



Out of the Blue

by Kate Duchamp

Route 66 Small Town Comparisons

As the Route 66 Centennial approaches, it's a good time to make sure Vinita shines as bright as, or brighter than, other towns along America's most famous highway.

Places such as Tulsa or Amarillo aren't appropriate to compare with Vinita because they are so much bigger and they each have one big iconic landmark... Tulsa's Blue Whale and the Cadillac Ranch outside Amarillo.

So, choosing a town for pur-

poses of helpful comparison, two things are needed: 1. approximately the same population and 2. some friendly 66 tourist attractions.

Needles, California meets those two requirements. So let's see how Vinita holds up.

First, Vinita's name, while not as memorable as Needles, is certainly more elegant.

Each town has a museum (admittedly there is some bias here), and Vinita's history museum has a much more at-

tractive presentation.

Both towns have one major downtown mural each. The mural that graces the corner of Illinois and Wilson (at the dogleg turn of Rt. 66) gives more historic information than the one in Needles.

Needles definitely has us beat when it comes to train travel. Amtrak stops in Needles for passengers traveling west and east. Jealously abounds on this issue. When a train stops in Vinita, it's unscheduled and a nuisance to drivers.

Vinita's sign at the entrance to town on the east side is charming and welcoming. Needles landmark sign is colorful and, unlike Vinita's, is easy to reach for taking photographs but it's a little on the oddball side.

Vinita's Bull Creek is no match for the beautiful Colorado River which runs alongside the town of Needles and offers amazing recreational

opportunities. But how about Grand Lake? Not that far.

While not considered tourist attractions, grocery stores are handy for travelers who want to have a picnic or snack on a fresh apple. There is no grocery store in Needles! No Walmart!

On the other hand, Vinita has a hometown grocery store since 1952 with a beautiful produce department and a

wide range of dairy and grocery items. And Walmart, of course.

Many other comparisons exist between these two Route 66 small towns. But just one more difference remains for today's balancing act: Needles average high temperature in July is 110 degrees. Average high temperature in July is 110 degrees. Average high temperature in July for Vinita is a mild (comparatively) 92.



Welcome signs in Vinita (inset) and Needles, California.

Send us
your news

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Murals in the downtowns of Vinita (inset) and Needles, California.



Interior view of the museums in Vinita (inset) and Needles, California.

LEGALS

PUBLIC NOTICE

(Published in the Vinita Daily Journal November 5, 12 and 19, 2025)
Anyone interested in #4 - 2014 Hyundai vin# KMHD44A46E0162166 call Tim at 417-396-0906

PUBLIC NOTICE

(Published in the Vinita Daily Journal November 19 and 26, 2025)
In order to satisfy a contractual lien, two abandoned RV units will be sold on Saturday, December 6, 2025, 12:00 p.m., at CC RV Grand Lake, 36402 S Hwy 82, Vinita, OK 74301 also known as 2018 N 3rd St, Langley OK 74350, 918-418-0732
Units to be sold include:
#36 Kenneth Rosicka PO Box

272 Ketchum OK 74145

#43 Kenneth Rosicka PO Box 272 Ketchum OK 74145

PUBLIC NOTICE

(Published in the Vinita Daily Journal November 19 and 26, 2025)
In order to satisfy a contractual lien, the contents of the following storage units will be sold on Saturday, December 6, 2025, 10:00 a.m., at Langley Storage Center, 1650 N. 3rd St, Vinita, OK 74301, 918-418-0732
Units to be sold include:
#A2 Patrick Rogers PO Box 3594 Altus OK 74551
#A5 Robert Stowe PO Box 514 Disney OK 74340
#A4 & E8 Kenneth Legg 1166 Hickory Lane Vinita OK 74301
#A18 Destiny Smoot 832 N Elm

Vinita OK 74301

#A36-A37 Jerry & Joyce Sinoz 498 S Park Ave Vinita OK 74301

#A40-A41 Amy Silas 1058 N. 42nd Pryor OK 74361

#A42 Bonnie Carpenter 360 Leisureland Drive Big Cabin OK 74332

#A44 & A47 Rodney Swank 1200 N Cedar Ave Tahlequah OK 74464

#D29 Glenn Guarino 2604 S Sheridan Apt 3 Tulsa OK 74129

#E47 Jason Tilley 10930 245th St Sapulpa OK 74421

#F9 Howard Starks 32768 S 4480 Vinita OK 74301

#F16 Benjamin Brasher PO Box 104 Ketchum OK 74349

#F18 Ashley Hoskin 441213 E 380 Rd Big Cabin OK 74332

#G1 Roy & Julie Finzel PO Box 108 Big Cabin OK 74332

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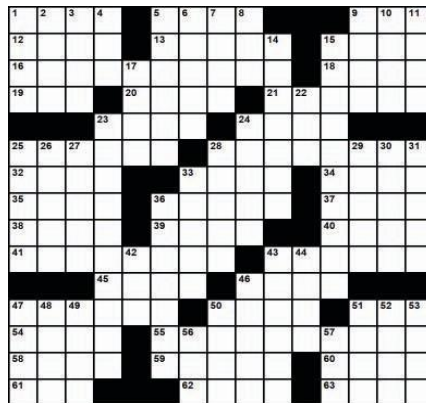
Contact Janet Link
918-256-6422

THE JOURNAL

C R O S S W O R D

Across

1. Ignore socially
5. Admit frankly
9. Govt. cops
12. Ankara dollar
13. City in India
15. A sweeping success
16. Feeling of hostility
18. Before mobile or mat
19. A relative
20. Barker of Filmdom
21. Small stream
23. Charisma
24. Equine sport
25. Vein in the center of a leaf
28. Humiliating error
32. Actor Stoltz
33. Block of type metal
34. Fix, in a sense
35. Cal or Georgia
36. Strokes on the green
37. Addition column
38. Against, prefix
39. Civil unrest
40. Battle the clock
41. Made of animal hide
43. Quenches
45. Pebble or boulder
46. Had down pat
47. Hairy covering
50. Breakfast cereal
51. Big head
54. Kingly Norse name
55. Concluding section of an oration
58. Crossfire group
59. Group of three
60. Contract variety
61. Author's last word
62. Address word
63. Hard to handle

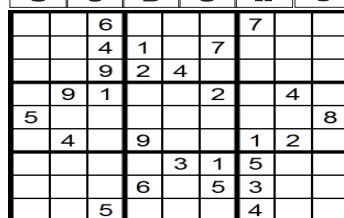


Down

1. Bed support
2. Close in time or place
3. Advance an argument
4. Blackball
5. Collect condensed gas on a surface
6. Goddess of the hearth
7. Musical medley
8. Barn dweller's query
9. Goatlike creature
10. Fall for a trick
11. Baal or Mammon
14. Encroachments
15. Cornfield sentry
17. Needle case
22. Last abbr.
23. Molding around a door or window
24. Brooklyn school
25. Bullion, e.g.
26. A Castle
27. Formal opinions
28. Pretended
29. Like raised oars
30. Cyclist Armstrong
31. Cell destructions
33. Idiosyncrasy
36. Principle
42. Barnyard critter
43. Trapped
44. Al Capp's hyena
46. Reykjavik cash
47. Church head
48. A dash of dash
49. Come down to earth
50. Verve, Italian style
51. Celts' land
52. Target
53. Exclusively
56. Drop the ball
57. Bearing pivot



S U D O K U



Sudoku uses pure logic and requires no math to solve. It is a number-placing puzzle based on a 9x9 grid with several given numbers. The object is to place the number 1 to 9 in the empty squares so that each row, each column and each 3x3 box contains the same number only once.

