



October 2020



It's that time of year to...

- ✓ Check the operation of your smoke detectors, and change the batteries. Install additional detectors if needed.
- ✓ Inspect and ready your heating system. Empty the ashes, and clean the soot from your fireplace.
- ✓ Check the weather-stripping around doors and windows, and replace those that are worn.

Fall Time Reminder...

The Word is: **Unity**



October is Fire Safety Month



Fire Extinguishers



Carbon Detector



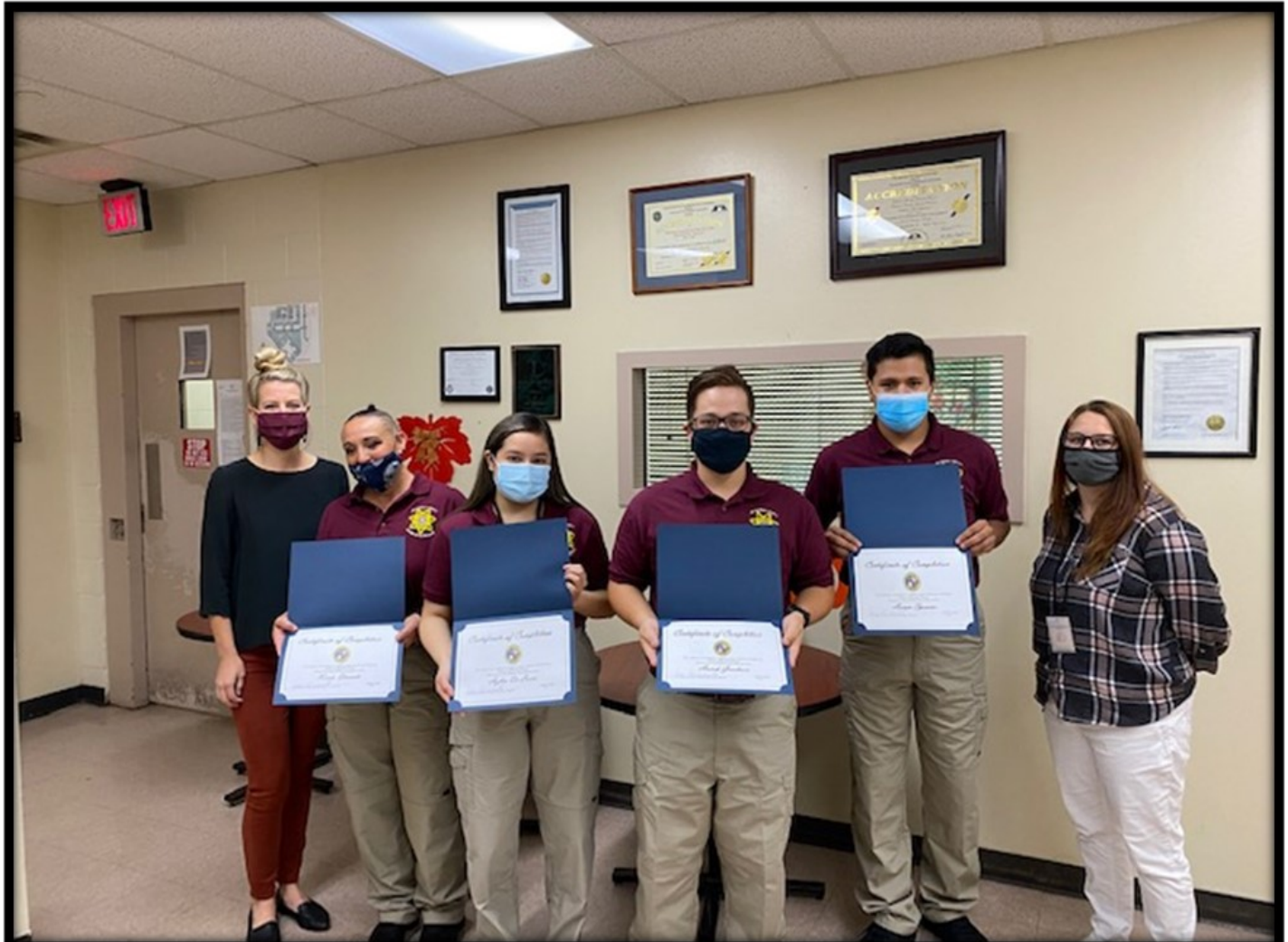
Fire Blanket



Smoke Detector

New Orientation Staff Graduation Day!

Welcome aboard—We are so glad to have you.



Left to Right: DOI Desanto, DOI De Loera, DOI Goodwin, DOI Spencer

New Detention Officers

Welcome aboard—We are so glad to have you.



Left to Right: DOI Gordon DOI Truss, DOI Martin, DOI Lopez, DOI Rexroad, DOI Tharp

In Loving Memory *Anita J. Carter*

SSI Anita Carter my detention mother taught me so much! I have so many fond memories of working with you on 11-7 shift. All though we had not spoken in a while before you were called home, I want you to know I will miss you and love you!

Love Always Rose



A VIRTUOUS WOMAN

Who can find a virtuous and capable wife? She is worth more than precious rubies. Her husband can trust her, and she will greatly enrich his life. She will not hinder him but help him all her life.

She is energetic and strong, a hard worker. She watches for bargains; her lights burn late into the night. She extends a helping hand to the poor and opens her arms to the needy. She is clothed with strength and dignity, and she laughs with no fear of the future. When she speaks, her words are wise, and kindness is the rule when she gives instructions. She carefully watches all that goes on in her household and does not have to bear the consequences of laziness.

Her children stand and bless her. Her husband praises her.

Charm is deceptive, and beauty does not last, but a woman who fears the Lord will greatly be praised. Reward her for all she has done. Let her deeds publicly declare her praise.

There are many virtuous and capable women in the world, but You, Moma, surpass them all.

Moma, we thank you for dedication and devotion to us. We shall continue to honor you and speak your praises until we meet again. We love you, we love you, we love you.



CELEBRATION OF LIFE

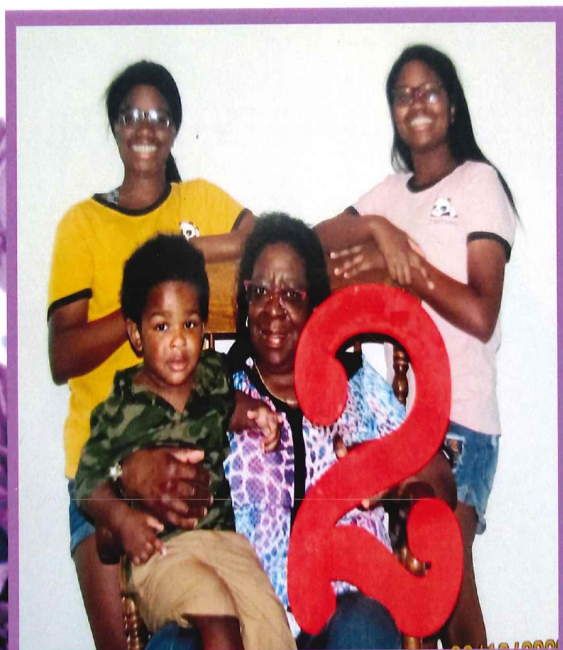
Anita Joyce Carter

October 25, 1955 ~ September 29, 2020

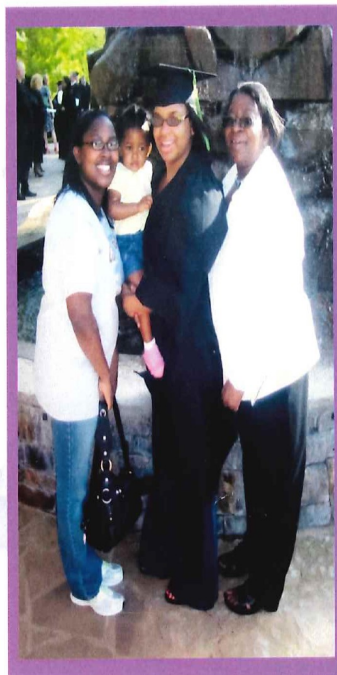
October 24, 2020
Wings Event Center
13700 Eastern Avenue
Edmond, Oklahoma 73013

Anita Joyce Carter, affectionally known as Ms. Anita/Nonna/Nonna Boo, transitioned from this life on September 29, 2020. Ms. Anita was born to the union of Carl E. Jones, Sr and Mary M. Jones in Van Buren, Arkansas on October 25, 1955. Ms. Anita and her family later moved to Muskogee, Oklahoma where she attended and graduated from Muskogee High School, Class of 1973.

In 1978, Ms. Anita met and married her soulmate, Robert V. Carter, Jr. To this union, daughters Tamara and Stefanie were born. Living in Muskogee, Ms. Anita found her calling to work with children and youth. In 1981, she started her career with MCCOYS, where she served as a House Parent, Counselor and Supervisor. Ms. Anita and Robert later moved to Edmond, to be closer to their daughters. Ms. Anita continued her work with children and youth at the Oklahoma County Bureau of Juvenile Affairs. There she was a Detention Officer but soon promoted to several ranks of Supervisor. Proud of her professional accomplishments, she often spoke of how far she had come with just a high school diploma. With her heart of gold, Ms. Anita always commended respect with just her presence. After 25 years of serving children and youth, Ms. Anita decided to retire and move to Ft. Worth, TX. Her retirement allowed her to spend more time with her grandchildren and relax at home.



Ms. Anita is preceded in death by her parents, siblings Carl E. Jones, Jr, Clarence Jones and David L. Jones. Those Ms. Anita leaves to cherish her memory are her soulmate, Robert, her brother Ronald Jones (Rhonda), her sister Connie Jones, daughters Tamara Leach (Les) and Stefanie Carter. Memories of Nonna/Nonna Boo will forever live on with her grandchildren Madisen, Raegan and Myles. She also leaves memories with a host of nephews, nieces, family, friends and co-workers.



DETENTION OFFICER OF THE MONTH SEPTEMBER 2020



DETENTION OFFICER I, JENNIFER BERRY

Jennifer Berry was raised in Oklahoma City, and at the age of 23 moved abroad with her three beautiful children. She lived in the Middle East for 15 years where she taught English Second Language to students in the Middle East. Ms. Berry taught herself Farsi and Arabic. She is fluent in both languages. After living abroad for many years, Jennifer and her children moved back to Oklahoma City.

After moving to Oklahoma City, Jennifer's children followed her example, becoming well accomplished. Ms. Berry's daughter is a nurse at Saint Anthony's, her son works at Tinker Air Force Base, and the youngest daughter works at the Microsoft Corporate Office. Jennifer loves traveling, learning new languages, and playing the flute.

Detention Officer Jennifer Berry began started her career at OCJDC in 2017, and is an asset to detention. Officer Berry is a hard worker, very enthusiastic, and never complains. Jennifer believes that working in detention is her calling and hopes to make a positive influence in our residents' lives.

Congratulations to Jennifer Berry for being Detention Officer of the Month for September 2020!

Kudos To You

Thank you to **Mr. Black** for all you do! You are a terrific supervisor and I have learned so much from you.

Sade Coleman, thank you so very much for being acting supervisor for 3-11 shift. You have done an amazing job...you go girl!

Ms. Harding thank you for always being there when needed no matter what!

Ms. Afoa, my detention sister, you have always been thorough and helpful to those in need. Despite everything going on, you stay laughing.

To **all Detention Officers!** Thank you for all you do! Ya'll holding it down.

Administrative Officer-Rose

I have a kudos to **Cameron Friar**-Volunteer Coordinator-for arranging a volleyball game for my youth so she could complete her Spark activity.

Also, Kudos to **Director Overstreet** for making it possible for Emily Fees to go through the necessary process to train Simba to become a service animal.

Kudos to Simba for being Simba!!!

Michelle Boivin

Thank you **Hannah** for your help in scraping the ice off of my car windows. Your thoughtfulness is appreciated.

Santa Claus for my early Christmas gift. You know who you are!

Donna Hampton for stepping in and assisting in the Business Department.

Valerie Lee

Thank you **JJC Maintenance** for cleaning up all the broken tree branches and moving vehicles after the ice storm.

Administrative Officer-Rose

Kudos To the Janitorial Department for the great job you do !!!



Rozlynn McCormick



Darick Whitehorn



Richard Lewis Jr.



Josephine Braggs



Billy Walker



- Remember, November is Open Enrollment! Benefits information packets will be sent out in the next few weeks for you to change any county benefits you are currently receiving! These changes will not take effect until January 1, 2021. Remember, regardless of if you are making changes, those papers must be turned back in to HR! Call Hannah at 713-6403 with any questions!
- Please remember to wear your masks correctly (over both your mouth and nose). This requirement is vital to keeping yourself and your co-workers healthy! Wearing a mask at work is not an option, so please help us by doing your part!
- See the information below for a new Continuing Education Tuition Reimbursement Program the county is rolling out in January!

Supplement to Oklahoma County Elected Officials' 2019 Interim Employee Handbook – Creating New Section 2.19. Continuing Education Tuition Reimbursement Program – Renumbering Existing Section 2.19. Conduct as Section 2.20. Conduct - Approved by Budget Board and BOCC on 06-18-20, said tuition program becoming effective 01-01-21 and upon budget funding being provided.

2.19. Continuing Education Tuition Reimbursement Program

I. Policy:

Oklahoma County (hereinafter, "the County") supports employee development by, effective January 1, 2021, offering tuition reimbursement to eligible employees who complete relevant education, pursuant to 19 O.S. Section 339 A 5, and BOCC Resolution 2020-708.

II. Procedures:

- A. The BOCC Human Resources Office will administer the program subject to available funding and approval by the Board of County Commissioners.
- B. To be eligible for tuition reimbursement an employee must:
 - 1. Be a full-time employee who has completed five (5) consecutive years of employment with the County;
 - 2. Be enrolled in an educational institution within the Oklahoma State System of Higher Education;
 - 3. Pursue a degree, course or certification in a field relevant to employment with the County;
 - 4. Take for-credit course work related to a field in which the County recruits;
 - 5. Submit a Tuition Reimbursement Application to the BOCC's Human Resources Office no sooner than thirty (30) calendar days prior and no later than thirty (30) calendar days after the beginning of the quarter, semester or another time period for which tuition reimbursement is requested;
 - 6. Submit a Tuition Reimbursement Application for each quarter, semester or another time period for which tuition reimbursement is requested; and
 - 7. Commit to one year of employment with the County from the date of last tuition reimbursement.
- C. All courses must be taken outside of work hours unless the employee's Elected Official or their representative gives written approval of an irregular work schedule. Employees with approved irregular work schedules will attend classes on their own time and will not receive pay for time spent in class.
- D. Reimbursement for educational assistance to any employee shall be limited to a maximum of \$1,500 per semester, \$2,500 per calendar year, and a lifetime maximum of \$10,000.

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E. Exclusions

1. Employees are not eligible for tuition reimbursement if they are on leave-without-pay status.
2. Employees who have been formally disciplined within one year prior to submitting their application are not eligible for tuition reimbursement.
3. Training or courses required and paid for by an employee's office or department are not covered under the Continuing Education Tuition Reimbursement Program.

F. Acceptance or Denial

1. The BOCC Human Resources Office will notify the applicant in writing of approval or denial within three weeks of receiving the application.

G. Payment Guidelines

1. Employees will be eligible to receive no more than the IRS tax-exempt limit for tuition reimbursement per calendar year.
2. Eligible employees will receive tuition reimbursement as follows:
 - a. Employees with an A or B average: 100% reimbursement up to the tuition reimbursement limit,
 - b. Employees with a C average or receiving a passing grade (if a pass/fail course): 75% reimbursement of the tuition reimbursement limit,
 - c. Employees with a D or below average will receive no reimbursement.
3. College Level Examination Program (CLEP) will be treated the same as tuition.
4. Other educational costs, including tests, books, transportation, and room and board are the responsibility of the employee.
5. Applicants are encouraged to seek out other sources of financial assistance. Receipt of other sources of financial assistance will be considered to determine final reimbursement amount.

H. Receiving Payment

1. To receive payment an employee, within thirty (30) days of course completion, must submit to the BOCC Human Resources Office:
 - a. a report indicating a passing grade (if a pass/fail course) of "C" or higher for each course, or other evidence of satisfactory completion;

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b. proof of payment through detailed itemized financial statement; and

c. documentation of having received any additional educational financial assistance.

2. The BOCC Human Resources Director or designee may grant extensions for the completion of course work for medical and military reasons.

3. Employees working on a thesis or dissertation may submit a letter from their professor stating that satisfactory progress is being made towards completion. An incomplete must be made-up within one year.

1. Employees accepted under this program will be required to sign an agreement that will include repayment terms and conditions.

PREVENTION OF COVID-19



ALCOHOL GEL

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FACE MASK

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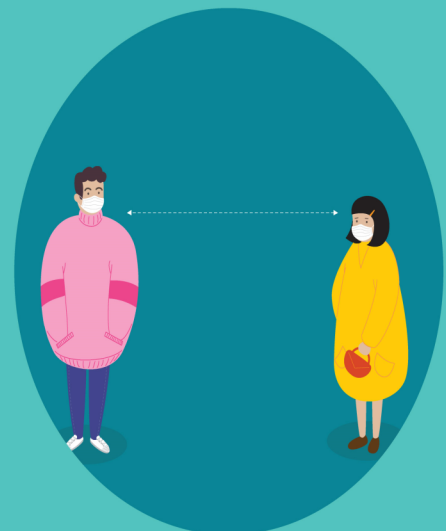


WASHING HANDS

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SOCIAL DISTANCING

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What do we believe in?

OUR VALUES

Collaboration-Together Everyone Accomplishes More

Family-It takes a Village

Integrity-Do the right thing

Youth Potential-Believe in their future

Education-Knowledge is power

Accountability-No excuses, get it done

Persistence-Never give up; fall seven times get up eight

Innovation-Think outside the box

Diversity-Not my way, not your way, "OUR" way

Where do we WANT to end up? What is the ultimate goal?

OUR VISION

The OCJB is an organization of professionals dedicated to serving the at-risk youth of Oklahoma County by identifying and delivering services that will support their long-term success.

The OCJB takes a leadership role in advocating at all levels of government, with the private sector, and the community at large to provide the services necessary to support the success of at-risk youth of Oklahoma County.

We will come to work each day with their futures in mind. Their success is our success.

Scientists Discover Rare and Deadly Inflammatory Disorder in Men

By Erika Edwards

Scientists at the National Institutes of Health have discovered a rare and deadly inflammatory disease affecting men called the VEXAS syndrome. The revelation, published Tuesday in the New England Journal of Medicine, may lead to effective therapies for the disease, which has killed 40 percent of known patients. Those afflicted have an auto inflammatory condition, with symptoms including unexplained fevers, blood clots and inflammation of the cartilage, lung tissue and blood vessels. When blood vessels are inflamed, it can affect the body's vital organs. "These patients are really sick. They don't respond to any treatments, from high doses of steroids to various chemotherapies," Dr. Dan Kastner, a senior author of the article and scientific director of the Intramural Research Program at the NIH's National Human Genome Research Institute, said.



Many have spent years going from doctor to doctor in search of answers, Kastner added. "It's incredibly frustrating for those patients, and frightening for their families." What is the VEXAS syndrome? Historically, scientists have identified new diseases by looking at symptoms. More recently, they've been able to go a step further, taking a group of people who have similar symptoms and analyzing their genomes to look for any similarities that could point to a genetic cause. This time, the scientists flipped the script: The team started with a list of more than 800 genes linked to inflammation, then compared those genes with about 2,500 patients in an NIH database with undiagnosed illnesses. "Instead of starting with symptoms, start with a list of genes," Dr. David Beck, a clinical fellow at the National Human Genome Research Institute, and lead author of the new report, said in a statement. "Then, study the genomes of undiagnosed individuals and see where it takes us." The journey led them to three patients — all men — who were found to have the same mutation in a gene called UBA1.

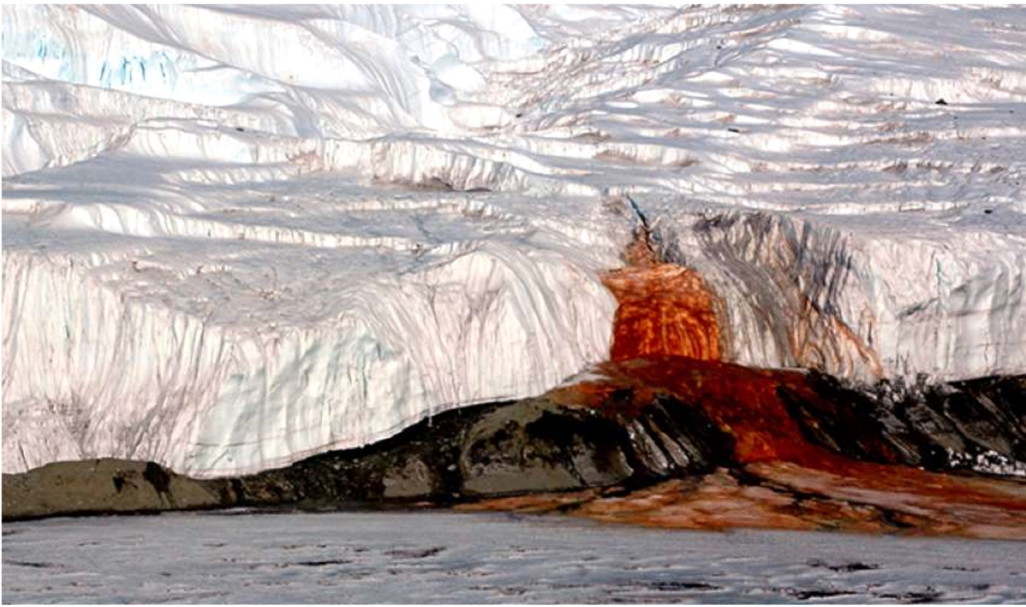
A previously unknown genetic disease had revealed itself. "This was like trying to find a needle inside of a needle in a haystack," Kastner said. The research team further identified 22 more men with the same defect. They called the finding the VEXAS syndrome, after an acronym based on a complex set of genomic factors: "vacuoles, E1 enzyme, X-linked, auto inflammatory and somatic." Vacuoles are cavity-like structures that look like bubbles. In men with the VEXAS syndrome, they are found in a type of blood cell called a myeloid cell. "Somatic" means the disease occurs at some point during a person's life, rather than being born with it. The syndrome doesn't appear to occur until adulthood, and has been found only in men. One reason for that could be that the mutation is linked to the X chromosome. Men have only one X chromosome, while women have two. The researchers hypothesize that the additional X chromosome could somehow override the mutation and provide a protective effect. (Indeed, other genetic disorders, such as certain types of hemophilia, are also X-linked, and are therefore much more likely to occur in men than women.) The VEXAS syndrome patients had no other obvious clinical connection. "It's using a gene mutation to link people together that otherwise would not have thought were connected to one another," Kastner said. "It's the beauty of genetics."

An additional 25 patients have since been found to have the syndrome since the study was completed, bringing the known total to 50. But since nearly 125 million people in the U.S. live with some form of chronic inflammatory disease, according to the NIH researchers, the real number with the syndrome is suspected to be much higher. "I would guess that in the United States that there are at least hundreds of patients with this disease and maybe even a lot more than that," Kastner said. Dr. Kenneth Warrington, a rheumatologist at the Mayo Clinic in Rochester, Minnesota, said the importance of providing a name to a disease cannot be over-emphasized. "It is tremendously encouraging and wonderful to see that we can start to reach an understanding of these rare, serious and difficult-to-treat illnesses." Warrington, who was not involved in the new study, said he and his colleagues often have no way of diagnosing specific inflammatory conditions and must often rely on basic clinical features, such as inflammatory rashes on the skin.

Now that scientists have found a marker for this particular syndrome, it "absolutely advances the field," he said. Other outside experts agreed. "We don't always have a diagnosis, so we say, 'Well, let's throw the kitchen sink at the patient,'" said Dr. Natalie Azar, an assistant clinical professor of medicine and rheumatology at NYU Langone and a medical contributor for NBC News. "This opens up a whole world of potential therapeutics down the line." Future treatments for VEXAS syndrome could include bone marrow transplants or, potentially, gene-editing therapy. "Science touches lives," said Dr. S. Louis Bridges, physician-in-chief and chair of the department of medicine at the Hospital for Special Surgery in New York City. Bridges was not involved with the new research. "This is one of those things where, if we didn't have this extremely highly specialized group of people in genetic defects, we never would have found it," Bridges said.

The Most Mysterious Places in the Whole Entire World

By Kaitlin Miller



Blood Falls (Antarctica)

On top of being the coldest and driest place on the planet, Antarctica is home to a crimson-hued waterfall called Blood Falls that starkly pours down five stories along an [icy white glacier](#).

Scientists finally determined that the grisly color comes from salty, iron-rich water from inside the glacier oxidizing and rusting once it's exposed to oxygen.



Coral Castle (Homestead, Florida)

A heartbroken man single-handedly built Coral Castle in Homestead, Florida, over the course of 25 years, up until his death in 1951. Without the use of large machinery, he cut, moved, carved and sculpted more than 1,100 tons of [coral rock](#). How exactly he managed this feat of engineering with only hand tools is still an impressive mystery.

Crooked Forest (Poland)

This Polish forest lives up to its name, with hundreds of peculiar pine trees. Several hundred pine trees were planted there in the 1930s and grew with an almost 90-degree bend at their base, making them look like fishing hooks.

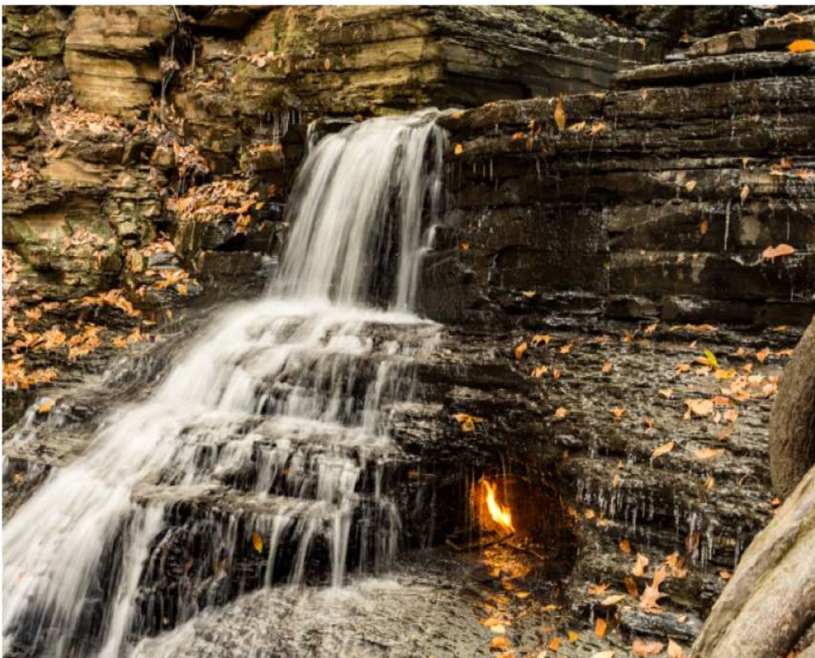
Some believe that a technique or human tool was actually used to make the trees curve this way, while others speculate that a [winter snowstorm](#) or some other damage could have given this [fascinating forest](#) its interesting shape.





Devil's Bridge (Kromlau, Germany)

There are multiple places around the world that have been named “Devil's Bridge” due to some sort of supernatural connection, but the most famous one is located in the German town of Kromlau. Known as Rakotzbrücke in German, the parabolic bridge dates back to the 1860s and is one of [the most stunning bridges in the world](#). It forms a perfect circle with its own reflection in the water below, a feat only deemed possible with some otherworldly assistance.



Eternal Flame Falls (Chestnut Ridge Park, New York)

If you follow the route to Shale Creek in New York's Chestnut Ridge Park, you'll find a strange orange-red light glowing behind a waterfall that looks like [something out of a fairy tale](#).

This Eternal Flame burning behind the water is fueled by natural methane gas escaping through cracks in the rock. The flame isn't quite eternal though — the water sometimes extinguishes the fire, but visitors often start it up again with a lighter to keep the magic alive.



Great Blue Hole (Belize)

The Great Blue Hole is quite straightforward in its name and yet still overwhelming in size and beauty.

This massive, remote marine seahole off the coast of Belize is more than 1,000 feet across and 400 feet deep. [Scuba divers](#) flock here to experience its hypnotically crystal-clear waters, marine life and [coral reefs](#).

Lake Hillier (Australia)

With its bubblegum-pink waters, Australia's Lake Hillier might have the most unique and [pretty waters in the world](#). It sits right next to the Pacific Ocean, which makes its natural color really pop in comparison.

It has plenty of fish living in its waters and is even safe for swimming, although tourists aren't allowed in the water. The reason for Lake Hillier's color remains a mystery, but it's most likely caused by algae, bacteria or chemical reactions.



Plain of Jars (Laos)

More than 2,000 large ancient stone jars are spread across a plateau in the Xiengkhouang province of central Laos. Some stand 10 feet tall and weigh several tons.

Archaeologists estimate the jars are 2,000 years old, but their purpose is unclear. The most common theories are that they were used as funeral urns.

Denmark Vesey

Slave Insurrectionist
1767-1822



Denmark Vesey was born in 1767 in Charleston, South Carolina, as a slave to Captain Vesey. He sailed for 20 years with his master to Virgin Islands and Haiti. After winning a lottery \$1,500, Vesey purchased his freedom for \$600. A religious man, Vesey soon became minister of a Methodist church in Charleston. It was through his church that he began to recruit supporters for his planned slave revolt on Charleston. With the plan set to go into operation on the second Sunday in July 1822, Vesey's plan was revealed by a slave who alerted white authorities.

Reacting quickly, hundreds of Blacks were rounded up, including Vesey, who was captured after a two day search. Unable to deny his intent to overthrow the city during his trial Vesey was hanged on July 2nd in 1822.



Neil Gaiman, Author

Evil always contains the seeds of its own destruction. It is ultimately negative, and therefore encompasses its downfall even at its moments of apparent triumph.

No matter how grandiose, how well-planned, how apparently foolproof of an evil plan, the inherent sinfulness will by definition rebound upon its instigators.



Salted Caramel Nuts



- Level: Intermediate
- Total: 35 min
(includes cooling time)
- Active: 20 min
- Yield: 8 cups

Ingredients

1 cup each whole roasted salted cashews, whole large pecan halves, whole unsalted almonds, and whole walnut halves (4 cups total)

1 1/2 cups sugar

2 teaspoons pure vanilla extract

2 teaspoons kosher salt

1 teaspoon fleur de sel

Directions

Preheat the oven to 350 degrees.

Combine the nuts on a sheet pan, spread them out, and roast them for 7 minutes, until they become fragrant. Set aside to cool.

After the nuts are cooled, place the sugar and 1/4 cup of water in a medium (10-inch) saute pan and mix with a fork until all of the sugar is moistened. Cook over medium-high heat until the sugar melts -- from this point on, don't stir the caramel, swirl the pan! Don't worry -- the mixture may look as though it's crystallizing. Continue to cook for 5 to 10 minutes, until the mixture becomes a clear golden brown, swirling the pan constantly at the end. (Careful -- the caramel is very hot!) Off the heat, quickly add the vanilla (it will bubble up!) and swirl the pan to combine. Working quickly (the caramel will continue to cook in the pan), add the nuts and the kosher salt and toss with 2 large spoons until the nuts are completely coated.

Pour the nuts and any extra caramel in the pan onto a sheet pan lined with parchment paper. Spread the nuts out in one layer, pulling them apart with two forks. Sprinkle with the fleur de sel and set aside to cool. When they're completely cooled, carefully break the nuts into large clusters with your hands, trying not to break the nuts too much.