

ASCOG SILVER-HAIRED LEGISLATURE MAKES MARK AT THE STATE CAPITOL

HALJEAN GILLISPIE and **JALMER "BO" FALLON** represent ASCOG's Silver Haired Legislators (SHL). Gillispie identified some changes needed to protect seniors against rising health care costs. With assistance from Gillispie and others, Senator Paul Scott authored SB 990 which was co-authored on the House side by Representatives Brad Boles (principal) and Marcus McEntire. The measure passed (with an Emergency Clause) in the Senate 42-2 and in the House 89-0. It was signed into law by Governor Stitt less than a week later. The bill prevents Medicare Supplement plans from increasing premiums more often than once per year except under specific circumstances. **THANK YOU Haljean and Bo for your work with the SHL. THANK YOU Senator Scott, Representatives Boles and McEntire and Governor Stitt for your parts in getting this important piece of legislation enacted into law.**



Standing behind Governor Stitt
(L to R) Trish Emig, Esther Houser, Senator Paul Scott,
Representative Brad Boles, Haljean Gillispie
and Bo Fallon for signature of Senate Bill 990.

ASCOG'S AAA HAS A NEW START AND A NEW LOCATION

The AAA has moved to 804 Main Street (the door just west of the main ASCOG entrance). We have a full calendar and are excited to serve our seniors. The Oklahoma Silver Haired Legislature (SHL) will be having their annual State meeting in Oklahoma City on the 17th of September. If you have an interest or concern, please let us know and we will be happy to share SHL contact information.

Quick reminder - the Masonic Grant Program has exhausted all funding for 2019. If you are interested in filing for a grant please contact the AAA after the new year.

ASCOG will be hosting the 2019 Senior Appreciation Day on October 31st from 11 am to 2 pm. Indian Tacos will be served and information bags as well as door prizes will be available. For more information please contact **KRIS MANRIQUEZ** by phone at 580.736.7976, by the Senior Information Line at 1.800.211.2116, by email at manr_kr@ascog.org, by fax at 580.252.6170 or by visiting our website at www.ascog.org.

JAZMIN SHIPLEY IS ASCOG'S NEW AAA PLANNER.

Jazmin has a Master's of Science Degree in Education from the University of Nebraska and moved to Oklahoma from the St. Louis area. She has worked as a high school science teacher and 6th grade science teacher. She enjoys travel and sightseeing. She lives on a small farm and likes getting her hands into Oklahoma's beautiful red soil.

2020 CENA GRANTS

ASCOG has sent out all award notification and new contracts for the nutrition sites that will receive CENA grants. Please return

the signed grants as soon as possible so that ASCOG can finish up all paperwork. The goal is to make this as easy a transition between grant years as possible. Assessments will be conducted and scheduled beginning in September for all nutrition sites. For more information, please contact **JAZMIN SHIPLEY** by phone at 580.736.7029, by fax 580.252.6170, by email ship_ja@ascog.org or by visiting us on Facebook or the web at www.ascog.org .



JAZMIN SHIPLEY

STEPHANIE DENTON IS ASCOG'S NEW AAA INFORMATION AND ASSISTANCE (I&A) COORDINATOR.

Stephanie holds an Associate's Degree in Criminal Justice from the University of Phoenix. She has worked in the legal field as a social worker and insurance and law firms where customer service has always been a high priority. She lives out in the country near Fletcher with her husband, 16 year old daughter, and 14 year old son. She is looking forward to working with the seniors in ASCOG's 8 counties.



STEPHANIE DENTON

Information and Assistance services are offered at ASCOG all year round. The 2019-2020 Resource Directory has just been completed and will be published on our website very soon. The goal of information and assistance is to provide information for any requested services, program or unmet need for our Older American clientele. These information services include but are not limited to Advantage Case Management, Caregiver Support, Chore Services, Elder Abuse Prevention, Employment, Financial Assistance, Housing, In-

home Services, Legal Services, Meals on Wheels, Masonic Grant Program, Medicare Counseling, Mental Health Referral, Ombudsman, Respite Care, Senior Nutrition and Transportation.

For more information please contact **STEPHANIE DENTON** by phone at 580.736.7036, by fax at 580.252.6170, by email at dent_st@ascog.org, or you can visit us on Facebook or on the web at www.ascog.org .



MEDICARE ASSISTANCE PROGRAM

ASCOG now has three Certified Medicare Counselors: KRIS MANRIQUEZ, JAZMIN SHIPLEY, and STEPHANIE DENTON. ASCOG offers Medicare counseling free of charge all year round.

We are excited to announce that we will be hosting “**New to Medicare**” **quarterly events** here at our office to the public for FREE! This will not change our current schedule, and we will continue to provide information to the public for free at all the local senior nutrition sites and community focal points throughout the year. This is just a new service we look forward to offering.



Individual counseling sessions are always available and can be scheduled by calling the ASCOG AAA office at 580.255.2595 anytime. For more information on upcoming Medicare events or to schedule one near you, please contact **STEPHANIE DENTON** by phone at 580.736.7036, or by email at dent_st@ascog.org or **JAZMIN SHIPLEY** by phone at 580.736.7029, or by email at ship_ja@ascog.org.

New To Medicare Presentation
ASCOG AAA
802 W Main Street, Duncan OK, 73533
Thursday, September 26th
2 PM-3:30 PM

OMBUDSMAN PROGRAM

At 11:00 am on Tuesday, September 10, **DACIA NIX** will make a presentation at the Comanche Senior Nutrition Center, 120 S. 1st Street in Comanche, Oklahoma. Dacia will present information about Residents Rights, the Ombudsman Program, and the Ombudsman Volunteer Program. For more information, please contact Dacia Nix at 580.736.7975 or Kim Rhodes at 580.736.7974. We can also be reached by email at nix_da@ascog.org or rhod_ki@ascog.org.



Kim and Dacia will also be attending the Retiree Appreciation Day (RAD) Health Day at Ft. Sill on September 19, 2019 to participate and answer questions about the programs they administer.

- Your **TALENT** determines **WHAT YOU CAN DO.**
- Your **MOTIVATION** determines **HOW MUCH YOU ARE WILLING TO DO.**
- Your **ATTITUDE** determines **HOW WELL YOU WILL DO IT.**

--- Lou Holtz ---

INSERT YOUR ADVERTISEMENT HERE

To help defray the cost of writing and publishing our newsletters, website pages, resource directories and other items, ASCOG is now selling ads to be printed in the News 'n Briefs. Ads start at \$32.50 for a banner. For more information, please contact **KEN**

JONES at 580.736.7972 or jone_ke@ascog.org. Due to contract limitations, ASCOG cannot accept advertisements from insurance companies or long-term care facilities.

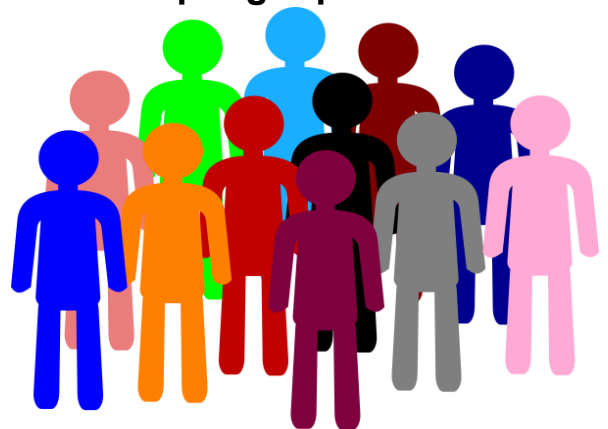


Volunteer Fire Department fundraisers and Community tourism events will continue to be advertised at no cost.

United States Census 2020

2020 CENSUS - GET 'EM COUNTED!

Every community should be communicating with their residents about the upcoming census. An accurate count is vital for each community because it helps determine where to locate schools, day-care centers, roads, public transportation, hospitals, and other facilities. Census information is used to determine grant eligibility criteria as well as determining the numbers for how many seats Oklahoma will have in the U.S. House of Representatives. It is used to determine what has to be done for redistricting of state legislators, county and city officials as well as voting districts. Each community should consider adopting a proclamation of commitment for a 2020 CENSUS COMPLETE COUNT! Be sure your community receives all of the benefits it deserves by encouraging everyone to provide accurate information to the census workers. If you would like a draft copy of a proclamation, please contact **KEN JONES** at jone_ke@ascog.org or **TOM ZIGLER** at zigl_to@ascog.org.



CDBG GRANT APPLICATIONS



CDBG Grant Applications are just around the corner! Get prepared NOW! Audits must be up-to-date. Pick a project and get some estimates. Call **TOM ZIGLER** 580.736.7972 or **MIKE DIXON** in ASCOG's CED Division to meet any needs you have. They write AND administer CDBG grants.



2020 REAP SCHEDULE

September 25 – Applications due close of business.

November 14 – Applications scored.

December 13 – Awardees announced on ASCOG Website.

State Legislators substantially increased REAP funding for 2020. ASCOG will have \$1,247,047.62 in new state funding (**\$285,000 more than last year**) plus whatever interest has accumulated on funds already allocated and in the bank waiting for project completion plus any deobligated funds from previous projects to award. This is a substantial increase. Please remember to thank your state legislators for continuing to fund REAP that benefits only rural communities and areas! It is the lifeblood for all small communities!

RURAL FIRE NEWS

Waurika, Wichita Mountain Estates and Hydro fire departments have received titles on the grass rig and tankers they have completed. These are great assets to the departments and communities. Additionally, the tankers may help in future ISO ratings. Inventory will begin in the near future after receiving the new forms. Federal program administrators and forestry administrators will be conducting audits on a percentage of departments with loaned equipment. *Should you have fund raising events scheduled, please send the dates and times so it can be sent out with our monthly newsletter.* The information should be sent to **PERRY BRINERGAR** brin_pe@ascog.org.



Hello, I am your heart.

I beat 100,000 times a day
and 36 million times a year.

With each of my 80 beats per minute, I pump
approximately 6.76 ounces (over half of a
12 oz. coke can) of blood.

I send $4\frac{1}{4}$ to $6\frac{1}{3}$ quarts of blood a distance of
62,137 miles through your vessel system at the
rate of 1,440 times a day.

**Please take good care of me and
Celebrate World Heart Day on September 29.**



REAP PROJECT SPOTLIGHT ON THE TOWN OF Wayne



Before (above) and After (below) on CLEMENS STREET



Oklahomans familiar with local government know most of the funds needed to operate municipal government comes almost entirely from local sales tax. Maintaining streets in small communities with little or no local businesses would be impossible under these restrictions were it not for Title 69 in Oklahoma Statutes which places the responsibility on county commissioners to maintain those streets for communities with a population under 2,500 and with mutual aid for communities with a population under 5,000. Of course, this can strain county budgets already underfunded.

The REAP program is ideal to create a win-win for local communities and county

commissioners especially near the end of the fiscal years when commissioners are running low on money for fuel and material but still have to keep their crews busy. REAP funds can be used to pay for material and fuel costs to run road maintenance equipment, and the county commissioners often furnish the equipment and labor to make street repairs in the numerous small communities in some of the districts.

The town of **WAYNE** in McClain County has an estimated population of 519. At least 9 of its streets were identified in very poor condition. With assistance from District 1 **COUNTY COMMISSIONER GLEN MURRAY** and his crew, the town of Wayne was able to overlay these streets fixing a multitude of pothole patches creating a smooth, safe road surface for residents, school busses, truck drivers, and emergency vehicles. The total project cost was \$54,353.18 with REAP funds covering \$45,000, the town of Wayne contributing \$9,353.18, and the county commissioner helping with the cost of labor and machinery. This is just one example of how several funding sources are needed to help small communities in their quest to provide reasonable quality of life environments to their residents.



**"TEAMWORK ...
Means Never Having To
Take All The Blame
Yourself."**

LABOR DAY



SEPTEMBER 2, 2019

ASCOG Offices will be closed for Labor Day.
We will be open on Tuesday, September 3.
Have a safe and fun-filled holiday weekend.

All advertisement on the following pages come from the Oklahoma Tourism Website or from submittals from member governments. They are intended solely for the purpose of promoting activities occurring with our member governments' locations. If your city or town is not represented, it is only because nothing was received in time to publish. All advertising for member governments is **FREE!**



COMANCHE COUNTY FREE FAIR
September 3-7, 2019
COMANCHE COUNTY FAIRGROUNDS
Lawton (580) 355-1176

The Comanche County Free Fair in Lawton, held at the Comanche County Fairgrounds in southwest Oklahoma, invites visitors to an array of family-friendly activities and entertainment in September. This annual county fair features a variety of commercial and local agricultural exhibits, including livestock, arts and crafts, award-winning farm produce and 4-H and FFA displays. Don't miss the fair's popular horse show or the petting barnyard featuring donkeys, llamas and pygmy goats. Children's activities will also be available, as well as antique tractor and farm equipment displays.

TILLMAN COUNTY FAIR
September 5-7, 2019
Tillman County Fairgrounds
Frederick (580) 335-2515

The Tillman County Fair is an annual event held in Frederick that attracts hundreds of people from all over the county and throughout the state. The fair has a livestock show, art contests, retail booths, concession stands, tractor driving contests and lots of other fun activities for both participants and observers. Take a spin on a high-flying carnival ride or sample tasty treats such as corn dogs, funnel cakes and freshly squeezed lemonade. A myriad of live entertainment will be on-hand to entertain visitors at the Tillman County Fair.



JESSE JAMES FESTIVAL
& CAR SHOW
September 7, 2019
Downtown
Cement (405) 829-0135



Come to the scenic southwestern Oklahoma town of Cement for the Jesse James Festival & Car Show. This annual community bash features food and craft vendors, a thrilling mock gun fight, captivating speakers, live music, dancing, museum tours and a classic car show featuring rare makes and models you won't want to miss. Gather all your family and head to this charming town where the legend of Jesse James is alive and well.



BUGLING ELK TOURS

**September 8,14,15,21,22,28, &29, 2019
Wichita Mountains Wildlife Refuge
& Visitor's Center
(580) 429-2197**

Take a guided tour of the Wichita Mountains Wildlife Refuge & Visitor's Center in the hopes of spotting a bugling elk during the height of the elk mating season. Tour participants will meet their guide at the Lawton refuge's Visitor Center

before loading up on the bus. During this special three-hour tour, visitors can look out for bull elk making high-pitched bugling sounds in bursts of aggression and frustration. Guests may also witness bison, white-tailed deer and wild turkey from their tour bus seats. To book a reservation on a September or October tour, call the Visitor Center. Reservations are limited and are taken on a first-come, first-served basis.

STEPHENS COUNTY COIN SHOW

September 13-14, 2019

**Stephens County Fair Grounds
Duncan (580) 475-4570**

Head out to the Stephens County Coin Show in Duncan to browse through row upon row of coins to buy, sell and trade. Find out what your treasured coins are worth or hunt down the elusive coin you've been searching for. This coin show features antique coins and more from all over the United States.



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TWOBULLS YEARLING FEATURE FUTURITY

September 13-14, 2019

**Stephens County Fair & Expo
Center, Duncan (580) 786-1010**

TwoBulls Yearling Feature Futurity in Duncan brings thrilling rodeo action to the Stephens County Fair & Expo Center.

Competitions include Class 1 - ABBI Yearling Wildcard, which will advance the winning bull to the Lifetime Yearling Futurity in Las Vegas with \$5,000 entry fee paid. There will also be Class 2 - High Stakes for those that have some bull power and want to play for bigger payouts. Even more classes are available at this first ever TwoBulls Yearling Feature Futurity in Duncan.



OKLAHOMA HORSE FAIR
September 13-14, 2019
Stephens County Fair & Expo Center
Duncan (405) 344-7298

The Elgin Rodeo is a southwestern Oklahoma tradition. For several years, thousands of people have gathered in this small town each summer to witness this open rodeo. Come see traditional rodeo events and cheer for your favorite cowboys and cowgirls. There will also be live entertainment, vendors with unique items and concessions where you can grab a bite to eat or enjoy a cool drink. Following the rodeo, there will be a live band on both nights. Get ready to kick up your heels and enjoy live music from great local bands.

DUNCAN LITTLE THEATER:
Evening of Shorts
September 13-21, 2019
Marlow Opera House
Marlow (580) 252-8331

Experience "An Evening of Shorts" by Duncan Little Theatre. Held at the Marlow Opera House, this special production will be held across two weekends in September. Enjoy quality theatre performances, along with drinks and desserts during intermission.



WIZARDING WORLD OF
TIGER SAFARI

September 17-October 31, 2019
963 County St 2930
Tuttle (405) 381-9453

Harry Potter fans old and young will love the Wizarding World of Tiger Safari in Tuttle. This unique attraction invites everyone to dress up in their Hogwarts robes and get their picture

taken with a Eurasian Eagle-Owl. The pictures will be taken in front of a green screen showing scenes of Hogwarts. While you're there, be sure to visit the pumpkin patch, enjoy a hayride and check out the new reptile building where you may discover a parselmouth in your midst.



COMANCHE NATION FAIR
September 20-22, 2019
Comanche Nation Complex
Lawton (580) 492-3241

The Comanche Nation Fair in Lawton is the largest event of the Comanche Nation and features a powwow, parade, free concert, games and an art show. Other activities include basketball and softball tournaments, a horseshoe tournament, quilt show, teen dance, fun run and spirit walk. Arts and craft vendors from around

the country will be present, as well as a variety of food vendors. A children's carnival featuring free rides will also be on-site.

This annual fall event brings together tribes from all across the nation. The much-anticipated powwow will feature traditional forms of dance such as gourd dancing and fire dancing. Photography is allowed during the dance competition, so don't forget your camera. Attend this three-day event and immerse yourself in the historic traditions of the Comanche tribe. Activities including horse racing, hand games and storytelling will all be represented. Visitors to this year's Comanche Nation Fair will also enjoy a cedar smoking ceremony, bull riding and a car show, plus a variety of children's activities.

Celebrate Comanche culture at the largest American Indian gathering in southwest Oklahoma. This event is free and open to the public. Free camping near the powwow grounds will also be available.

ARTS 'N ACTION FESTIVAL

August 22-24, 2019

**Tillman County Courthouse Square,
Frederick (580) 305-5287**

Spend the day at the Arts 'N Action Festival at the Tillman County Courthouse Square in Frederick. Guests are invited to browse booths filled with original artwork, including jewelry, pottery, sculpture, photography and more. At book sale portion of the festival, eager readers can pick up paperback and hardback books on all subjects and genres. After selecting goodies to take home, be sure to enjoy food from the many vendors at the Arts 'N Action Festival and check out live entertainment from local acts.



Starts Monday,
SEPTEMBER 23

5th Annual
WINGS & WHEELS
Anadarko, OK

Saturday, September 21, 2019
9AM to 4PM
Anadarko, OK
Municipal Airport - F68

MORE INFO:
ANADARKOCHAMBER.ORG
405.247.6651

FUN FOR ALL AGES!
VENDORS
FOOD TRUCKS
KIDS' ACTIVITIES
COOL AIRPLANES
HOT MOTORCYCLES
CLASSIC, CUSTOM & LATE MODEL CARS

FREE ADMISSION!
FREE Airplane Rides
for Kids 8-18

Swoop into Anadarko for the Wings and Wheels Festival. This all-day event features the wonders of the Anadarko Municipal Airport. Young aviators from ages 8-18 can take flight with free airplane rides sponsored by the local Young Eagle Flights chapter. After flying around, tour the large display of airplanes, helicopters, fire trucks, police cars and ambulances on display. Along with all the winged and wheeled fun, food trailers, barbecue and burger stands will all be on hand ready to feed hungry aviators and cyclists.



RED RIVER RANCH ROUNDUP RODEO

September 27-28, 2019

Claud Gill Arena

Duncan (580) 255-3231

Visit the Red River Ranch Round-Up Rodeo in Duncan for three days of excitement. This fun event features branding, pinning and wild cow milking, as well as a whole host of other activities. Stick around to see who is chosen

as the rodeo queen and learn what it takes to run a ranch.

INTERNATIONAL FESTIVAL

September 27-29, 2019

Elmer Thomas Park

Lawton (580) 581-3470

The 40th annual Lawton International Festival celebrates awareness and appreciation of Lawton's diverse heritage. The festival provides local, culturally-based organizations, groups and individuals an opportunity to display aspects of their culture, mainly through performances and demonstrations.



Come to the International Festival for free concerts, parades, plenty of food vendors, children's games and activities, demonstration artists, over 70 vendors and non-stop multicultural entertainment. This free festival is a family-oriented extravaganza full of fun. Visitors to this year's International Festival will enjoy a variety of acoustic performances and cultural dance demonstrations.

The International Festival is held in Lawton's Elmer Thomas Park, located at NW 3rd and Ferris Avenue. This park setting has amenities that include a lakeside stage, children's area, parking adjacent to the festival grounds, vendor parking on-site, tour bus parking, restroom facilities and more. The park is completely handicap accessible. Come to Lawton and join thousands of visitors at this citywide celebration. No alcohol. No pets allowed, service animals only.

**IT IS EASIER
TO DO A JOB
RIGHT **than**
TO EXPLAIN
WHY YOU DIDN'T.**



FALL FESTIVAL & CRAFT SHOW

September 27-28, 2019

Simmons Center

Duncan (580) 252-2900

If you're looking for some homemade gift ideas for the holiday season or just enjoy browsing the work of local craftsmen and artists, head to Duncan's Simmons Center for this year's Fall Festival & Craft Show.

Over 30 booths will be set up with gifts and decorations for all ages. This two-day event is sure to be a fun seasonal event that you, your friends and family will enjoy.

EMPIRE CAR & MOTORCYCLE SHOW

September 28, 2019

276935 E 1760, Duncan

(580) 251-1618

The Empire Car & Motorcycle Show is a one day event that's fun for all ages. Grab a delicious barbecue dinner and browse unique cars and motorcycles. A kids zone, live entertainment featuring Hi-Jackers Hollow band, door prizes, and a gun raffle will also be at the Empire Car & Motorcycle Show.



OLD OAK FARMS FLEA MARKET

September 28, 2019

27195 State Hwy 152, Minco

(405) 352-5981



Old Oak Farms Flea Market features fall fare in every variety. Gather in Minco and get into the Halloween spirit by browsing through the bright orange pumpkins neatly

arranged in the pumpkin patch on site. After selecting your potential jack o' lantern, add a few fresh vegetables to your basket, or pick up handmade crafts. Vendors will also offer antique finds and repurposed furniture in addition to rustic junk and home decor. Hit the road with an empty car and load up on locally made goods at Old Oak Farms Flea Market.
