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The Record

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A Music Lesson

By Dr. Jim Haas

Mentioning Woodie Guthrie's folk song "This Land Is Your Land" in my previous column struck a chord (pun intended) with many readers. The song has a history that, like all history, is worth knowing.

The Great Depression was still restraining America's economy in 1940, when Oklahoma-raised Guthrie had had enough of Kate Smith singing "God Bless America" repeatedly on radio. He thought that song's cheerful vision of America inappropriate when millions were still suffering. As a protest, Guthrie wrote "This Land is Your Land" to highlight the plight of America's workers while a fortunate few prospered.

Guthrie, a political activist who often had a sign on his guitar saying, "This machine kills fascists," first recorded "This Land Is Your Land" in 1944 while serving in the wartime Merchant Marine. The Smithsonian Institution has a copy of the 1944 recording. The song wasn't well known until the civil rights and anti-war protests of the 1960s when Bob Dylan; the New Christie Minstrels; Peter, Paul, and Mary; and others performed it live and released recordings. It was a huge hit and was often called the people's national anthem. Bruce Springsteen (pictured) called it "one of the most beautiful songs ever written" and gave it new life in the 1980s and beyond. He, Pete Seeger, and Seeger's grandson sang it at President Obama's 2009 inaugural celebration at the Lincoln Memorial.

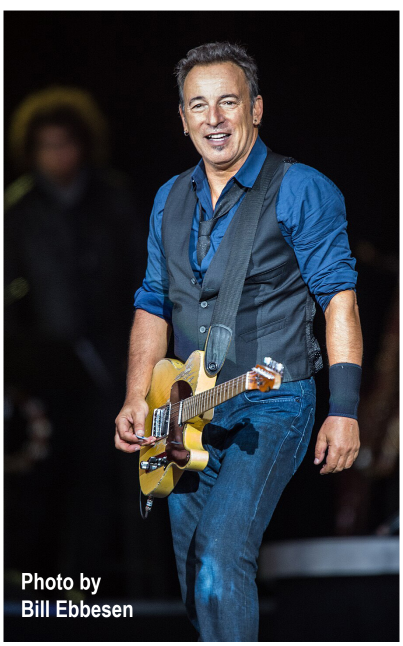
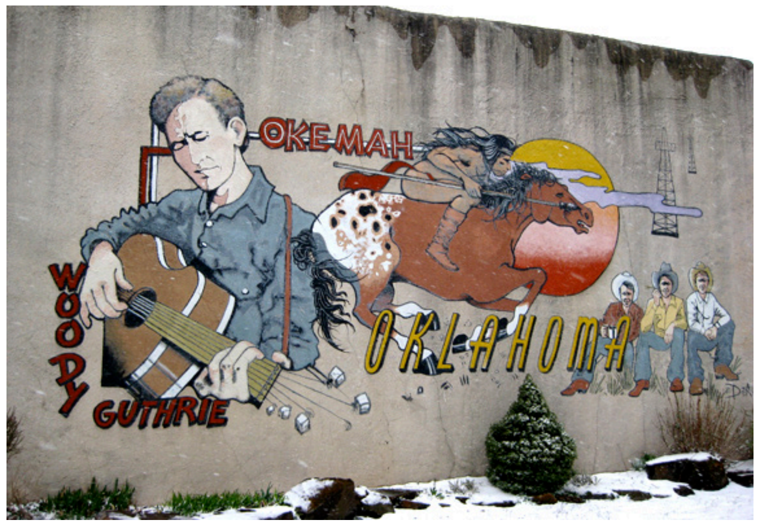


Photo by Bill Ebbesen

As time passed, Guthrie and other artists altered the lyrics to improve rhyming or other lyrical issues, but the most significant change was when some artists, sponsors, and others left out entire stanzas they considered negative but were the heart of Guthrie's original protest—an example of trying to rewrite history by omitting uncomfortable facts or viewpoints. Here are the stanzas most often performed:



This land is your land, this land is my land
From California to the New York island
From the redwood forest to the Gulf Stream waters
This land was made for you and me.

As I was walking that ribbon of highway
I saw above me that endless skyway
I saw below me that golden valley
This land was made for you and me.

I roamed and rambled and followed my footsteps
To the sparkling sands of her diamond deserts
While all around me a voice was sounding
This land was made for you and me.

When the sun came shining, and I was strolling
And the wheat fields waving and the dust clouds rolling
A voice was chanting, as the fog was lifting,
This land was made for you and me.

(The following stanzas are sometimes omitted.)

As I went walking, I saw a sign there
And on the sign it said, "No Trespassing"
But on the other side it didn't say nothing
That side was made for you and me.

Nobody living can ever stop me
As I go walking that freedom highway
Nobody living can ever make me turn back
This land was made for you and me.

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Stock Market Insights

Stock Market Outlook for the Second Half of 2026: Where Investors Should Focus

Dr. Richard Baker, AIF®, is the CEO and executive wealth advisor at Fervent Wealth Management

In junior high, our school dances were in the cafeteria. The girls all danced in the middle, and the guys would lean against the walls, hoping a girl would dance with them at the next slow song. Once, my buddy said to me, "Stand up straight and look confident. Girls like confidence." He somehow thought my posture would score me a dance. Well, right now I'm adjusting my investment posture and hoping for a niche second-half dance.

I still feel good about stocks for the rest of this year. Stocks may not have as strong a second half as they had in the first, but I expect them to slightly outperform other investments. As the economy continues to strengthen, publicly traded companies continue to have strong earnings, and artificial intelligence (AI) buildout spending continues unabated, fueling many parts of the market. We do not know for sure which companies will convert AI spending into strong AI-driven profit, so investors should remain diversified and avoid being tempted to invest heavily in a few popular AI holdings.

I am more in favor of U.S. stocks over international stocks. Though it is important to have some international holdings for diversification, U.S. stocks remain king as long as the U.S. economy stays healthy and U.S. companies continue to be leaders in innovation. A major advantage to the U.S. economy is that it is not as affected by rising oil prices and global energy shortages compared to the rest of the world, because the U.S. still produces more oil than it uses. Although, as I write, President Trump announced that the peace agreement with Iran is over. This might be a negotiating tactic, or it might not; either way, the situation with Iran could still cause market volatility.

In early June, I rebalanced my portfolio to adjust growth stocks from positive to neutral due to the large run-up in technology stocks and because they are looking overpriced. This chip stock rally ran so hot that I think a lot of investors are looking for other opportunities. I expect some gains from the technology sector, but I also expect them to level off somewhat in the second half of the year. It seems like the market is looking beyond the AI investing frenzy and wondering where the next opportunity will come from. I wouldn't be surprised if value stocks get a bump if AI stocks take a breather or if oil prices go up again.

Smaller companies had a killer first half. The Russell 2000 index, which tracks small companies, gained more than 20% in the first six months of the year, which is the best first-half performance since 1991 according to the Wall Street Journal. The small-cap indexes benefited from this wild chip stock rally in the first half of this year. It was semiconductor, AI hardware, and technology infrastructure stocks that juiced gains in small companies as investors became more willing to take risks. However, I am pulling back some on small-cap stocks to a neutral stance because it seems more likely that interest rates won't drop and might even rise slightly, and smaller companies are often hit harder in these scenarios.

I continue to favor low-volatility stocks because they are often more stable and hold up better in uncertain markets. These stocks might be a little more boring, but they can still have market gains while helping stabilize a portfolio during periods of volatility. I'm not expecting major volatility, but with the strong gains of the first half, I am going to hold on to some profits and try to force opportunities.

We see two themes that could shape markets in the second half. First, the U.S. midterm elections could shift control of Congress. With the Democratic candidate from Maine expected to drop out of the race, it looks like Republicans will retain control of the Senate. Democrats are expected to take control of the House by a narrow margin, which could change policy direction. Second, a new Federal Reserve chairman adds uncertainty to the markets. If inflation continues to rise and the Iran mess remains tense, the new chair will have little margin for error.

No girl gave me the signal that she wanted to dance. The problem was that there were only twenty-six kids in my class, and the girls already knew I was a goofball, and one night of good posture wasn't going to change their opinion. Thankfully, I have gotten a lot better at adjusting the posture of investment portfolios and have become a pretty great dance partner in the market. Too bad those junior high girls missed their chance on this goofball.

Have a blessed week.

www.FerventWM.com

This article was written by humans for humans because AI doesn't have this quality of sarcasm.

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The Russell 2000 Index is an unmanaged index generally representative of the 2,000 smallest companies in the Russell 3000 index, which represents approximately 10% of the total market capitalization of the Russell 3000 Index.

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Tom’s Tasty Treats

By Tom Valverde

This week’s tasty treat is a delicious and easy to make cake. Pineapple in the batter keeps the cake moist. It has a rich flavor and it will become one of your favorite cakes. And it’s made even more scrumptious with the cream cheese frosting! Please give it a try:

PINEAPPLE NUT CAKE

Ingredients:
2 c Flour
1 c Brown Sugar
1 c Sugar
2 t Baking Soda
1/2 t Cinnamon
1/2 t Salt
1/2 c Pecans
2 Lg Eggs
1 t Vanilla
1 20 oz. can
Crushed Pineapple
Frosting:
1 8oz. Pkg.
Cream Cheese
1 3/4 c Powdered Sugar
1 stick Butter
1 t Vanilla
1 or 2T Milk

Set oven to 350°. Spray or butter a 9x13” pan. In a bowl combine the flour, baking soda, cinnamon and salt, and whisk together to blend. In the bowl of a mixer, cream the cream cheese with the brown sugar, sugar. Add the eggs one at a time. Beat in the pineapple with its juice.

Gradually add the flour mixture, about 1/2 c at a time. Beat until smooth batter is formed. Scrape the bowl with a spatula to reach any dry spots of flour, add the pecans. Pour the batter into the pan and bake at 350° for 35 minutes. Let cool completely.

Prepare the frosting: Cream together the butter and the cream cheese until well combined. Then, set the mixer speed to low, and gradually add the powdered sugar and the Vanilla; beat in well. Scrape the bowl as needed. If needed to thin the frosting add 1 T milk and beat in. Only add the second tablespoon of milk if necessary. Beat the frosting until creamy. Spread the frosting on the cake. To serve, cut into generous squares with a dollop of whipped cream, yum!

Make this cake for your next Summer gathering everyone will love it

Enjoy!

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National Suicide Prevention Lifeline
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HIV/AIDS.

KC Care Health Center
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Jim Haas, A Music Lesson...

...from page 1

In the squares of the city in the shadow of a steeple
By the relief office, I'd seen my people
As they stood there hungry, I stood there asking
Is this land made for you and me?

(song concludes by repeating the first stanza)

Most of "This Land Is Your Land" celebrates America's natural and man-made beauty—redwood forests, wheat fields waving—but a No Trespassing sign and hungry people waiting at a relief office were realities of Guthrie's times. For people not getting a fair share of America's wealth, the song was a call for action: "Nobody living can ever stop me as I go walking that freedom highway." Guthrie died in 1967, but his most famous protest lives on as an anthem for his time—and for ours.

Request for Proposal Advertisement

Turner Unified School District No. 202 is seeking Bid Proposals for the purchase of Foodservice Equipment throughout the school district.

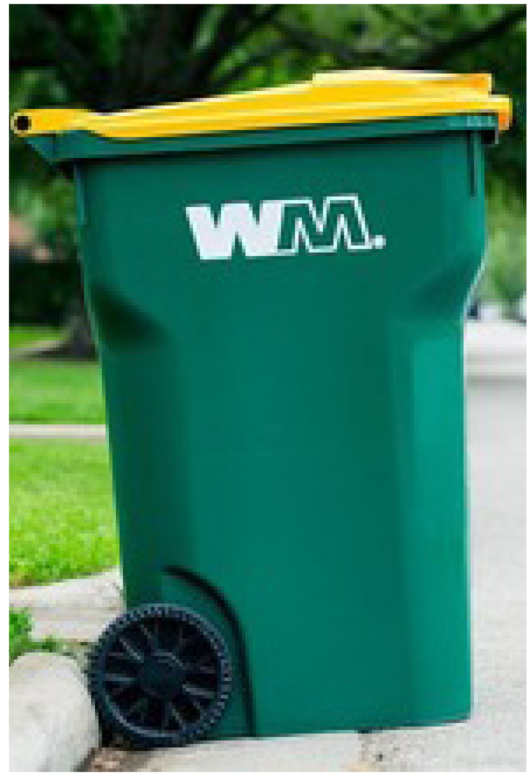
Documents pertaining to this Request for Proposal will be provided to any qualified contractor/vendor free of charge by email request sent to figgeb@turnerusd202.org

Turner USD 202 Foodservice Coordinator, Bev Figge will host the blind bid opening, July 23, 2026, at 1:00 pm. The location of the bid opening will be 800 South 55th Street, Kansas City, KS 66106. Turner USD 202 will announce the vendor that is awarded the bid or bids Wednesday, August 5, 2026.

(First published 7-9-26)
2t-The Record-7-16-26

Live in the Phase 2 Carts Program Area?

Take the Survey by July 20
Tell us what is working and what could improve



Earlier this year, the Unified Government and Waste Management of Kansas City, Kansas, Inc. (WM) expanded the Trash & Recycling Carts Pilot Program to additional neighborhoods as part of the program's second phase.

Participating households received new trash and recycling carts to test how cart-based collection works for residents, collection crews, neighborhoods, and overall service delivery.

Now that residents have had time to use their carts, Public Works is asking households in the Phase 2 area to share their feedback.

Residents who received new trash and recycling carts as part of Phase 2 are encouraged to complete the program survey by Monday, July 20. The survey gives residents an opportunity to share what is working well, what challenges they have experienced, and what improvements they would like to see in the future.

Why Your Feedback Matters

Survey responses will help the Unified Government and WM evaluate several parts of the program, including cart delivery, ease of use, cart size, collection service, recycling, communication, and overall satisfaction.

Feedback will also help identify areas where service expectations, cart use, recycling information, missed collections, storage concerns, or other parts of the program may be adjusted or clarified moving forward.

How to Take the Survey

Residents who received a survey postcard may complete the survey by using the QR code or web address listed on the card. If you did not receive a postcard, or if you haven't completed a survey yet visit the Carts Pilot Program Survey website.

The survey closes Monday, July 20. Public Works encourages eligible residents to complete the survey before the deadline.

Resident input is an important part of evaluating the pilot program and planning next steps. To request a paper copy of the survey, call 3-1-1. Complete la encuesta de la Fase 2 del Programa Piloto de Carritos de Basura y Reciclaje.

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