

THE WALTERS HERALD

The Voice of Cotton County

VOLUME 124, NO. 44

Thursday, October 30, 2025

Walters, Oklahoma

Section

\$1.00



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Photo provided by Cotton Electric

A Big Thank You To Cotton Electric Charitable Foundation And Cotton Electric Co-op

The City of Walters would like to extend our heartfelt thanks to the Cotton Electric Charitable Foundation and Cotton Electric Co-op for their generous \$2,500 contribution toward the Walters Splash Pad Project!

We are so grateful for the continued support Cotton Electric Co-op shows to our city and our residents. Their commitment to helping our community grow and thrive is truly appreciated. Walters is fortunate to have such a dedicated and community-minded business making a difference right here at home.

Out With The Old, In With The New!



Over the next few weeks, the City of Walters Public Works Authority – Water & Sewer Department will be replacing several fire hydrants around town as part of our ongoing efforts to upgrade and maintain our city's infrastructure.

Some of our current systems are aging, and these replacements are just the beginning of many improvements planned over the next 24 months. These projects are designed to strengthen our utilities and enhance the overall quality of life for our residents.

A huge thank you to our Water & Sewer Department Supervisor, JD Chasenah, and his dedicated crew for their hard work and commitment to keeping Walters running strong! Together, we're building a better Walters - one project at a time.

Keep Trick-Or-Treaters Safe This Halloween

[OCT. 22, 2025] — Halloween is creeping up on us, and kids will soon be out in their neighborhoods for trick-or-treat fun. The American Red Cross of Central and Southwest Oklahoma offers tips adults can follow to help keep the kids safe while enjoying the festivities.

- Trick-or-treaters need to see and be seen.
- Use face makeup instead of masks, which can make seeing difficult.
- Give trick-or-treaters a flashlight to light their way.
- Add reflective tape to costumes and trick-or-treat bags.
- If possible, have everyone wear light-colored clothing.
- Use flame-resistant costumes.
- When choosing costumes, stay away from long, trailing fabric.
- Make sure adults know where the kids are going. A parent or responsible adult should accompany young children door-to-door.
- Be cautious around animals, especially dogs.
- Walk, don't run.
- Only visit homes that have a porch light on. Accept treats at the door and never go inside.
- Walk only on sidewalks, not in the street. If there are no sidewalks, walk at the edge of the roadway, facing traffic.
- Look both ways before crossing the street, and cross only at the corner.
- Don't cross between parked cars, and don't cut across yards or use alleys.
- Drivers — use extra caution as youngsters may forget to look both ways before crossing.
- A grown-up should check all goodies before eating. Make sure to remove loose candy, open packages and remove any choking hazards. Discard any items with brand names that you are not familiar with.

If you are planning to welcome trick-or-treaters to your home, follow these safety steps:

- Light the area well so young visitors can see.
 - Sweep leaves from your sidewalks and steps. Clear your porch or front yard of obstacles someone could trip over.
 - Consider downloading the free Red Cross First Aid app before you go trick-or-treating. It puts expert advice for common emergencies at your fingertips.
- "From sprains to choking, there are some scary things that can happen around Halloween. Having the First Aid app on your phone makes finding what to do simple and can help keep your family safe," said Loida Haffener Salmond, Executive Director of the Red Cross of Central and Southwest Oklahoma.

Videos, interactive quizzes and simple step-by-step advice make learning with the First Aid app easy and engaging. You can access course certifications, new lifesaving First Aid content, and locate your nearest hospital in case of emergency. Select English or Spanish language with an in-app toggle.

Get the First Aid app by going to redcross.org/apps, find it on the Apple App store or Google Play store by searching for the American Red Cross, or text "GETFIRST" to 90999.

About the American Red Cross:

The American Red Cross shelters, feeds and provides comfort to victims of disasters; supplies about 40% of the nation's blood; teaches skills that save lives; distributes international humanitarian aid; and supports veterans, military members and their families. The Red Cross is a nonprofit organization that depends on volunteers and the generosity of the American public to deliver its mission. For more information, please visit redcross.org or CruzRojAmericana.org, or follow us on social media.

Walters Rotary Club Invites New Business Owner To Speak



Jeff Bauman & Kayla Kohout

Walters Rotary Club for welcomed Kayla Kohout to speak about her new studio she recently opened just north of Walters Bank & Trust.



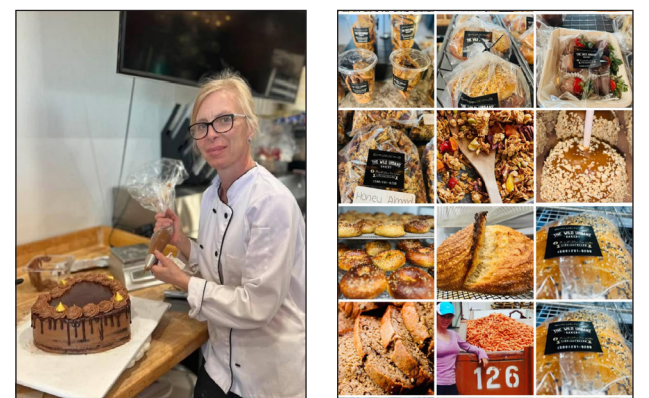
Business Highlight Of The Month: Urban Bakery

We're thrilled to shine the spotlight on one of Cotton County's true gems - Urban Bakery!

Big news just in: Urban Bakery is now officially part of Oklahoma Tourism and on the map for Farm to Table! This exciting recognition celebrates their commitment to quality, local ingredients, and the art of baking everything from scratch.

If you haven't stopped by yet, this is the perfect time! Join them this Sunday from 6 AM – 11 AM for breakfast and

taste the difference fresh, homemade goodness makes. Congratulations to Elisabeth Kirchner and the Urban Bakery team for this amazing accomplishment - we're so proud to have you right here in Cotton County! Urban Bakery at the Wild Urbans Farm is located at 181734 Highway 277, Walters, Oklahoma. (5 miles West & one mile North)



Cotton County Community News

PUBLIC NOTICE

(Published in The Walters Herald
October 23, 2025 & October 30, 2025)

The City of Walters hereby announces it will hold a Public Meeting to solicit input from all interested persons regarding a proposed Active Living Master Plan. Funding for this Active Living Master Plan has been received from the Oklahoma Department of Transportation through a grant administered by the Southwestern Oklahoma Regional Transportation Planning Organization. **The Public Meeting will be held from 5:00 p.m. to 6:00 p.m. on November 4, 2025 at the Walters City Hall, 129 E. Colorado, Walters, OK 73572.** Please notify the City Clerk in advance at 580-875-3337 if you or someone you know will need additional accommodations to attend the meeting.

Interested parties will have the opportunity to:

1. View maps of Walters.
2. Identify points of interest, locations of origination and destinations and trail elements that they would like to see represented in this plan.
3. Answer a brief questionnaire regarding Active Living Planning in the community.
4. Discuss Active Living Planning concepts with the City and their Consultants, Chisholm Trail Consulting, LLC and StudioScape.

Additional comments submitted in writing will be accepted up to 30 days after the date of the Public Meeting and can be sent to the following:

Mr. Matt LaFee
City Manager
129 East Colorado
Walters OK 73572

Active Living Planning Goals

The City of Walters intends to accomplish the following goal with this Planning Effort:

1. Determine interest of citizens in the community in establishing an Active Living Master Plan.
2. Determine types of uses for a potential Trail System in Walters.
3. Determine locations/points of interest to be connected by Trails.
4. Determine types of Trails and Trail Elements to be included in the Master Plan.

The Active Living Master Plan will be used to obtain future construction of Trails in Walters.

PUBLIC NOTICE

(Published in The Walters Herald
October 23, 2025 and October 30, 2025)

STATE OF OKLAHOMA OKLAHOMA TURNPIKE AUTHORITY Advertisement to Contractors November 20, 2025 – 10:30 A.M. Bid Opening

Plans and proposals for this bid opening will be available on October 23, 2025. No bidding proposals will be issued to any Contractor after November 19, 2025 10:30 A.M.. The cost for each bidding proposal is \$50.00 + tax. State Standard Specifications may be purchased by contacting ODOT Business Services Center Branch (405) 521-4509. No refunds will be made for bidding documents or specification books purchased.

Sample proposals, preliminary plans, long form and short form notices, order forms, bid tabs and awards, can be accessed on ODOT's Website: <https://oklahoma.gov/odot/business-center/contracts-and-proposals.html>

Bids must be prepared in accordance with the State Standard Specifications. Unless otherwise specified, bids for all projects must be submitted over the internet to Bid Express (<https://www.bidx.com>) using AASHTOware Project Bids. Instructions for using Bid Express, Project Bids, and the electronic bidding process are available from the Office Engineer Division. When written bids are allowed, sealed proposals may be delivered directly to the Office Engineer Division prior to the scheduled bid opening. For written bids, do not disassemble the bidding proposal in any way.

Any firm bidding a project as a joint venture must complete the 'Request for Joint Venture' form, which is posted on the ODOT website, prior to bidding.

Unless otherwise specified in the proposal, all bids must be submitted with a proposal guaranty equal to 5% of the bid total.

Questions and comments regarding the November 20, 2025 bid opening will be accepted until October 31, 2025. Please submit your questions through the ODOT pre-bid email address: ODOT-Prebid.Question@odot.org. Responses will be posted to the "Pre-bid Questions and Answers" section of the ODOT Contracts & Proposals webpage as they are received. It is recommended that interested contractors visit the "Pre-Bid Questions and Answers" link regularly in order to stay informed of the latest information: <https://oklahoma.gov/odot/business-center/contracts-and-proposals.html>

Unless otherwise noted in the proposal, upon award of the contract to the successful bidder, the contract will be completely and correctly executed by the contractor and returned to the Authority within ten (10) working days from the date of award. The Authority will have fourteen (14) working days from the date of award to complete its execution of the contract.

The Oklahoma Department of Transportation (ODOT) and the Oklahoma Turnpike Authority (OTA) ensures that no person or groups of persons shall, on the grounds of race, color, sex, religion, national origin, age, disability, retaliation or genetic information, be excluded from participation in, be denied the benefits of, or be otherwise subjected to discrimination under any and all programs, services, or activities administered by ODOT or OTA, their recipients, sub-recipients, and contractors. To request an accommodation please contact the ADA Coordinator at (405) 521-4140 or the Oklahoma Relay Service at 1-800-722-0353. If you have any ADA or Title VI questions email ODOT-adatitlevi@odot.org.

Description of work and location of project:

HEB-MC-65E HE BAILEY TURNPIKE COTTON AND COMANCHE
PAVEMENT REHABILITATION (DBR AND DIAMOND GRIND)
HE BAILEY TURNPIKE (I-44): FROM THE US-277 INTERCHANGE, EXTEND NORTH NEAR RANDLETT. HE BAILEY TURNPIKE (I-44): AT THE US-277 INTERCHANGE, NEAR GERONIMO.
STATE OF OKLAHOMA, OKLAHOMA TURNPIKE AUTHORITY (OTA)
- By: JOE ECHELLE, Director.

Call Order: 040
JP NO. 35318(04)

PUBLIC NOTICE

(Published in The Walters Herald
October 30, 2025, November 6, 2025 & November 27, 2025)

The Board of Education of Walters School District hereby announces that statutorily qualified individuals interested in running as a candidate for the #1 seat and #5 seat on the Walters Board of Education may file to run as a candidate for seat at the Cotton County Election Board between the hours of 8:00 a.m. and 5:00 p.m., December 1, through December 3, 2025.

PUBLIC NOTICE

(Published in The Walters Herald October 30, 2025)

IN THE DISTRICT COURT WITHIN AND FOR COTTON COUNTY STATE OF OKLAHOMA

COLONIAL SAVINGS, F.A.

Plaintiff,
vs.
PAUL VANTINE, et al.,
Defendants.

CJ-2024-23

NOTICE OF HEARING ON CONFIRMATION OF SALE

TO: Paul Vantine, Angela Vantine, Crown Asset Management, LLC, Midland Funding LLC, TD Bank USA, N.A., Occupants of the Premises, if any:

You and each of you, are notified that the Plaintiff in the above entitled and numbered cause has filed its Motion to Confirm Sale herein seeking confirmation by the Court of the Sheriff's sale held in this cause and that said motion has been set for hearing on November 25, 2025, at 10:00 o'clock a.m., in the District Court Room assigned, at the County Courthouse, Cotton County, Oklahoma.

You, and each of you, are further notified to be present for said hearing at said date, time and place, and show cause, if any you have, why aid motion should not be sustained and said sale confirmed.

DATED October 20, 2025.

/s/ Kelly M. Parker

Kelly M. Parker, OBA #22673
LAMUN MOCK CUNNINGHAM & DAVIS, P.C.
5621 N. Classen Blvd.
Oklahoma City, OK 73118
(405) 840-5900
Attorneys for Plaintiff

PUBLIC NOTICE

(Published in The Walters Herald October 23, 2025)

ATTENTION:

BILLIE ANNE TOLETT CORRELL TRUST
DAVID ANTHONY TOLLETT, TRUSTEE
1706 SW 11th Street
Lawton, OK 73501

NOTICE OF LIEN

MICHAEL H. TOLLETT has filed a lien in the amount of \$150,000.00 on the Metal Barn (40x60x14), located on said property:

Lots one (1) and two (2) and the south one half (S1/2) of the NE/4, Sec 4, T2s, R11w. I.M. containing 161.3 acres more or less, Cotton County, Oklahoma, less and except the 99.91 acres more or less conveyed in the Warranty Deed record, May12, 1984, in the Book 217, page 648, Cotton County, Oklahoma record.

MICHAEL H. TOLLETT
179133 N 2600 RD
WALTERS, OK 73572

PUBLIC NOTICE

(Published in The Walters Herald October 30, 2025)

IN THE DISTRICT COURT OF COTTON COUNTY STATE OF OKLAHOMA

IN THE MATTER OF THE ESTATE OF
SHIRLEY JEAN WILLINGHAM, Deceased. No. PB-2025-14

ORDER AND NOTICE OF HEARING PETITION FOR PROBATE OF WILL, APPOINTMENT OF PERSONAL REPRESENTATIVE AND DETERMINATION OF HEIRS, DEVISEES AND LEGATEES

THE STATE OF OKLAHOMA to the heirs, devisees, legatees, next of kin, creditors, and all persons interested in the estate of Shirley Jean Willingham, Deceased.

THE ABOVE ARE HEREBY NOTIFIED that Denise Wileen Willingham Dodson and Rebecca Sue Willingham have produced and filed in this Court, an instrument in writing purporting to be the last will and testament of Shirley Jean Willingham who is alleged to have died on or about the 15th day of May, 2024 leaving estate in this county; have filed in said Court a Petition praying for the probate of said will; have applied for Letters Testamentary on the Estate of Shirley Jean Willingham to be granted to Denise Wileen Willingham Dodson and Rebecca Sue Willingham; and have requested the Court to determine the identity of all heirs, devisees and legatees of the decedent.

IT IS HEREBY ORDERED AND THE ABOVE ARE HEREBY NOTIFIED that said Petition will be heard by said Court in the Courtroom of the Honorable Michael Flanagan in the Cotton County Courthouse, 301 North Broadway, Walters, Oklahoma, on the 10th day of November, 2025, at 11:30 o'clock a.m., when and where all persons interested may appear and contest the same.

IT IS FURTHER ORDERED AND THE ABOVE ARE HEREBY NOTIFIED that notice thereof be given by mail to all heirs, devisees and legatees of the said decedent, and if the name or address of any heir, devisee, or legatee is unknown, by one publication in a legal newspaper published in Comanche County. Such mailing and publication to be not less than ten (10) days prior to date of hearing.

WITNESS my hand and seal of said Court affixed this 27th day of October, 2025.

/s/ Michael C. Flanagan
THE HONORABLE MICHAEL FLANAGAN
Judge of the District Court

GUNKEL LAW GROUP
A PROFESSIONAL LIMITED LIABILITY COMPANY
Renee Walker Gunkel, OBA #12314
Preston M. Gunkel, OBA #33185

Attorneys for Petitioners
Post Office Box 1124
Altus, Oklahoma 73522
(580) 482-8204
renee@gunkellawgroup.com
preston@gunkellawgroup.com

OBITUARIES

Beverly Winton, 74 Waurika, OK



Funeral Services were held at First Baptist Church, Waurika, OK, Friday, October 24, 2025 with interment in the Waurika Cemetery under the direction of Hart-Wyatt Funeral Home in Walters, OK. Memorial Donations can be made to the Waurika Volunteer Fire Department, 107 W. Anderson, Waurika, OK 73573.

Beverly Ann (Brady) Winton was born to Neomi Lee (Phillips) Brady and Andrew Jackson Brady, Jr. on August 21, 1951 in Walters, OK and departed this life in Waurika, OK on October 21, 2025 at the age of 74 years and 2 months.

Beverly grew up at Walters and was in the Class of 1969. She married Harold Ray Winton on August 2, 1968 in Wichita Falls, TX and to the union 2 children were born. They made their home in Walters for the first year then moved to Waurika in 1969. Beverly worked as a billing clerk at city hall until she and Harold bought Fowlers Auto Service in November of 1976. The name was changed to Winton's Auto

Parts and Service, and she took over the responsibilities of bookkeeping and parts.

Beverly was an active Rainbow Girl growing up, with her grandparents being a part of the Masonic Lodge and Eastern Star. And she was an active member of First Baptist Church Walters during those years. Her hobbies have been ballgames, pig shows and going to the races. She never said no to racing in 57 years of marriage.

She was preceded in death by her mother, Neomi Brady; her grandparents who raised her, Eddie and Effie Phillips; her uncle, Ivan Eddie Phillips; and her aunt, Emma Thurman.

She is survived by her husband, Harold Winton of the home; her daughter, Lisa Rawlings and husband Luke of Matagorda, TX and kids, McCain, Walker and Emma Kreek; a son, Harold Winton Jr. and wife Kristi of Waurika, and sons Blaine and Jordan and his wife Katie; her sister, Anita Drake of Georgetown, TX; a nephew Michael Briscoe of Round Rock, TX; a niece, Brenda Gregory and Steven of Georgetown; her dog, Sugar; several cousins and friends.

Big Thanks!

A huge thank you to Powers Services for their generous donation of a new ice maker to the Senior Citizen/Center! It's already making a big difference in our daily activities. Your kindness and community spirit mean so much to us and to all the seniors we serve.

OBITUARIES

Jerry Bowles, 89 Walters, OK



Funeral Service at Union Valley Baptist Church, Coo kie town , O K , Wednesday, October 29, 2025 at 2:00 p.m., Rev. Cecil Boydston officiating. Interment in the Fairview Cemetery, Randlett, under the direction of Hart-Wyatt Funeral Home in Walters. Visitation was held on Tuesday, October 28th from 5-7:00 p.m.

Jerry Marion Bowles was born to Marion Malcolm and Leatrice Jewel (Boles) Bowles on March 24, 1936 in Randlett, OK and departed this life in Wichita Falls, TX on October 23, 2025 at the age of 89 years, 6 months and 29 days.

Jerry grew up at Coo kie town, OK, attending Union Valley Schools until the family moved to Randlett where he attended his junior and senior years. He married Viola Sue Wilkinson on December 25, 1953 at Randlett, making their home in Randlett, Burkburnett and Devol before settling at Walters in 1961. Jerry was employed at Cotton Electric from 1962 to 1996 as a lineman and later in the meter shop, retiring after 34 years with the company.

Jerry was an active member and deacon of Union Valley Baptist Church and he enjoyed studying his Bible. He also enjoyed doing crossword puzzles, visiting, and especially loved eating out at Rockin H in Temple, Carlitos in Burkburnett and Bill's Catfish in Waurika.

He was preceded in death by his parents, and his son Jimmy Bowles.

Survivors include 2 daughters, Kathy and Alan Thompson of Arapaho, OK and Debbie Bowles of Walters; 2 sisters, Lola Ritchie of Dean, TX and Cindy and Steve Grimstead of Wichita Falls, TX; 8 grandchildren, LeAnn, Misty, Alan II, Sam, Custis, Korbi, Freddie and Jerry; 21 great grandchildren, 14 great-great grandchildren, and one on the way.

Memorial Donations can be made to Hospice of Wichita Falls or Union Valley Baptist Church.

Elmer Beisch, 86 Randlett, OK



Clarence Elmer Beisch, Jr. was born to Clarence Elmer and Dortha Fae (Henson) Beisch on May 17, 1939 at Red Hill, NM and departed this life in Wichita Falls, TX on October 25, 2025 at the age of 86 years, 5 months and 8 days.

Elmer was born in a half dugout in New Mexico and his dad would get up first in the mornings to check for rattlesnakes. When he was 2 years of age the family moved to the Iowa Park, TX area where they were engaged in farming. He joined the U.S. Navy and soon married Louise Laverne Copeland on February 1, 1958 in Kamay, TX. To the union a daughter, Shelly, was born. They lived at Kamay until moving to Randlett, OK in 1970, living near his parents. They built a house in Randlett in 1973 and then moved back to the farm for several years after the death of his parents. In 2008 they moved back to town and later moved to Lake Arrowhead to be near their daughter in November of 2024.

Elmer farmed, worked in the oilfield, drove a school bus, and served 3 terms as Cotton County Commissioner for District 3. He enjoyed fishing and hunting, gardening, camping and trout fishing in Colorado. He was a member of the Church of Christ.

Elmer was preceded in death by his parents; a brother, Lee "LA" Beisch; and 2 sisters, Patricia Stewart and Verna Marshall.

He is survived by his wife, Laverne of the home; his daughter and son-in-law, Shelly and Rocky Underwood of Wichita Falls; 2 grandchildren, Shane Underwood and Michelle of Keota, OK, and Tiffany Anderson of Wichita Falls; 5 great grandchildren, Jacob Underwood, Hunter Wamba, BJ Anderson, Brandon Wellman and Robin Wellman; 3 great-great grandchildren, Malachi, Rue Ann and Avery; and 2 great-great grands on the way.

His life was celebrated with a private interment on Tuesday, October 28, 2025 in the Fairview Cemetery, Randlett, OK.

Memorial Donations can be made to Fairview Cemetery, C/O Karen Dabney, 195608 N 2500 RD, Devol, OK 7

WALTERS BANK & TRUST

HALLOWEEN SAFETY TIPS

1. **Do Not Trick-Or Treat Alone!**
Always go in a group and younger children should always be accompanied by an adult
2. **Be Aware of Confining Costumes!**
Avoid masks that obstruct vision and costumes that restrict movement
3. **Be Visible!**
Carry a flashlight and apply reflective strips to your costume so drivers can see you at night
4. **Do Not Enter!**
Only accept treats outside the front door-NEVER go inside a stranger's house or car for any reason
5. **No Eating!**
Discard any unwrapped or suspicious looking candy. Have parents inspect all candy/food before eating.

HAVE A SAFE AND FUN
FILLED HALLOWEEN

Walters Bank & Trust Company
Investing in the future. Investing in you
580-875-3396



DON'T FORGET TO
FALL
Back
SET YOUR CLOCK BACK ONE HOUR
2 NOVEMBER, 2025



Children & Chiropractic

Falls, sports, backpacks, and screen time all put strain on a child's spine. Over time, those small stresses can affect posture, concentration, and comfort.

Gentle chiropractic adjustments help children maintain proper alignment as they grow. Just like regular dental visits keep teeth healthy, spinal checkups support healthy development from head to toe.

Dr. Kevin Grimes provides safe, age-appropriate care for kids right here in Temple—helping them move, learn, and play without pain.

Temple Chiropractic
635 West Oregon Street
Temple, Oklahoma 73568
580-342-6774

Temple FFA Says Thank You!

The Temple FFA Chapter would like to extend our heartfelt thanks to everyone who made our Annual Dinner and Auction such a great success on October 27th at Temple High School.

Our baked potato bar and brisket dinner, with brisket prepared by Fritz Burrows and sliced for serving by Caleb Patman, was enjoyed by all—and your donations toward that meal helped make the evening possible.

A special thank-you goes out to Representative Trey Caldwell and Senator Spencer Kern for donating their time to serve as auctioneers, as well as for their personal support and purchases during the event. Your enthusiasm helped make the auction both fun and successful!

We also wish to thank England Fuel and Farm Supply of Waurika for donating their incredible "Farmer's Basket" filled with tools and supplies, along with their creative "Haunting Basket."

A heartfelt thank-you as well to Libby Whitecotton and Karen Richman for their invaluable assistance with the auction, and to every parent, student, and community member who gave their time, energy, and donations to support our local FFA youth.

This year's auction featured several student-built and future projects—including a custom grill or fire pit and an above-ground flower bed, both to be built to buyer specifications, along with a steel-welded planter—all showcasing the skills and hard work of our Temple FFA Chapter members.

And finally, a big thank-you to our generous buyers: Orville Sturdivant, Roger Stringer, Garrett & Jean Thompson, McIntyre Insurance, Baylor Sparks, Red River Dent Repair, Machelle & Kevin Grimes, Terry Rankin, Brent McIntyre, and Josh Gower.

Your continued support helps our students grow as leaders in agriculture, responsibility, and community service. We are proud to be part of such a strong and giving community.

— The Temple FFA Chapter

City of Walters Announces

Trick-or-Treating Festivities

The City of Walters would like to share information regarding this year's Halloween festivities:

Business Trick-or-Treating:

Local businesses are encouraged to recognize Halloween on Friday, October 31st, during normal business hours.

Community Trick-or-Treating & Main Street Event:

Due to a scheduling conflict with Senior Night and the Walters football game on Friday, families are encouraged to participate in Trick-or-Treating and the Main Street Trunk-or-Treat festivities on Saturday, November 1st.

The Main Street Trunk-or-Treat, sponsored by First Baptist Church, will be held from 4:00 p.m. to 6:00 p.m. on Saturday.

While Halloween is not an official City-scheduled holiday, we hope this clarification helps everyone plan their celebrations safely and conveniently. Families are welcome to Trick-or-Treat on either Friday or Saturday night.

Thank you, and we wish everyone a Fun and Safe Halloween weekend in Walters!

WALTERS

NUTRITION CENTER MENU

Milk & Margarine Available Daily

Menu subject to change, due to Product Availability

You MUST Have Reservations

For Reservations, or if you have any questions, please

call
(580) 875-9044

November 3, 2025- November 7, 2025

Monday, November 3:

Tuna Salad on Croissant, Lettuce, Tomato Soup, Fruit Salad, Chocolate Chip Cookies

Tuesday, November 4:

Salisbury Steak, Mashed Potatoes, Gravy, Corn, Bread or Roll, Sweet Potato Pie

Wednesday, November 5:

Mac & Cheese w/ Franks Casserole, Green Beans, Carrots, Bread, Krispy Treat

Thursday, November 6:

Participant's Choice

Friday, November 7:

Cheeseburger on Bun, Lettuce, Tomato, Baked Beans, Tator Tots, Frosted Brownie



ASSOCIATION OF MATURE AMERICAN CITIZENS
Social Security Matters
by National Social Security Advisor at the AMAC Foundation,
the non-profit arm of the Association of Mature American
Citizens
MEDIA CONTACT:
John Grimaldi
jgrimaldi@verizon.net
917-846-8485

Ask Rusty – Do I Need to Sign Up for an Online Social Security Account?

Dear Rusty: I recently I heard the tail end of a radio program which was discussing "signing up for my Social Security account." I am now 76 years old and have been receiving my SSA monthly amount directly into a credit union account for years. Since the time when I applied to begin receiving Social Security, I have had no need to contact SSA again since everything is working fine. I do not like having to use the Internet. It seems the government is just giving me busy work and requiring me to remember usernames, passwords, etc. just when I am trying desperately to simplify my life. Can you shed any light on the need to sign up for an online SSA account by answering this:

1) What is the background regarding this "call" by the SSA to create an online account?

2) Why is the SSA wanting us to have "accounts"? Mysteriously, no one I have asked is able to give me a reason why we should have "accounts" on-line.

3) What happens if I do not sign-up for an "account"?

4) Is there a window of time during which we must "sign up"?

Thanking you in advance for any light you can shed on this issue.

Signed: Concerned Senior

Dear Concerned: While creating an online Social Security account is recommended by the Social Security Administration, doing so is more of a convenience than a necessity. It is mainly a way to confirm your identity to Social Security in advance, in case you need to contact them in the future to make changes to your SS account. If you don't plan to make any changes, then it is not mandatory for you to create an online "my Social Security" account. Nothing will change for you – you will continue to get your monthly benefits as you have been doing all these years.

Regarding your specific questions:

1. What is the background? Social Security has, for many years, been encouraging people to do business with them "online." This is, essentially, a way to improve the efficiency of a) getting your needs handled more quickly, and b) improving SSA's internal efficiency so as to handle more transactions with fewer staff.

2. Why does SSA want you to have an online account? SS fraud has become an issue, with nefarious individuals constantly trying to get at a person's Social Security (and other) government benefits. As part of its process for online access, SSA has evolved to a quite secure online identification process, which includes modern security techniques. These include things like "Two-Factor Identification" and use of certain specific identification measures through two main programs for access to government systems (known as LOGIN.gov and ID.me). These create a single pre-verified way to access multiple government systems (such as SSA, IRS, VA, etc.). It means that only one ID and password are required to access numerous government systems and ensures that those who access the account are the correct person. It is primarily a way to protect your benefits from others and prevent fraud.

3. What happens if I do not sign-up for an "account"? Nothing will happen, unless you have a need to change something with Social Security. For example, if you for some reason wanted to change the financial account to which your SS benefits are deposited. With a secure LOGIN.gov account you could make that change quickly using your online account. Without a secure online account, you would, instead, need to make an appointment to visit your local Social Security office to make the change and provide proof of who you are. Again, this is to reduce fraud.

4. Is there a window of time during which we must "sign up"? As indicated above, there is no time in which you must "sign up." If you do not sign up for online access, and don't need to change anything with respect to your SS benefits, then you do not need to create an online account.

So, while creating an online SSA account is highly recommended, it is not mandatory for those who have no need to interact directly with the Social Security Administration.

This article is intended for information purposes only and does not represent legal or financial guidance. It presents the opinions and interpretations of the AMAC Foundation's staff, trained and accredited by the National Social Security Association (NSSA). NSSA and the AMAC Foundation and its staff are not affiliated with or endorsed by the Social Security Administration or any other governmental entity. To submit a question, visit our website (amacfoundation.org/programs/social-security-advisory) or email us at ssadvisor@amacfoundation.org.

About AMAC

The 2.4 million member Association of Mature American Citizens [AMAC] www.amac.us is a vibrant, vital senior advocacy organization that takes its marching orders from its members. AMAC Action is a non-profit, non-partisan organization representing the membership in our nation's capital and in local Congressional Districts throughout the country. And the AMAC Foundation (www.AmacFoundation.org) is the Association's non-profit organization, dedicated to supporting and educating America's Seniors. Together, we act and speak on the Association members' behalf, protecting their interests and offering a practical insight on how to best solve the problems they face today. Live long and make a difference by joining us today at www.amac.us/join-amac.

ANGEL TREE 2025

The Walters Angel Tree will accept angel requests beginning Monday, October 6th and will end on Thursday, November 6th. We will only be accepting 30 applicants. The program is only available to those families that reside in WALTERS. You must show proof of residency, current utility/gas bill. Children between the ages of birth to 18 are eligible to be signed up for the Angel Tree.

Requests to add your child to the Angel Tree list must be made in person at the Cotton County DHS office between 10am-4pm.

Angels will be available to pickup at the Walters Bank & Trust beginning Monday, November 10th. The deadline to select an Angel to buy for is Friday, December 5th. All gifts must be returned to Walters Bank & Trust by Monday, December 8th no later than 2pm. Please make sure Angel numbers are recorded on the gift. Distribution will be on Friday, December 12th, between 1pm-3pm and Monday, December 15th, between 4pm-6pm. You must bring your letter to pick up items. Pickup location will be at 202 North Broadway, enter in from the REAR OF THE BUILDING. If you cannot pick up your gifts, please call 580-875-3337 to make arrangements. Each town will be doing their own Angel Tree Walters, Temple, Randlett

Looking Back

By Linda Norman Garrison

The Walters Herald Nov. 7, 1940

Alvin Sweeten, 22 year old son of Noah Sweeten, of the Randlett community, is recovering in the Walters hospital from the effects of first and second degree burns received late Thursday of last week at a bridge construction job on Highway 277, three miles north of Randlett. He was painfully burned about the face, arms, body and legs when gasoline ignited as he was pouring it into a tractor. He told hospital attendants that when the gasoline ignited, he jumped away from the flames, and the burning fluid was thrown against his face and clothing. Ablaze all over, he dashed for a small pond nearby, and with the aid of companions, was able to extinguish the flames...A daughter was born at the Walters hospital October 31 to Mr. and Mrs. O. D. Rusk, of the Taylor store community...A boy was born November 7 to Mr. and Mrs. John Axton at the Walters hospital. He has been named John Boren...Butler and Montie Service Station at the southwest corner of Broadway and Missouri is now open for business...A marriage license was issued to Preston E. Abbott, 21, Fort Sill, and Annie Strickland, 18, Walters; and Carl Smith, 23 Altus, and Waunita Weimer, 22, Temple.

The Walters Herald Nov. 4, 1965

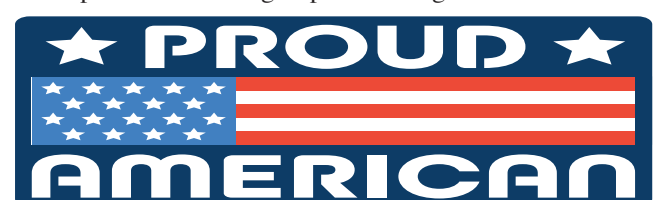
Dr. Jary S. Mayes, son of Mr. and Mrs. Bob Mayes of the Hulen community, recently received his PhD degree in biochemistry from Michigan State University...Mrs. Max Parrish, Walters, was the outstanding winner at the Oklahoma Chrysanthemum show at Oklahoma City October 30 and 31. Entering nine arrangements in the artistic division, Mrs. Parrish placed first, second or third in all entries, with two first, five second and two third place arrangements...Seaman Recruit Arnold W. Martin, USN, son of Mrs. Alice D. Martin of Walters, has begun seven weeks of Navy basic training at the U. S. Naval Training Center, San Diego, Calif...2nd Lt. Ray E. McCoy, 23, son of Mr. and Mrs. Charles C. McCoy, route 2, Walters, completed a nine-week infantry officers basic course at the Army Infantry School at Fort Benning, Ga., Oct. 12.

The Walters Herald Oct. 31, 1985

Tammy Jo Ann Martens, of Stillwater, became the bride of Richard C. Scott, of Lawton, in a ceremony Saturday, October 19, at Bennett Memorial Chapel on the Oklahoma State University campus. The bride is the daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Ralph N. Martens, of Walters. The groom is the son of Mrs. Josephine R. Scott, of Erie, Pennsylvania...Mr. and Mrs. John Bailey, of Walters, celebrated their 50th Wedding Anniversary October 7, in the home of their daughter and son-in-law, Mr. and Mrs. Clayton Fields, in Ardmore. John and Ruth were married October 7, 1935, in the home of Mr. and Mrs. Seth Bailey in Lawton.

The Temple Tribune Feb. 15, 1962

The Pioneer school building, approximately 26 x 50 feet, located three miles north of Temple, will be sold by sealed bid by the Temple board of education...Temple's FFA judging team placed 10th in a field of 29 similar groups judging cattle at a steer and heifer show held in Wichita Falls, Feb. 8. Kent Cobb, Mike Bone, Billy Swan and Leslie Jackson made up the team. In individual judging competition Mike Bone placed sixth in a group numbering 120.



You Are Invited To The "Veterans Day Celebration"

The students and staff of Walters Public Schools invite area Veterans, parents and community members to attend a special



"Veterans Day Celebration," on Nov. 11 at 9:00 a.m. in the high School Gymnasium. WHS Class of 2021 Senior Airman Norman will be the featured patriotic speaker this year.

Senior Airman Norman left home at 18 to join the Air Force in April 2022. He attended technical school at Shepherd AFB, TX. He was then stationed at Holloman AFB, NM where he still remains as an Avionics Technician for the MQ-9 Reaper. He deployed to Greece at the beginning of this year and returned at the beginning of August.

PUMPKIN PATCH ON BROADWAY

(Inclement weather site is Youth building of First Baptist Church)

November 1
4:00 pm-6:00 pm



FREE



WALTERS FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH
Games, Food & Candy

Calvary Baptist Church

Pastor Roger Snow

Trusting and Trustworthy

Daniel 6: 4 says; "(4) Then the presidents and princes sought to find occasion against Daniel concerning the kingdom; but they could find none occasion nor fault; forasmuch as he was faithful, neither was there any error or fault founding him."

We can't always do a lot about who are untrustworthy, but we can do something about ourselves, or rather, we can let the Lord do something within us. He is utterly trustworthy. Psalm 119: 86 says; "(86) All thy commandments are faithful: they persecute me wrongfully; help thou me."

Psalm 145: 13; "(13) Thy kingdom is an everlasting kingdom, and thy dominion endureth throughout all generations." As Christians, we're to grow in His faithful love and kindness. One way to do this is by fostering trust in our relationships. Brotherly kindness begins with a trustworthy spirit, the willingness to be honest and kind. If you've been betrayed, seek to forgive. And in all your dealings, be someone who can be trusted with the cares, secrets, and confidences of others. Ask God to help you grow in your ability to be trusting and trusted.

James C. Gibbons once said, "Among the blessings and enjoyments of this life, there are few that can be compared in value to the possession of a faithful friend."

JC Bunkhouse

Pastor Wes Kinder

Be Saved!

(a favorite) Next time you consider going for a ride in your pickup you might want to think about something different. It has been reported somewhere that automobiles are responsible for 20 percent of all fatal accidents. And you probably don't want to stay home either; it's been reported that 26% of all accidents occur within five miles of home. That's why you might want to think about moving.

The doctor has told me I should get out and walk, but I don't know... 14% of all accidents happen to pedestrians. And air, rail, and water make up 16% of all accidents. (Please do not rely upon the accuracy of the statistics that I have reported!) But there is good news! It is believed that only .01% of all accidents occur during church meetin's. And most of those are due to previous medical disorders. So, if that holds true, then shouldn't we just stay at church and worship and serve the Lord?

Now, it is possible that it could be just a little higher around cowboy churches and certain redneck churches, but I looked and I couldn't find any statistics for accidents of any kind while riding a horse or modified tractor during a worship service. There is a slightly higher than average accident rate in church having to do with venomous snakes. Who would of thunk it?

David writes in Psalms 4:8, In peace I will both lie down and sleep, for You alone, O LORD, make me to dwell in safety. (nasb)

I've mentioned having previously worked around buffalo. I know that I prayed for the whole crew of us every time we went inside the buffalo pens. I remember thinkin', "I don't care what buffalo meat taste like or how lean it is, bein' a buffalero can get you hurt!" And that is especially notable when you have a ton of bull bison running right at you! (Accurate statement!)

There's a story of a monastery in Portugal, perched high on a 3,000 foot cliff and accessible only by a terrifying ride in a swaying basket. The basket was pulled with a single rope by several strong men, perspiring under the strain of the fully loaded basket. One American tourist who visited the site got nervous halfway up the cliff when he noticed that the rope was old and frayed.

Hoping to lessen his fear he asked, 'How often do you replace the rope?' The monk in charge replied, 'Whenever it breaks!'" (That give a whole new meaning to the word recall, huh!)

Often times, we start something, and we're not worried about safety or whether it is right or wrong, we just want to do it. Like the basket, there's no turning back. And then we see the frayed rope! Have you ever noticed that it seems like everything we do has a "frayed rope" attached to it?

I reckon if something else don't get us first, that we'll eventually die of old age. Just place your trust in Jesus! The rope He carries will never fray, He'll never drop you. All this world has to offer will not keep you safe. Only Jesus can deliver you safely to the Father. "For God so loved the world, that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him shall not perish, but have eternal life. For God did not send the Son into the world to judge the world, but that the world might be saved through Him." (John 3:16-17 nasb)

Others will let you down. Family will let you down. Friends will let you down. I will let you down. No, we don't mean to, but I've got a news flash: we're not perfect. Romans 3:23 tells us that we all sin and fall short of God's glory. There's One that can change our outcome—trust in the rope Jesus throws. He will pull you to safety. Seek Him. Know Him. His Word is solid.

Choose Jesus, choose life! And find a Bible believin' church where you "fit in" and know, grow, and follow Christ! Tell others! See y'all at church and keep PRAYIN' for HIS HARVEST! And y'all please KEEP PRAYIN' for RAIN! It keeps the drought away! Amen.

Crossword Solution

| | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
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| E | B | B | S | | M | E | T | | P | E | A | L | | | |
| B | E | A | T | | M | E | R | E | | R | I | N | G | S | |
| B | A | B | A | | A | R | I | A | | E | N | D | E | D | |
| | K | E | N | D | R | I | C | K | | F | E | S | S | | |
| | | | C | O | T | T | A | | S | I | C | | | | |
| S | L | E | E | P | Y | | | | U | P | T | O | N | O | W |
| A | I | D | | E | R | R | A | T | A | | N | A | T | O | |
| U | N | I | F | Y | | E | R | A | | R | E | C | T | O | |
| D | E | C | O | | A | S | T | H | M | A | | R | E | D | |
| I | N | T | R | U | S | T | | | A | D | D | E | R | S | |
| | | | E | S | P | | | C | A | C | A | O | | | |
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| P | O | L | Y | | | S | A | N | | | | E | K | E | D |

Cameron Opera Workshop To Present

"The Magic Of Mozart"

A talented group of Cameron University vocal students will present "The Magic of Mozart: An Evening of Comedy, Romance and Magic from Mozart's Most Beloved Operas" on Thursday, November 13, at 7:30 p.m. in the McCutcheon Recital Hall. The program will feature scenes and arias from "Le Nozze di Figaro," "Così fan tutte," "Don Giovanni," "Die Zauberflöte" and "Bastien und Bastienne" in the original languages, with subtitles.

Tickets purchased at the door are \$10 for adults and \$8 for senior citizens, members of the military and non-CU students. Cameron University students, faculty and staff receive one free admission with their CU I.D. Tickets can be reserved by calling the box office at 580-581-2346. Tickets can also be purchased in advance online at <https://www.cameron.edu/art-music-and-theatre/events/buy-tickets>. (Taxes and processing fees apply.)

"This is one of the best opera workshops I can remember," says Dr. Christian Morren, assistant professor of music. "The level of singing and commitment to excellence is better than ever. Our faculty have guided these students in finding both the humor and beauty in Mozart's music, and the students have truly stepped up to the plate to bring a fun and entertaining evening to our audience."

Under Morren's direction, the production showcases Mozart's humor, lyricism and emotional depth, which are brought to life by a talented cast of Cameron voice students. Mariah Baggs, Cache, and Divina D'Haiti, Kirstin Dunn, Emily Gill, Winston Hartley, Mvnte July, Kaitlan Kaulaity, Alex Miller, Victoria Moody, Alyssa Price, and Lillie Wright, all of Lawton, will demonstrate their vocal prowess. Dr. Greg Hoepfner will provide accompaniment on piano.

Morren has collaborated with faculty members Hoepfner, Doris Lambert and Khalil Cabrera-Tosado to prepare the students for this performance.

"The team has worked closely with the students to teach the language, nuance and artistry of Mozart's vocal style," she says. "The students are performing each scene in the original language (Italian and German), with English subtitles projected for full audience understanding."

The concert will feature beloved favorites such as "Non più andrai," "Deh vieni non tardar," "Voi che sapete," "Soave sia il vento," "Pa-pa-pa," and the iconic "Queen of the Night" aria. "Though composed more than two centuries ago, Mozart's operas continue to resonate with modern audiences," Morren says. "His stories of love, jealousy, forgiveness and the triumph of good over folly remind us that human emotion transcends time. The humor, charm and moral insight in Mozart's works are as relevant today as when they were first performed."

CU's annual opera workshop provides students with hands-on experience in operatic singing, stage movement and character study. The workshop presents both scene programs and fully staged productions, preparing students for professional and educational careers in the performing arts. By producing nearly every part of the production — from stage design, costumes, and movement to translations and lighting — the students gain a deep understanding of the many elements that bring opera to life.

"The Opera Workshop exists today because of the vision and generosity of the Southwest Oklahoma Opera Guild, a group of passionate individuals who believed that opera should have a home in southwest Oklahoma," Morren says. "Their foresight and love for the arts created opportunities that continue to inspire our students and community. Many of those supporters are still investing in the arts today, and we are deeply grateful for their continued dedication. Thanks to their commitment and the establishment of an endowment, opera remains alive and thriving at Cameron University, impacting generations to come."

"Believe in yourself, and the rest will fall into place. Have faith in your own abilities, work hard, and there is nothing you cannot accomplish." — Brad Henry

Editorial: The True Value Of Beef

Consumers across Oklahoma have noticed that beef prices are higher today than they've been in quite some time. But while the dollar amount on the grocery receipt may be larger, the story behind that number deserves a closer look. When compared to the average hourly wage, beef today costs about the same as it did decades ago. In other words, beef has held its value remarkably well — delivering high-quality, nutritious protein at a fair price for hardworking families.

That stability doesn't happen by accident. Oklahoma's ranchers have faced some of the toughest years in memory. Persistent drought, soaring input costs, and increasing layers of government regulation have created enormous pressure on those who raise cattle. Yet through it all, our ranching families have not only persevered — they've improved. Advances in genetics, animal care, and grazing management have led to beef that is more flavorful, consistent, and sustainably produced than ever before. Considering all that, it is fair that the price of beef today reflects its true value.

Behind every steak, roast, and burger is a rancher who rises before daylight, cares for their cattle, and manages their land with pride and responsibility. Their commitment ensures that when you choose beef, you're supporting local families and a way of life deeply rooted in stewardship and hard work.

Oklahomans continue to show their appreciation through strong demand for beef, both at grocery stores and restaurants across our state. For that, Oklahoma ranchers are sincerely grateful. Your continued trust and purchase of beef fuels rural economies and keeps our state's proud cattle heritage alive.

So, as you fire up the grill, sit down at your favorite restaurant or gather around a robust pot of chili, know this — every bite of beef represents quality, dedication, and the enduring partnership between Oklahoma's consumers and cattle producers.

- Ford Drummond, President, Oklahoma Cattlemen's Association.



Sudoku Solution

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|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 7 | 3 | 9 | 4 | 1 | 8 | 6 | 5 | 2 |
| 1 | 5 | 2 | 7 | 6 | 3 | 8 | 9 | 4 |
| 8 | 6 | 4 | 5 | 2 | 9 | 1 | 3 | 7 |
| 2 | 4 | 5 | 1 | 3 | 6 | 7 | 8 | 9 |
| 6 | 1 | 3 | 9 | 8 | 7 | 2 | 4 | 5 |
| 9 | 7 | 8 | 2 | 5 | 4 | 3 | 1 | 6 |
| 4 | 9 | 1 | 3 | 7 | 2 | 5 | 6 | 8 |
| 5 | 8 | 7 | 6 | 4 | 1 | 9 | 2 | 3 |
| 3 | 2 | 6 | 8 | 9 | 5 | 4 | 7 | 1 |

Worship With Us In Cotton County

ASSEMBLY OF GOD
225 VIRGINIA AVE., WALTERS
9:45 A.M. - Sunday School
10:45 A.M. - Sunday Morning
6:00 P.M. - Sunday Evening
7:00 P.M. - Wednesday Evening

FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH
207 W. MAIN, TEMPLE
9:30 A.M. - Sunday School
10:45 A.M. - Sunday Worship
6:00 P.M. - Sunday Evening
7:00 P.M. - Wednesday Prayer

~Church of Christ~
CHURCH OF CHRIST
400 S. BROADWAY, WALTERS
10:00 A.M. - Sunday School
10:50 A.M. - Sunday Worship
5:00 P.M. - Sunday Evening
7:00 P.M. Wednesday Evening

~NAZARENE~
CHURCH OF THE NAZARENE
201 E. COLORADO, WALTERS
10:30 A.M. - Sunday Worship
6:00 P.M. - Sunday Evening
7:00 P.M. - Discipleship Class

RANDLETT ASSEMBLY OF GOD
MAIN ST. RANDLETT
10:45 A.M. - Sunday School
6:00 P.M. - Sunday Evening

FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH OF DEVOL
900 N. WICHITA ST., DEVOL
9:45 A.M. - Sunday School
10:55 A.M. - Sunday Worship
6:00 P.M. - Sunday Evening

CHURCH OF CHRIST
415 N. COMMERCIAL, TEMPLE
9:45 A.M. - Sunday School
10:30 A.M. - Sunday Worship
6:00 P.M. - Sunday Evening
6:30 P.M. - Wednesday Evening

~NON-DENOMINATIONAL~
FIRST CHRISTIAN CHURCH
118 E. CALIFORNIA, WALTERS
9:30 A.M. - Sunday School
10:30 A.M. - Sunday Worship

OPEN DOOR CHURCH OF GOD
225 E. ARLINGTON, WALTERS
10:00 A.M. - Sunday School
11:00 A.M. - Sunday Morning
6:00 P.M. - Sunday Evening
7:00 P.M. - Wednesday Evening

NEW SALEM BAPTIST
3 MILES WEST & 3 MILES NORTH OF WALTERS
10:00 A.M. - Sunday School
11:00 A.M. - Sunday Worship
6:30 P.M. - Sunday Evening
6:30 P.M. - Wednesday Evening

CHURCH OF THE LORD JESUS CHRIST
201 S. POPLAR AVE., TEMPLE
9:30 A.M. - Sunday School
11:00 A.M. - Sunday Worship
6:30 P.M. - Wednesday Evening

GOD'S HELPING HANDS
318 S. THIRD, WALTERS
10:00 A.M. - Sunday School
11:00 A.M. - Sunday Worship
6:00 P.M. - Sunday Worship
7:00 P.M. - Wednesday Evening

~BAPTIST~
BIBLE BAPTIST CHURCH
317 E. VIRGINIA, WALTERS
10:00 A.M. - Sunday School
11:00 A.M. - Sunday Morning
2:00 P.M. - Sunday Afternoon
6:30 P.M. - Wednesday Youth
7:30 P.M. - Wednesday Evening

BROWN BAPTIST CHURCH
4 MILES SOUTH OF WALTERS
9:30 A.M. - Sunday School
10:45 A.M. - Sunday Morning
6:00 P.M. - Wednesday Pray, Bible

~METHODIST~
TEMPLE UNITED METHODIST CHURCH
411 W. OREGON ST., TEMPLE
9:15 A.M. - Sunday School
10:15 A.M. - Sunday Worship

HEART OF TRUTH
514 E. CENTRAL, TEMPLE
10:00 A.M. - Sunday School
11:00 A.M. - Sunday Worship
6:00 P.M. - Sunday Worship
7:00 P.M. - Wednesday Evening

CALVARY BAPTIST CHURCH
801 E. INDIANA, WALTERS
9:45 A.M. - Sunday School
11:00 A.M. - Sunday Morning
6:30 P.M. - Wednesday Evening

WESTSIDE BAPTIST CHURCH
8TH & NEVADA, WALTERS
9:45 A.M. - Sunday School
10:45 A.M. - Sunday Worship

FIRST METHODIST CHURCH
RANDLETT
8:45 A.M. - Sunday School
10:15 A.M. - Sunday Worship

~PRESBYTERIAN~
FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH
318 & KANSAS, WALTERS
9:00 A.M. - Sunday Worship
January, March, May, July, September, & November

FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH
2006 W. MISSOURI, WALTERS
9:30 A.M. - Sunday School
10:45 A.M. - Sunday Worship
6:00 P.M. - Sunday Evening
6:30 P.M. - Wednesday Evening

~Catholic~
ST. PATRICK CATHOLIC CHURCH
3RD & OHIO, WALTERS
9:45 A.M. Sunday Mass

FIRST UNITED METHODIST CHURCH
202 E. OKLAHOMA AVE., WALTERS
9:15 A.M. - Prayer Time
9:45 A.M. - Sunday School
10:50 A.M. - Sunday Worship
5:30 P.M. - Wednesday Youth

FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH
302 W. TEXAS, TEMPLE
9:00 A.M. - Sunday Worship
February, April, June, August, October, & December

Our sponsors urge you to attend the church of your choice!

First State Bank
111 S. Commercial, Temple
(580) 342-6265

Hart-Wyatt Funeral Home
202 E. Colorado, Walters
(580) 875-3323

Cotton County Drug & Gift
619 E. Missouri, Walters
(580) 875-6161

Cotton County School Menus November 3 - 7, 2025

Walters



BREAKFAST

Monday, Nov. 3:
French Toast, Sausage, Fruit, Juice, Milk

Tuesday, Nov. 4:
Cereal or Oatmeal, Cheese, Toast, Fruit, Juice, Milk

Wednesday, Nov. 5:
Pancake on a Stick, Fruit, Juice, Milk

Thursday, Nov. 6:
Biscuits & Gravy, Sausage, Fruit, Juice, Milk

Friday, Nov. 7:
Cereal, Toast, Fruit, Juice, Milk

LUNCH

Monday, Nov. 3:
Chicken Strips, Mashed Potatoes & Gravy, Green Beans, Rolls, Fruit, Milk

Tuesday, Nov. 4:
Walking Tacos, Ranch Beans, Salsa, Fruit, Milk

Wednesday, Nov. 5:
Chicken Noodle Soup, Grilled Cheese, Broccoli w/ranch, Fruit, Milk

Thursday, Nov. 6:
BBQ Meatballs, Mac & Cheese, Breadsticks, Cucumber w/ranch, Fruit, Milk

Friday, Nov. 7:
Hamburgers, Sweet Potato Fries, Baked Beans, Fruit, Milk

Temple



BREAKFAST

Monday, Nov. 3:
Cereal, Toast & Jelly, Fruit Juice, Milk

Tuesday, Nov. 4:
Biscuit, Sausage & Egg, Fruit, Juice, Milk

Wednesday, Nov. 5:
Breakfast Tornado, Fruit, Juice, Milk

Thursday, Nov. 6:
Donuts, Fruit, Juice, Milk

Friday, Nov. 7:
French Toast Sticks, Fruit, Juice, Milk

LUNCH

Monday, Nov. 3:
Rib Sandwich, Pork & Beans, Pickle Spear, Fruit, Milk

Tuesday, Nov. 4:
Tacos, Salad, Pinto Beans, Fruit, Milk

Wednesday, Nov. 5:
Steak Fingers, Potatoes & Gravy, Carrots, Rolls, Fruit, Milk

Thursday, Nov. 6:
Pizza, Salad, Corn, Garlic Bread, Fruit, Milk

Friday, Nov. 7:
Hamburger, French Fries, Lettuce, Tomato, Pickle, Fruit, Milk

Big Pasture



BREAKFAST

Monday, Nov. 3:
Muffin Monday, Chocolate Chip Muffins, Cereal, Toast, Fruit, Juice, Milk

Tuesday, Nov. 4:
Oatmeal, Cereal, Toast, Fruit, Juice, Milk

Wednesday, Nov. 5:
English Muffin/Bacon, Egg and Cheese, Toast, Fruit, Juice, Milk

Thursday, Nov. 6:
Cereal, Toast, Juice, Fruit, Milk

Friday, Nov. 7:
Sausage Gravy, Biscuits, Cereal, Fruit, Juice, Milk

LUNCH

Monday, Nov. 3:
Orange Chicken, Teriyaki Rice, Carrots, Fruit, Milk

Tuesday, Nov. 4:
Beef Fajita Quesadillas, Rice, Beans, Fruit, Salsa, Milk

Wednesday, Nov. 5:
Pizza, Salad, Corn on Cob, Fruit, Milk

Thursday, Nov. 6:
Corn Dogs, Chips & Salsa, Green Beans, Fruit, Milk

Friday, Nov. 7:
Beef Tips & Noodles, Broccoli, Fruit, Roll, Milk



Congratulations to the 7th Grade Team "Blue Fusion"! Great effort made by Rae Scott, Sadie Mallow, Milly Sturgess, and Jaycee Estes for earning 3rd Place in the Co-Oprenur Competition on Wednesday, October 22.

The Co-Oprenur Contest is an entrepreneur challenge competition, sponsored by Oklahoma electric cooperatives, Oklahoma Council on Economic Education, and UCO. Teams are given a community problem to solve and they design a cooperative business which they present to judges.

Walters High School Softball Small West-All Region Honors!



Ashlynn Dryden



Zoie Soper

Congratulations WHS Softball - Small West All-Region honors! Zoie Soper, Pitcher 2nd Team & Ashlynn Dryden, Utility 2nd Team!

Walters Elementary Singing Sensations 2025-2026 Officers



President Racie Burns, Vice President Norah Brown, Secretary Brycen Pennington

Singing Sensations Students



5th/6th Grade Girls Temple Tournament Consolation Champs!



What a game! Score: 23-21
With an all 5th grade squad, through the whole tournament, the girls never wavered and are bringing home some much deserved hardware. It was a total team effort.
MVP award for the tournament goes to all girls on and off the court. Playing on the bench, the energy never quit for each other! A BIG Thank you to Charlie Smith & Meredith Schumpert for coaching!



Date Change Notice

Walters Junior High & 7th grade Basketball - The home game vs Frederick has been moved from November 11 to November 3.

Congratulations to our Blue Devils Football Team on a 20-6 victory against Stratford! Battle of Honey Springs Education Day

Educators and reenactors by their demonstration tables, speaking to the public on points of the Honey Springs Battlefield Education Day
T. S. Akers making a Honeys Springs Battle presentation to a group of schoolchildren on Education Day.
School Group Registration

On Friday, November 7, students from schools across the state will have the opportunity to explore education stations teaching topics related to the Civil War in Indian Territory on the Battle of Honey Springs Education Day. From 9 a.m. to 3 p.m., living historians will demonstrate military drills, cooking techniques, everyday activities for soldiers, and civilian life. Numerous sutlers will be selling 19th-century reproduction military equipment, clothing, books, and souvenirs, and food vendors also will be on-site. Education Day at Honey Springs Battlefield is free, but please pre-register for this event.

Battle of Honey Springs Reenactment
An image of the Documentary from the Battle of Honey Springs featuring Brigadier General Douglas H. Cooper attending a fallen soldier

The Battle of Honey Springs Reenactment will take place at Honey Springs Battlefield on Saturday, November 8, and Sunday, November 9, with self-guided tours through the Union, Confederate, and civilian camps, and reenactments at 1 p.m. each day. Visitors can experience military drills, demonstrations, and living history programs, and take a walk through Sutler's Row, which features a number of vendors selling clothes, books, souvenirs, and reproduction nineteenth-century military equipment. Visitors from around the state come to see special presentations and watch the battle unfold.

Admission to this event is \$10 per person, and children 12 and under are free.

CONGRATULATIONS STATE QUALIFIERS
Avery Dyke Phylisha Jiang

State Cross Country Saturday, October 25 North Rock Creek Shawnee, OK

Regional Finish - Avery 12th, Phylisha 30th

Good Luck!!

Congratulations to Avery Dyke & Phylisha Jiang - Cross Country STATE Qualifiers!! They will be headed to North Rock Creek in Shawnee, OK on Saturday, October 25 for the state Cross Country meet.

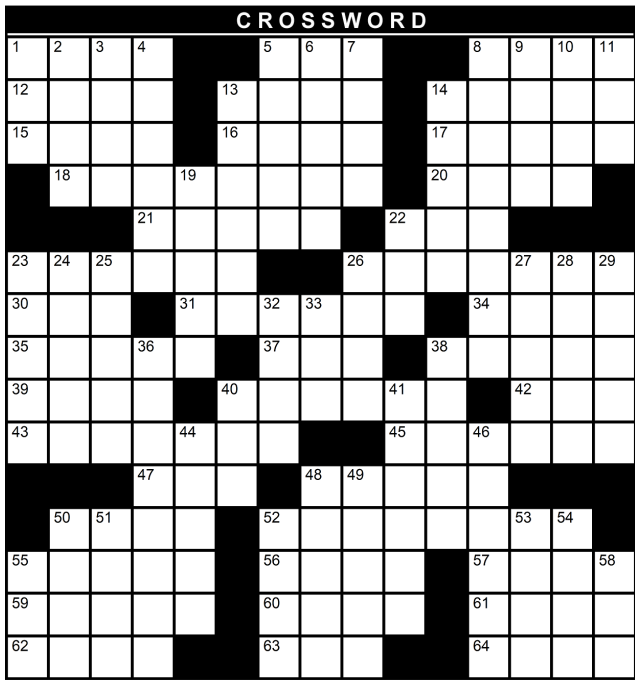
Senior Phylisha Jiang Selected To The VYPE Top 100-Congrats!



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ACROSS

1. Flows' partners
5. "When Harry ____ Sally..."
8. Sound of laughter
12. *"Hide" behind the bush
13. BÈBÈ's mother
14. *Age units in the woods
15. Rum cake
16. Placido Domingo's solo, e.g.
17. Concluded
18. *"Into the Woods" star Anna
20. Come clean, with up
21. Terra ____
22. Urge Spot to attack
23. One of seven gnomes
26. Prior to the present (3 words)
30. FEMA provisions, e.g.
31. Erratum, pl.
34. Int. org. in Brussels
35. Merge
37. Time frame
38. Right-hand page
39. 1920s art style
40. Cause of wheezing
42. Like The Hot Chili Peppers
43. ____ God we ____," on U.S. currency
45. Some vipers
47. Clairvoyant's gift
48. Source of chocolate
50. Form of payment
52. *Edible fungus
55. Multi-layered cake
56. MÈlange
57. Utah's national park
59. Bake an egg
60. Plural of #22 Down
61. *" ____ the Woods" play and movie
62. Prefix for multiple
63. Japanese honorific
64. Barely got by

DOWN

1. Singular of #1 Across
2. *Woodpecker's pecker
3. *One lost in the woods
4. Posture
5. Boy Scout's badge
6. "Fear of Flying" author ____ Jong
7. *Furniture wood
8. *Conifer's dropping
9. Peters out
10. Def Leppard's "Rock of ____"
11. Psychedelic drug, acr.
13. St. Valentine, e.g.
14. Equip again
19. One of Seven Dwarfs
22. Rejuvenating spot
23. ____ Arabia
24. Wrinkle-prone fabric
25. Declaration of Independence, e.g.
26. 2002 Winter Olympics state
27. Mother-of-pearl
28. Weasel's cousin
29. *Golf's great
32. Catch one's breath
33. A in MOMA
36. *Scientific study in woodlands
38. Meteorologist's tool
40. Nile reptile
41. Masculine one and proud of it, pl.
44. Theater greeter
46. Something extraordinary
48. "Mea ____," or "my fault"
49. Hailing from the East
50. Type of salmon
51. *Seed covering
52. *Trunk growth
53. Sty cry
54. Speck
55. Recipe amt.
58. Go-ahead

Keto Pumpkin Crisp

Creamy spiced pumpkin filling meets a buttery, nutty crumble for the ultimate low-carb fall dessert. Warm, comforting, and keto-approved—this crisp has it all.
Author: MadisonReynolds-Yield: 12 servings

Pumpkin Filling

- 2 cups pumpkin purée
- 2/3 cup heavy whipping cream
- 4 large eggs
- 2 tsp pumpkin pie spice
- 1 tsp vanilla extract
- 2/3 cup Swerve Confectioners sweetener
- Crumble Topping
- 1 cup almond flour
- 4 Tbsp cold butter, cubed
- 2/3 cup Swerve Brown sweetener
- 1 cup chopped pecans

Instructions

- Preheat oven to 350°F (175°C). Grease a 9x13 baking dish.
- In a bowl, whisk pumpkin, cream, eggs, spices, vanilla, and sweetener. Pour into dish.
- Mix almond flour, Swerve Brown, and butter with a fork or hands until crumbly. Stir in pecans.
- Sprinkle topping over pumpkin layer.
- Bake 35–40 mins until set and golden. Cool slightly before serving.

Nutrition

Calories: 210Fat: 19gProtein: 5g



OKLAHOMA DEPARTMENT OF WILDLIFE CONSERVATION

FISHING REPORT

NORTHEAST

Grand: October 16. Elevation is normal and stable, water temperature 72°F and murky. (USACE Lake Level) Largemouth bass fair on crankbaits and plastic baits around brush structure, flats, points, and shorelines. White bass fair on in-line spinnerbaits around flats and main lake. Blue catfish good on cut bait and shad below the dam, main lake, and river channel. Report submitted by Riley Willman, game warden stationed in Delaware County.

Keystone: October 20. Elevation is 2 ft. above normal and stable, water temperature 67°F and murky. (USACE Lake Level) Largemouth bass good on buzz baits, crankbaits, in-line spinnerbaits, plastic baits, small lures, spinnerbaits, and topwater lures around docks. Blue and channel catfish fair on cut bait and live bait around channels, main lake, and river channel. Crappie fair on minnows around brush structure and docks. Report submitted by Tracer Wagner, game warden stationed in Creek County.

SOUTHEAST

Blue River: October 21. Elevation is normal and stable, water temperature 70°F and clear. (USGS Lake Level) Largemouth, smallmouth, and spotted bass good on crankbaits, flukes, jerk baits, jigs, lipless baits, plastic baits, spinnerbaits, topwater lures, and tube jigs around brush structure, channels, creek channels, rocks, shallows, shorelines, and weed beds. Channel catfish good on chicken liver, punch bait, stinkbait, and worms around brush structure, channels, creek channels, and rocks. Report submitted by Ethan Lovelace, biologist at the Blue River Public Fishing and Hunting Area.

Hugo: October 17. Elevation is 2 ft. below normal and stable, water temperature 74°F and stained. (USACE Lake Level) Largemouth, spotted, and white bass fair on bill baits, jigs, lipless baits, plastic baits, and spinnerbaits around brush structure, points, river channel, and standing timber. Blue, channel, and flathead catfish fair on chicken liver, dough bait, live bait, punch bait, and stinkbait around creek channels, discharge, main lake, river channel, and spillway. Crappie fair on hair jigs, minnows, and tube jigs around brush structure, river channel, and standing timber. Report submitted by Chance Phillips, game warden stationed in Choctaw County.

Konawa: October 19. Elevation is normal and stable, water temperature 78°F and clear. Largemouth bass good on crankbaits, lipless baits, and plastic baits around main lake, points, river channel, and weed beds. Striped bass hybrids and white bass good on Alabama rigs, crankbaits, and live shad around discharge, inlet, and river channel. Channel catfish fair on chicken liver and cut bait around discharge, inlet, riprap, and rocks. Report submitted by Garret Harley, game warden stationed in Seminole County.

McGee Creek: October 17. Elevation is 2 ft. below normal and falling, water temperature 75°F and stained. (USACE Lake Level) Largemouth and spotted bass good on jerk baits, jigs, minnows, and spinnerbaits around brush structure, points, riprap, shallows, and standing timber. Channel and flathead catfish good on chicken liver, cut bait, shrimp, and worms around creek channels, points, rocks, and shorelines. Report submitted by Shay Loudermilk, game warden stationed in Atoka County.

Sardis: October 17. Elevation is normal and stable, water temperature 77°F and stained. (USACE Lake Level) Largemouth bass good on bill baits, plastic baits, and spinnerbaits around brush structure, points, shorelines, and standing timber. Blue, channel, and flathead catfish good on cut bait, shad, sunfish, and worms around brush structure, channels, main lake, and standing timber. Crappie good on jigs and minnows around brush structure. Report submitted by Thomas Gillham, game warden stationed in Pushmataha County.

Texoma: October 19. Elevation is normal and stable, water temperature 74°F and clear. (USACE Lake Level) Striped bass good on live shad around below the dam, channels, main lake, and points. Blue, channel, and flathead catfish good on cut bait, dough bait, live shad, and punch bait around below the dam, channels, docks, and river mouth. Crappie fair on hair jigs, jigs, minnows, and nymphs around brush structure, coves, docks, and standing timber. Comments: Fishing this week is getting better. Striper have been getting better with the cooler water temps. They are being caught on live shad. Catfish are being caught near river channels and cleaning docks with punch bait and cut shad. Crappie are slowly biting on jigs around docks with brush piles and the occasional lone fish in open water. Report submitted by Garrett Beam, game warden stationed in Marshall County.

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Fill in the blank squares in the grid, making sure that every row, column and 3-by-3 box includes all digits 1 through 9.

Horoscopes

ARIES – Mar 21/Apr 20

This is a great week to start a new project or hobby, Aries. Your energy is very high right now. Just be careful not to bite off more than you can chew.

TAURUS – Apr 21/May 21

This week is all about treating yourself, Taurus. You have been working very hard and it's about time you indulge in some well-deserved relaxation. Think about ways to unwind.

GEMINI – May 22/June 21

Gemini, your social calendar is buzzing. You will be the life of the party this week, so get ready for some fun conversations and exciting invitations in the days to come.

CANCER – June 22/July 22

You might be feeling particularly cozy and creative this week, Cancer. Your home is your sanctuary, so consider a DIY project to make it even more restful and comfortable.

LEO – July 23/Aug 23

People may be drawn to your confident and playful nature this week, Leo. This is a great time to express yourself creatively or take the lead on a group activity.

VIRGO – Aug 24/Sept 22

Virgo, you are a master of small details. This week you may find joy in organizing and perfecting something you care about. Tidying up may feel therapeutic right now.

LIBRA – Sept 23/Oct 23

Libra, get ready for some surprises. The universe is giving you a little nudge towards fun and adventure. Keep in mind a casual outing could turn into an exciting experience.

SCORPIO – Oct 24/Nov 22

Pay attention to your gut feelings, Scorpio. Your intuition is sharp this week. You may be able to navigate a tricky situation with surprising ease and do so in a good mood.

SAGITTARIUS – Nov 23/Dec 21

A funny misunderstanding will lead to a lot of laughter with a close friend, Sagittarius. Don't be afraid to tell jokes, even if they aren't the best. Humor will land well this week.

CAPRICORN – Dec 22/Jan 20

Your hard work is paying off, Capricorn. Take some time to celebrate your wins, big or small. You might find a new way to make a routine task more enjoyable.

AQUARIUS – Jan 21/Feb 18

Creativity is flowing this week, Aquarius. You may have some innovative ideas, so don't be afraid to share them with others. A brainstorming session with coworkers can be rewarding.

PISCES – Feb 19/Mar 20

Pisces, right now your imagination is your best friend, so let it guide you to some fun and whimsical activities. This is a great time to listen to music or to learn to play an instrument.

FAMOUS BIRTHDAYS

- NOVEMBER 2 - Sunny Sandler, Actress (17)
- NOVEMBER 3 -Kendall Jenner, Model (30)
- NOVEMBER 4 - Ralph Macchio, Actor (64)
- NOVEMBER 5 - Jason Kelce, Podcast host (38)
- NOVEMBER 6 - Ethan Hawke, Actor (55)
- NOVEMBER 7 - David Guetta, DJ (58)
- NOVEMBER 8 - Gordon Ramsay, Chef (59)

Oklahoma Museum Of Natural History Unveils "Formed In Stone" Fossil Exhibition

NORMAN, Okla. – The Sam Noble Oklahoma Museum of Natural History is proud to announce the opening of the acclaimed temporary fossil exhibition, Formed in Stone: The Natural Beauty of Fossils, opening Nov. 1 and running through Jan. 4, 2026.

Formed in Stone invites visitors to explore the ancient world through a striking blend of science and art. The exhibition showcases fossil specimens from the museum's renowned invertebrate paleontology collection, paired with high-resolution photographs magnified up to 60 times. These images reveal the intricate textures, fractal geometry and delicate ornamentation that have remained hidden in stone for millions of years.

"This exhibit offers a rare opportunity to see fossils not just as scientific evidence of life's history, but also as natural works of art," says Dr. David Wright, assistant curator of the museum's invertebrate fossil collection and professor of paleobiology in the School of Geosciences. "It's a visual journey back in time that will captivate visitors of all ages and hopefully inspire them to learn more about these incredible ancient species."

The Sam Noble Museum's invertebrate paleontology collection, built over more than a century of fieldwork and research, includes more than one million specimens and is considered one of North America's most significant archives of fossilized invertebrate life.

Formed in Stone is designed to engage a wide audience, from art lovers and students to families and fossil enthusiasts. Through its combination of aesthetic wonder and scientific legacy, the exhibit transforms ancient life into a modern visual experience.

For questions, additional photo or video assets, or to schedule an interview with museum researchers, please contact alexander-mann@ou.edu by email, or by phone at (405) 325-0598.

About the Sam Noble Oklahoma Museum of Natural History

The Sam Noble Museum is the officially designated natural history museum for the state of Oklahoma and is located on the University of Oklahoma Norman campus at 2401 Chautauqua Ave.

Cotton County Community News

The Walters Herald - The Voice of Cotton County

LPXLP

Thursday, October 30, 2025 - Page 7

Thank You For Your Supporting Our Local Students & Businesses!

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OK Farm Bureau Insurance

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Walters, Oklahoma 73572
(580) 875-3290

Cotton County Drug

619 East Missouri
Walters, Oklahoma 73572
(580) 875-6161

Walters Co-op Elevator

409 West Missouri
Walters, Oklahoma 73572
(580) 875-3344

Patman's Pizza

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Walters, Oklahoma 73572
(580) 875-3979

Mac's Body Shop

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(580) 875-2161

"Bougie Baskets"

(Gift Baskets by Anna Scott)
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Walters, Oklahoma
(580) 591-2583

Walters Bank & Trust

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Walters, Oklahoma 73572
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Cotton Bloom Florist

130 North Broadway
Walters, Oklahoma 73572
(580) 281-0424

Cotton Electric

226 North Broadway
Walters, Oklahoma 73572
(580) 875-3351

Tong's

129 West Missouri
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Scott Income Tax

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Walters, Oklahoma 73572
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OSU Awarded \$2 Million For A Multidisciplinary Project To Create Water And Energy Efficiency For Farmers

By Alisa Gore

STILLWATER, Okla. – Three land-grant universities are exploring whether producing energy from animal waste and cleaning wastewater can be achieved in one technology system.

Three separate types of technologies already exist to: generate energy by producing methane from animal waste clean wastewater recover phosphate from animal waste
“They have all existed in their own silos, and scientists are always working to make these systems more efficient and less harmful to the environment,” said Kiranmayi Mangalgi, assistant professor of water quality in the Oklahoma State University Department of Biosystems and Agricultural Engineering.

Can scientists accomplish this by combining the technologies together? This is the question being asked by a team of researchers from OSU, Kansas State University and the University of Nebraska-Lincoln. The project recently received a combined \$6 million from the National Science Foundation.

“We are trying to develop one system for agricultural producers to handle their animal waste while also saving energy and water,” Mangalgi said. “We also want the process to have little to no impact on the environment and create valuable chemicals like hydrogen peroxide.”

The goal is to build a system that uses the carbon from animal waste to create energy. Part of that energy will be used to clean wastewater, so it can be used again as drinking water and crop water. That would mean farmers would use less water from the Ogallala Aquifer.

Prathap Parameswaran, a professor and civil engineer at KSU, has developed a technology for creating methane using microorganisms. The researchers are trying to build on this system to learn:

How advanced wastewater treatment technology can be combined with existing energy recovery systems,
How to make the combined system as efficient and cost-effective as possible and avoid negative impacts to nature, and how to make the system adaptable for producers in the Great Plains region.

“This project is different because it is collaborative in every way,” Mangalgi said. “Instead of one university working on one piece and another university working on another piece, all three universities are working on all the pieces, and they are doing it together.”

Mangalgi is working on the wastewater treatment side of the project. Mark Krzmarzick, OSU professor and interim head of the OSU School of Civil & Environmental Engineering, is studying how much antibiotic residue is left in treated water and identifying microorganisms that could enhance energy recovery.

“Antibiotic resistance happens because bacteria have specific genes that allow them to tolerate chemicals like antibiotics,” Krzmarzick said. “Understanding how we spread or destroy these genes in our wastewater systems helps protect the health of both agricultural workers and animals.”

Douglas Hamilton, an OSU associate professor in biosystems and agricultural engineering, is collaborating with KSU colleagues to improve the energy recovery system that uses microorganisms to purify water. Michael Long, OSU professor of sociology, is conducting surveys to understand how farmers will adopt the new technology.

“We need to know if producers will view the technology as being worth the investment and if they will reuse the cleaned water for livestock, crops, and the food they eat?” Long said. “We will learn where the technology will be adopted and make a strong, positive impact.”

This material is based upon work supported by the National Science Foundation EPSCoR’s Research Infrastructure Improvement under award number OIA-2521392 for \$6 million.

OSU Ag Research is Oklahoma’s premier research and technology development agency in agriculture, natural resources and the life sciences.

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As Halloween Nears, Potential Fire Hazards Lurk

October 22, 2025 – From decorations and candles to flowing costumes, Halloween fun can quickly turn frightening if fire safety is overlooked. According to the National Fire Protection Association® (NFPA®), between 2019 and 2023, an annual average of 832 home structure fires began with decorations, resulting in three deaths, 28 injuries, and \$17 million in direct property damage. Nearly half (47 percent) of these fires occurred because the decorations were too close to a heat source; approximately one-third (33 percent) started with candles.

“Halloween is a festive holiday for people of all ages, but it’s important to recognize where potential fire dangers lurk,” said Lorraine Carli, vice president of Outreach and Advocacy at NFPA. “By following a few simple steps, families can help keep the holiday fun and spooky, while still staying safe.”

NFPA offers these tips and guidelines for celebrating Halloween with fire safety in mind:

Costumes: When choosing a costume, stay away from long trailing fabric. If your child is wearing a mask, make sure the eye holes are large enough so they can see clearly.

Flashlights: Give children flashlights to carry for lighting or glow sticks as part of their costume.

Decorations: Dried flowers, cornstalks, and crepe paper catch fire easily. Keep all decorations away from open flames and other heat sources like light bulbs and heaters. Remember to keep exits clear of decorations so nothing blocks escape routes.

Candles: Only use battery-operated candles or glow-sticks in jack-o-lanterns. If you choose to use real candles, be sure to place them well away from anything that can burn and far enough out of the way of trick-or-treaters, doorsteps, walkways, and yards.

Smoke Alarms: Make sure all smoke alarms in the home are working.

Visit the Halloween safety page for more resources. Download the free NFPA Halloween Fire Safety Bundle featuring Sparky the Fire Dog® for frightfully fun activities for kids and families.

About the National Fire Protection Association® (NFPA®) Founded in 1896, NFPA® is a global self-funded nonprofit organization devoted to eliminating death, injury, property, and economic loss due to fire, electrical, and related hazards. The association delivers information and knowledge through more than 300 consensus codes and standards, research, training, education, outreach, and advocacy; and by partnering with others who share an interest in furthering the NFPA mission. For more information, visit nfpa.org. All NFPA codes and standards can be viewed online for free at nfpa.org/freeaccess.

Cameron University’s Military Veterans Resource Fair Aimed At Service Members, Veterans And Dependents

Active members of the U.S. Armed Forces, veterans and dependents are invited to Cameron University’s Military Veterans Resource Fair slated for Wednesday November 5, and Thursday, November 6. The event takes place from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. on the first floor of the McMahon Centennial Complex. The building is located at University Drive and D Avenue in Lawton. Visitor parking is available across the street.

“Cameron’s Military Veterans Resource Fair will feature a vast array of resources for veterans, active military and dependents,” says Vicki Henson, assistant director of financial services and coordinator of CU’s Office of Veterans Affairs. “The event will help ensure that those constituents have access to a comprehensive list of services and programs.”

Participating organizations and the topics/resources they provide include:

- American Legion – Post 6
- Comanche County Veterans Council (activities and partnerships to ensure uniform, protective programs for veterans, spouses, widows/widowers, minor children, and other veterans)
- Disabled American Veterans, Chapter #56 (accessing the full range of benefits available to veterans)
- Gold Star Wives of America (survivor issues on both the federal and state levels)
- Lawton Vet Center and Lawton Mobile Vet Center (readjustment counseling and information resources to veterans, focusing on services that help veterans make the difficult transition between military and civilian life)
- Medicine Park Aquarium & Natural Sciences Center (Thursday only – 10 a.m. to noon).
- Oklahoma Department of Veterans Affairs (claims assistance, appeals with claims before the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs, ODVA will have 5 specialists available to assist with claims.
- Oklahoma Women Veterans Organization – Lawton/Fort Sill Chapter (numerous services for Oklahoma women veterans)
- Oklahoma Works American Job Network (veteran services)
- Paws with Love Therapy Dogs, Inc.

Cameron Continues Tradition Of Displaying More Than 7,000 American Flags For Veterans Day

The CU tradition of displaying American flags on Veterans Day began in 2011 as part of the Remembrance Roll Call, a national initiative on college and university campuses. Originally, each flag commemorated a service member whose life was lost during the conflicts in Iraq and Afghanistan. Even though the Remembrance Roll Call initiative has ended, Cameron continues to display the flags in honor of all veterans and service members.

The U.S. flag represents the freedoms that the country was founded on: freedom of speech, freedom of the press and freedom of religion. The 13 stripes signify the struggle for independence undertaken by the original 13 colonies, and the colors of the flag have symbolic meaning as well. In 1782, Charles Thomson, secretary of the Continental Congress, conveyed the meaning of each color when proposing a design for the U.S. Seal, stating, “White signifies purity and innocence; red, hardness and valor; and blue, vigilance, perseverance and justice.”

- Redlands Veterans Upward Bound program (free college-prep program)
 - The Red Cord, an organization that joins individuals and organizations within the community and surrounding communities of Lawton with the end goal of wiping out the injustice of human trafficking.
 - U.S. Army Recruiting Station
 - Veterans of Foreign Wars Post #5263 (numerous programs and services, which include ensuring that veterans receive entitlements)
 - Veterans of Foreign Wars Post #1193 (numerous programs and services, which include ensuring that veterans receive earned entitlements)
- Cameron University will have numerous campus offices/ organizations participating as well. They include:
- George D. Keathley Department of Military Science (Army ROTC, Army Green-to-Gold program)
 - Office of Student Support Services (offering academic support services to Cameron students who have academic need, are first generation, have an economic need, or students with disabilities)
 - Office of Veterans Affairs (general information about utilization of VA educational benefits)
 - Student Veterans of America chapter (activities and services)

Public Hearing Set Nov. 6 on Proposed Rule Changes Wildlife Commission Also Welcomes Online, Mail-in Comments

Each year, the Oklahoma Department of Wildlife Conservation proposes changes in Title 800, the administrative rules that govern hunting, fishing and Wildlife Department operations. Members of the public have the opportunity to voice their comments on this year’s proposed rule changes at 7 p.m. Thursday, Nov. 6, 2025.

For an agenda of the public hearing, go to wildlifedepartment.com/public-meeting and click on “Rule Change Proposals 2026 Agenda.” To read all of the proposed rule changes in their entirety, go to wildlifedepartment.com/public-meeting and click on the Title 800 chapter links.

The public hearing will be held at the John D. Groendyke Wildlife Conservation Building, 1801 N. Lincoln Blvd. in Oklahoma City.

Many of the proposed changes are simple housekeeping matters such as spelling corrections, while other proposals are more substantial. Among this year’s proposals are:

Establishing rules on when and how a UAV (drone) can lawfully be used in scouting for and recovering downed wildlife.

Allowing daily waterfowl blinds only (no season-long blinds) on U.S. Army Corps of Engineers or Bureau of Reclamation areas (already in effect as an emergency rule and now to be considered as permanent).

Allowing hunters to import intact cervids when going to a taxidermist in good standing with the Secretary of State and that follows proper disposal procedures for carcasses (already in effect as an emergency rule and now to be considered as permanent).

Requiring nonresidents entering or using ODWC-owned or -managed lands in pursuit of any game bird to possess a valid game bird permit, with the price set at \$100 (already in effect as an emergency rule and now to be considered as permanent).

Requiring nonresidents to indicate their intention to access any wildlife management area for any activities by checking-in to an online system (already in effect as an emergency rule and now to be considered as permanent).

In addition to the in-person public hearing, comments on any of the proposed rule changes may be submitted by: Filling out the online public comment form by clicking “Leave Your Comments” at wildlifedepartment.com/public-meeting. The online comment period will close at 7 p.m. Thursday, Nov. 6, 2025.

Writing your comments in a letter and mailing to Oklahoma Department of Wildlife Conservation, Re: Public Comment, P.O. Box 53465, Oklahoma City, OK 73152. Letters must be postmarked by 4:30 p.m. Friday, Nov. 7, 2025.

All public comments are reviewed by the members of the Oklahoma Wildlife Conservation Commission. Discussion and possible action on these rule changes are planned during the regular Commission meeting Monday, Dec. 8, 2025.



WALTERS FAMILY CARE OPEN HOUSE INVITATION

NOVEMBER 10, 2025

117 W Missouri, Walters, OK
4:00 PM - 5:30 PM

Ribbon Cutting at 5:00 PM

Light refreshments will be served, as well as tours of the new facility.

Lauria and Ashley's Law Takes Effect Nov. 1

For Lorene Bible, Nov. 1 can't come soon enough.

OKLAHOMA CITY – That's the date House Bill 1001 takes effect.

The bill, authored by Rep. Steve Bashore, R-Miami, adds **accessory to murder in the first or second degree to the list of crimes requiring an offender to serve 85% of their prison sentence before being eligible for consideration for parole.** Those convicted now **will not be eligible to earn any type of credits that would reduce the sentence to below 85% of what was imposed.**

The measure is named after Lorene's daughter, Lauria Bible, and her friend Ashley Freeman. The girls from Welch were kidnapped, tortured, raped and killed New Year's Eve 1999. They were both 16. Their remains have never been recovered. Ashley's parents, Danny and Kathy Freeman, were shot to death in the crime. Their remains were found in their mobile home that had been set on fire.

"There are families that have contacted me that are waiting for this bill to take effect," Lorene Bible said. "They are in the middle of the same thing we went through."

She said she's been telling them to wait until the law takes effect so they can get justice.

"This is why we fought so hard to get this law passed, so we could help other families," Lorene Bible said. "This is already a good thing."

Bashore worked with Lorene Bible, and her cousin, Lisa Broderick, in drafting the law and seeking its passage over the last several years.

"This has been such a long journey for this family that has endured so much," Bashore said. "It's gratifying to be here just days until this law takes effect that will strengthen the punishment for those who commit the crime of accessory to murder. Those who play a part in such heinous crimes should not get lessened sentences or be given time off for good behavior. I'm hopeful this will bring some measure of healing to these families."

Lauria and Ashley's law addresses the reduced prison sentence of a man charged with accessory to felony murder in the case. Ronnie Busick, in 2020, received a 10-year prison sentence with five years' probation, but only one year supervised. Because of good-days earned while incarcerated as well as time credited while in a county jail, Busick was **released after just three years in prison.** He was released back into the community where the crimes were committed, in close proximity to where family members of the victims still live. It is reported Busick received a lessened sentence in exchange for information leading to the discovery of the teens' bodies. They still have not been found.

HB1001 was authored by Sen. Kristen Thompson, R-Edmond, in the Senate. Bashore thanked Thompson and his House colleagues who prioritized and supported this important legislation. He also thanked the governor for signing it into law.

Pogemiller Studies

Causes, Solutions To Chronic Absenteeism In Schools

OKLAHOMA CITY – Rep. Ellen Pogemiller, D-Oklahoma City, conducted an Interim Study in front of the Common Education Committee on the causes of chronic absenteeism in schools and proven solutions to grow student attendance.

Chronic absenteeism is defined by a student missing 10% or more of school days.

"We know kids don't learn if they don't show up," said Pogemiller. "I have also heard from school counselors that the biggest issues seen in schools are the ones that occur outside of the school. This means that **schools cannot solve chronic absenteeism on their own.** It is important to understand the root causes of chronic absenteeism and work to develop solutions that help improve the lives of students and make it easier for them to attend classes."

Over the past three years in Tulsa Public Schools, **eviction records show that 2,121 students experienced at least one eviction filing, 467 students faced eviction twice, and 327 students were filed against three or more times, with some experiencing up to 11 eviction filings.** Proportionately, Pre-K and Kindergarten students had the highest rates of eviction filings. Impact Tulsa is working to help TPS schools identify families that are being evicted and provide support to those families. They also highlighted the challenges around evictions including low filing fees and short windows on evictions (number of days).

Moore Public Schools, Bridges of Moore and Moore Public School Foundation are partnering together to help address chronic absenteeism around **homeless youth.** Students experiencing homelessness are absent twice as often as the general population, not because they don't care, but due to a lack of stability.

Bridges of Moore supports students in developing stability and independence by requiring participants to maintain employment, pass all enrolled classes, attend Life Skills sessions, follow housing rules, and pay rent on time. These expectations help students build responsibility and prepare for life beyond the program. As a result, 100% of Bridges of Moore students leave the program with a plan for their next step—whether that's entering the workforce, enrolling in college, pursuing a career, or joining the military. In addition, in Fall of 2026 they are set to open housing for up to 20 students experiencing homelessness.

Presenters from Sand Springs Public Schools and Norman Public Schools talked about their work addressing suspensions using opioid abatement funding. Yukon Public School created an attendance officer that has partnered with city and county government to support the DHS School Based Specialists.

"One thing I've learned working in a non-profit and then moving into education advocacy is that it is all connected," Pogemiller said. "We cannot provide the best outcomes for students when we don't address the root challenges they face."

Historic Court Fines, Fees Eliminations To Take Effect

OKLAHOMA CITY – Two historic measures reforming Oklahoma's fines and fees systems will take effect Nov. 1,

offering more Oklahomans leaving incarceration a better chance to get on their feet.

House Bill 1460 and House Bill 1462, authored by Rep. Tammy West, eliminate several fines and fees while securing victim restitution payments.

"For too long, court fines and fees have worked against rehabilitation," West said. "When someone leaves incarceration, they owe thousands of dollars of debt before they've even found a job or housing. That's not a fair second chance. These reforms are about giving people who've paid their debt to society a fair shot at rebuilding their lives. By eliminating unnecessary fees and ensuring victims are prioritized, the road to restitution and rehabilitation is smoother for everyone. This will make our justice system more efficient, more compassionate and more focused on true second chances."

Tiffany Shaw, an employment navigator with JusticeLink LLC and who was formerly incarcerated, is one who will benefit from the new laws.

"It took me over 15 years to pay off my court fines and fees, and because of House bill 1460 and House Bill 1462 and other reforms like it, I can finally breathe again," Shaw said. "Each payment brought a little more freedom, and now, as I work to finish my restitution by the end of this year, I walk with my head held high. This bill gives people like me a real second chance to rebuild and move forward with dignity."

HB1460 eliminates six fees across Oklahoma's justice system, as well as strengthens the court fee waiver process. HB1462 directs court clerks to certify restitution has been paid to victims before accepting payment toward other fines and fees.

The bills were proposed following an interim study, held last fall, to learn more about the scope of fees that may be charged to Oklahomans throughout the criminal justice process. Many fees have collections rates as low as 25% and cost the state more to attempt collection than they bring in, often leaving departments with an unreliable revenue source. Offenders who can't keep pace with their fines and fees may face license suspension, re-arrest or even more jail time, adding further financial burdens.

Gov. Kevin Stitt highlighted reduced fines and fees as one of his legislative priorities during his 2025 State of the State address.

"We know that high fees keep people trapped in this cycle and contribute to higher recidivism," Stitt said during his Feb. 3 State of the State address. "That doesn't make sense. I want to change that structure and make sure that a second chance is actually a second chance and get rid of fines, fees and court costs for good."

After HB1460 takes effect on Nov. 1, there will still be around over 80 fees that may still be applied to criminal cases.

New Bills Taking Effect November 1

by Keaton Ross-Democracy Watch

The 2025 legislative session has been in the history books for months, but Oklahomans haven't felt its true impact yet.

The default date for most bills to take effect, absent an emergency clause, is Nov. 1. This five-month buffer gives affected agencies and stakeholders time to prepare.

Here's a look at some notable bills taking effect at the end of week:

Tougher DUI Penalties: Senate Bill 54 expands the definition of aggravated drunk driving, a felony offense, and mandates that **first-time offenders spend at least 10 days in jail**, with options to serve nights or weekends. **Second and subsequent offenders would face 30 or more days in jail.** **Gov. Kevin Stitt vetoed** this bill, citing concerns of unnecessary incarceration, but the **Legislature overrode it.**

Medical Marijuana Regulation: Multiple bills place new requirements on medical marijuana vendors. Senate Bill 518 requires sellers to place warning labels on products advising consumers not to drive under the influence. Under House Bill 2837, all employees of medical marijuana businesses will be required to complete annual compliance training. Click here for a comprehensive list.

Fines and Fees Reform: Oklahomans involved in the criminal justice system could face a reduced financial burden thanks to House Bill 1460. The bill eliminates several fine and fee assessments, including a \$300 monthly fee for Department of Corrections inmates on GPS monitoring. A related measure, House Bill 1462, directs courts to prioritize restitution payments.

Expanded Mammogram Access: House Bill 1389 **requires insurers to pay for contrast-enhanced mammograms and molecular breast imaging**, which can aid in early detection of breast cancer. **Stitt vetoed the bill**, citing concerns that insurance premiums could go up, but **lawmakers overrode the veto.**

New Law Requires Drivers To Go Hands-Free

OKLAHOMA CITY – Beginning Nov. 1, Oklahoma drivers will be prohibited from using handheld cell phones and other electronic communication devices in active school and work zones under House Bill 2263, authored by Rep. Nicole Miller, R-Edmond. The law strengthens Oklahoma's existing distracted driving rules by limiting handheld phone usage in areas where extra attention behind the wheel is critical. Drivers may still use hands-free features to stay connected safely.

"This law is a practical step toward safer roads," Miller said. "It allows drivers to continue using hands-free technology while ensuring their **focus stays on driving**, especially in critical areas where workers and students are most at risk."

Miller said the change is a simple but has significant impact to safeguarding Oklahoma communities.

"Distracted driving is a lead contributor to collisions and preventable harm on our roads," she said. "This law reinforces every driver's responsibility to remain attentive and protect those around them."

Violations carry the same penalties as the state's texting-while-driving ban. The law also protects driver privacy by prohibiting law enforcement from accessing or downloading data from a phone without a warrant or probable cause.

Enforcement of the law begins Nov. 1, marking a step forward in keeping school children, road crews and motorists safer on Oklahoma roads.

Fugate, Johns, Mann,

Stanley Study Reintegration Of Violent Students In Classrooms

OKLAHOMA CITY – Rep. Andy Fugate, D-Del City, Rep. Ronny Johns, R-Ada, Sen. Mark Mann, D-Oklahoma City, and Sen. Brenda Stanley, R-Midwest City, conducted a

bipartisan, bicameral interim study in front of the Education Oversight Committee on how to reintegrate students who have been removed from the classroom for violence without putting teachers and other students in harm's way.

"Every child in Oklahoma deserves access to a meaningful education, including those whose trauma has led to violent behavior," said Fugate. "This study is about finding real solutions for violent students who've been removed from the classroom and are returning. We must protect teachers and students while ensuring no child is left behind."

The study looked into solutions on how to best accommodate all students and teachers.

"The bipartisan, bicameral study provided important insights into how we can protect both students and teachers in the classroom while also supporting those rejoining their peers," said Johns. "These findings will help guide future policy discussions to ensure our schools remain safe and welcoming places for learning. Protecting educators while giving every student the tools to thrive must remain at the heart of our efforts."

The Oklahoma Constitution mandates that every child receive an education, making it the responsibility of the Oklahoma legislature to collaborate with experts and develop solutions that ensure every child is educated while in a safe classroom environment.

"Today's study brought together educators, experts, and lawmakers to confront one of the toughest challenges in public education," said Fugate. "We're committed to supporting these students, safeguarding our schools, and upholding the promise of education for all."

The study heard from presenters that varied from alternative education teachers and two mental health providers. They suggested an embedded model of school-based mental health to provide support for kids. This would include a structured, school-based therapy and other comprehensive, wraparound services. It would require collaboration with the legislature, education professionals, and mental health providers.

"We simply can't give up on any child in our state," said Mann. "It's important that we look at proven methods to give these kids the help and tools they need to succeed."

While Oklahoma does provide alternative education opportunities, study experts noted it does not meet the needs of violent students. Additional services are needed to promote the reintegration of students and provide equal access to public education.

"As a 43-year veteran educator, I understand the serious challenges schools are facing, particularly when it comes to violence directed toward school personnel," said Stanley. "I am committed to being part of the solution and doing my part to help identify and implement effective ways to address this growing concern."

Stewart Studies Parole

Processes, Inmate

Rehabilitation

OKLAHOMA CITY – Rep. Ron Stewart, D-Tulsa, conducted an interim study in front of the Civil Judiciary Committee on parole processes in Oklahoma and how to assist people and agencies involved to ensure the best opportunities for rehabilitation of inmates.

"My hope is that through thoughtful, data-driven reforms, our state's pardon and parole system will operate as intended: to promote safety, uphold accountability, and create second chances where they have been earned, fairly and consistently," said Stewart.

The study explored ways to identify areas of improving the efficiency, efficacy, and fairness of the parole process. Speakers from the Oklahoma Department of Corrections, Pardon and Parole General Counsel, District Attorneys, and those with lived experiences all came together to examine ways to better fund and support the Pardon and Parole system to best reintegrate inmates into society while also improving communication with victims.

Ways to do this are providing accessible mental health and substance abuse treatment for inmates and parolees, providing services that are not just limited to minimum security facilities, and better reentry programs that address an inmate's employment and reintegration.

With the collaboration of experts and the Oklahoma legislature, it is possible to execute a fairer and safer pardon and parole system that best serves all Oklahomans.

Williams Holds Interim

Study On Foster Care

Housing

OKLAHOMA CITY – Rep. Danny Williams, R-Seminole, led an interim study to examine barriers to foster care participation and explore ways to expand safe, stable housing for Oklahoma children in foster care.

The meeting focused on incentives, training and oversight reforms aimed at increasing the number of homes prepared to care for foster children. Oklahoma continues to lag behind peer states in placement stability, prompting lawmakers to explore actionable recommendations to strengthen the system.

"We want to do the best we can for the kids we serve. What breaks my heart is they don't have a voice, and if we don't speak for them, they don't get spoken for," Williams said. "The goal of this study is to find out what we can do to make things better for kids. A lot of improvements will have to be done at the local level, that is where the real benefits are going to come."

Kylie Adams, a recruiter for foster homes with the Oklahoma Department of Human Services, highlighted challenges facing foster parents, including outdated pay rates and limited support for emergency placements.

She stated that foster parents currently receive between \$16 to \$21 per day, with no increase in at least five years. Adams suggested raising emergency pay by \$50 per child per day and creating specialized childcare facilities to support children while parents work. She also called for investment in front-line staff to improve retention and better compete with other states.

Former foster child Kris Gilmore shared personal experiences highlighting gaps in the system, saying the biggest disconnect is that foster children's concerns are often not heard or acted upon, and in some cases, they must repeat their concerns multiple times over the years.

"A lot of folks downplay it as 'you're just children, you don't know what's best for you,' and that is correct in most cases, but we do know when we are in danger and when there is a situation we don't want to return to," Gilmore said. "This has had an extreme effect on my siblings' ability to do well in life."

Lindsay Crim with the Department of Human Services spoke toward the end of the meeting, thanking foster parents for their dedication and noting that DHS has several initiatives in the works, including a well-being system and increased community involvement, such as partnerships with churches. "Child welfare is not just DHS," Crim said. "It's community involvement, juvenile justice, behavioral health, mental health, and simply providing natural care for our children."

Williams expressed gratitude to everyone who attended the meeting and shared their experiences.

"We are listening to foster parents and former children in care so we can understand the real-world challenges and deliver solutions that truly make a difference," Williams said. "Every child deserves a safe home and a chance to thrive."

The study, Interim Study 25-109, was heard by the Children, Youth and Family Services Committee at the Oklahoma State Capitol.

Interim Study Explores Market Options For Wage Mandates

OKLAHOMA CITY – Rep. Mark Tedford, R-Jenks, hosted an interim study examining how living wage laws affect employers and job opportunities. Presenters from business and policy organizations highlighted the need for market-driven solutions that raise wages and expand opportunity without government-imposed mandates.

“Living wage laws, while well-intentioned, often create unintended consequences that hurt both employers and workers,” Tedford said. “They can reduce entry-level jobs, limit hiring or push small businesses to close locations, all of which affects the very people these laws aim to help.”

Experts noted that states with higher mandated minimum wages often experience slower job growth and higher unemployment. For example, Missouri saw unemployment rise from 2.8 percent to 4.3 percent after its minimum wage increase took effect, and California, home to the nation’s highest minimum wage, also leads in unemployment rates.

James Leewright, CEO of the Oklahoma Restaurant Association, added that less than 2 percent of workers nationally earn the federal minimum wage and many of those are in entry-level positions that give young people their first work experience.

Tedford said employment provides more than income. It builds skills, experience and confidence. He cautioned that rigid wage mandates risk eliminating first-step opportunities for young workers, rural residents and individuals reentering the workforce.

Data from the Oklahoma Department of Commerce shows that while Oklahoma follows the federal minimum wage, most skilled workers earn well above a living wage. “That tells us market forces are working,” Tedford said. “When people build skills, their earning potential rises naturally.”

Throughout the discussion, participants explored targeted alternatives such as workforce development, income tax credits and skills training programs, approaches that strengthen both the labor force and the economy.

“These strategies empower Oklahomans to earn more through skill and effort,” Tedford said. “That’s the right way to build opportunity, not through government mandates that limit it.”

Lawmakers Call OJA Leadership Change A Chance to Refocus

OKLAHOMA CITY – Reps. Daniel Pae, R-Lawton; Emily Gise, R-Okla. City; Danny Sterling, R-Tecumseh; and Dell Kerbs, R-Shawnee, released the following joint statement after the resignation of Office of Juvenile Affairs Director Tim Tardibono amid recent concerns at the Central Oklahoma Juvenile Center:

“We acknowledge Tim Tardibono’s decision to step down as director of the Office of Juvenile Affairs. This change gives the agency a chance to restore stability and refocus on its core mission of helping Oklahoma’s youth succeed.

“New leadership is a positive step but we know that leadership changes alone don’t fix long-term problems. The challenges at COJA, including staff injuries, low morale and daily operational strain, need real, lasting attention.

“We’re calling on the interim director and the OJA Board to move quickly and transparently to strengthen the agency. That means ensuring safe staffing levels, rebuilding morale, supporting trauma-informed care and keeping the focus on rehabilitation and youth development.

“We welcome Sharon ‘Shel’ Millington as interim director and look forward to working with OJA leadership, state officials and community partners to bring forward meaningful reforms next session.

“The work ahead is significant but we share the same goal: to protect staff, support youth and restore public confidence in Oklahoma’s juvenile justice system.”

House Speaker Removes Rep. Pittman From All Committees

OKLAHOMA CITY – House Speaker Kyle Hilbert, R-Bristow, comments on the removal of Rep. Ajay Pittman, D-Okla. City, effective immediately:

“I have taken the minority caucus’ recommendation and have removed Rep. Pittman from all committee assignments, in addition to her previous removal from the State Tribal Relations Committee. These are serious findings from the Ethics Commission, in addition to an ongoing criminal investigation, so I feel this additional step is warranted.”

Roberts’ Study Highlights Deconfliction In Officer Safety

OKLAHOMA CITY – Oklahoma lawmakers gathered last week to review an interim study led by Rep. Eric Roberts, R-Okla. City, titled Deconfliction: Coordination Between Agencies to Ensure Safety for Police. The study examines how law enforcement agencies coordinate operations to prevent dangerous overlaps. between law enforcement officers from different agencies who are working on a case but from different crimes.

“I appreciate the opportunity to host this important discussion and bring law enforcement leaders together,” Roberts said. “When our agencies work in sync, it protects officers in the field, strengthens investigations, and ensures taxpayer dollars are used efficiently. Our goal is to keep our communities safe and support the men and women who serve them.”

The interim study opened with Detective Van Keuren of the Oklahoma City Police Department, who recounted a 2024 human trafficking investigation in Mustang. Officers from different agencies unknowingly encountered each other during separate undercover operations. The incident, which could have turned deadly, was resolved without injury and led to greater coordination through the Oklahoma Bureau of Narcotics and Dangerous Drugs’ deconfliction system.

“This situation shows just how quickly things can go wrong, even when everyone’s following protocol,” Van Keuren said. “We were seconds away from a tragedy simply because two agencies were operating separate investigations without realizing it. Deconfliction systems exist to prevent that, and this incident reinforced how vital it is that every law enforcement agency use the same system and report their operations accurately.”

Officials highlighted the critical role of deconfliction, which coordinates operations across agencies to prevent overlap and enhance officer safety. Established in 1996 and integrated into the Texoma High Intensity Drug Trafficking Areas (HIDTA) system in 1999, the system now covers thousands of officers and hundreds of agencies statewide. In 2025 alone, nearly 16,000 deconflictions were conducted in Oklahoma.

“Deconfliction is more than a tool, it’s a lifeline for officer safety and investigative integrity,” said Donnie Anderson with the Oklahoma Bureau of Narcotics. “By coordinating operations, sharing intelligence and preventing overlap, it keeps officers safe and ensures that law enforcement efforts are effective across local, state and federal levels.”

Keith Brown, Director of HIDTA emphasized that accountability begins with agency leadership rather than individual officers, and that proper law enforcement leadership training, paired with administrative oversight, ensures deconfliction is used effectively.

“Deconfliction failures are rare, but when they happen, they can be costly and dangerous,” Brown said. “The goal is always to protect officers, preserve investigative integrity and ensure taxpayer resources are used effectively. It starts with agency leadership and then their teams following suit.”

Captain Jeremy Yurton, commander of Oklahoma’s Internet Crimes Against Children (ICAC) task force, highlighted the system’s role in coordinating investigations of internet crimes against children. OSBI triages cyber tips to local, state and federal agencies, ensuring multiple agencies do not duplicate efforts and investigations remain coordinated.

“Deconfliction is an essential investigative tool for Internet Crimes Against Children,” Yurton said. “It allows officers to see if multiple tips point to the same suspect, address or device, ensuring we don’t duplicate efforts and can act efficiently to protect children.”

Representatives from CLEET stressed that all agencies must comply with deconfliction procedures. While larger agencies generally follow the system, smaller agencies or those refusing to participate pose risks for operational conflicts.

CLEET emphasized that accountability measures, including hearings and potential revocation of law enforcement credentials, address intentional noncompliance.

“Deconfliction is a mandatory process for law enforcement in Oklahoma, and if an agency or officer intentionally refuses to follow it, there must be accountability,” a CLEET representative said.

Officials confirmed that deconfliction training is already incorporated into existing law enforcement education programs, including the Sheriffs Academy, Chiefs Academy, and the two-week investigative academy.

They emphasized that the training is straightforward and accessible, but strong leadership and administrative oversight remain essential to ensure consistent use of deconfliction procedures across all agencies statewide.

The interim study was requested after House Bill 1862 did not advance through the committee process. The bill, which sought to strengthen coordination between law enforcement agencies during undercover operations, was requested by Oklahoma City Police Captain Kylie Turner.

“I look forward to continuing this conversation during the upcoming session,” Roberts said. “There’s broad agreement that deconfliction saves lives and improves coordination. I’m committed to working with law enforcement and my colleagues to make sure Oklahoma has the tools and policies in place to keep our officers and communities safe.”

HB1862 remains eligible for consideration in the upcoming 2026 Second Regular Session.

Cameron University Brazilian Jiu Jitsu Club To Host One-Day Kids Camp

Looking for a fun, active and confidence-boosting activity for your child? The Cameron University Brazilian Jiu Jitsu (BJJ) Club is hosting a One-Day Kids Camp that combines fitness, teamwork and life lessons - all while having a blast on the mat! Designed to introduce children to the fundamentals of Brazilian Jiu Jitsu in a safe, fun and engaging environment, the camp is scheduled for Saturday, November 8, in the Aggie Rec Center.

Session 1, for children ages 5-8, will take place from 9 am. to 12:30 p.m., while Session 2 takes place from 1:30 to 4:30 p.m. for ages 9-12. Each session includes skill-building activities, team challenges, and a pizza party to wrap up the day. Campers will also receive a commemorative T-shirt. A hospitality room will be available for parents throughout the event.

The cost is \$50 per child, with only 20 participants per session. As spots are limited, early registration is encouraged. Participants should wear athletic clothing, socks and tennis shoes and bring a water bottle and snacks if needed. To register or learn more, contact Dana Winters at dwinters@cameron.edu or at (580) 581-2309.

Each session is designed to be fun, safe and beginner-friendly, as no prior martial arts experience is required. Kids who attend will:

- * Learn beginner-friendly Brazilian Jiu Jitsu techniques in a safe environment
- * Build confidence, focus and discipline through hands-on activities
- * Develop teamwork and problem-solving skills
- * Have a great time making new friends while staying active

"Brazilian Jiu Jitsu is more than just a martial art - it teaches valuable life skills such as respect, perseverance and problem-solving. It also helps kids grow mentally and emotionally," said Jesus Rojo, president of the Cameron University BJJ Club. "We're excited to share this incredible sport with the community's youth."

Proceeds from the camp will support the Cameron University BJJ Club and will help fund student training, regional and national competition opportunities and future community events.

The Cameron University Brazilian Jiu Jitsu Club is a student-led organization committed to promoting the art and sport of Brazilian Jiu Jitsu. Through regular training, competition, and community outreach, the club helps members build discipline, respect, confidence and camaraderie - while sharing the many physical and mental benefits of BJJ with the broader community.

The CU BJJ Club is proud to be a member of the National Collegiate Grappling Association (NCGA), the nation's first governing body dedicated solely to collegiate grappling. The NCGA provides student-athletes with a structured, competitive platform that emphasizes athletic excellence, academic achievement, and personal growth. By aligning with collegiate standards and offering opportunities for recognition such as All-American honors, the NCGA opens the door for athletes to compete at the national level - and even pursue international competition and World Team Trials.

Oklahoma High Schoolers Compete In First Annual Drone Search And Rescue Championship

STILLWATER, Okla. – Thirty Oklahoma high school teams showcased their drone-powered search and rescue skills at the inaugural “Fly Forward: Search and Rescue State Championship” on Tuesday, Oct. 21 at Lake Carl Blackwell in Stillwater.

The day-long event was hosted by the Oklahoma Department of Aerospace and Aeronautics (ODAA) and the Oklahoma Aerospace Institute for Research and Education (OAIRE).

Student teams were challenged by real-life scenarios including locating a downed hiker, an overturned kayaker, and a snakebite victim.

The rescue operations were staged with support from Oklahoma State University Police, Stillwater Medical Center, Payne County Emergency Management, and LifeNet Emergency Medical Services. From a mobile command center, the student teams received dispatch information and then used maps and analyzed critical data to develop and execute rescue plans.

Paula Kedy, Statewide Aerospace STEM Education Manager, praised the competition, saying, “This event was truly exceptional. It challenged students to utilize the skills gained in their aviation classes to effectively tackle real-world emergency scenarios.”

The overall state champion for the event was Wilson High School. Individual category winners were Putnam City Aviation, Kingston High school and Wilson High School. The overall teamwork and spirit award was given to P91 Homeschool Co-op.

“It was incredible to watch these young pilots and aspiring first responders in action,” said Dr. Jamey Jacob, OAIRE executive director. “Their skill, teamwork, and excitement during each successful rescue were inspiring, and even how they handled themselves as they worked through challenges and roadblocks (should I say ‘air’ blocks?). I can’t wait to see the competition grow even bigger and better next year.”

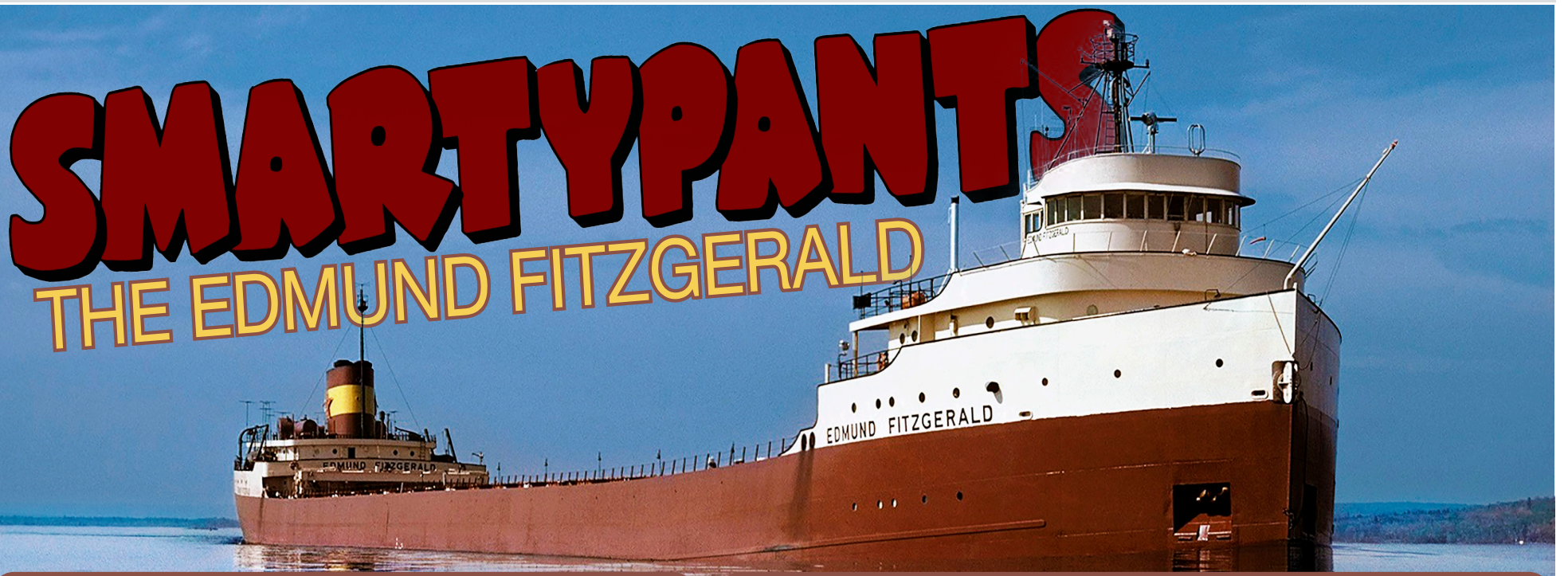
Oklahoma is a national leader in preparing students for the aerospace workforce, with 149 schools offering aviation coursework. These schools have creatively partnered with local airports, aerospace industries, and higher education institutions to raise student awareness of aerospace careers and essential skills needed to succeed.

Grayson Ardies, ODAA executive director, emphasized the importance of collaboration among Oklahoma’s high school aerospace education programs and community partners and programs like OAIRE.

“The most beneficial relationship we can cultivate is one that bridges our established aerospace industry and the aspiring professionals of tomorrow,” said Ardies. “This vital connection fosters a remarkable win-win scenario: industry partners acquire a pool of well-trained, skilled workers, educational institutions draw in enthusiastic and passionate students, and those students are equipped with the chance to embark on rewarding careers with higher salaries.”

Oklahoma was named the nationwide leader in high schools providing aerospace curriculum for the fourth consecutive year in June 2025.

The state’s consistent leadership in aerospace education is a direct reflection of its commitment to supporting Oklahoma’s second-largest and fastest-growing industry: aerospace and defense. By strategically expanding and promoting aerospace programs, Oklahoma is working to cement its national standing and secure a long-term, skilled workforce for the aerospace sector.



Have you ever heard of the ship called The Edmund Fitzgerald? It was one of the biggest and most famous ships to ever sail on the Great Lakes. The sailors called her "The Mighty Fitz". The ship was 729 feet long. That's more than two football fields put end to end. The Fitzgerald was famous even before it was launched in 1958 and people came from everywhere to see it set sail for the first time. Like the Titanic, the Edmund Fitzgerald was supposed to be unsinkable. Now, the only thing left of the mighty ship is its bell, which rings every November, the month the ship went down in a storm. How did the ship sink, what happened that night, and how many people lost their lives?

The Mighty Fitz carried iron ore across the Great Lakes from mines in Minnesota to steel mills in places like Detroit and Cleveland. On November 10, 1975, a Lake Superior storm with giant waves beat up the ship. It was one of the worst storms the Great Lakes had ever seen. Waves as tall as a three-story building crashed around the Fitz, the wind roared and the boat rocked and twisted in the storm. Captain Ernest M. McSorley was talking to another ship that was out in the storm, on the radio. Captain McSorley said they were "Holding our own." A little while after that the "Fitz" mysteriously disappeared from the other ship's radar. The entire crew of 29 people died when the ship went down.

IN THE NEWSPAPERS!

Find No Survivors of Fitzgerald

729 Footer Sinks in Gale With All Hands in Superior

SAULT STE. MARIE, Mich. — The 729-foot ore carrier Edmund Fitzgerald, carrying a crew of 29 and one apprentice, sank last Monday in a fierce storm on Lake Superior that kicked up 35-foot high waves. There apparently were no survivors. A Coast Guard spokesman in Sault Ste. Marie said there were no signs of survivors. The Coast Guard spokesman said the ship was last seen in Cleveland, an official of the company operating the ship said. The first wreckage was sighted at about 4:30 a.m. EST, about 13 miles south of Whitefish Point and eight miles west of Copper Mines Point, a Coast Guard spokesman in Toledo, Ohio, said. The Coast Guard spokesman said the ship was last seen in Cleveland, an official of the company operating the ship said. The first wreckage was sighted at about 4:30 a.m. EST, about 13 miles south of Whitefish Point and eight miles west of Copper Mines Point, a Coast Guard spokesman in Toledo, Ohio, said. The Coast Guard spokesman said the ship was last seen in Cleveland, an official of the company operating the ship said. The first wreckage was sighted at about 4:30 a.m. EST, about 13 miles south of Whitefish Point and eight miles west of Copper Mines Point, a Coast Guard spokesman in Toledo, Ohio, said.

Weather
Back to Normal
High 59, Low 40
Moon 53

News
FOR HOME DELIVERY DIAL 347-5544 PETOSKEY, MICH. 49759
Tuesday, November 11, 1975 16 Pages Twenty Cents



After the sinking, people all over the country and in Canada were sad. A song called "The Wreck of the Edmund Fitzgerald" was written by a Canadian singer named Gordon Lightfoot. To this day the song teaches about the ship, the storm and helps people remember the brave sailors who were lost that night. The ship is now one of the most famous ghost ships of the Great Lakes. Stories are told of strange sightings and sounds near the place where the ship went down. Some sailors say that on dark, stormy nights, they've seen a shadowy ship moving silently across the water. Voices, lights and a bell ringing has haunted the shores of the lake.

VIDEOS!



Follow this to watch fascinating videos on the wreck of the Edmund Fitzgerald

Why did the haunted shipwreck blush?



It saw the ocean's bottom!

THE EDMUND FITZGERALD STORM NOVEMBER 10TH, 1975

In 1995, Mike and Warren Fletcher dove into the dark and cold water of Lake Superior. They found the ship sitting 530 feet deep at the bottom of the lake like a child's toy, broken and thrown out. Before the divers went to the wreck they were asked to find the ship's bell, and they did. It was still bolted onto the deck. Every year, on November 10th, people come from all over the world to remember the Edmund Fitzgerald and its crew. At the Great Lakes Shipwreck Museum, the bell is rung 30 times. One time for each of the 29 crew members who died when the Edmund Fitzgerald sank, and one extra time for anyone else killed sailing Lake Superior. Just like when the ship was launched, people come from all over the world to hear the bell toll.

READING!

Check these books out from your favorite library!

Mighty Fitz by Michael Schumacher

November's Fury by Garcia Hogan



Solutions

- ACROSS**
- 1 Someone who works on a boat
 - 3 A large seagoing vessel
 - 6 When the weather gets wild
 - 11 Something that can't be seen or found anymore
 - 12 A large body of water surrounded by land
 - 15 Unusual or weird
 - 16 The 11th month
 - 19 Travel by a boat
 - 21 When a ship is put into water
 - 22 A machine that receives invisible signals
 - 23 A place for digging ore
 - 24 Well known
 - 25 Land controlled by a single government
- DOWN**
- 2 A shiny, grey metal
 - 4 Visited by a ghost
 - 5 Where products are made
 - 7 Hard or impossible to explain
 - 8 Something that cannot sink
 - 9 To hit something really hard
 - 10 A ship's commander
 - 13 Rock that has useful minerals
 - 14 A device that rings
 - 17 Very strong, powerful, or big
 - 18 A machine used to track things
 - 19 Full of shadows
 - 20 A moving swell on the surface of a body of water

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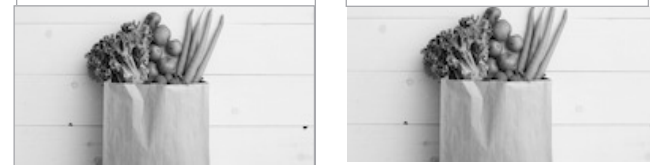
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