



Turn Around don't drown!

2026  
Calendar

1st Place Poster by

Skylar Girty  
Maryetta Schools

Oklahoma Floodplain Managers Association

# TURN AROUND DON'T DROWN®

Each year, more deaths occur due to flooding than from any other thunderstorm related hazard. Why? The main reason is people underestimate the force and power of water. Many of the deaths occur in automobiles as they are swept downstream. Of these drownings, many are preventable, but too many people continue to drive around the barriers that warn you the road is flooded.

Whether you are driving or walking, if you come to a flooded road **TURN AROUND DON'T DROWN**. You will not know the depth of the water nor will you know the condition of the road under the water.

## FOLLOW THESE SAFETY RULES

- **MONITOR NOAA** Weather Radio, or your favorite news source for vital weather related information.
- If flooding occurs, **GET TO HIGHER GROUND**. Get out of areas subject to flooding. This includes dips, low spots, canyons, washes, etc.
- **AVOID AREAS ALREADY FLOODED**, especially if the water is flowing fast. Do not attempt to cross flowing streams. Turn Around Don't Drown.
- Road beds may be washed out under flood waters. Never drive through flooded roadways. **TURN AROUND DON'T DROWN**. If your vehicle is suddenly caught in rising water, leave it immediately and seek higher ground.
- **DO NOT PARK YOUR VEHICLE ALONG STREAMS** and washes, particularly during threatening conditions.
- **BE ESPECIALLY CAUTIOUS AT NIGHT** when it is harder to recognize flood dangers.

## FLASH FLOODS

Except for heat related fatalities, more deaths occur from flooding than any other hazard. **WHY?** Most people fail to realize the power of water. For example, six inches of fast-moving flood water can knock you off your feet.

While the number of fatalities can vary dramatically with weather conditions from year-to-year, the national 30-year average for flood deaths is 127. That compares with a 30-year average of 73 deaths for lightning, 65 for tornadoes, and 16 for hurricanes.

**NATIONAL WEATHER SERVICE** data also shows:

- Nearly half of all flash flood fatalities are vehicle-related,
- The majority of victims are males, and
- Flood deaths affect all age groups.

**MOST FLASH FLOODS ARE CAUSED BY SLOW-MOVING THUNDERSTORMS**, that move repeatedly over the same area or heavy rains from tropical storms and hurricanes. These floods can develop within minutes or hours depending on the intensity and duration of the rain, the topography, soil conditions and ground cover.

**FLASH FLOODS CAN ROLL BOULDERS**, tear out trees, destroy buildings and bridges, and scour out new channels. Rapidly rising water can reach heights of 30 feet or more. Furthermore, flash flood-producing rains can also trigger catastrophic mud slides.

**FLOATING DEBRIS OR ICE CAN ACCUMULATE** occasionally at a natural or man-made obstruction and restrict the flow of water. Water held back by the ice jam or debris dam can cause flooding upstream. Subsequent flash flooding can occur downstream if the obstruction should suddenly release.



The Oklahoma Floodplain Managers Association advocates for the protection of the natural functions of the floodplain through education, training, and service to Oklahomans. We encourage flood-safe development and sound floodplain management practices through education, higher standards, and certification.

OFMA appreciates all the hard work by teachers, parents, and the many others who supported this year's poster contest. The students who entered also deserve our thanks. We hope that by working together to spread the **TURN AROUND DON'T DROWN®** message, fewer people will be harmed by flood waters in Oklahoma.

This year, more than **210** participants competed for the four statewide awards. This year's winners are:

**1ST PLACE - SKYLAR GIRTY**

Maryetta Schools

**2ND PLACE - ZURI ROSSMAN**

MacArthur Elementary

**3RD PLACE - PAISLEY MOTE**

Bridge Creek Intermediate

**HONORABLE - AIYANA WOODS**

**MENTION** Bridge Creek Intermediate

Special thanks to the following schools for supporting student participation in this year's program:

- ◆ Adair Public Schools
- ◆ Bearden Elementary
- ◆ Bridge Creek Intermediate
- ◆ Canton Elementary
- ◆ Catalayah Elementary
- ◆ Hilldale Elementary
- ◆ Kiefer Public Schools
- ◆ Lincoln Elementary
- ◆ MacArthur Elementary
- ◆ Maryetta School
- ◆ Pernell Elementary
- ◆ Stone Canyon Elementary

First, second and third place winners receive cash awards in the amount of \$150, \$100, and \$50, respectively. The top 13 posters in the state are published in the OFMA Turn Around Don't Drown® calendar. Each student participant is awarded a certificate of participation. Teachers receive a letter of appreciation.

**THANK YOU FOR PARTICIPATING!!!**

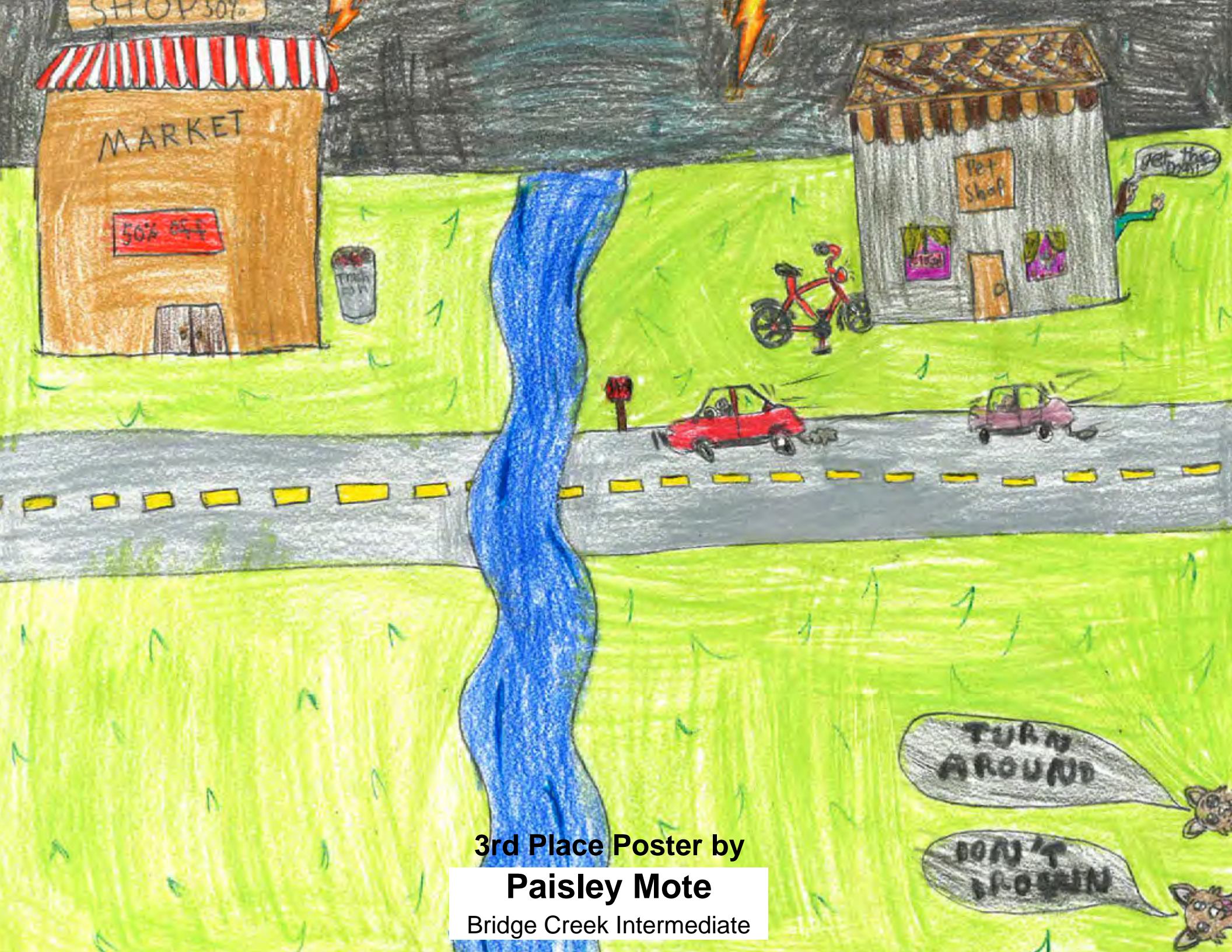


2nd Place Poster by  
**Zuri Rossman**  
MacArthur Elementary

Monitor the NOAA Weather Radio or your favorite news source for vital weather-related information.

JANUARY 2026

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
<p>The word "flood" comes from an old English word that means "a flowing of water, river, or sea."</p> <p>Dictionary</p>	<p>DECEMBER 2025</p> <p>1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21 22 23 24 25 26 27 28 29 30 31</p>	<p>FEBRUARY 2026</p> <p>1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21 22 23 24 25 26 27 28</p>	<p>NEW YEAR'S DAY</p>	1	2	3
4	5	6	7	8	9	10
11	12	13	14	15	16	17
18	MARTIN LUTHER KING DAY	19	20	21	22	23
25	26	27	28	29	30	31



3rd Place Poster by  
**Paisley Mote**  
Bridge Creek Intermediate

Freddie Floodway wants YOU to be Flood Smart.  
Remember: Next Month is Flood Insurance Month

# FEBRUARY 2026

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY	
1 GROUND HOG DAY	2	3	4	5	6	7	
8	9	10	11	LINCOLN'S BIRTHDAY	12	13 VALENTINE'S DAY 	14
15 PRESIDENT'S DAY	16	17	18	19	20	21	
WASHINGTON'S BIRTHDAY 22	23	24	25	26	27	28	

Many ancient communities relied heavily on the annual flooding of floodplain valleys on rivers such as The Tigris-Euphrates, the Nile, and the Ganges.

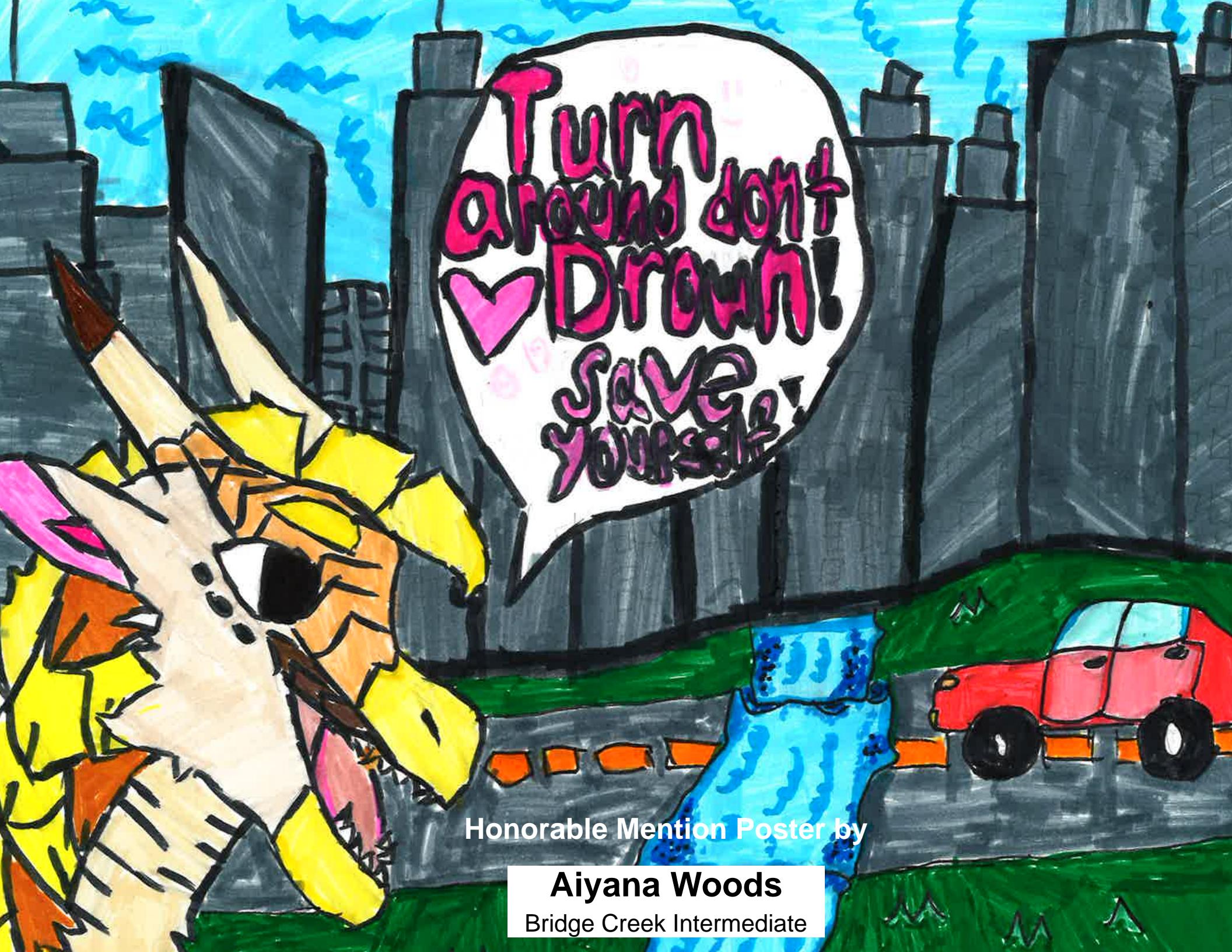
<http://www.sciencekids.co.nz/sciencefacts/weather/floods.html>

JANUARY 2026

1 2 3  
4 5 6 7 8 9 10  
11 12 13 14 15 16 17  
18 19 20 21 22 23 24  
25 26 27 28 29 30 31

MARCH 2026

1 2 3 4 5 6 7  
8 9 10 11 12 13 14  
15 16 17 18 19 20 21  
22 23 24 25 26 27 28  
29 30 31



Turn  
around don't  
Drown!  
SAVE  
YOURSELF!

Honorable Mention Poster by  
**Aiyana Woods**  
Bridge Creek Intermediate

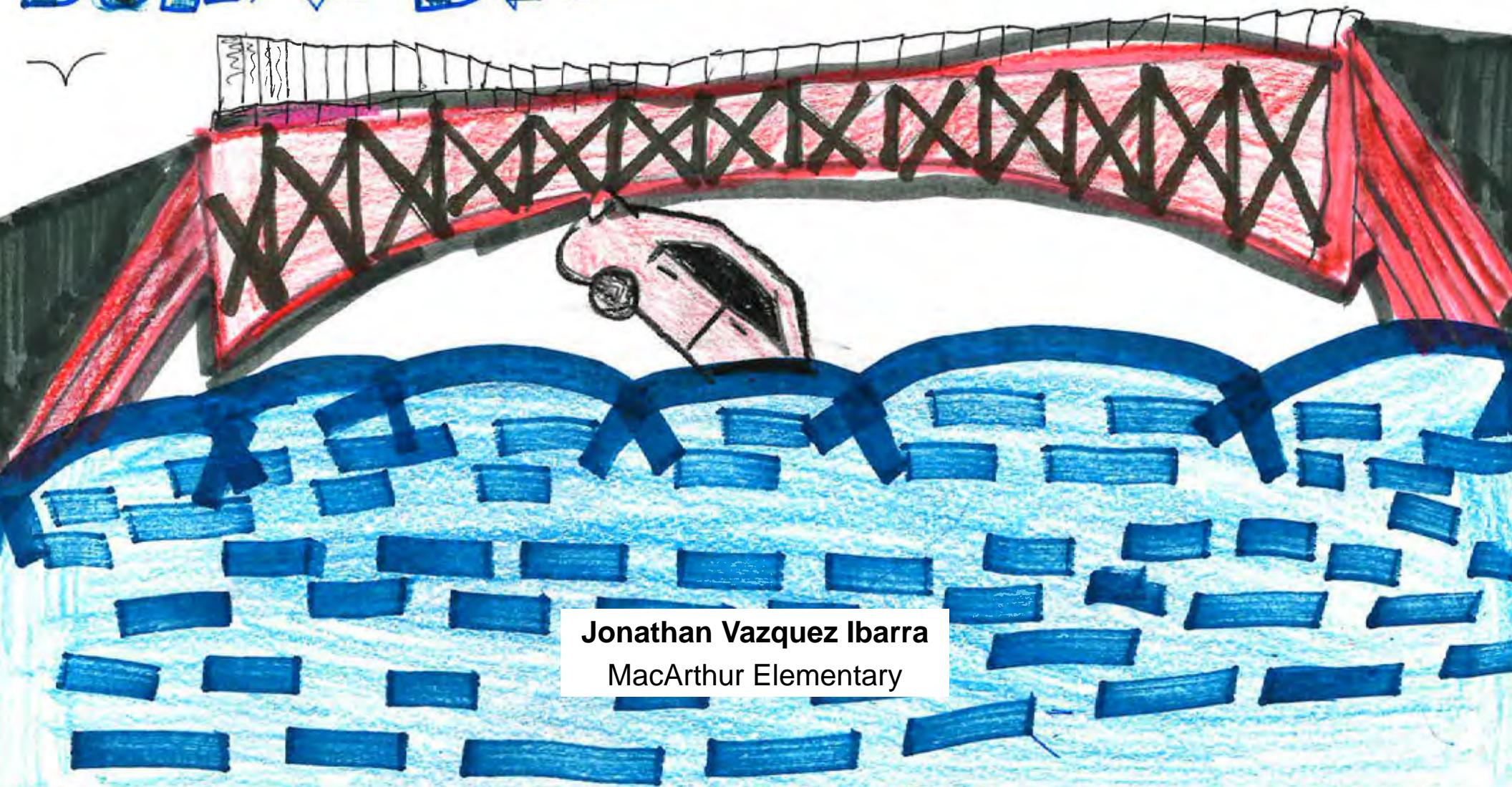
## FLOOD INSURANCE MONTH

Every year, flooding causes more than \$2 billion of property damage in the U.S.

MARCH 2026

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
DAYLIGHT SAVINGS TIME BEGINS 8	9	10	11	12	13	14
15	16	ST. PATRICK'S DAY 17	18	19	FIRST DAY OF SPRING 20	21
22	23	24	25	26	27	28
29	30	31	The erosive force of moving water can drag dirt from under a building's foundation, causing it to crack and tumble. <a href="https://kids.nationalgeographic.com/science/">https://kids.nationalgeographic.com/science/</a>		FEBRUARY 2026	APRIL 2026
					1 2 3 4 5 6 7	1 2 3 4
					8 9 10 11 12 13 14	5 6 7 8 9 10 11
					15 16 17 18 19 20 21	12 13 14 15 16 17 18
					22 23 24 25 26 27 28	19 20 21 22 23 24 25
					26 27 28 29 30	

When  
Flooded  
Turn Around  
Don't Drown



Jonathan Vazquez Ibarra  
MacArthur Elementary

Roads may be washed out under flood waters. NEVER drive through flooded roadways. Turn Around Don't Drown®.  
If your vehicle is suddenly caught in rising water, leave it immediately and seek higher ground.

APRIL 2026

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
<b>MARCH 2026</b> 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21 22 23 24 25 26 27 28 29 30 31	<b>MAY 2026</b> 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21 22 23 24 25 26 27 28 29 30 31		1 OFMA Poster Contest Deadline	2	3	4
<b>EASTER SUNDAY</b> 	5	6	7	8	9	10
12	13	14	15	16	17	18
19	20	21	22	23	24	25
26	27	28	29	30	The development of a flood varies: it may rise very slowly or in just a matter of seconds after an extensive rainfall. <a href="https://kidskonnect.com/science/floods/">https://kidskonnect.com/science/floods/</a>	

We Care



**Jon DelaCruz**  
Hilldale Elementary

Be  
Aware

## FLOOD AWARENESS MONTH

MAY 2026

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
<b>APRIL 2026</b> 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21 22 23 24 25 26 27 28 29 30	No matter how quickly it happens or the cause, flooding is deadly. Floods kill more people and cause more damage than other severe weather related events. Many die trying to drive or walk through a flooded area. Just six inches of water can knock a person off their feet. Just two feet of water can carry a car away.	<b>JUNE 2026</b> 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21 22 23 24 25 26 27 28 29 30			1	2
3	4	5	6	7	8	9
<b>MOTHER'S DAY</b>	10	11	12	13	14	15
17	18	19	20	21	22	23
24	<b>MEMORIAL DAY</b>	25	26	27	28	29
31						

Turn Around  
Don't Drown



Camreigh Thurber  
Maryetta Schools

REMEMBER the NFIP requires MINIMUM STANDARDS.

Communities are encouraged to adopt stringent requirements to keep people and property out of harms way.

JUNE 2026

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
<b>MAY 2026</b> 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21 22 23 24 25 26 27 28 29 30 31	1	2	3	4	5	6
7	8	9	10	11	12	13
<b>FLAG DAY</b> 14	15	16	17	18	19	20
<b>FATHER'S DAY</b> 21	22	23	24	25	26	27
<b>FIRST DAY OF SUMMER</b>						
28	29	30	An extreme river flood is called a flash flood, which carries water ranging from 10 to 20 feet high. This event occurs very fast without warnings or extreme rains. It happens because of a natural or man-made river blockage, such as dams, glaciers or landslides, releasing an immense volume of water.  <a href="https://kidskonnect.com/science/floods/">https://kidskonnect.com/science/floods/</a>			<b>JULY 2026</b> 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21 22 23 24 25 26 27 28 29 30 31



**Oklahoma Floodplain  
Managers Association**

### **Our Organization...**

Formed in November 1990, the Oklahoma Floodplain Managers Association (OFMA) brings together people with a common interest in floodplain management. We are a chapter of the Association of State Floodplain Managers, Inc., and our members include concerned citizens, public employees and elected officials, engineers, planners, contractors, lenders, insurance agents, real estate professionals, students, corporate partners and local, state and federal agencies.

Our objectives embrace promoting interest in flood damage abatement, improving cooperation among government agencies, and encouraging innovative approaches to managing Oklahoma's floodplains. We believe that our membership is critical to presenting one unified voice to communicate on flood-related issues.

### **Our Vision...**

The Oklahoma Floodplain Managers Association advocates the protection of the natural functions of the floodplain through education, training and service to Oklahomans.

### **Our Mission...**

We encourage and support, with our partners, flood safe development and flood mitigation. We promote sound floodplain management practices and the natural and cultural benefits of the floodplain. We support the floodplain management profession through education and certification.

**For volunteering opportunities, please visit [www.okflood.org](http://www.okflood.org).**

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## **2025/2026 TRAINING WORKSHOPS**

The Oklahoma Water Resources Board offers resources to educate and train floodplain management professionals on effective floodplain management practices and requirements.

Floodplain administrators can earn credit toward Oklahoma's accreditation requirements by attending an approved conference or workshop, or completing FEMA's online courses.

Visit the resources below for specific information including dates, topics, and registration information.

**OWRB Workshops:** <https://oklahoma.gov/owrb/floodplain-management/floodplain-administrator-training.html>

**OFMA Conferences:** <https://okflood.org/conferences/>

**FEMA Online Courses:** <https://training.fema.gov/is/>

# FLOOD SAFETY POSTER CONTEST

## PRIZES

- Must be a student (Grade 3-5) to win.
- \$150 for first prize, \$100 for second prize or \$50 for third prize plus award certificates.
- Certificate of Appreciation for participating students and teachers.
- Media release for winning schools.
- Posters printed in annual Oklahoma Floodplain Managers Association calendar.



This program is part of NOAA National Weather Service Turn Around Don't Drown® campaign and sponsored by the Department of Homeland Security, Oklahoma Water Resources Board, and Oklahoma Floodplain Managers Association.

## SUBMITTING ART WORK

- Mail to OFMA, Attn: Calendar, P. O. Box 8101, Tulsa, OK 74101-8101.
- Drop off at **WSB**, 1437 S Boulder Avenue, Suite 1550, Tulsa OK 74119.
- Submit electronically at [education@okflood.org](mailto:education@okflood.org).

## JUDGES

- Oklahoma Floodplain Managers Association (OFMA) Board

## POSTER BASICS

- Use 8 1/2 by 11 inch paper in landscape orientation.
- Must be original art work.
- No copyrighted or syndicated characters or cartoons.
- Show the dangers of driving through flood waters. Include "Turn Around Don't Drown" or "Es Mejor Regresarte que Ahogarte."
- Use bright colors. Markers work best.
- Due April 1 (in our hands, not post-marked).

## ANNUAL POSTER CONTEST FORM **DEADLINE: APRIL 1**

Now's your chance to show off your talent, win cash and help Oklahomans with flood awareness.

Just fill in this entry form and give it to your teacher with your original poster.

Name

Parents

Grade

County

School Name

Parent's  
E-mail

School Address

City

Zip

Teacher Name

E-mail

All entries become the property of OFMA. The right to modify any poster for reproduction is reserved. Visit

[ CUT OUT AND ATTACH TO POSTER ]

## REGION ONE

Michael Kimbro PE, CFM  
200 NE 21st Street  
Oklahoma City, OK 73105  
405.522.0612  
mkimbro@odot.org

## REGION TWO

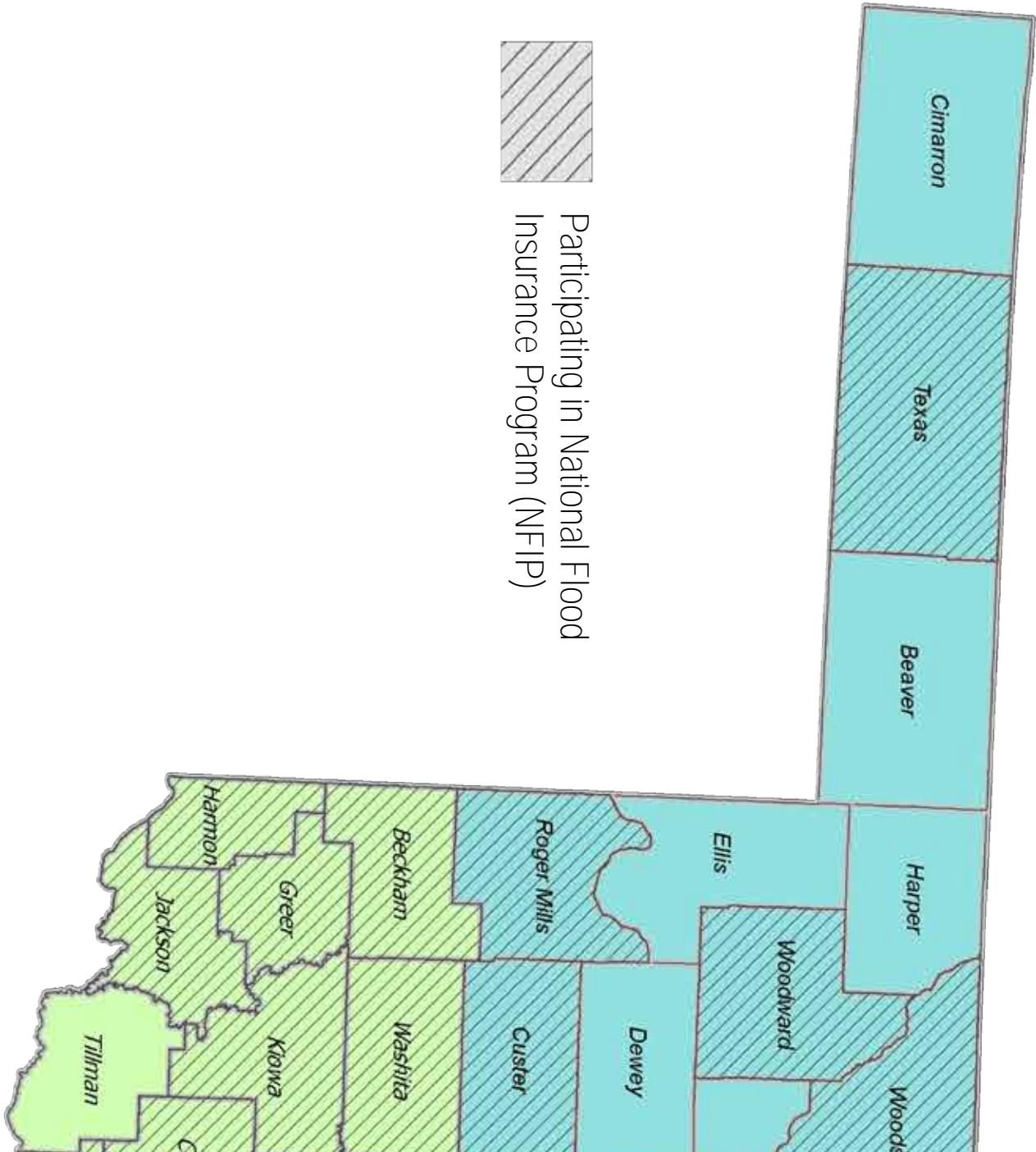
Patrick Wilson PE, CFM  
City of Broken Arrow  
485 N. Poplar Ave  
Broken Arrow, OK 74013  
918.259.7000

## REGION THREE

Dennis Yochum  
1215 South Broadway  
Poteau, OK 74953  
918.635.3610  
emlcdirector@gmail.com  
Pwilson@brokenarrowok.gov



Participating in National Flood  
Insurance Program (NFIP)



## REGION FOUR      REGION FIVE

Johnny A. Barron  
City of Altus

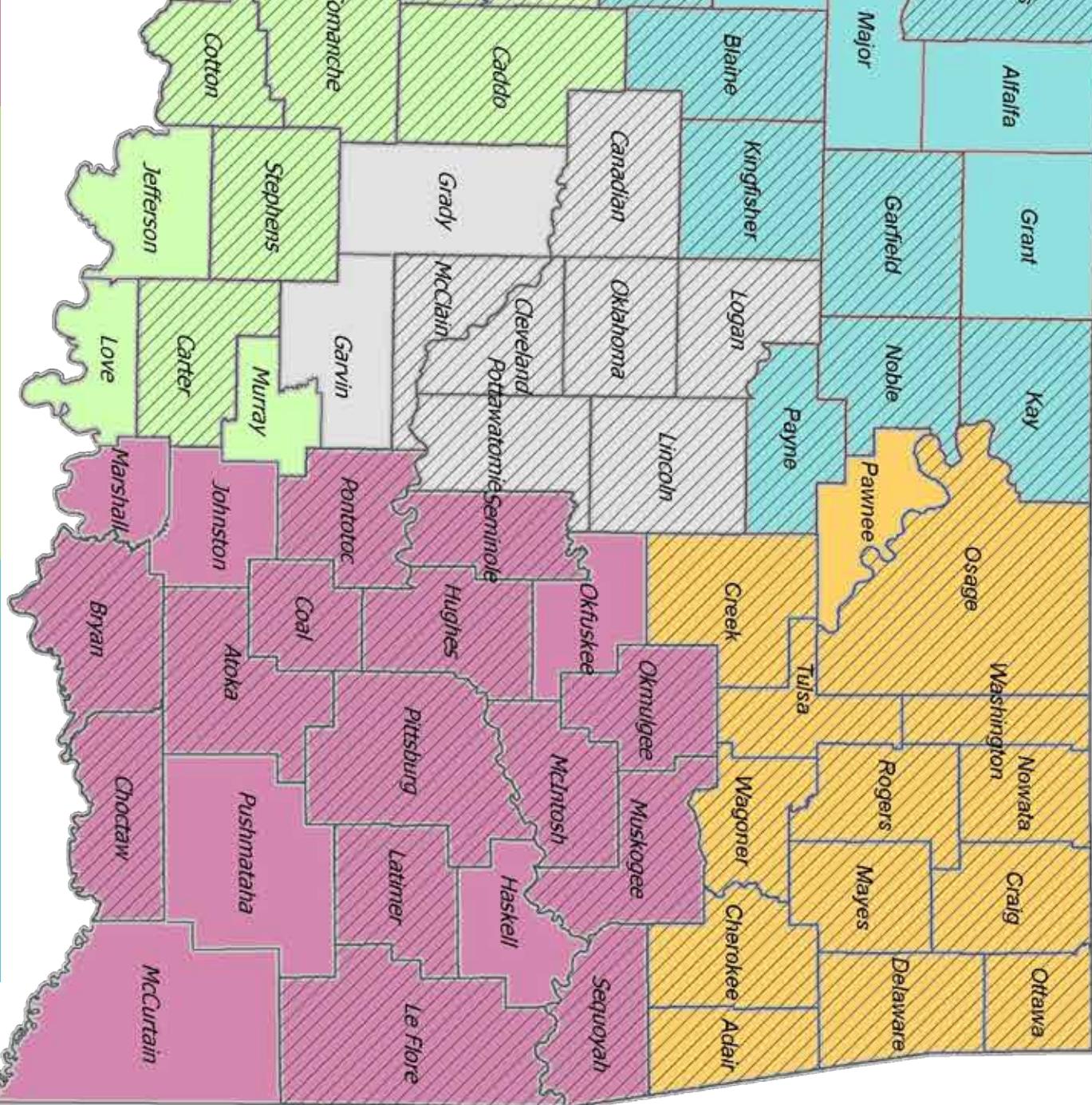
Altus, OK 73521

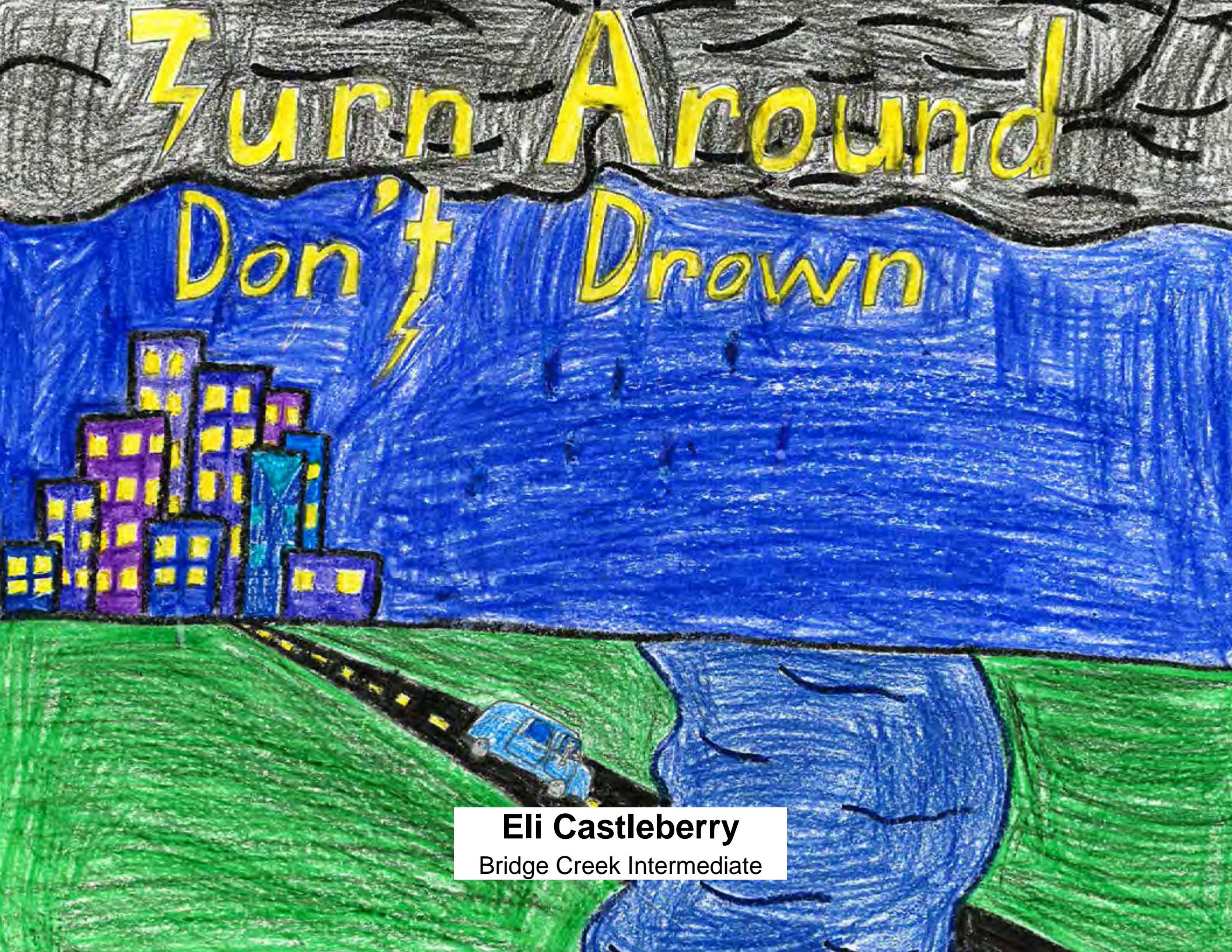
580.481.3518

jbarron@altusok.gov

jprice@garfieldok.com

Jacob Price  
Garfield County  
216 West Oxford  
Enid, OK 73701  
580.242.6013





**Eli Castleberry**

Bridge Creek Intermediate

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY	
Today, advanced computer modeling allows authorities to predict where flooding is likely to occur and how severe it will be.		<b>JUNE 2026</b> 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21 22 23 24 25 26 27 28 29 30	1	2	3	INDEPENDENCE DAY 	4
5	6	7	8	9	10	11	
12	13	14	15	16	17	18	
19	20	21	22	23	24	25	
26	27	28	29	30	31	<b>AUGUST 2026</b> 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21 22 23 24 25 26 27 28 29 30 31	

"Turn Around Don't Drown!"



Grace Pope

Canton Elementary

Register now for OFMA Annual Fall Conference.

AUGUST 2026

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
<p>JULY 2026</p> <p>1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21 22 23 24 25 26 27 28 29 30 31</p>						<p>SEPTEMBER 2026</p> <p>1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21 22 23 24 25 26 27 28 29 30</p>
2	3	4	5	6	7	8
9	10	11	12	13	14	15
16	17	18	19	20	21	22
23	24	25	26	27	28	29
30	31					

Floods occur all over the world and in almost every place.

TURN

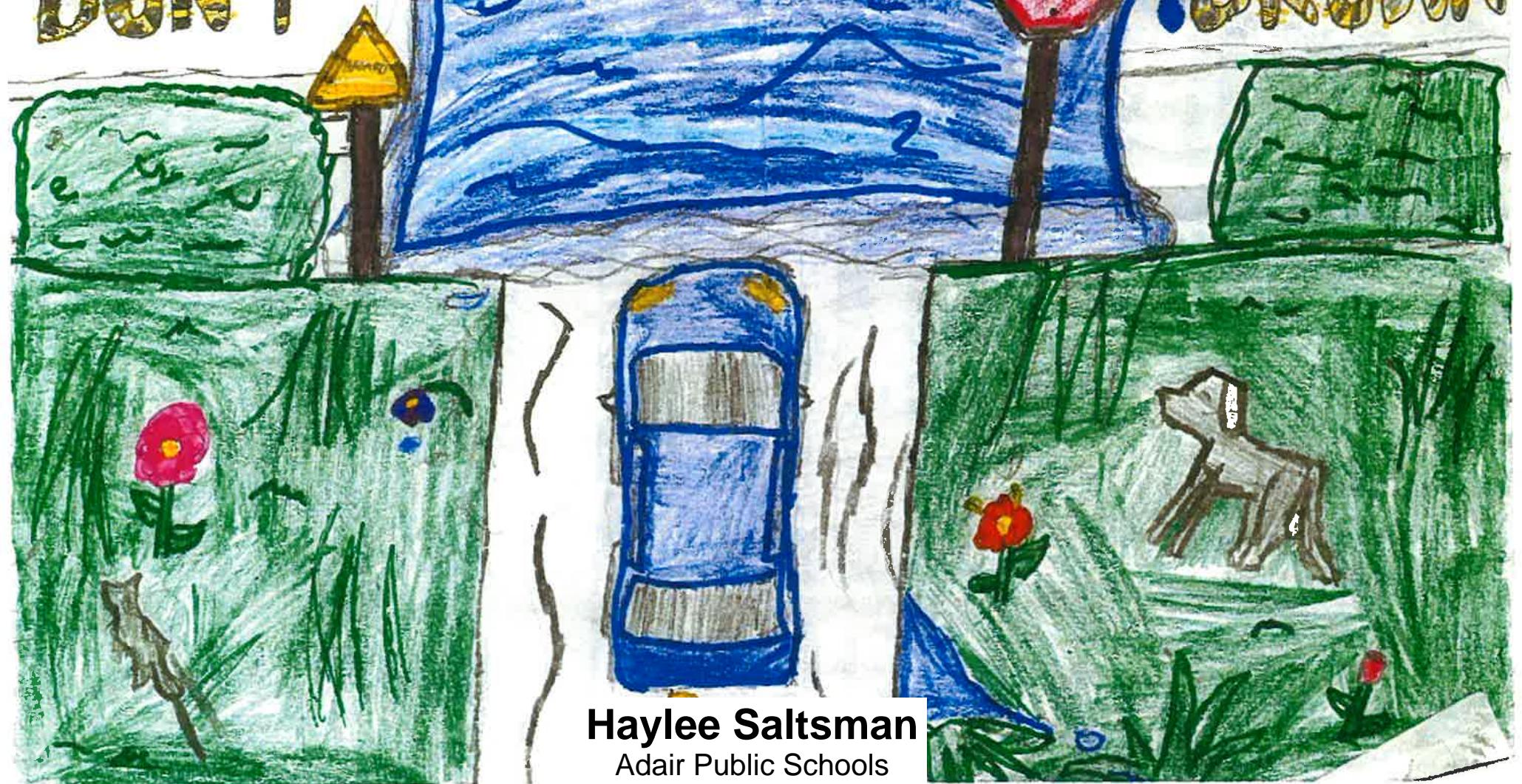
ON

DON'T

AROUND



DROWN

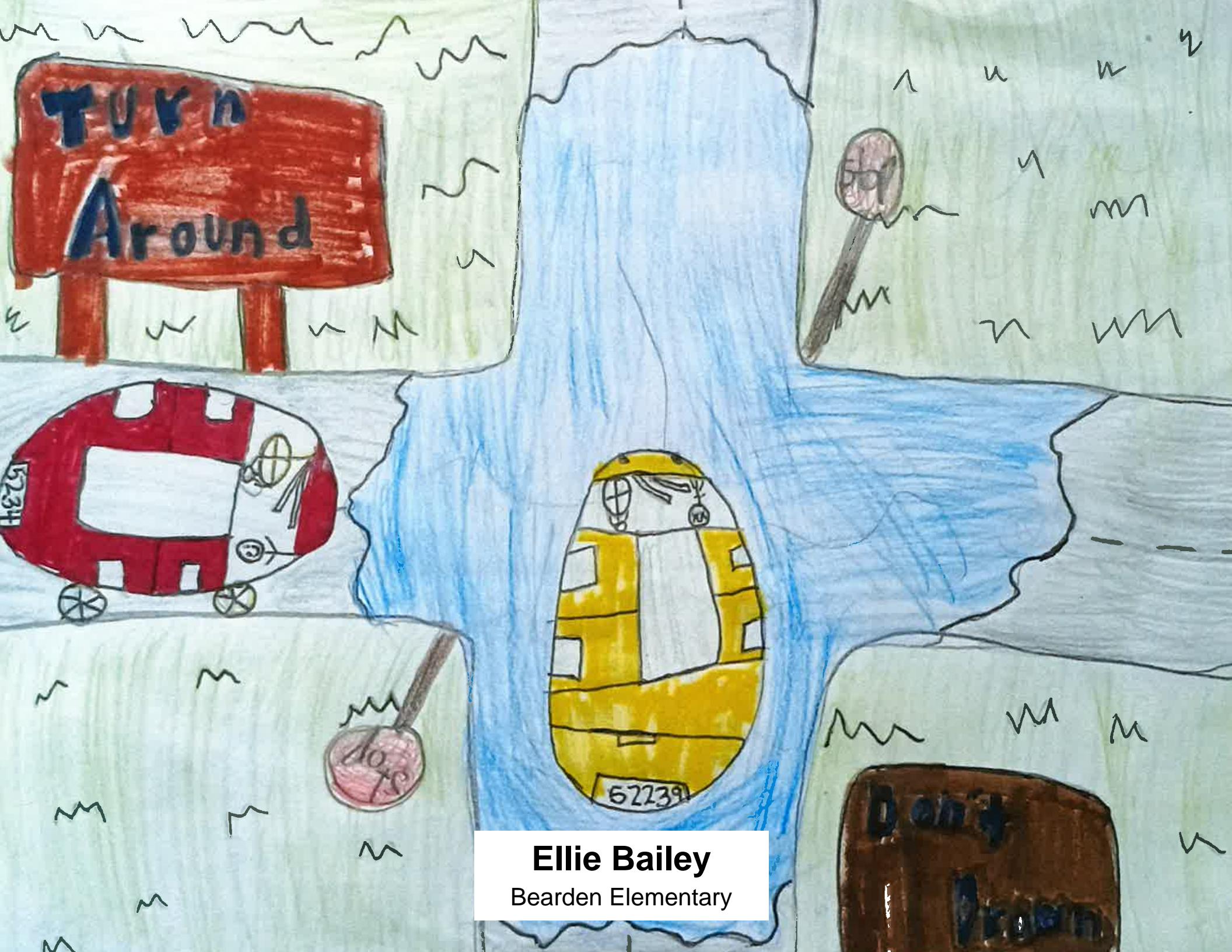


**Haylee Saltsman**  
Adair Public Schools

CFM Renewals are due by the end of September.

# SEPTEMBER 2026

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
AUGUST 2026 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21 22 23 24 25 26 27 28 29 30 31	OCTOBER 2026 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21 22 23 24 25 26 27 28 29 30 31	LABOR DAY 1	2	3	4	5
6	7	8	9	10	11	12
13	14	15	16	17	18	19
20	21 FIRST DAY OF FALL	22	23	24	25	26
27	28	29	30	Floodplains are areas near a river or stream that are first impacted when the water starts to collect in the river or stream from excess rain or other factors. The water of the river or stream will start to rise and cover the area in the floodplain. <a href="https://www.lovetoknow.com/life/lifestyle/flash-flood-safety">https://www.lovetoknow.com/life/lifestyle/flash-flood-safety</a>		



**Ellie Bailey**  
Bearden Elementary

Hurricanes, winter storms, and snow melt are common (but often overlooked) causes of flooding.

# OCTOBER 2026

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
<b>SEPTEMBER 2026</b> 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21 22 23 24 25 26 27 28 29 30	In some places, yearly flooding brings silt (soil that is filled with vitamins and minerals) onto fields used by farmers for raising different kinds of vegetables we eat. When the flood waters are gone, the silt stays to make the soil extra-rich for raising good food. <a href="https://www.konnecthq.com/science/earth-science/">https://www.konnecthq.com/science/earth-science/</a>	<b>NOVEMBER 2026</b> 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21 22 23 24 25 26 27 28 29 30		1	2	3
4	5	6	7	8	9	10
11	12	13	14	15	16	17
18	19	20	21	22	23	24
25	26	27	28	29	30	31



HALLOWEEN



**Kaizleigh Hutchins**  
Catalayah Elementary

Exercise your Right! GO VOTE!!!

Just an inch of water can cause costly damage to your property.

# NOVEMBER 2026

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
DAYLIGHT SAVINGS TIME ENDS 1	2 ELECTION DAY	3	4	5	6	7
8	9	10 VETERANS DAY	11	12	13	14
15	16	17	18	19	20	21
22	23	24	25	26 THANKSGIVING DAY 	27	28
29	30	OCTOBER 2026 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21 22 23 24 25 26 27 28 29 30 31	DECEMBER 2026 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21 22 23 24 25 26 27 28 29 30 31	Some US states make citizens reimburse the cost of their rescue when they drive into flooded areas. <a href="https://kidskonnect.com/science/floods/">https://kidskonnect.com/science/floods/</a>		



**Addison Ennis**  
Catalayah Elementary

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
<b>NOVEMBER 2026</b> 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21 22 23 24 25 26 27 28 29 30	<b>JANUARY 2027</b> 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21 22 23 24 25 26 27 28 29 30 31	1	2	3	4	5
6	7	8	9	10	11	12
13	14	15	16	17	18	19
20	FIRST DAY OF WINTER	21	22	23	24	CHRISTMAS DAY 
27	28	29	30	NEW YEAR'S EVE	31	With most cities and towns located at the coast or next to rivers, flood events can be major natural disasters, causing loss of life and damage to land and property.  <a href="https://www.sciencekids.co.nz/weather.html">https://www.sciencekids.co.nz/weather.html</a>

# TURN AROUND DON'T DROWN®

## PARTICIPATING SCHOOLS

- ◆ Adair Public Schools
- ◆ Bearden Elementary
- ◆ Bridge Creek Intermediate
- ◆ Canton Elementary
- ◆ Catalayah Elementary
- ◆ Hilldale Elementary
- ◆ Kiefer Public Schools
- ◆ Lincoln Elementary
- ◆ MacArthur Elementary
- ◆ Maryetta School
- ◆ Pernell Elementary
- ◆ Stone Canyon Elementary

## CALENDAR PARTNERS & SPONSORS

- Oklahoma Floodplain Managers Association (OFMA)
- Oklahoma Water Resources Board (OWRB)
- Oklahoma Department of Transportation (ODOT)
- Oklahoma State Department of Education (ODE)
- Federal Emergency Management Administration (FEMA)
- National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA)
- National Weather Service (NWS)



Turn Around Don't Drown® is a campaign created by the NWS to prevent loss of life due to drowning and driving into floodwaters. For additional information please consult the NWS website [www.weather.gov/safety/flood-turn-around-dont-drown](http://www.weather.gov/safety/flood-turn-around-dont-drown).



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