilities by Ballpark Digest. The franchise won the Pacific Coast League (PCL) championship at the ballpark, known locally as “The Brick,” in 2023.

In their second year under the Oklahoma City Comets name, they enter their 11th year as the Triple-A affiliate of the Los Angeles Dodgers, a team with recent back-to-back World Series titles (2024 and 2025), which inspired local pride and excitement among fans.

The strong bond between the two clubs remains a key part of the Comets’ identity.

“Our fans can enjoy 75 high-quality home games in 2026 after a 2025 season where 26 different players moved between Oklahoma City and the world championship Dodgers’ roster,” Director of Communications & Broadcasting Alex Freedman said.

This means Comets fans are treated to some of the highest-level minor league play in baseball. The Dodgers are now consistently one of the biggest spenders in Major League Baseball, ranking first in total payroll for three of the last five seasons (2021, 2022, and 2025). In 2025, they became the most expensive team in MLB history, overtaking the New York Yankees.

Manager Scott Hennessey returns for his second season leading the Comets and his same first-year staff, with the addition of former MLB outfielder David Dahl as an assistant hitting coach.

The roster features MLB veterans like Santiago Espinal and Keston Hiura, along promising talents such as Nick Frasso and Carlos Durant, inspiring fans with high-level baseball and team success.

Paying homage to Oklahoma MLB legend Mickey Mantle’s nickname as the Commerce Comet, the team plays in the Pacific Coast League.

The “one step away from the major leagues” players will again showcase their skills using the Automated Ball-Strike System in its fourth year. MLB officially approved the implementation of the ABS Challenge System for the Major League level beginning this season.

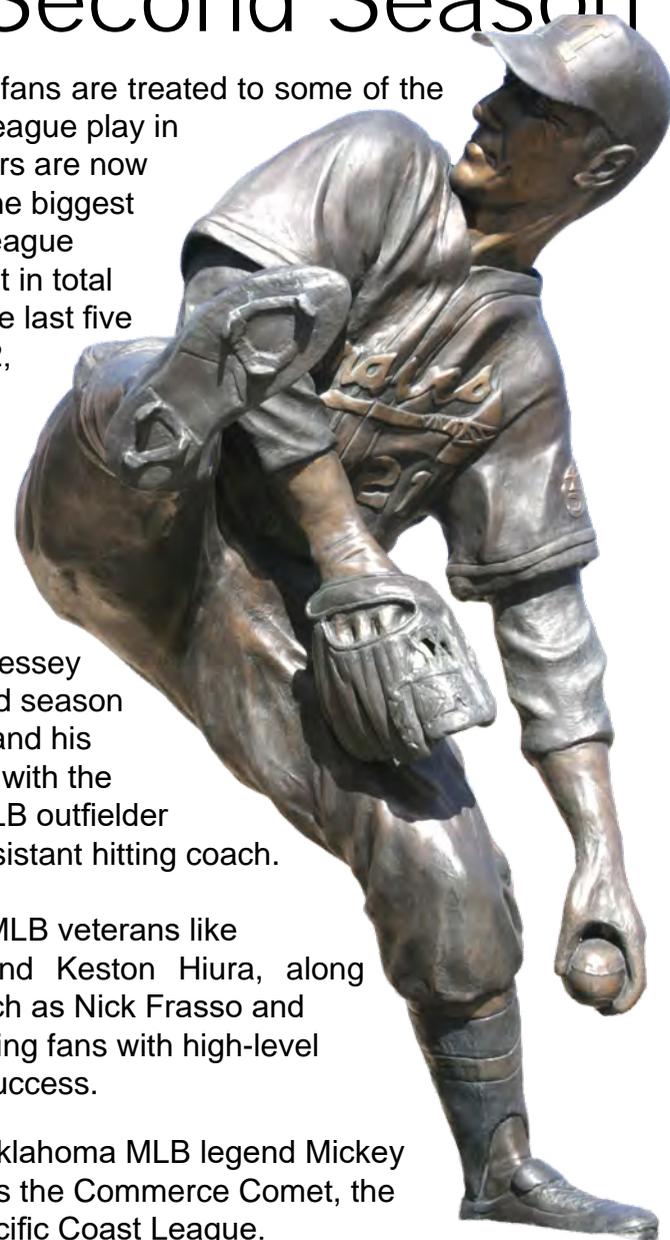
Single-game tickets are now on sale available online at okccomets.com. Group and season packages are also offered. Visit okccomets.com for the full 2026 schedule and stay connected for upcoming promotional events and team updates. For more info, call (405) 218-2182.

Weekly promotions like \$2 Tuesdays, Fireworks Fridays, and Family Sundays aim to create fun-filled experiences that foster community pride and make fans feel part of special celebrations.

The team will have back-to-back fireworks nights for an Independence Day celebration on July 3-4.

On Family Sundays, select Comets players will sign autographs for fans on the concourse before the first pitch, creating memorable experiences for families. Following those games, kids can take the field to run the bases like their favorite pros, making the games more engaging and family-friendly.

Pictured above: Just one of many bronze statues of Oklahoma players at the Ballpark, lefty pitcher Warren Spahn stands outside the first base plaza with the most MLB wins, most complete games, and shutouts for any pitcher who played their entire career in the live-ball era.





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PLANNING FOR LIFE

Family takes care of families



(Left to right) Kelli Thompson, Marty Cain, Tamara Cain, Mitch Janik and Cynthia George help people preserve their legacies.

Photo provided.

By Bobby Anderson

Main Street. Kitchen table. A cup of coffee. Someone you can trust.

Those are the hallmarks of Cain, Cain and Janik, PLLC, Estate Planners for Life in Norman for the past few decades.

The three University of Oklahoma College of Law graduates have helped thousands of Oklahoma families secure their futures over the years. And it's done by getting to know who people are, what they want and making a plan for it to happen.

"It's only about all the things you've worked your whole life for and all the people you love," Tamara said of their business. "It's still your life's work. It's your legacy, it's what you want to pass on and have your spouse and your family taken care of."

Marty graduated from the University of Oklahoma with a Bachelor's Degree in Public Administration and received his law degree from the University in 1991.

He's always had a special interest in leadership. He served as President of his college fraternity and held leadership positions in his church and other community and non-profit organizations.

Tamara and Marty received the Albert C. Hunt Practice Court Award for being the outstanding trial team in the Fall of 1990.

They realized they must be a good team and were married the following year. More than 20 years later they have two sons, Stephen and Brooks.

Tamara grew up in Okeene.

She received a Bachelor of Science in Family Relations and Child Development from Oklahoma State University.

She received her law degree from the University of Oklahoma College of Law in 1991.

She's always had a knack for working with individuals and families to integrate the human dimension into their estate plans, which is often lost amid the technical intricacies of legal documents.

Tamara likes helping clients communicate to future generations the hope they hold for their children and grandchildren, and the causes they support.

Mitch Janik grew up in Northwest Oklahoma City, where he has called

“We take the time to figure out our clients’ goals.”

home since 1979, and currently lives with his wife, Katie, and son, Carson.

He received his Bachelor of Arts from Oklahoma City University in 2007 and his Juris Doctor from the University of Oklahoma College of Law in 2010. He has been licensed to practice law in Oklahoma since 2010 and in Texas since 2018.

Before he had even earned his degree Janik went to work for Marty Cain as a runner.

“He’s self-made. He put himself through college and law school and his second year at OU was about the time we started this firm so we hired him as a legal intern,” Tamara remembers. “We don’t have much turnover.”

They’ve stood the test of time, much like where their business is housed.

Tamara said their current office at 1770 W Main St. was formally owned by the Moss family, who raised seven kids in that three-bedroom ranch-style home, just down the street from Sooner Dairy Lunch and Norman High School.

Tamara actually fell in love with the home when it first went on the market.

“My eyes lit up and my husband said ‘no,’” she recalled with a laugh. “Luckily it was on the market for a year.”

That was until Marty finally gave in and the Cains decided to hang their shingle and offer their services to the community.

“It is (a perfect place) because we’re having conversations about families and it’s a comfortable place,” she said. “Sometimes these are warm fuzzy topics and sometimes they’re uncomfortable conversations we’re having.”

DEATH, TAXES AND PROBATE

All three are certainties in life but nobody wants to talk about them. That’s where Estate Planners for Life comes in.

“The people who come in to see us are the experts on their family. We are the ones that know about the law and if we’ll work together we can come up with a really good plan,” Tamara said. “Many times that learning about the family just doesn’t happen in law firms, it’s more transactional.

The question invariably comes up when people find out what the Cains do for a living. When’s the best time to set up an estate plan?

“It depends how organized you are but I generally say about 10 weeks before you plan to die,” Tamara said, tongue in cheek. “That

way we’re not in a rush. If we all knew when we were going to die I could answer that question pretty easily.”

“It’s at every stage of life you just need to give some thought

One common misconception Tamara says is that if a person has a will then they will avoid probate. Not true.

Another is that you don’t have enough money to plan for.

“We just want to be your guide,” Tamara said. “Once we learn about your family and your assets and once you learn about the way the law works we can guide you to a couple options that might work for you and your family.”

“We like to be in that guide role. Ultimately, then they can decide.”

According to seniorliving.org, American retirees expect to transfer more than \$36 trillion to their families, friends, nonprofits, and additional beneficiaries over the next 30 years.

The Merrill Lynch Legacy study showed 18% of those 55 and older have the recommended essentials of a will, a healthcare directive and a durable power of attorney.

Some 43% of Americans age 55 and over are concerned that they lack an advocate to look out for their best interests as they age.

“It really is amazingly simple and we’re there to educate and support the beneficiaries when the time comes and they understand what they have,” Tamara said. “We do a lot of multi-generational work. We’re now to the point where original clients have passed and we’ve helped the kids settle the estates and those kids are becoming our clients.

“It really is rewarding. The parents would be so proud. I’m proud.”

And annual Periodic reviews of those plans are key. Things change and the Cains say it’s their duty they work with their clients through their Estate Planners for Life program to make sure the estate planning keeps up.

“It’s one thing to have documents but it’s a different thing to have a relationship with someone who is going to be there for your family,” Tamara said. “An estate plan is not a one-and-done deal. We wake up and think about our clients’ estate plans every morning because we know they don’t.”



Marty Cain, J.D.



Tamara Cain, J.D.



Mitch Janik, J.D.

Thomas Jefferson Interpreter to Give Presentations

The Oklahoma History Center is honored to present Kurt Smith in a portrayal of Thomas Jefferson, ahead of the 250th anniversary of the Declaration of Independence. Join us for these special public presentations on Monday, March 2, and Tuesday, March 3, at 6 p.m. Programs for school groups are planned for Monday, March 2, at 10 a.m., 11 a.m. and 1 p.m. Students will have free admission to the museum galleries during their visit, thanks to the Inasmuch Foundation. Limited bus reimbursement funds are available. In addition to the performances at the Oklahoma History Center, Smith will also visit several schools across the state to teach kids about the former president.

Thomas Jefferson (1743-1826) was the second elected governor of Virginia, the third president of the United States and the primary author of the Declaration of Independence. He is considered one of the Founding Fathers of the United States. Jefferson was also the first secretary of state and second vice president of the United States. Through performance, discussion, and historical interpretation, audiences are invited to explore Jefferson's life and legacy while reflecting on how the nation's past continues to shape its present and future. These programs offer the opportunity to study and reflect on 250 years of American history.

Jefferson will be portrayed by Kurt Smith, a dynamic storyteller and historian who has in-depth knowledge of early American history. Smith works for Colonial Williamsburg. Smith says history is more than just the past. He considers it a mirror to the present, reflecting both our triumphs and our challenges. He hopes his presentations encourage others to reflect, learn and grow, ensuring that the lessons of history help shape a better future.

Tickets for the evening performances on March 2 and 3 are \$10 for Oklahoma Historical Society members and \$20 for the general public. Tickets can be purchased online through the Museum Store, by phone at 405-522-0765 or at the door on the evening of the event.

Schools who want to attend the presentations in-person at the Oklahoma History Center Museum on March 2 should sign up online to ensure there is space. Requests for outreach at a school should also be submitted online.

This program is part of "By the People: Conversations Beyond 250," which is a series of community-driven programs created by humanities councils across the United States, its territories, and the District of Columbia in collaboration with local partners. Together, these programs explore 250 years of the nation's cultural life and imagine its shared future. The initiative was developed by the Federation of State Humanities Councils and the Smithsonian Center for Folklife and Cultural Heritage as a complement to the 2026 Smithsonian Folklife Festival.

The Oklahoma History Center Museum is located at 800 Nazih Zuhdi Dr. in Oklahoma City. It is open to the public Monday through Saturday from 10 a.m.-5 p.m.



Kurt Smith as Thomas Jefferson.

This program is funded in part by Oklahoma Humanities (OH) and the National Endowment for the Humanities (NEH). Any views, findings, conclusions or recommendations expressed in the program do not necessarily represent those of OH or NEH.

About the Oklahoma History Center

The Oklahoma History Center is a division of the Oklahoma Historical Society and is an affiliate of the Smithsonian Institution, National Archives and is an accredited member of the American Alliance of Museums. The mission of the Oklahoma Historical Society is to collect, preserve and share the history and culture of the state of Oklahoma and its people. Founded in 1893 by members of the Territorial Press Association, the OHS maintains museums, historic sites and affiliates across the state. Through its research archives, exhibits, educational programs and publications, the OHS chronicles the rich history of Oklahoma. For more information about the OHS, please visit okhistory.org.

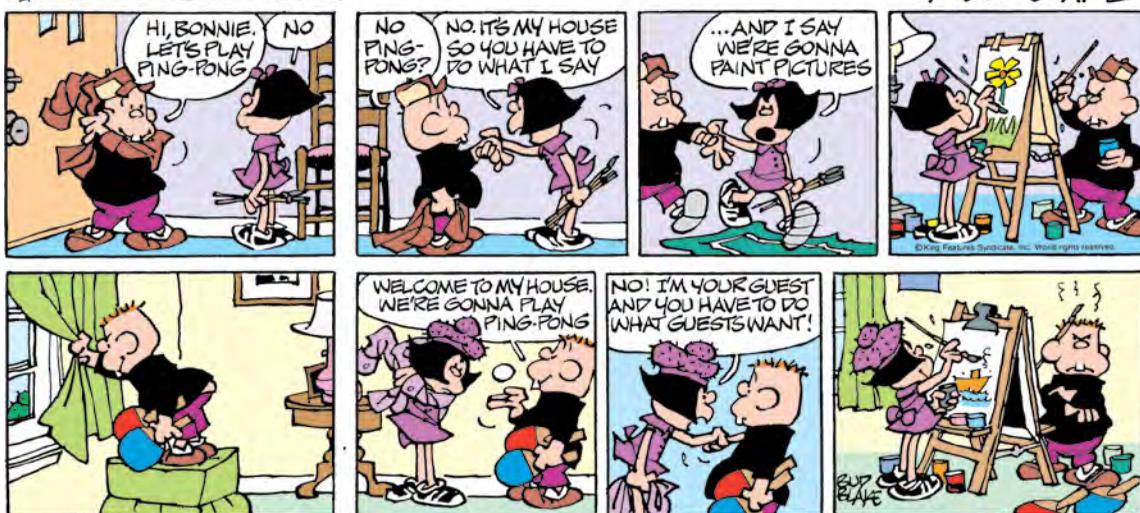
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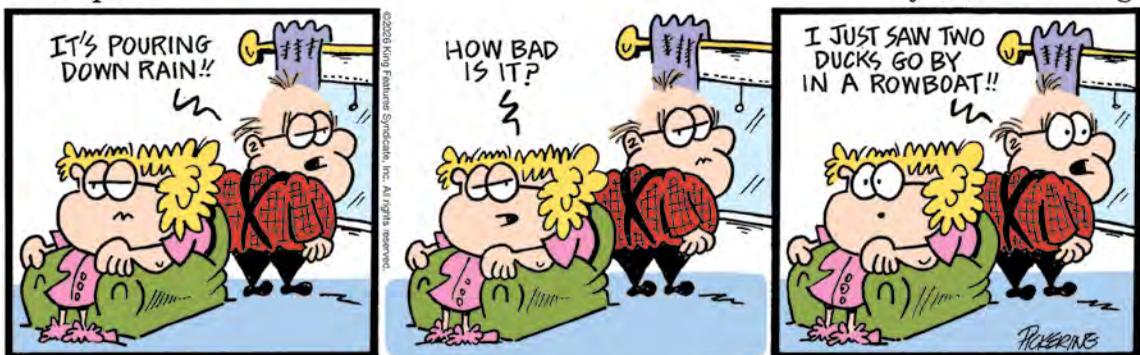
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King Crossword

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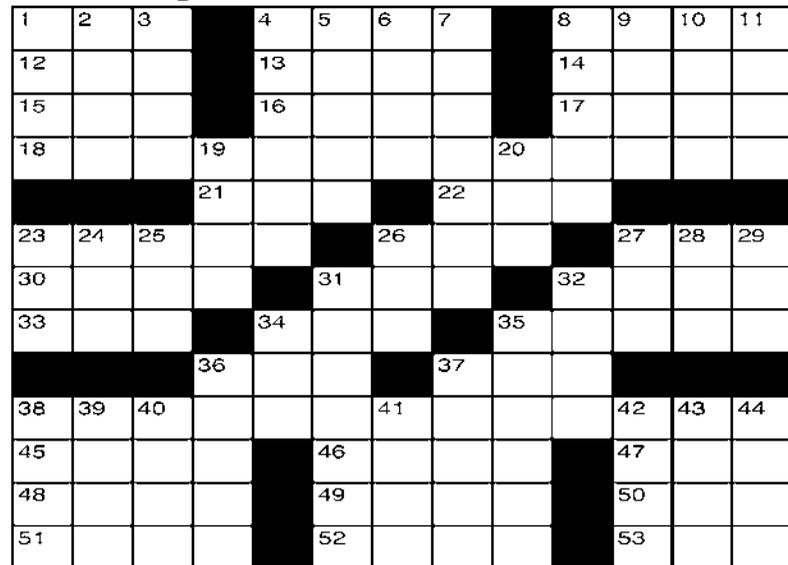
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- 8 Engine noise
- 12 Horror star Chaney
- 13 Costa —
- 14 Inter —
- 15 Past
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- 18 Fresh starts
- 21 Boom times
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- 23 Humorist Dave
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- 31 Shade
- 32 Spring honorees
- 33 — Salvador
- 34 Supporting
- 35 Rolled-up sandwiches
- 36 Evergreen tree
- 37 Hindu honorific
- 38 Age-old knowledge

- 45 Soccer legend
- 46 Spring flower
- 47 Plastic — Band
- 48 Verbal
- 49 Quitter's word
- 50 Neighbor of Leb.
- 51 Duck's hang-out
- 52 Checks out
- 53 Tel. number add-on

- 19 Conceal, in a way
- 20 Arrest
- 23 "Dynamite" band
- 24 Notre Dame coach
- 25 Harry Potter pal
- 26 Where Ger. is
- 27 Large snake
- 28 Ref
- 29 Radiator sound
- 31 "That's wonderful!"
- 32 Hosp. scans
- 34 Charge
- 35 Places for bracelets
- 36 Relinquish
- 37 Pigs
- 38 Per person
- 39 Roman emperor
- 40 Family
- 41 Tea carrier
- 42 Rx amount
- 43 Cameo stone
- 44 Humorist Sahl

DOWN

- 1 Flair
- 2 Theater section
- 3 Winter fall
- 4 Eerie
- 5 Bobby who lost to Billie Jean King
- 6 Smoothie berry
- 7 Hopeful
- 8 Seine city
- 9 — Bator
- 10 Saturn feature
- 11 Cleaning cloths



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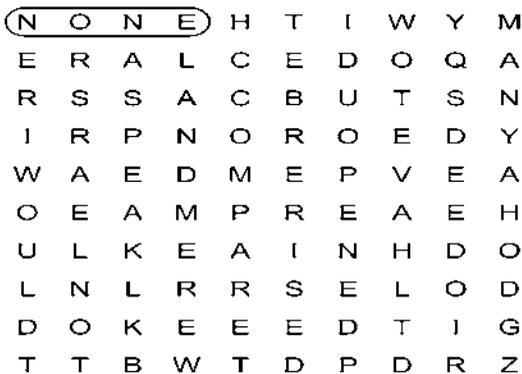
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Psalms 40:5b-6a

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Find the **bolded/underlined** words in the diagram. They run in all directions — forward, backward, up, down and diagonally.

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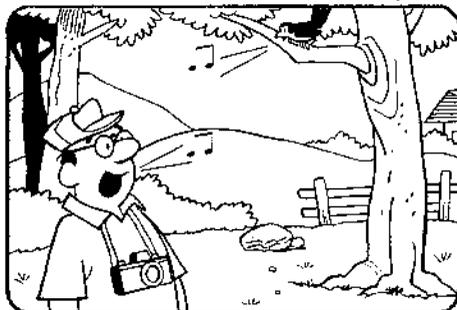
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HOCUS-FOCUS

BY HENRY BOLTINOFF



Find at least six differences in details between panels.



Differences: 1. Camera is lower. 2. Music note is higher. 3. Rail is added to fence. 4. Cap is different. 5. Hill is added. 6. Tree trunk is thicker.



Answers



Solution time: 21 mins.

Answers

Trivia test

by Fifi Rodriguez

1. LANGUAGE: What does the Latin phrase "carpe noctem" mean in English?
2. U.S. PRESIDENTS: Which president was a lifeguard in his earlier life and saved 77 people from drowning over a seven-year period?
3. MOVIES: Who is the primary nemesis of Professor X in "X-Men"?
4. GEOGRAPHY: English is the official language in which Central American country?
5. LITERATURE: Which English novel features characters such as Pip, Miss Havisham and Estella?
6. MUSIC: How many strings does a standard guitar have?
7. TELEVISION: Which TV sitcom stars a character named Eleanor Shellstrop?
8. HISTORY: Which European ruler is known as the Sun King?
9. U.S. STATES: Which state is home to Mount St. Helens?
10. ANATOMY: Which human organ produces insulin?

- TRIVIA ANSWERS
1. Seize the night. 2. Ronald Reagan. 3. Magneto. 4. Belize.
 5. "Great Expectations." 6. Six. 7. "The Good Place." 8. Louis XIV of France.
 9. Washington. 10. The pancreas.

New Book Highlights the 100-year History of Route 66

Route 66 turns 100 years old in 2026, and the historic highway is highlighted in a new book "Route 66-The First 100 Years," co-authored by acclaimed Route 66 ambassadors Jim Ross and Shellee Graham.

The book is crafted from three decades of traveling, photographing, and writing about the route by Ross and Graham.

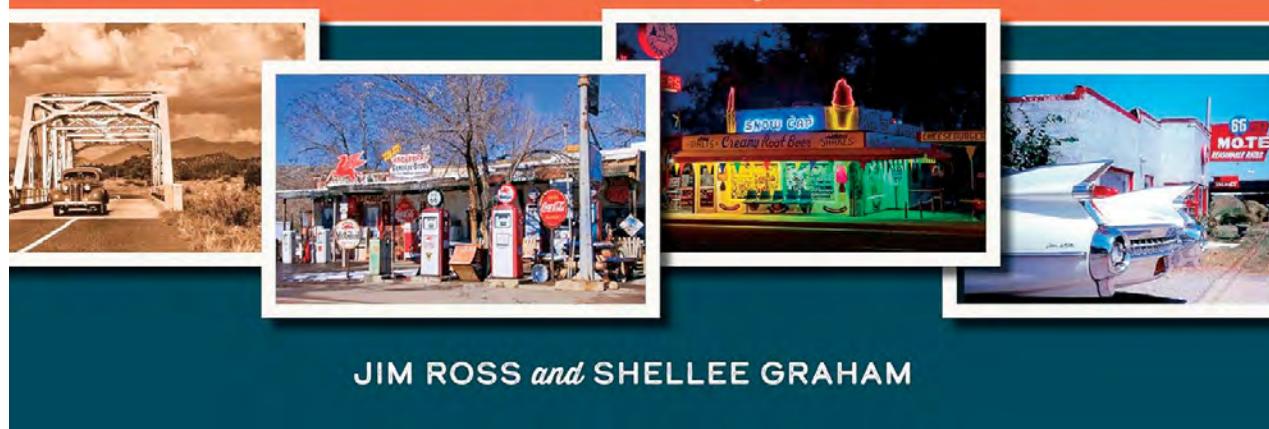
Previous books by them include "Route 66 Sightings, Tales from the Coral Court, Route 66 Crossings, and Secret Route 66."

Their new book explores the route from its birth in 1926 through its centennial, and experience the events, people, and places that created the legacy ensuring America's Mother Road a place in the hearts and minds of the nation.

Route 66 was one of the United States' first continuous stretches of paved highway and served as a major path for those who migrated to the West.

The numerical route designation "66" was assigned to the Chicago-to-Los Angeles route on April 30, 1926. "The Mother Road" was officially established on November 11, 1926, and ultimately stretched 2,448 miles (3,940 kilometers) from Chicago to Los Angeles. It became the shortest, year-round route between the Midwest and the Pacific Coast, and was also known as "The Main Street of America" and the "Will Rogers Highway". On that date, only 800 miles of Route 66 were paved, the rest being graded dirt, gravel, bricks, or planks of wood. It took 11 more years before the entire road would be paved.

From its beginning in Chicago, Route 66 headed southwest through Illinois and Missouri, and a small section of southeast Kansas.



JIM ROSS and SHELEE GRAHAM



Shellee Graham and husband Jim Ross. Jim Ross is a Vietnam Veteran, U.S. Army 1969-1971.

From there it turned in a more westward direction through Oklahoma and Texas, with the final stretches in New Mexico and Arizona before its termination point in Los Angeles.

During the Dust Bowl era of the 1930s, the diagonal course of Route 66 was the primary route for migrating farm workers from the Midwest to California. The migration continued during World War II due to job availability in California.

It linked small, rural towns to larger cities, and markets. The fact that it covered mainly flat areas and featured moderate year-round weather made it an attractive route for travelers, and truckers. During this time, it also became one of the key routes for moving military equipment across the country.

Due to the efforts of the U.S. Highway 66 Association, Route 66 became the first highway to be completely paved, in 1938. In the 1950s, Route 66 became the main highway for vacationers heading to Los Angeles.

As the world's most famous highway, Route 66 conjures up images of dreamers, road-trippers, migrants, and nomads.

The co-authors state that on a deeper level, it is a story of escape, triumph,

deliverance, and adventure during the best and worst of times. From the dawn of the auto age to surviving the Great Depression and Dust Bowl years to memorable mid-century family vacations, destinies were played out on the route, leaving indelible impressions on millions.

Ross and Graham said those pilgrimages, embedded in our history, continue today, undertaken by millions more seeking to follow the same path and reimagine those times.

"Ladies of legend, the influence of Indigenous America, neon-splashed boulevards, tourist traps, motor courts, trading posts, and heroes both remembered and forgotten-all these and more await discovery between these covers," the co-authors said."

Ross and Graham said their new book is beautifully illustrated with hundreds of photographs, many of them vintage. The saga of Route 66 is uniquely told in a compelling narrative that celebrates the centennial of the route and pays homage to all whose lives were shaped or changed by this wondrous road.

Ross and Graham said the history of Route 66 is a story worth telling.

"Route 66 conjures up images of dreamers, road trippers, migrants, and nomads," they said. "On a deeper level, it is a story of escape, triumph, deliverance, and adventure during the best and worst of times. From surviving the Great Depression and Dust Bowl years to memorable mid-century family vacations, Route 66 pilgrimages became embedded in our history. Today, they continue, undertaken by those seeking to follow the same path and reimagine those times." ●

by Van Mitchell, staff writer

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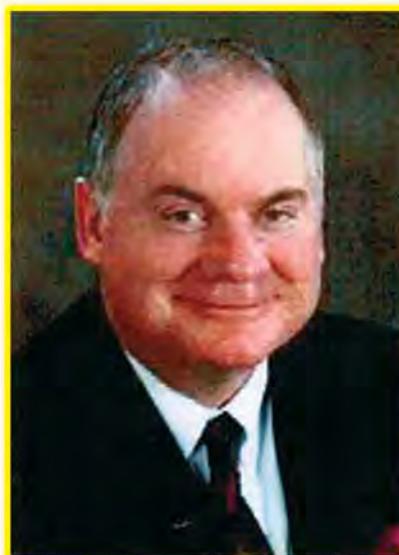
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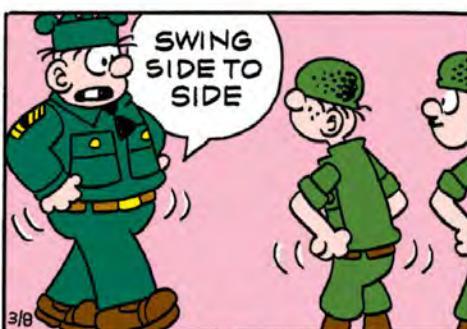
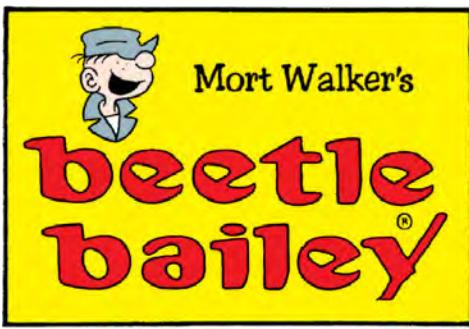
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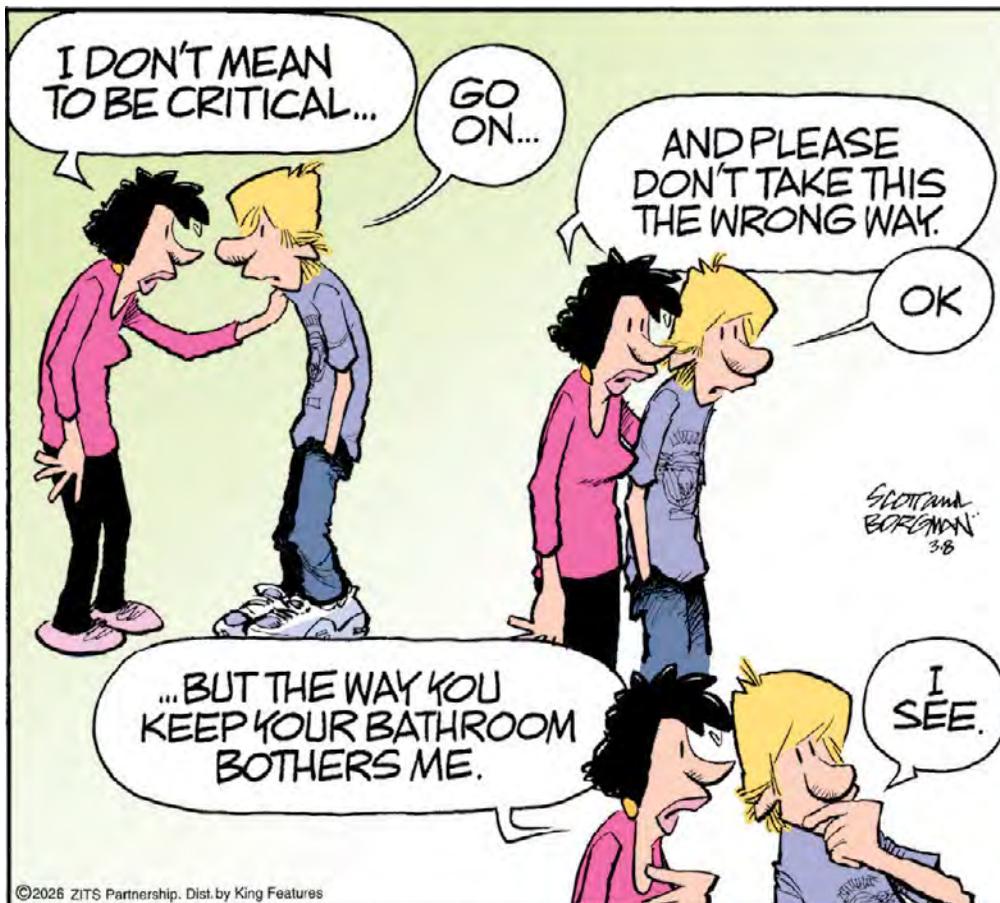
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Senior Day at the Capitol

Story and photos by Darl DeVault, contributing editor

Concerned citizens will gather at the Oklahoma State Capitol for Senior Day to feel their voices matter and influence key legislation affecting aging Oklahomans from 8:30 a.m. to 1 p.m. on Monday, March 30. This event offers a meaningful opportunity for Oklahoma senior citizens, caregivers, and interested community members to actively advocate for policies that can improve their quality of life.

The legislature is considering several important bills for seniors this session. By attending and engaging with legislators' offices, advocates can feel empowered to influence the future of policies like tax credits, homestead exemptions, COLA, and pension stability that directly affect their lives.

Senate Bill 1114 can provide an ad valorem tax credit for seniors whose income falls below the median household income, essentially "freezing" their tax liability to the level of the first year they qualified.

Seniors can advocate for Homestead Exemption Increases: Proposals exist to increase the homestead exemption specifically for seniors and those on fixed incomes, helping them remain in their homes.

Cost-of-Living Adjustments (COLA) to keep pace with inflation are in bills like HB 2193, which propose an 8% increase for members of various public retirement systems (including Teachers, Firefighters, and Public Employees) who receive less than \$90,000 in gross benefits.

Pension Stability is outlined in SB 10, which specifically targets benefit increases for the Oklahoma Public Employees Retirement System.

Event sponsor, the Oklahoma Department of Human Services, is highlighting its "Aging Our Way" plan to address aging-related challenges, as the 65-plus population will outnumber children in the next decade.

Advocates are asked to push for increased state investment to eliminate service gaps, such as in Senior Nutrition Programs, where a primary concern is the growing waitlist for meal deliveries (like Meals on Wheels) and congregate dining services.

Attendees may arrive beginning at 8:30 a.m. and sign in at the second-floor rotunda of the Capitol. Attendees will gather in the House Chamber on the fourth floor at 10 a.m. to hear from speakers on these initiatives, then meet with their elected representatives to have their voices heard.

Southern Oklahoma Development Association Ombudsman Supervisor and Systems Advocate Rebekah Williams will emcee the House Chambers proceedings in her duties with the Area Agency on Aging.

The free, open-to-the-public event encourages attendees to register in advance through the Oklahoma Alliance on Aging website's Events page and to visit their legislators' offices after the formal program. Volunteers will assist attendees in locating their legislators' offices.

The Oklahoma Alliance on Aging organizes Senior Day in partnership with the Oklahoma Silver Haired Legislature Alumni Association, AARP Oklahoma, and the Oklahoma Department of Human Services Community Living, Aging and Protective Services Division.

For more info, call (405) 943-1895 or email info@okallianceonaging.org.



Attendees listen to speakers explaining current legislation in 2025 in the House Chamber during Senior Day at the Capitol.



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