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MAY  
2026

**THE HOWLER**  
**At 5 Dogs**  
Latest News, Updates & More

5 Dogs  
Creek  
PO Box  
20051  
Bakersfield,  
CA 93390

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2025 - 2026 Town

Council

Mayor:

Fordyce Beals  
mayor@5dogscreek.com

Sheriff:

Lap Dog  
sheriff@5dogscreek.com

Banker:

Leia Tombstone  
banker@5dogscreek.com

Blacksmith:

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storekeeper@5dogscreek.com

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Range Wrangler:

Brandin Iron  
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Telegraph Operator:

Whiskey TF Bottles  
telegraph@5dogscreek.com

Territorial Governor:

Professor Cubby Bear  
governor@5dogscreek.com



The Mayor's Anvil:  
Forging Understanding  
By Mayor Fordyce Beals

Barbed wire is cited by some historians as the invention that tamed the West. Cowboys get off their horses and build and repair fences

Fencing consisting of flat and thin wire was first proposed in France, by Leonce Eugene Grassin-Baledans in 1860. His design consisted of bristling points, creating a fence that was painful to cross. In April 1865 Louis François Janin proposed a double wire with diamond-shaped metal barbs; Francois was granted a patent. Michael Kelly from New York had a similar idea and proposed that fencing should be used specifically for deterring animals. More patents followed, and in 1867 alone there were six patents issued for barbed wire.

The "Big Four" in barbed wire were Joseph Glidden, Jacob Haish, Charles Francis Washburn, and Isaac L. Ellwood. Glidden, a farmer in 1873 and the first of the "Big Four", is often credited for designing a successful sturdy barbed wire product, Glidden's patent, No. 157124, was issued November 24, 1874. Glidden's idea came from a display at a fair in DeKalb, Illinois in 1873, by Henry B. Rose. Rose had patented "The Wooden Strip with Metallic Points" in May 1873.

Demonstrations by John Warne Gates in San Antonio in 1876 showed that the wire could keep cattle contained, and sales then increased dramatically.

An 1880 US District Court decision upheld the validity of the Joseph Glidden patent, effectively establishing a monopoly. This decision was affirmed by the US Supreme Court in 1892. More than 800 different patents for barbed wire were issued by the U.S. Patent Office.

Glidden's invention made barbed wire more effective not only because he described a method for locking the barbs in place, but also because he developed the machinery to mass-produce the wire. His invention also survived court challenges from other inventors. Glidden's patent, prevailing in both litigation and sales, was soon known as "the winner." Today, it remains the most familiar style of barbed wire.

Before 1870, westward movement in the United States was largely across the plains with little or no settlement occurring. After the American Civil War, the plains were extensively settled, consolidating America's dominance over them. Ranchers moved out on the plains and needed to fence their land in against encroaching farmers and other ranchers. The railroads throughout the growing West needed to keep livestock off their tracks, and farmers needed to keep stray cattle from trampling their crops. During the 1898 Spanish-American War, Teddy Roosevelt's **Rough Riders** chose to defend their camps with the help of barbed fencing.

Traditional fence materials used in the Eastern U.S., like wood and stone, were expensive. An example of the costs of fencing with lumber immediately prior to the invention of barbed wire can be found with the first farmers in the Fresno, California, area, spent nearly \$4,000 (equivalent to \$108,000 in 2025) to have wood for fencing delivered and erected to protect 2,500 acres of wheat crop from free-ranging livestock in 1872.

Barbed wire's popularity exploded in the late 1800s as land in the Midwest and West began to be divided up. Millions of acres of previously unfenced land had been used as a kind of public commons, as ranchers moved their livestock around where feed was available. Vast cattle herds could also be driven to far away stockyards through the fenceless prairies and plains.

Fenced-off land meant that more and more cattle herders—regardless of race—were dependent on the dwindling public lands, which rapidly became overgrazed. Living patterns of nomadic Native Americans were radically altered, as well. Further squeezed from lands they had always used, they began calling barbed wire "the Devil's rope."

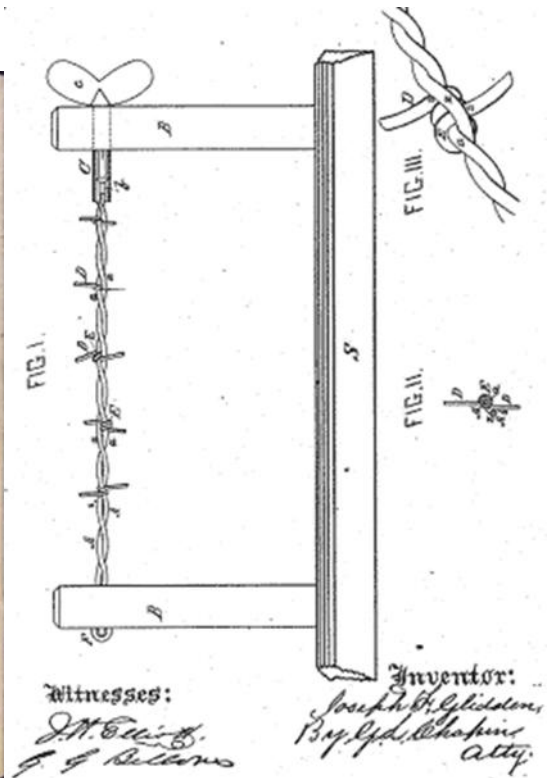
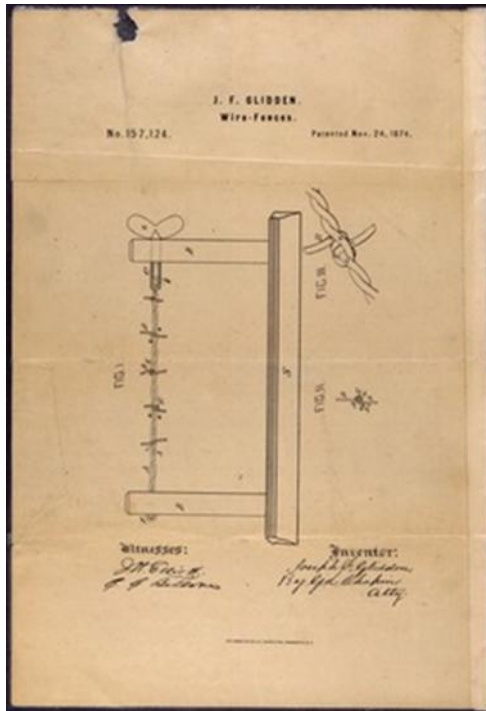
Conflict between ranchers competing for the same grass, water and other resources was inevitable, and when farmers began acquiring land to grow crops and needed to exclude free-ranging cattle, problems escalated and the so-called "Range Wars" began.

Barbed wire emerged as a major source of conflict with the so-called "Big Die Up" incident in the 1880s. This occurred because of the instinctual migrations of cattle away from the blizzard conditions of the Northern Plains to the warmer and plentiful Southern Plains, but by the early 1880s this area was already divided and claimed by ranchers. The ranchers in place, especially in the Texas Panhandle, knew that their holdings could not support the grazing of additional cattle, so the only alternative was to block the migrations with barb wire fencing. Many of the herds were annihilated in the winter of 1885, with some losing as many as three-quarters of all animals when they could not find a way around the fence.

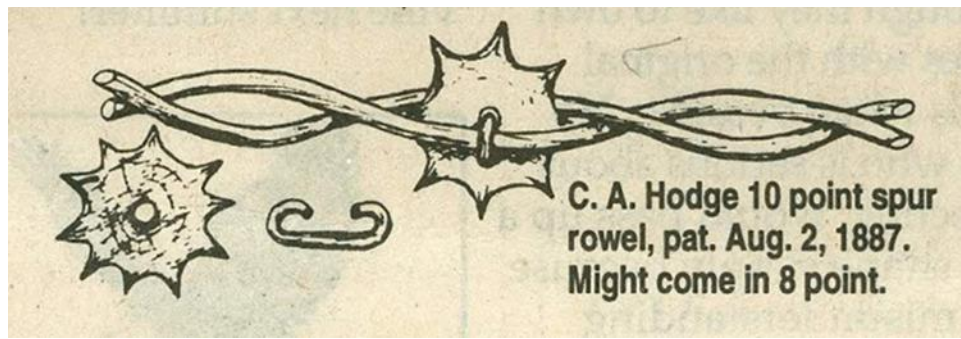
Later other smaller scale cattlemen, especially in central Texas, opposed the closing of the open range, and began cutting fences to allow cattle to pass through to find grazing land. In this transition zone between the agricultural regions to the south and the rangeland to the north, conflict erupted, with vigilantes joining the scene causing chaos and even death. The Fence Cutting Wars ended with the passage of a Texas law in 1884 that made fence cutting a felony. In Texas, still to this day because of the Fence Cutting Wars, it is illegal to carry wire cutters.

These disputes were decisively settled in favor of the farmers (see last month's Anvil), and heavy penalties were instituted for cutting a barbed wire fence. Within 2 years, nearly all the open range had been fenced in under private ownership. For this reason, some historians have dated the end of the Old West era of American history to the invention and subsequent proliferation of barbed wire. Barbed wire is cited by some historians as the invention that tamed the West (not the 1873 Colt and 1873 Winchester?). Herding large numbers of cattle on open range required significant manpower to catch strays. Barbed wire provided an inexpensive method to control the movement of cattle.

By the beginning of the 20th century, large numbers of cowboys were unnecessary. As a result, most cowboys today can be found at **5 Dogs Creek**



Glidden's patent of invention was soon known as "the winner." Still in use today



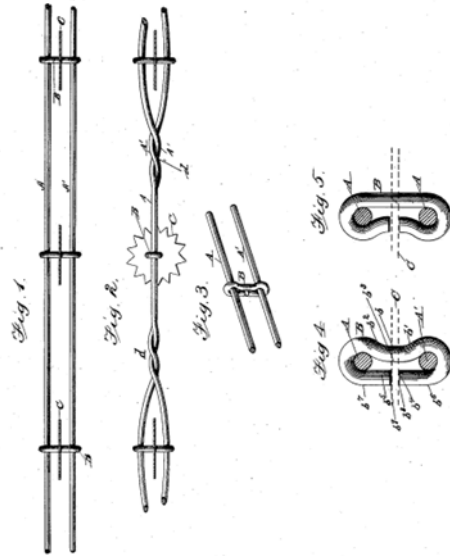
Fordyce's favorite of 800 barbed wire patents. An 18-inch sample might sell for up to \$100.00 today

(No Model.)

C. A. HODGE.  
BARBED FENCE.

No. 367,398.

Patented Aug. 2, 1887.



Attest:  
*W. H. Knight*  
*S. W. Edwards*

Inventor:  
*C. A. Hodge*  
By his attorney  
*Edson & Co.*





## THE SHERIFF'S LOG

Howdy All,

April spared us some showers on our shortened shooting match. The shoot on Saturday was a rip-roaring shooting up time! The Easter bunny also dropped off some chocolate bunnies for some special shooters. And, since Easter was on Sunday, all the fun that could be had was on Saturday. Thank you to Utah Blaine for writing stages that were just bunny friendly!

Since there was so much fun on the shortened weekend, shooters begged to shoot the following Saturday and Sunday. Since the powers to be, the Sheriff and Mayor, love to shoot it happened. April showers arrived early Sunday morning, but the shooters managed to get through a little mud and finished the shoot with sunshine and warm weather. Such a great time was had that the shooters asked for a bonus Saturday shoot in May.

The May match will be written by Fordyce Beals so you know the stages will be challenging as well as fun. We will have a 'bonus' shoot on Saturday May 9th so plan on loading lots of ammo.

Panhandle Red brought out his lawn mower and did a fabulous job mowing down the grass. The following weekend he and Sam Ootie took weed eaters to what the mover couldn't knock down. Thank you so much, the range looks so much better. Shotgun Lynn and Brandin Iron have spruced up Bay 7. It looks so good even Kaweah Kid would be impressed!

Mark your calendars for June 20th. The range owner and his wife, David and Frankie Olds, are inviting everyone to help celebrate their 60th wedding anniversary and 40 years of the 5 Dogs Range being in existence, to be held on the cowboy range. David Olds suggested we cowboy folks dress up and show up, to show everyone out there what we do. Think about it!

There will be camping, Friday night appetizers and a potluck on Saturday at the May shoot so plan for lots of fun, laughter and lead flying down range!

See you on the range,

Lap Dog

As a final note, remember that Town Council elections will be in July. The current Town Council has been in place for the last three years. While it is fun, it is time for a change so please consider what you can do to contribute to the 5 Dogs Creek Cowboy club.

# MAY

## Shooting Schedule:

### 5/2, SATURDAY

Office opens 8:00  
Shooter's Mtg. 8:30  
Match Starts: 9:00

### 5/3, SUNDAY

Office opens 8:00  
Shooter's Mtg. 8:30  
Match Starts: 9:00

### BONUS SHOOT

### 5/9, SATURDAY

Office opens 8:00  
Shooter's Mtg. 8:30  
Match Starts: 9:00



## 2026 MATCH CALENDAR

MAY: 2-3

MAY 9

JUNE: 6-7

JULY: 4-5

AUG: 1-2

SEPT: 5-6

OCT: 3-4

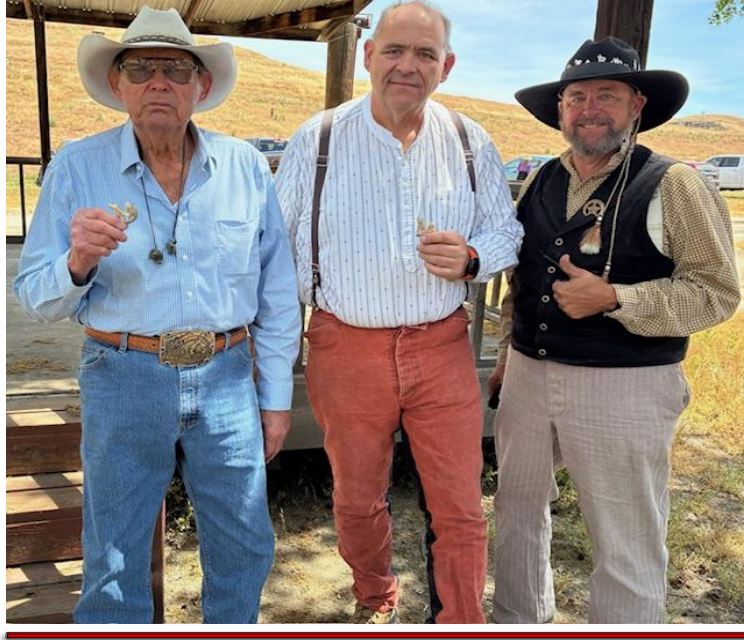
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## COME JOIN US IN MAY FOR SOME CAMPING FUN!



**Friday Evening Appetizers & Saturday Evening Potluck (6:00-ish)**  
**Bring your favorite grub to share. Plates & utensils provided.**

# SATURDAY, 4/4 CLEAN SHOOTERS



*Badman Bob, Big Bad Blaine, Bull McFearson*

SUNDAY, 4/11  
BONUS MATCH  
CLEAN SHOOTERS



*Miss Barah Lee Misditt & Lap Dog  
(Also missing camera shy Stampede Steve)*

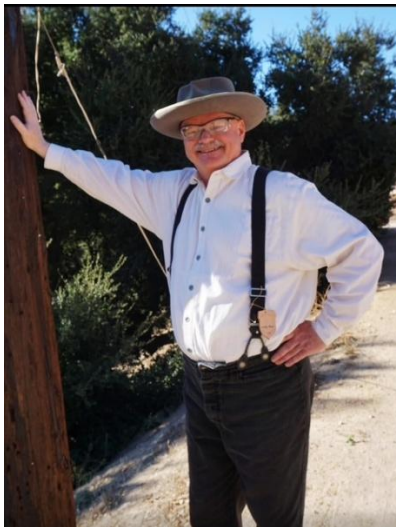
SATURDAY, 4/12  
BONUS MATCH  
CLEAN SHOOTERS



*Panhandle Red (& Pressly), Bad Madman Bob, Bull McFearson, Dutch Longhorn*

# **Territorial Governor's News:**

(Watch for the Professor's wise words of wisdom here again soon.)



**Professor Cubby Bear**  
[\(\[cubbybear29521@aol.com\]\(mailto:cubbybear29521@aol.com\)\)](mailto:cubbybear29521@aol.com)

# Range Wranglers' Notes:

(Brandin Iron's News here soon.)



## Get Well Soon!!

# Mayor Fordyce's Range Notes:

This is the new version of the SASS Pocket RO Card:

## SECTION 8 – RO QUICK REFERENCE

*(Formerly the "Pocket RO Card")*

*Please print and enjoy this larger font and easier reference format for use on the range! (2 pages)*

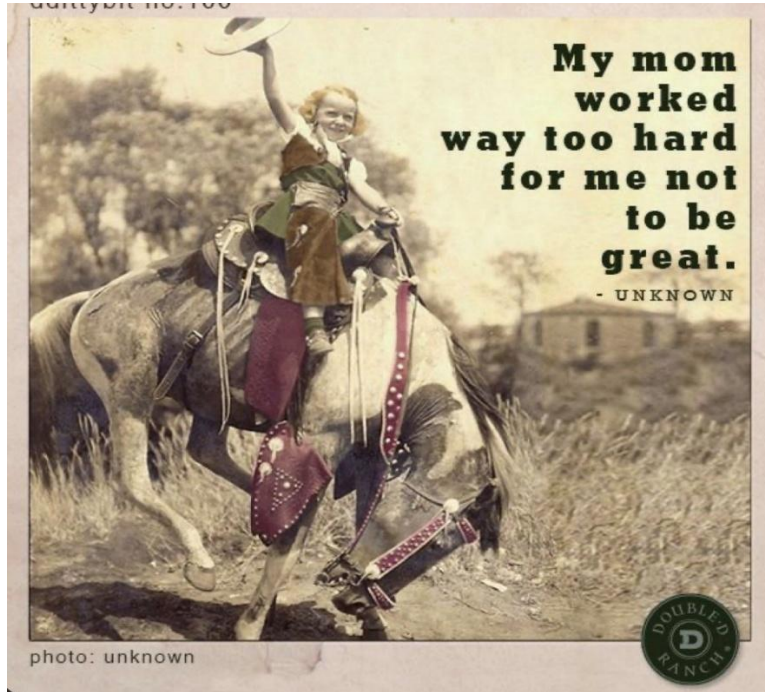
<b>"MSV" Minor Safety Violation = 10 second penalty "SDQ" Stage Disqualification; "MDQ" = Match Disqualification</b>	<b>MSV</b>	<b>SDQ</b>	<b>MDQ</b>
Empty or live round in magazine, action, or on the carrier of the long gun in which it was loaded, or an empty in the chamber of a long gun- after the next firearm is fired, or if last firearm, put down on the unloading table.	X		
Cocking a revolver before it reaches 45° downrange	X		
Leaving the stage anytime between when the first and last shots have been fired on the stage		X	
Leaving the firing line after the stage has begun and before all firearms have been verified as clear		X	
Loading at other than the designated location		X	
Holstering or staging revolver with hammer cocked (not fully down) or down (on a live round)		X	
<b>Any unloaded firearm that falls or is dropped</b>		X	
Discharge impacting 5-10 feet from shooter, while on the firing line		X	
Cocked revolver leaving the shooters hand		X	
Changing location or leaving the designated loading area with a live round chambered in a long gun with the action closed.		X	
Unsafe gun handling (fanning, etc.)		X	
Use of an illegal or an illegally modified firearm		X	
Dry firing at the loading or unloading table(s)		X	
Violation of the 170° rule (without sweeping anyone)		X	
Sweeping anyone with an unloaded firearm		X	
Arriving at the designated loading area with uncleared firearms after completing a stage within the same day (assess on the previously completed stage)		X	
De-cocking to avoid penalty if cocked at the wrong time, position or location		X	
Not adhering to loading or unloading procedures		X	
<b>Returning a revolver to leather with the hammer not fully down on a spent round or empty chamber (cocked) with unfired round(s) remaining (leaving the shooter's hand).</b>			X
Shooting on the move (shooting multiple shots during continuous movement)		X	
Leaving the designated loading area with a RIFLE having a live round under a cocked hammer/hammer down on a live round		X	

Staging or discarding a long gun containing a live round in the chamber (once it leaves the shooters hands)		X	
Use or presence of outlawed/illegal items		X	
Any loaded firearm that falls or is dropped			X
Discharge impacting within 5 feet from the shooter, while on the firing line or any discharge away from the firing line. Any discharge in the loading or unloading areas.			X
Sweeping anyone with a loaded firearm			X
Willful failure to comply with a "Cease Fire" or "Stop" command given by, and while under the positive control of, the CRO/TO			X
Any two (2) stage DQ penalties or two (2) F.T.E./S.O.G. during the course of a match			X
Belligerent attitude/unsportsmanlike conduct			X
Shooting under the influence of alcohol, drugs, or impairing medications			X
Leaving the firing line with a malfunctioning firearm unless under direct supervision of a match official			X
Shooting out of category. E.g.' not wearing the correct items in Classic Cowboy or not making enough smoke in BP categories. 1 <sup>st</sup> violation is a procedural penalty, 2 <sup>nd</sup> is a SDQ, 3 <sup>rd</sup> violation is a MDQ.	P	2	3
<p><b>Procedural:</b> Unintentional errors caused by confusion or mistakes. <b>10 seconds;</b> no more than one procedural penalty may be assessed per stage.</p> <p><b>Failure to Engage/Spirit of the Game:</b> Willfully shooting a stage other than the way it was intended in order to gain a competitive advantage, not meeting the Ammunition Power Factor, or willfully disregarding a non-shooting procedure. <b>30 seconds.</b></p> <p><b>Reshoots</b> are granted for failure of props/match equipment; Range Officer impeding shooter progress, or timer failure.</p> <p><b>Reshoots for failure</b> of shooter equipment or firearms may be granted at the discretion of the Match Director (except at annul or state/regional championships and above). Only safety penalties carry over to a reshoot.</p> <p><b>Restarts</b> are allowed for a competitor to achieve a "clean" start, up to the point at which the first round goes down range. Multiple restarts by the same shooter, that in the judgement of the TO are seen to be taking advantage, will not be entertained as they are not in the spirit of the game.</p>			



**WANDERIN' AROUND with Utah Blaine**

**(Watch for more “Wanderins” by Utah here.)**



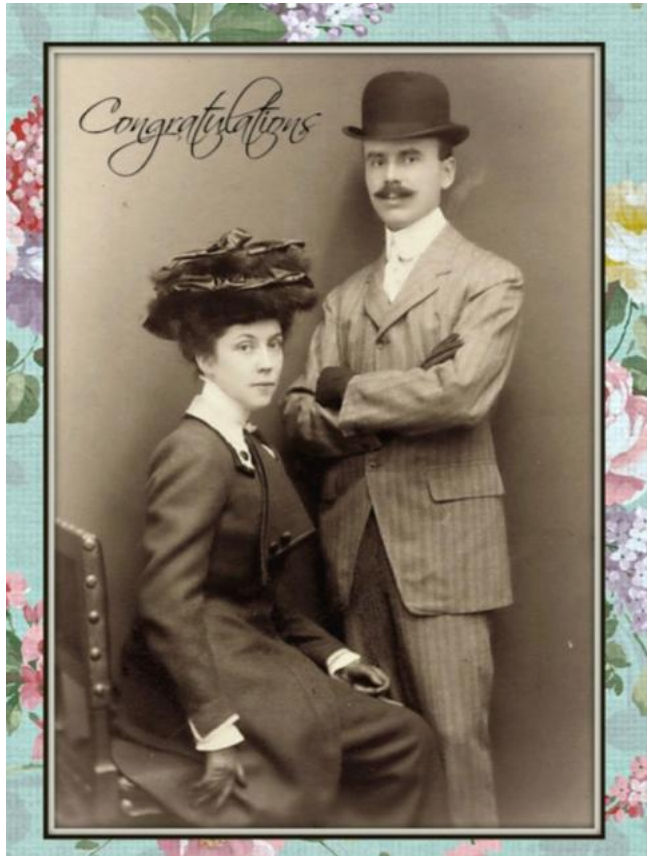
**Happy Mother's Day  
to all the Great Moms,  
near and dear to us all.**

**DON'T MISS THIS!!!**

JUNE 20<sup>TH</sup>, 2026

10:00 – 3:00

Frankie & Dave Olds are celebrating  
their 60<sup>th</sup> Anniversary!



The range will be open, but the Cowboy Range will be closed to shooting. There will be a taco truck. All are invited to stop by at your convenience to say “hi” and congratulate the happy couple.