

DECEMBER 2023 **YANTIS TYMES** FREE

Newspaper

COVERING WOOD COUNTY AREA NEWS

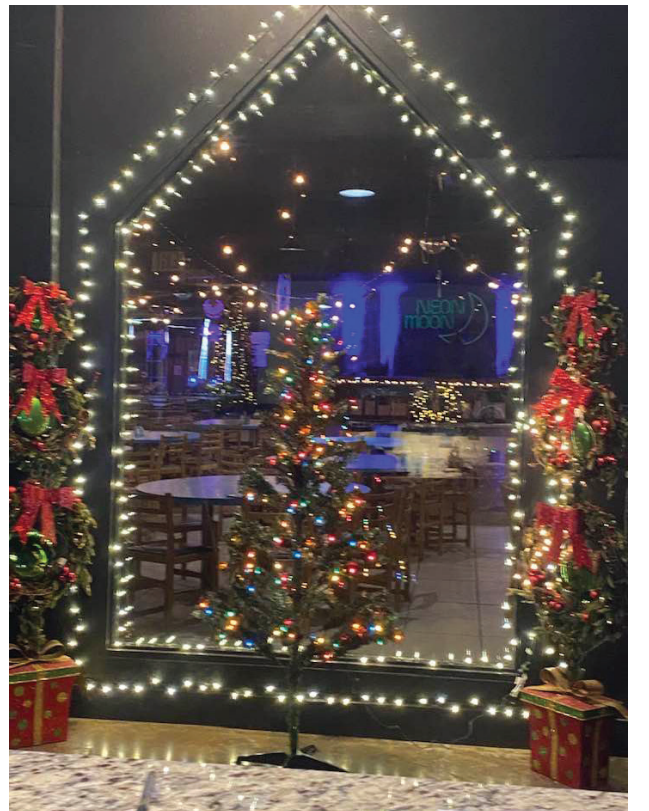
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VOL 11 ~ Issue 12

**It's CHRISTMAS TIME in WOOD COUNTY!**  
*Merry Christmas from the Yantis Tymes!*

I would like to wish you all a very Merry Christmas this year! Let us all take the joy of the season and spread the love to everyone we come across in our daily lives! May we all remember the reason for the season and not just give material gifts but the gift of Love to those that are struggling or are just in need of a smile or a hug!

We tend to want to go BIG at Christmas and shower our loved ones and children with the best gift, the newest toy or the pricey things that are meant to impress. So by all means let's go even BIGGER this year .... by sharing our time with our loved ones, listen to memories from the elderly, cherish the laughter, enjoy the festivities, visit your neighbors, be kind to strangers, prayers for those throughout the world as well as our own family and community. But most of all give the best gift of all ... the gift of unconditional love and compassion for all!



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**LAKE FORK Area News**





## *The True Meaning of Christmas*



Christmas is always a magical time where we all get a touch of kindness and love in our spirit !

When we were little kids Christmas was the time of year that we made our lists for Santa, asking for the newest toy, maybe a brand new bike or even big wishes for a pony! The list was a mile long hoping that Santa would have his little elves make it all happen!

The anticipation for Christmas morning was part of what made it all so exciting! For at least a whole month there would be so many fun activities - Putting up the tree, the Christmas play at school, going to see all the beautiful homes decorated with lights, decorating Christmas cookies, everyone smiling and happy with cheer, and the countdown for Christmas morning!

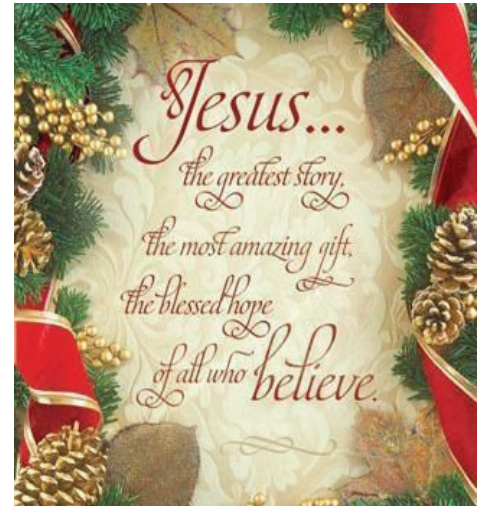
Each day we would check to

see if there was another present added to the tree, and looking at each tag to see if our name would be on it!

As we began to get a little older the list became shorter but also had bigger prices, by this time we realized our parents had a lot to do with Santa's special gifts and knew that being naughty or nice would truly make a difference in what we would receive on Christmas morning!

As the years pass by and we become adults we begin to learn the true meaning of Christmas - the birth of our Saviour Jesus Christ. We learn what the manger scene in the yard or at the church represents! With every family tradition that includes Santa and the reindeer, should also include emphasis on the gifts of how Jesus was sent, how the journey was so hard, and why he was sent to save us!

Sadly there are many people



that do not believe in this miracle and why as Christians this is the time to shine as bright as the light on each Christmas tree to everyone around us - young and old that this is the season of the most important gift ever! The gift of love from God himself!

So as we bustle around this season and enjoy all of the festivities let's all take a moment to reach out to those in need, take the time to share God's word and to spread love to all of those around us not just through the holidays but every day !

It doesn't take money or status to change the life of people that are in need - in need of understanding, compassion and love!

Whatever your beliefs are remember to be kind and treat others with respect

## *The Giver is bigger than the Receiver*

Katharine Hepburn's childhood, in her own words.

"Once when I was a teenager, my father and I were standing in line to buy tickets for the circus.

Finally, there was only one other family between us and the ticket counter. This family made a big impression on me.

There were eight children, all probably under the age of 12. The way they were dressed, you could tell they didn't have a lot of money, but their clothes were neat and clean.

The children were well-behaved, all of them standing in line, two-by-two behind their parents, holding hands. They were excitedly jabbering about the clowns, animals, and all the acts they would be seeing that night. By their excitement you could sense they had never been to the circus before. It would be a highlight of their lives.

The father and mother were at the head of the pack standing proud as could be. The mother was holding her husband's hand, looking up at him as if to say, "You're my knight in shining armour." He was smiling and enjoying seeing his family happy.

The ticket lady asked the man how many tickets he wanted? He proudly responded, "I'd like to

buy eight children's tickets and two adult tickets, so I can take my family to the circus." The ticket lady stated the price.

The man's wife let go of his hand, her head dropped, the man's lip began to quiver. Then he leaned a little closer and asked, "How much did you say?" The ticket lady again stated the price. The man didn't have enough money. How was he supposed to turn and tell his eight kids that he didn't have enough money to take them to the circus?

Seeing what was going on, my dad reached into his pocket, pulled out a \$20 bill, and then dropped it on the ground. (We were not wealthy in any sense of the word!) My father bent down, picked up the \$20 bill, tapped the man on the shoulder and said, "Excuse me, sir, this fell out of your pocket."

The man understood what was going on. He wasn't begging for a handout but certainly appreciated the help in a desperate, heartbreaking and embarrassing situation.

He looked straight into my dad's eyes, took my dad's hand in both of his, squeezed tightly onto the \$20 bill, and with his lip quivering and a tear streaming down his cheek, he replied; "Thank you, thank you, sir. This really means a lot to me and my family."



My father and I went back to our car and drove home. The \$20 that my dad gave away is what we were going to buy our own tickets with. Although we didn't get to see the circus that night, we both felt a joy inside us that was far greater than seeing the circus could ever provide.

That day I learnt the value to Give.

The Giver is bigger than the Receiver. If you want to be large, larger than life, learn to Give. Love has nothing to do with what you are expecting to get - only with what you are expecting to give - which is everything.

The importance of giving, blessing others can never be over emphasised because there's always joy in giving. Learn to make someone happy by acts of giving."

~ Katharine Hepburn



# Sweet Fellowship Celebrates it's 2nd Anniversary

Sweet Fellowship is a new church started November 7, 2021, as both an in-person and online community By Pastor Perry Crisp and his wife Dorinda Crisp.

They recently bought a new property at 4812 W. Hwy 154 in Yantis. So far they have a Large Building that is currently being used for their events as well as the youth ministry. But that is only phase 1 of many more great things to come including a new church.

They held a Worship Celebration in Novem-

ber to praise their 2nd anniversary for Sweet Fellowship that included a Barbecue lunch, Games, Booths and testimony!

It was a huge crowd on a blue sky morning to worship and enjoy the great music including Aul Staggs and Robert Welch of Branded. Branded has won the Vocal Duo of the year award in Christian Country music and traveled all over the world together for over 20 years!

There was an abundance of Food, des-

serts and so much to be celebrated and give praise for! We look forward to following their progress as this church continues to grow and bring many blessings to the Yantis community!



Pastor Perry is a gifted teacher and he and his bride Dorinda would love to have you join them at the Sweet Fellowship worship servies and Bible Studys!

**Sweet Fellowship Church**

S-Serve  
W-Worship  
E-Evangelize  
E-Encourage  
T-Transform

Bro. Perry Crisp , Pastor  
Dorinda Crisp - Wife  
6050 FM 2966, Yantis TX  
Sunday Services - 10:00am  
Tuesday Bible Study - 6pm  
Potluck Supper, 7:00pm  
Bible Study  
Services streamed on  
Perryphrase FacebookPage



The City of Quitman would like to announce our Employee of the Month for November 2023, Officer Joseph Gatewood! Officer Gatewood has been with the Quitman Police

## Congratulations Officer Joseph Gatewood

Department for the past 18 months.

Joseph is from Sulphur Springs, is a 2018 graduate of Sulphur Springs High School, and attended the East Texas Police Academy in Kilgore. He is married to his lovely bride; Kara and they enjoy spending time in the outdoors when he is off duty!

Officer Gatewood is an outstanding police officer and the City of Quitman is blessed to have him protecting our citizens! If you see Officer Gatewood around town, please tell him congratulations!

Quitman Police Department



**CELEBRATING 7 YEARS IN BUSINESS**

*Thank you for all your support!*

**Men's & Women's Haircuts! Walk-Ins Welcome!**

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artistic.hair.salon.2016@gmail.com

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**Jill Cell: 903-253-6503**

**Closed Sunday & Monday**

**HOURS: Tues. 9 to 6 Sat. 9 to 4**

**THE 2024 YANTIS ISD SCHOLARSHIP FUNDRAISER WILL BEGAN JUNE 1st COME GET YOUR TICKETS SUPPORT OUR STUDENTS AND ENTER TO WIN BIG PRIZES !**

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*Crossword Challenge*

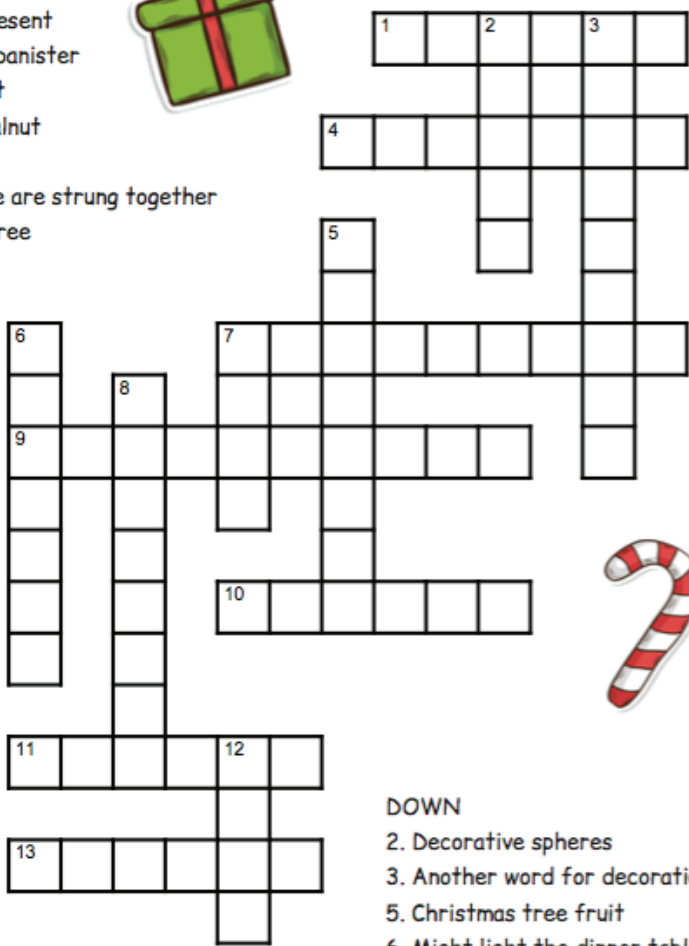
(Answers on page 17)

*Word Search Challenge*

**Christmas Decorating**

ACROSS

- 1. Used to wrap a present
- 4. Decoration for a banister
- 7. Striped and sweet
- 9. Used to open a walnut
- 10. Door decoration
- 11. Many times these are strung together
- 13. Glitter for the tree



DOWN

- 2. Decorative spheres
- 3. Another word for decorations
- 5. Christmas tree fruit
- 6. Might light the dinner table
- 7. Place where greetings are found
- 8. Hung by the chimney
- 12. Might be cedar, fir or pine

*Christmas PARTY*

- BINGO
- BLACK TIE
- BONFIRE
- BOSS
- CANDLES
- CANDY CANES
- CAROLS
- COCOA
- COLLEAGUES
- COOKIES
- EGGNOG
- FRIENDS
- GAMES
- GARLAND
- GIFT EXCHANGE
- LAUGHTER
- MINGLE
- MISTLETOE
- MOVIES
- NEIGHBORS
- PARTY
- PUNCH
- SANTA
- SCAVENGER HUNT
- TREATS
- UGLY SWEATER
- WREATH



**QUITMAN ISD HONORED**

Quitman ISD was honored with the unique opportunity to showcase its journey through the Resilient School Support Program (RSSP) at the National Education Leaders' Workshop in Houston Texas on November 16. Melissa Coats (Data Fellow for the District) joined forces with Bryan Hurst (Junior High Principal), and Ashley Day (Junior High Assistant Principal), to present their journey that began in January 2022. Their presentation was titled "Enhancing Student Achievement through Professional Learning Communities (PLCs), Data Culture, and Implementing High-Quality Instructional Materials (HQIM)," which highlighted the school's initiatives, celebrated successes, and shared effective strategies that have positively influenced student outcomes.



**The Quitman Pilot Club**

Over 200 young readers will receive free books in December from Dolly Parton's Imagination Library program. Quitman's Pilot Club escorted Dolly around Quitman and Yantis for Halloween events. Do you have a newborn or child younger than 5 that needs books? Get FREE BOOKS! Dolly Parton's Imagination Library mails free high-quality, age appropriate books MONTHLY to children from birth to age five! Sign Up Today! <https://imaginationlibrary.com/usa/affiliate/TXWOOD/>

The Pilot Club of Quitman is the Local Program Partner sponsoring this program for children living in Quitman, Alba-Golden and Yantis!



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# Wood County News & Events



A local association to promote and protect the interest of the business community in the greater Quitman area.

quitmanchamber@quitmancoc.com

**(903) 763-4411**



We would like to thank Mike Gilmore with the Wood County Sheriff's Office and his helpers for assisting us with the Christmas Tree and our town decorations!

And a huge thank you to City of Quitman, Texas for putting up our pole decoration around town.

Thank you all for making our town beautiful this holiday season!



**Christmas Decorating CONTEST**  
House & Business  
Sponsored By: **CollisionX**  
Your Auto Collision Specialist

Decorated homes and businesses in the Quitman city limits will be judged on the following categories:  
Most Festive • Brightest/"Griswald" • Most Creative  
Reason for the Season • Best in Show • Best Storefront

JUDGING WILL BEGIN DECEMBER 7TH AND WINNERS WILL BE ANNOUNCED DECEMBER 10TH!

Outside city limits? Please email your name and address to [QuitmanChamber@QuitmanCoC.com](mailto:QuitmanChamber@QuitmanCoC.com) before December 6th if you would like to be judged.

Partial event funds sponsored by Wood County EDC.

**NEON NEW YEAR 2023**

**BOBBY IRWIN BRANDON KRUGER AND THE TWO TWENTY TWOS**

**\$15 person / \$25 couples**  
TICKETS AVAILABLE @TEXASNEONMOON.COM

\*BALLOON DROP W/ PRIZES  
\*CHAMPAGNE TOAST AT MIDNIGHT  
\*MIDNIGHT BREAKFAST

**SUN. DEC 31**

BEVILL MUSIC 4672 TX-154, YANTIS, TX 75497 - 803-383-7008

**SUNDAY DEC 3RD**

**The Yantis Cafe's Whoville Christmas Event**

Vendor Market 1-6  
Christmas Tree Lighting 6:00

108 S MAIN ST. YANTIS TX

Please join us for our first annual Christmas event! There will be lots of food, shopping and kids crafts! Kids will also be able to write letters to Santa.

# YANTIS TYMES

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hope that you will enjoy reading the Yantis Tymes as much as I enjoy publishing it! Although they are both small papers we strive to make a big difference for our readers and advertisers well!



Check out our Facebook Page



**Donna Wooldridge**  
Owner / Editor

it possible to distribute our paper throughout the community! We are also available each month online as well as our Facebook page that shares community news and information on a daily basis.

Our mission is to highlight the positive benefits of living and visiting the town of Yantis and the Lake Fork area with the wonderful local atmosphere of what it brings! We look forward to providing more stories, events, and special features for our readers!

I also publish the Lake Fork Area News monthly free newspaper which is full of fishing reports, Tournament information as well as local anglers. I am so excited to also represent my home town of Yantis now as well! This is a passion that I enjoy on a daily basis - and take great pride in what I do and

Yantis Tymes is a local Free monthly publication that is proud to cover different aspects of Yantis and activities here in the Lake Fork area. We would like to thank the local business owners and residents that make



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**YANTIS TYMES**  
**LAKE FORK**  
Area News .. Fish On



# Veteran News Updates



If you are having suicidal thoughts please Dial or Text 988.  
Call, or Text 988  
Suicide & Crisis Lifeline  
Veterans Dial: 1  
Or text: 838255



## WREATHS ACROSS AMERICA

Roselawn Cemetery next to Beaty Funeral Home between the cities of Mineola and Quitman is the final resting place for 700 of our Nation's Heroes who served our country in the Armed Forces! Wood County Marine Corps League would like to honor, remember and thank each of them for their



service by adorning their gravesites with beautiful wreaths from Wreaths Across America this holiday season.  
WE NEED YOUR HELP in purchasing the wreaths at \$17 each so we can lay a wreath on each Veteran's resting place!  
WE NEED YOUR HELP in purchasing 465 more wreaths to reach our goal of 700 before Nov 27th, 2023.  
WE NEED YOUR HELP in placing those wreaths on the gravesites on 16 Dec 2023. All are welcome to participate.  
WE NEED YOUR HELP in helping us show the community that their loved ones will not be forgotten on our watch.



Wood County Marine Corps League  
LCpl Shane L. Goldman Detachment #1278  
Wreath laying at  
Roselawn Cemetery in Mineola, TX

REMEMBER HONOR TEACH

# WREATHS across AMERICA

16 DECEMBER 2023  
Ceremony at 11:00 am  
Beaty Funeral Home  
5396 S. State Hwy 37, Mineola, TX

To Purchase Wreaths (\$17ea) Scan QR Code →  
Or Visit the link below  
[www.wreathscrossamerica.org/TX1102P](http://www.wreathscrossamerica.org/TX1102P)  
For more info: Sarah Lucas, [silucas@me.com](mailto:silucas@me.com), 910-358-2144

## NOT JUST AN OLD MAN ON THE PIER ...it's VETERAN OLD ED

It happened every Friday evening, almost without fail, when the sun resembled a giant orange and was starting to dip into the blue ocean. Old Ed came strolling along the beach to his favorite pier. Clutched in his bony hand was a bucket of shrimp. Ed walks out to the end of the pier, where it seems he almost has the world to himself. The glow of the sun is a golden bronze now. Everybody's gone, except for a few joggers on the beach. Standing out on the end of the pier, Ed is alone with his thoughts...and his bucket of shrimp. Before long, however, he is no longer alone. Up in the sky a thousand white dots come screeching and squawking, winging their way toward that lanky frame standing there on the end of the pier. Before long, dozens of seagulls have enveloped him, their wings fluttering and flapping wildly. Ed stands there tossing shrimp to the hungry birds. As he does, if you listen closely, you can hear him say with a smile, "Thank you. Thank you." In a few short minutes the bucket is empty. But Ed doesn't leave. He stands there lost in thought, as though transported to another time and place. When he finally turns around and begins to walk back toward the beach, a few of the birds hop along the pier with him until he gets to the stairs, and then they, too, fly away. And old Ed quietly makes his way down to the end of the beach and on home. If you were sitting there on the pier with your fishing line in the water, Ed might seem like 'a funny old duck,' as my dad used to say. Or, to onlookers, he's just another old codger, lost in his own weird world, feeding the seagulls with a bucket full of shrimp. To the onlooker, rituals can look either very strange or very empty. They can seem altogether unimportant .....maybe even a lot of nonsense. Old folks often do strange things, at least in the eyes of Boomers and Millennials.

Most of them would probably write Old Ed off, down there in Florida ... That's too bad. They'd do well to know him better. His full name: Eddie Rickenbacker. He was a famous hero in World War I, and then he was in WWII. On one of his flying missions across the Pacific, he and his seven-member crew went down. Miraculously, all of the men survived, crawled out of their plane, and climbed into a life raft. Captain Rickenbacker and his crew floated for days on the rough waters of the Pacific. They fought the sun. They fought sharks. Most of all, they fought hunger and thirst. By the eighth day their rations ran out. No food. No water. They were hundreds of miles from land and no one knew where they were or even if they were alive. Every day across America millions wondered and prayed that Eddie Rickenbacker might somehow be found alive. The men adrift needed a miracle. That afternoon they had a simple devotional service and prayed for a miracle. They tried to nap. Eddie leaned back and pulled his military cap over his nose. Time dragged on. All he could hear was the slap of the waves against the raft...suddenly Eddie felt something land on the top of his cap. It was a seagull! Old Ed would later describe how he sat perfectly still, planning his next move. With a flash of his hand and a squawk from the gull, he managed to grab it and wring its neck. He tore the feathers off, and he and his starving crew made a meal of it - a very slight meal for eight men. Then they used the intestines for bait. With it, they caught fish, which gave them food and more bait....and the cycle continued. With that simple survival technique, they were able to endure the rigors of the sea until they were found and rescued after 24 days at sea. Eddie Rickenbacker lived many years beyond that



ordeal, but he never forgot the sacrifice of that first life-saving seagull... And he never stopped saying, "Thank you." That's why almost every Friday night he would walk to the end of the pier with a bucket full of shrimp and a heart full of gratitude. Reference: (Max Lucado, "In The Eye of the Storm", pp...221, 225-226)  
PS: Eddie Rickenbacker was the founder of Eastern Airlines. Before WWI he was race car driver. In WWI he was a pilot and became America's first ace. In WWII he was an instructor and military adviser, and he flew missions with the combat pilots. Eddie Rickenbacker is a true American hero. And now you know another story about the trials and sacrifices that brave men have endured for your freedom. As you can see, I chose to pass this story along as it was passed to me from my father. It is a great story that many don't know...I think it exemplifies a couple of life's lessons to be remembered. You've got to be careful with old guys, you just never know what they have done during their lifetime. It also speaks to me about how we never know what we adversity we might face, but when we put our talent both mentally and physically together, we can overcome, but we must never forget what we learned and to remember to thank those that helped pull us through even if it was as something seemingly meaningless as a seagull and to pay it forward.

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**Restaurant Hours**

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Thursday: 11:00 AM - 9:00  
Friday: 11:00 AM - 10:00  
Saturday: 11:00 AM - 10:00  
Sunday: 11:00 AM - 9:00

*Daily Specials!*

**NEON NEW YEAR 2023**

**BOBBY IRWIN BRANDON KRUGER**  
AND THE TWO TWENTY TWO

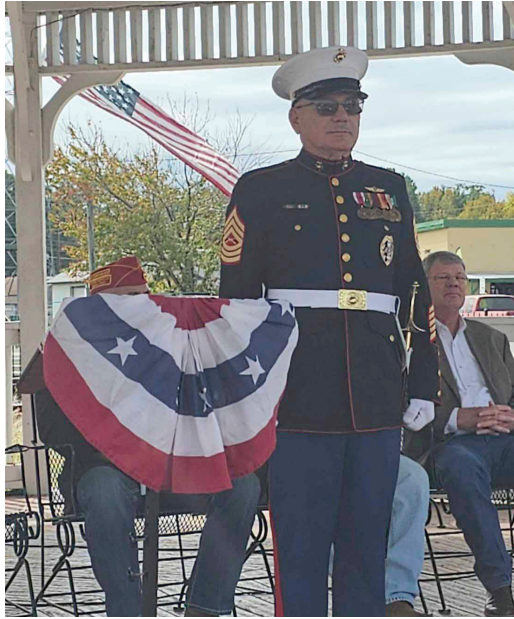
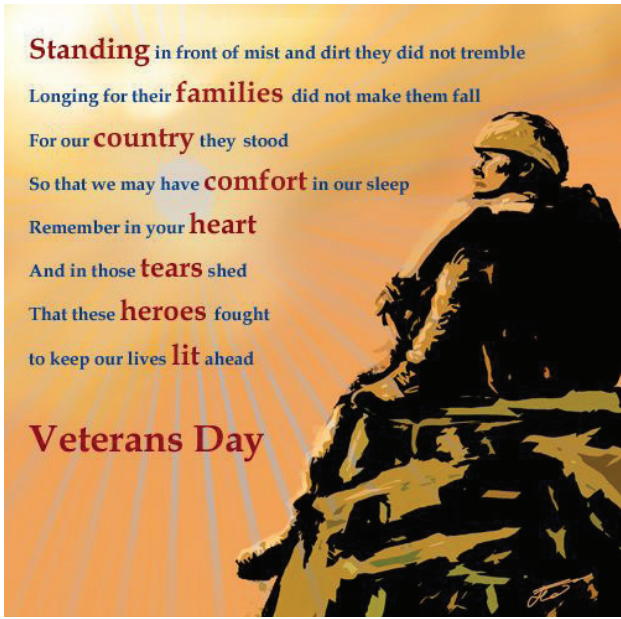
\$15/person / \$25 couples

\*BALLOON DROP W/ PRIZES  
\*CHAMPAGNE TOAST AT MIDNIGHT  
\*MIDNIGHT BREAKFAST

**SUN. DEC 31**



# MINEOLA ANNUAL VETERAN'S PARADE



George Shouse, the son of Lloyd and Olive (Loy) Shouse was a 1965 graduate of Effingham High School. George married Marcella Carpenter. He was inducted into the U. S. Army on September 13, 1967. George did his Basic Training at Fort Leonard Wood, Missouri, and AIT at Fort Polk, Louisiana. He served in Vietnam from June 1968 until June 1969 with Company A, 2nd Battalion, 35th Infantry of the 3rd Brigade mostly in the region between Ban Me Thuot and Duc Lap.

**GEORGE R. SHOUSE GIVEN PROMOTION IN VIETNAM . . .**  
**BAN ME THUOT, VIETNAM**

George R. Shouse, 21, whose parents, Mr. and Mrs. Lloyd Shouse and wife, Marcella, live at 921 Lynn Drive, Effingham, Ill., has been promoted to Army Sergeant in Vietnam, where he is serving with the Fourth Infantry Division. Sgt. Shouse is a squad leader in Company A, 2nd Battalion, 35th Infantry of the division's 3rd Brigade near Ban Me Thuot.

George did make it home safely and separated from the Army. George and Marcella raised their family in Effingham. George enjoys spending time with family and friends. He is proud to have served his country.

Thanks, George . . . You are not forgotten.

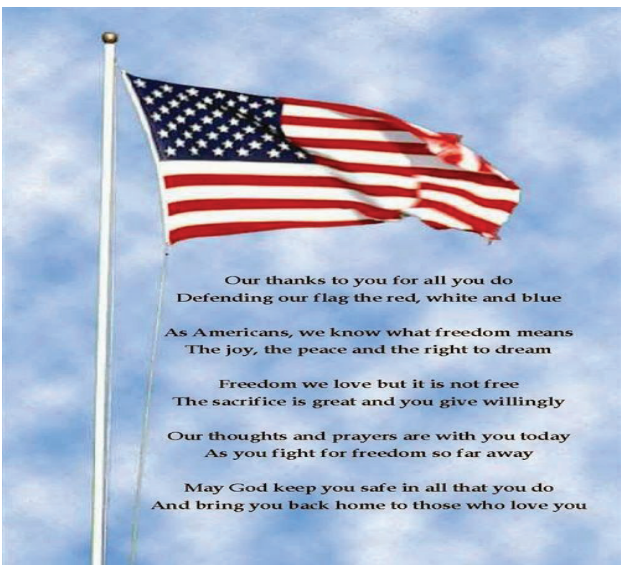
**Thought for Today:**  
**Dear Veterans,**  
 Those of us who have not served will never fully understand the sacrifices you've made both in times of peace and of war.

We will never fully understand what you were required to do or how you were able to do it.

We will never fully understand the depth of your scars.

**But what we can offer you is this:**  
**We see you.**

**We recognize your humanity.**  
**And we send you Love that is gentle, patient and healing.**  
**With Blessings and Gratitude, we ask that you remember you are loved.**  
**Thank you.**



**Please contact me if you would like to honor a friend or loved one in the future editions just mail or email a couple of paragraphs and include a photo if possible. We have many Veterans that deserve to be honored and remembered!**

**469-552-1824**  
**yantisnews**  
**@yahoo.com**

**Yantis Tymes**  
**P.O. BOX 161**  
**Yantis TX 75497**

## They Got Your 6 Foundation in Wood County, Texas

If you are in the East Texas area, we have a place for you to reconnect with your fellow brothers and sisters. One of the issues that our Military Veterans and Retired First Responders face is the feeling of loss after their career is over. This comes from losing the bond of comradery, the feeling of purpose, serving something bigger than themselves alongside their brothers and sisters. Here in Wood and the surrounding counties, we are helping to solve some of these problems by creating a family of men and women who have served. Come join us at one of our local get togethers held twice monthly. Find out what everyone is talking about for yourself

## THEYGOTYOUR6 FOUNDATION WHERE NO ONE WALKS ALONE

**THEYGOTYOUR6 WAS EST. IN 2016 BY 3 MILITARY VETERANS TO SERVE THE NEEDS OF VETERANS, FIRST RESPONDERS AND THEIR FAMILIES. TODAY, THEYGOTYOUR6 IS STILL SERVING OUR COMMUNITY WITH THE THEYGOTYOUR6 FOUNDATION.**

**THEYGOTYOUR6 APPAREL IS AVAILABLE AT MANY LOCAL EVENTS AND ONLINE AS WELL**  
<https://www.theygotyour6.com/shop-theygotyour6>



# A STORY ABOUT WINTER ...

AND THEN IT IS WINTER You know. . . time has a way of moving quickly and catching you unaware of the passing years.

It seems just yesterday that I was young, just married and embarking on my new life with my mate. Yet in a way, it seems like eons ago, and I wonder where all the years went. I know that I lived them all. I have glimpses of how it was back then and of all my hopes and dreams. But, here it is... the winter of my life and it catches me by surprise...How did I get here so fast? Where did the years go and where did my youth go?

I remember well seeing older people through the years and thinking that those older people were years away from me and that winter was so far off that I could not fathom it or imagine fully what it would be like. But, here it is...my friends are retired and getting grey...they move slower and I see an older person now. Some are in better and some worse shape than me... but, I see the great change....Not like the ones that I remember who were young and vibrant... but, like me, their age is beginning to show and we are now those older folks that we used to see and never thought we'd be.

Each day now, I find that just getting a shower is a real target for the day! And taking a nap is not a treat anymore... it's mandatory! Cause if I don't on my own free will... I just fall asleep where I sit!

And so...now I enter into this new season of my life unprepared for all the aches and pains and the loss of strength and ability to go and do things that I wish I had done but never did! But, at least I know, that though the winter has come, and I'm not sure how long it will last... this I know, that when it's over on this earth... it's NOT over. A new adventure will begin!

Yes, I have regrets. There are things I wish I hadn't done...things I should have done, but in-

deed, there are many things I'm happy to have done. It's all in a lifetime.

So, if you're not in your winter yet...let me remind you, that it will be here faster than you think. So, whatever you would like to accomplish in your life please do it quickly! Don't put things off too long!

Life goes by quickly. So, do what you can today, as you can never be sure whether this is your winter or not! You have no promise that you will see all the seasons of your life...so, live for today and say all the things that you want your loved ones to remember...and hope that they appreciate and love you for all the things that you have done for them in all the years past!

"Life" is a gift to you. The way you live your life is your gift to those who come after. Make it a fantastic one.

LIVE IT WELL! ENJOY TODAY! DO SOMETHING FUN! BE HAPPY! HAVE A GREAT DAY!

REMEMBER:....

"It is health that is real wealth and not pieces of gold and silver.

"LIVE HAPPY IN THIS YEAR AND EVERY YEAR!

LASTLY, CONSIDER THE FOLLOWING: TODAY IS THE OLDEST YOU'VE EVER BEEN, YET THE YOUNGEST YOU'LL EVER BE SO - ENJOY THIS DAY WHILE IT LASTS.

~Your kids are becoming you.....

~Going out is good.. Coming home is better!

~You forget names.... But it's OK because other people forgot they even knew you!!!

~You realize you're never going to be really good at anything

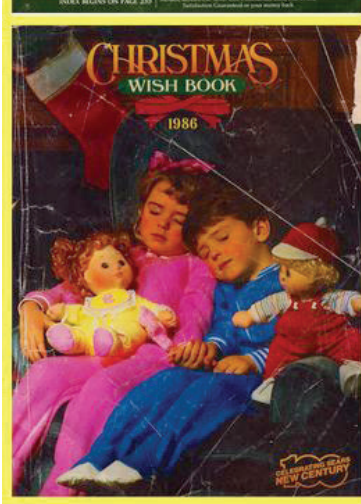
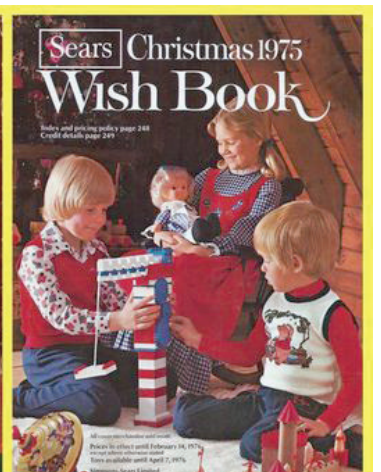
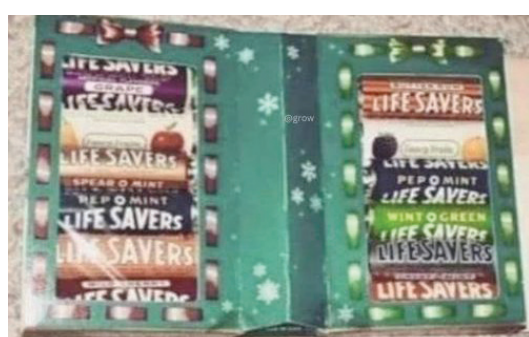
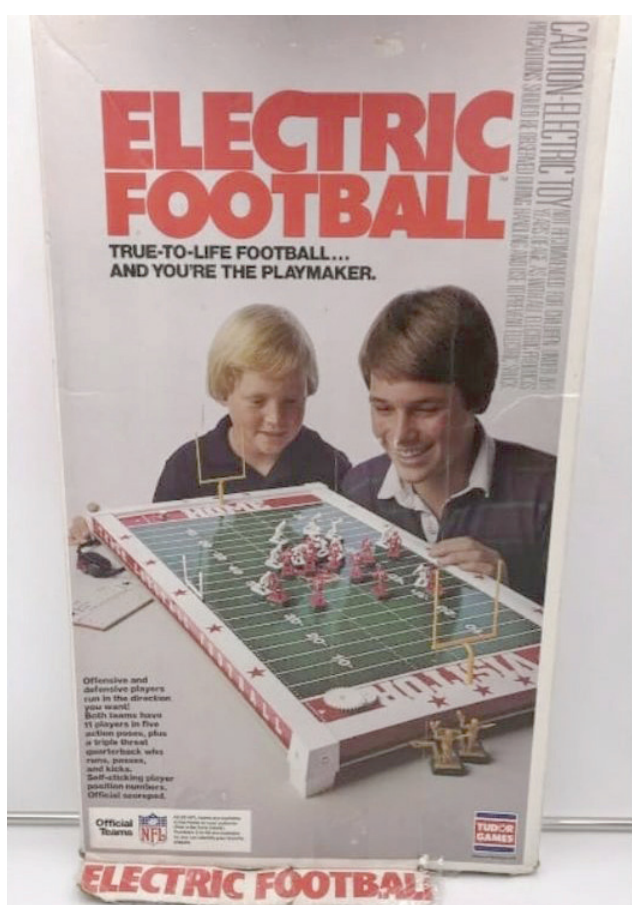
~The things you used to care to do, you no longer care to do, but you really do care that you don't care to do them anymore.

~You sleep better on a lounge chair with the TV



blaring than in bed. It's called "pre-sleep".  
~You miss the days when everything worked with just an "ON" and "OFF" switch..  
~You tend to use more 4 letter words ... "what?"..."when?"... "what?" . ???  
~Now that you can afford expensive jewelry, it's not safe to wear it anywhere.  
~You notice everything they sell in stores is "sleeveless"?!!!  
~What used to be freckles are now liver spots.  
~Everybody whispers.  
~You have 3 sizes of clothes in your closet.... 2 of which you will never wear.  
~But Old is good in some things: Old Songs, Old movies, and best of all, OLD FRIENDS!! Stay well, "OLD FRIEND!" Send this on to other "Old Friends!" and let them laugh in AGREE-MENT!!!  
It's Not What You Gather, But What You Scatter That Tells What Kind Of Life You Have Lived.

## The Good 'ol days...remember when?



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# Advice from a Wise 'Ol Owl

STAY FOCUSED - BE "HOO" YOU ARE - TRUST IN A WISE FRIEND - LIVE OFF THE LAND

GLIDE THROUGH THE DARK TIMES - BE OBSERVANT - LIFE WILL BE A HOOT!

## IMAGINE THIS ...

**If you had \$86,400 in your bank account**

... and someone stole \$10.00 from you, would you be upset and throw all of the remaining \$86,390 away in hopes of getting back at this person? Or move on and live? Of course you would move on-and live! We all have 86,400 seconds in each day. Don't let someone's negative ten seconds ruin the remaining 86,390. Don't sweat the small stuff, life is so much bigger and better than that - Be kind and stay positive !



### Point to Ponder: The Mighty Mississippi River starts right here

It starts as a stream you can wade across.

From here it gets deeper and wider.

It travels over 2500 miles.

From this humble beginning the Mississippi becomes part of the life blood of our nation.

There is a story there, it's not about where or how you start, it's about the journey to what you become.



Every minute someone leaves this world behind. We are all in "the line" without knowing it. We never know how many people are before us. We can not move to the back of the line. We can not step out of the line. We can not avoid the line. So while we wait in line - Make moments count. Make priorities. Make the time. Make your gifts known. Make a nobody feel like a somebody. Make your voice heard. Make the small things big. Make someone smile. Make the change. Make love. Make up. Make peace. Make sure to tell your people they are loved. Make sure to have no regrets. Make sure you are ready.





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# Yantis Owl's Activities

**Congratulations Yantis Owls. 3 wins out of 4 for 3rd place at Bland Tournament.**



### GREAT JOB BY THE LADY OWLS VOLLEYBALL

Congratulations to our Lady Owls Volleyball team for forcing a play in game for the playoffs. Our girls played very hard throughout the season. They demonstrated grit, perseverance, and we look forward to next year's team.



### Senior Volleyball

Congratulations to our Senior Volleyball Players, Hope Madison & Peyton Wallace, for signing our Yantis High School Senior Athlete Y Wall.



2023-2024 Varsity Owls are not playing for themselves this season they are playing for their brother. Things with Juan have changed these boys as a team dramatically. Not in a negative way. Tonight I witnessed my team bond as a family. I saw many of them personally walk to the chair where the #15 jersey sat and say their words. I even caught myself at that chair. My wife crying in the stands. We all know what this season meant to Juan and for him to not be on that court tonight just don't seem right. Tonight's win wasn't for us it was for him. Every game I know they will play their hearts out knowing the season is dedicated to him. Break-outs we will all say "Juan". Motto will be "We are them" meaning we will live, breath, play, support, and give our all for him!  
Eric Jeffery



Yantis FFA competed at our Mineola District LDE contest. Congratulations to Abril Hernandez for advancing to area in Sr. Spanish Creed!!!



Congratulations to Madison Wisdom for being selected as an "Owl of the Week." Her teachers reported that she is very nice, and is "Always so willing and wanting to do her best!"



Congratulations to AJ Nixon for being selected as one of our "Owls of the Week." AJ's teachers said he "enters the classroom with a positive attitude and ready to learn each day." Awesome job, AJ!!!



1st nine week attendance winners! Rory Ogle and Trace Morton Byrd. Each had perfect attendance for the 1st nine weeks and were put in for the drawing! Congratulations on your winnings!



20

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LAKE FORK AREA NEWS

Presents The 1st annual

# LAKE FORK CAMPFIRE EXPO

Hosted by Fishermans One Stop



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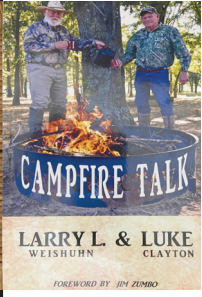
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**Luke Clayton**



Luke and friends Larry Weishuhn & Jeff Rice produce a weekly video series "A Sportsman's Life" for CarbonTV.com - Luke and Weishuhn jointly wrote a new book, CAMPFIRE TALK and they will be doing a book signing and filming a segment for a "Sportsman Life at this event also!"



This will be a fun-filled day filled with Entertainment including Meet & Greet with Pro Anglers and Lake Fork Fishing guides and Outdoor Enthusiasts Bait & Tackle - Hunting info & products Various Vendors - Food - A Huge Raffle for great prizes - Book signing - A Sportsman's Life Filming Segment and of course a campfire!



Raffle Tickets will be sold for great prizes!!! \$1.00 Hot Dogs with proceeds going to Yantis Senior Juan Hernandez Leukemia Journey



We Will Also Be Honoring our Military & First Responders



### PRIZE DONATION SPONSORS WELCOME

IF YOU WOULD LIKE TO DONATE A PRIZE FOR THE BENEFIT RAFFLE FOR JUAN YOU WILL BE INCLUDED IN SPONSOR APPRECIATION ALSO

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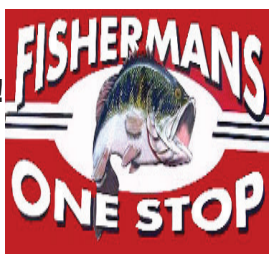
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For More Information on joining in on the Expo Contact Donna at [lakeforknews@yahoo.com](mailto:lakeforknews@yahoo.com) **469-552-1824**

### MORE SPECIAL GUESTS & EVENTS To be announced soon....

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**LAKE FORK AREA NEWS THE YANTIS TYMES**



## The Prairie Classroom

What a Beautiful day to be at the Prairie Classroom to focus in on native birds with Madame (self-proclaimed) Bird-Nerd Sandy Tibbs, Master Naturalist Extraordinaire! We got a bit of background on several birds, such as the Carolina Chickadee, Tufted Titmouse, Northern Cardinal, a variety of woodpeckers and sparrows and, a giggling favorite, the Yellow-rumped Warbler (aka Butter Butt). Sandy led the kiddos in the Carolina Wren dance just before heading out on a birding expedition - bird sighting, bird hearing, bird habitat and noticing what birds eat. We sighted an American goldfinch, a yellow-bellied sapsucker (woodpecker), an eastern phoebe, various vultures, cardinals and a song sparrow all while the kiddos picnicked in the prairie.







# Quitman - Bull Dog News



## Pee Wee Bulldogs in action at Dallas Redzone Games at At&T Stadium

An unforgettable day at the same stadium where the best players in the world play... it's here at the Red Zone Games!

Thank you Jayme Karissa & Bulldog Backers for sharing such great photos!



Quitman 8th grade A Team is your Pittsburg tournament Champions! Way To Go!



November 3rd seniors at both the pep rally and the football game. It signified several lasts for the Quitman Bulldog Seniors—whether it was their last football game, last time to cheer at a pep rally or football game, last time to march, or last cross country meet. Quitman ISD is very proud of all the seniors and their accomplishments, as well as those yet to come. Congratulations to the Varsity Football team on their victory against Winona!

The Theater Class is delighted to present "Grease" on December 15 at 7:00 p.m. and Sunday, December 17 at 2:00 p.m. Your support is greatly appreciated as our students showcase their hard work. Immerse yourself in the music, and don't miss a special performance that promises to be unforgettable!



### QUITMAN Jr High & HIGH SCHOOL Students Featured

During school board meeting, students from both the junior high and high school campuses were featured. Two high school students led the meeting with recitations of the United States of America and Texas pledges. Senior Ben Barnett led the USA pledge. Ben is actively involved in the band, one-act play, health science program, and serves as the president of the photography club. Junior McKenna Wood led the Texas pledge and is actively involved in the band, cross country, one-act play, and various other clubs. Additionally, two spotlighted junior high students, Madilyn Clanton and Isabella Crockett, both 8th graders, delivered compelling 'book talks' on books they recently read. The program, led by Mrs.

Clark, an 8th-grade ELAR teacher, aims to promote literacy by fostering a love for reading and encouraging students to share presentations that inspire their peers to explore the featured books. Both girls delivered beautiful presentations, utilizing the Smart TVs for an engaging experience. Thank you, Ben, McKenna, Madilyn, and Isabella for coming and sharing your time with us. We are extremely proud of you.

### QUITMAN HIGH SCHOOL UIL

Quitman High School participated in the Pine Tree Invitation UIL Academics this November 4th in Longview, Texas. The following participants excelled in their events:  
Kaz Coleman: 2nd Place, Spelling  
2nd Place Spelling and Vocabulary Team: Kaz Coleman, Cayleigh Ingram, Anjelina Moore, and Andrew Schaffer  
Heath Reynolds: 6th Place, Poetry  
Lila Park: 6th Place, Editorial Writing  
Annika Henry: 6th Place, Copy Editing



Colten Barkdull: 4th Place, Computer Apps  
Congratulations to all the participants, and keep up the hard work!



## MARY KAY

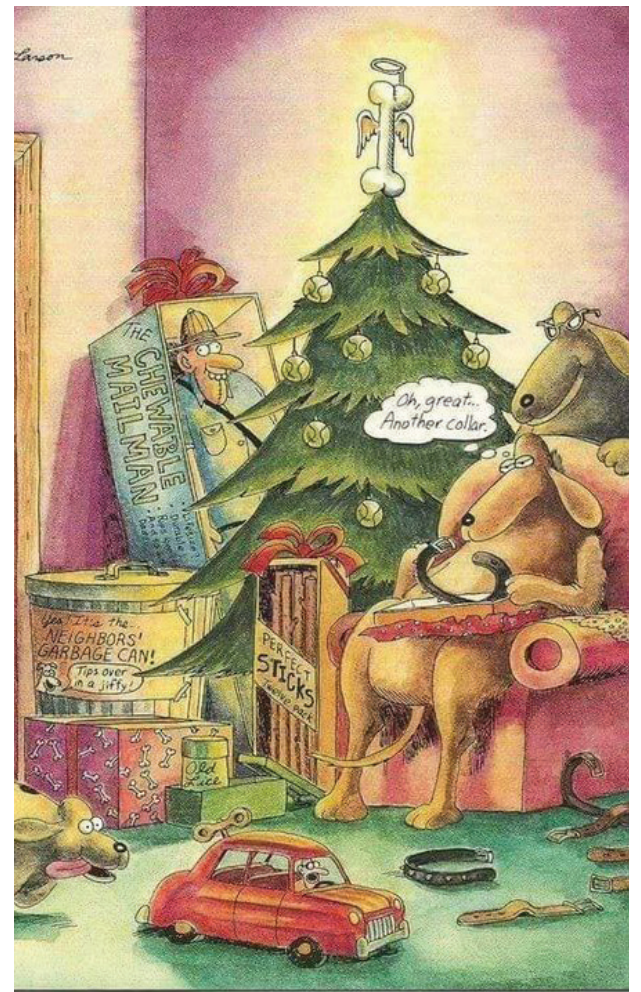
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# LIFE IS JUST A HOOOT...



1978	2023
Long hair	Longing for hair
8 Tracks	Cataracts
KEGs	EKGs
Streaking	Leaking
Acid Rock	Acid Reflux
Seeds and stems	Fiber
Stayin' Alive (the song)	Stayin' Alive (the goal)
Hoping for a BMW	Hoping for a BM
Going to a new, hip joint	Getting a new hip joint
Rolling Stones	Kidney Stones
Bell bottoms	Big bottoms
Disco	Costco
Whatever	Depends
Rock n' roll all night	Sleep through the night
Think you know everything	Think you know your name

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### Quitman-Lake Fork Kiwanis Club

Kiwanis charity turkey shoot at the Winnsboro Gun Club was another great success for 2023. Thank you to all our sponsors and volunteers for making it a great event! No turkeys were killed. Well, WE didn't kill any because the frozen turkeys we gave away were already dead



### FREE LITTLE LIBRARY IN YANTIS FROM THE LAKE FORK KIWANIS

We have placed the Little Free Library sign on it and filled it with books. Where you ask? It's called Scarborough Park in Yantis next to the Community Center. This is our second Little Free Library we have opened (one is in Gov. Jim Hogg Park in Quitman). Come and take a book or share a book. Thank you Mike Rhandi Taylor and your son Ryker for getting it ready.



## Wood County 4-H

Wood County 4-H Member, Fernel Ventura, along with other youth from across Texas just completed phase 1, the planting phase, of the Norman Borlaug Youth in Agriculture Program at Texas A&M University in College Station. They planted wheat in plots during phase 1. This is a three phase program that will continue through the spring. Rural youth are paired with urban youth to learn about the different phases of plant agriculture in this program. There are so many opportunities in 4-H, you just have to be willing to step out of your comfort zone and get out there. We are proud of Fernel for representing Wood County 4-H.





# HEALTH AND WELLNESS



Each season of the year has distinct qualities, pros, and cons. People get so passionate about the seasons; there's even a battle between "team winter" and "team summer" on social media. These groups confidently defend their favorite season and criticize the opposite season and its followers. Team Winter loves the cold, hot chocolate, lattes, and blankets and hates the humidity, sweat, and hot temperatures. On the other hand, Team Summer loves sunshine, cold beer, and loose clothes and hates the inconveniences of winter, like how freezing it is when you have to get out of bed every morning. If you live in a place that experiences all seasons, you have to deal with winter at some point. Whatever side you're on, here are some amazing hacks to help you enjoy winter to the fullest; the struggle during the cold season is real, but these tools will help.

### Warm air

A ceiling fan is essential in the summer. Not only does it cool us with a light breeze, but the distinct sound drowns out outside noises. But did you know that you can also use it in winter? We don't usually turn on the fan in the winter, but there's a good reason to do so. These devices have a "reverse" option, which doesn't generate a breeze but moves the warm air from the ceiling to the bottom of the room. It also lowers the humidity in the room, which will help keep you warm.

### Bath bombs for congestion

If you like relaxing baths and self-care, you'll love this hack. Typical winter colds make us feel terrible and make it difficult to do simple things like work throughout the day. Being sick and congested is not fun, but here's a hack to get you feeling better. If you want to get back to work as soon as possible, this trick will help you feel better in minutes. Create a "bath bomb" with Vick VapoRub. Take some of the product and mix it with water and cornstarch. This will form a paste you can mold into bath bombs. You can put it in a hot bath or in a pot of hot water to breathe near it (like a humidifier). You will be surprised by the instant results.



### Insulate with bubble wrap

When temperatures are so low in the winter, putting on a coat or raising the heat can't even help. Cold drafts can come in through your windows. Glass, in particular, is not the best material for insulating a house. Here's an excellent option if you want to protect your home from the cold. The bubble wrap used in packaging works as an excellent insulator. To apply the bubble wrap, get the plastic wet and stick it to the windowpane. This will keep your home warm during the colder months. The only downside is it's hard to resist popping the bubbles.

### Personal fireplace

We like to be huddled in front of our space heater on frigid winter days. Having an electric heater on all day is not practical since it consumes a lot of energy. On the other hand, a gas heater can be dangerous at night. For these reasons, many people choose to light a fireplace instead. But what if you wanted a heat source on the table, close to your hands? Place some small candles (like tea lights) inside a glass container, and cover it with a clay pot with a hole in the bottom. The heat will come out through that hole, warming that section of the house. It's like a mini clay oven.

### A clove of garlic a day...

Not only do we have tips to keep you warm in winter, but we also have other recommendations that will help keep you healthy and resistant to common winter illnesses. Some foods improve our immune system, such as garlic. Garlic, besides being delicious, is very beneficial for our health. Garlic is good for protecting the heart, keeping away viruses and bacteria, and reducing cholesterol. Eating it in winter will help us to avoid colds and flu. Besides, you know what they say about vampires.

### Easy campfire

The worst part of winter is being cold. We are always looking for ways to keep warm indoors and outdoors. We wear extra clothes, turn on the heater, or drink something warm, but what if we want to enjoy the outdoors during winter? This hack will help you light the perfect outdoor campfire, plus you can show off your survival skills. All you need is an object that you probably have at home: duct tape. The flame will ignite with a roll of this tape and a lighter. You'll be surprised how warm it'll be.



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# FISHING REPORT BY ANDREW GRILLS

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**ANDREW GRILLS  
LAKE FORK GUIDE  
(903) 638-1170**

December is upon us at Lake Fork. 2023 has been a busy year, and it has flown by. It has been a challenge to stay on fish with all the changing conditions. We started the year at 8.5' below full pool. We filled up to mostly full through spring, and had abundant flooded cover all over the lake. This summer was the 3rd hottest on record, but fishing was pretty good up until August.

So far this fall has been tougher, but the bite seems to be getting better as we settle in to cool, fall weather. The water level is 2.20' below full pool. The water temperature is in the upper 50's right now.

I'm finding fish in both shallow and deep water. Lately, I've preferred to fish shallow. These days with so many anglers using forward facing sonar, and knowing where to look for offshore bass, the deep fish are the most pressured. I still fish deep, but I spend more time shallow than ever before.

If you can find the right vegetation, you'll find some bass. Once I find them, I'm targeting them with a variety of presentations. Moving baits like spinnerbaits, chatterbaits, and swimbaits will work on some days. As it keeps getting colder, a lipless crankbait will be a player as well. I've also been doing well on small

Texas rigged craw type baits. The key is to work good areas slowly and thoroughly.

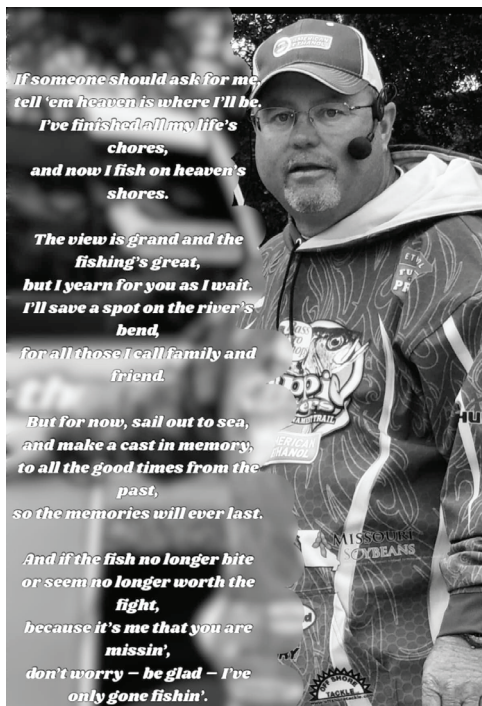
You can find offshore bass on the typical structures like roadbeds, humps, and points. Right now, 18-22' seems to be the best depth range.

Here are a few pictures of recent catches we've had on Lake Fork. If I can be of any assistance on your next trip please don't hesitate to contact me. Good luck on the water!



### BRIAN KEITH SOWERS

Brian Keith Sowers of Waverly, Missouri, completed his life journey at his lake home at 9:40 p.m., Tuesday, October 31, 2023.



"If you met him once you wouldn't forget him. Thanks for all you did in the crappie industry! A legend for sure. Prayers for family and friends."

"RIP Mr. Brian Sowers!! The voice of crappie fishing! I will never forget the passion he instilled in the weigh-ins!!!"

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**GROUPS & CLUBS**

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**WCCC WILLIAM CREEK CRAPPIE CLUB**  
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For information on Joining the Lake Fork Anglers  
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We only fish on Thursdays daytime at Lake Fork.  
New member fee is \$20. Dues is \$5 a year  
and tournaments are \$15, We are currently looking for  
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**THE WELL ARMED WOMAN**

shooting chapter of Lake Fork meets on the 1st  
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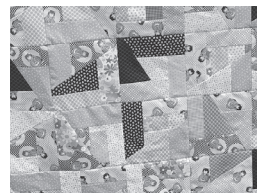
**We Sew every Wednesday starting at 10:am**

**98 S. Main St. Downtown Yantis**  
**903-243-5344** or  
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**We Will soon offer Nighttime class  
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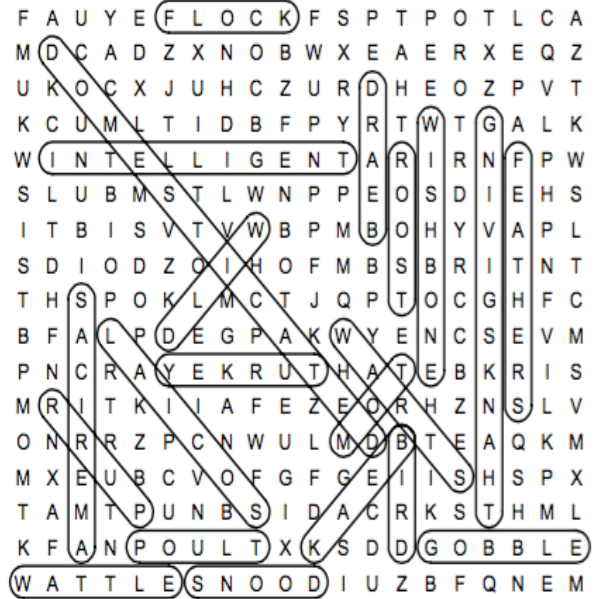
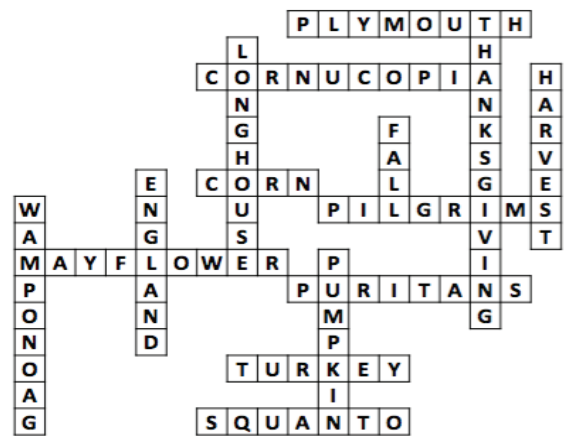


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meets monthly for more information  
call: Lyn Baldwin 903-335-4076  
email: [lyn.baldwin@gmail.com](mailto:lyn.baldwin@gmail.com)

**Puzzle Answers**

**SOLUTION**



*Mineola Library News & Events*

**Mineola Memorial Library's Notes**  
by Mary Hurley

We are in the last few weeks of 2023. Can you  
believe how quickly time has passed?

Thank you to those that shopped our tiny little  
book sale on November 18. We appreciate your  
business. We will do another one sometime  
next year. Watch for further information.

December 14, a Thursday, from 4pm to 6pm will  
be our Annual Open House. We will begin at  
4pm with a State of the Library address, fol-  
lowed by refreshments. Around 5:15pm we will  
have a visit from Santa Claus and you may take  
photos with him and he will also read a story or  
two.

We will continue to offer Toddler Story Time

on Tuesday morning at 9am; Math Club for  
K-5th grade on Tuesday afternoon at 4pm on  
December 5 and 12; Pre School Story Time  
on Wednesday, December 6 and 13 at 10am;  
Home-school Heroes will meet at 10am on  
Friday, December 1 and Friday December  
15; and the Last Green Craft of the year will  
be Thursday, December 14 at 10am making  
wooden slice ornaments.

Hope to see you soon! Remember, the Mineo-  
la Memorial Library is a 501(c)3, non-profit and  
your donations may be tax-deductible. You can  
find us at 301 N. Pacific in Mineola TX , on the  
web at [www.mineolalibrary.com](http://www.mineolalibrary.com), or on Face-  
book (be sure you look at the Mineola Memori-  
al Library in Texas).

--  
Mary Hurley  
Mineola Memorial Library



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*Worship & Praise*



**New Christmas Tradition**  
Beginning December 1st read one chapter of the book of Luke in the Bible each evening.  
There are 24 chapters.  
On Christmas Eve you will have read an entire account of Jesus's Life and wake up Christmas morning knowing WHO and WHY we celebrate!!

**God Bless the USA**

They say that a Cardinal is an angel from Heaven to let you know that everything's going to be okay. I think this is God's way of telling America, that everything is going to be okay



Luke 12vs15. Then he said to them, " Watch out! Be on your guard against all kinds of greed; a man's life does not consist in the abundance of his possessions. "

A small sentence, with great meaning and value. At this time of year, salesman are pushing to make the Almighty dollar. Each trying to convince you that you must have what they are selling. Don't have the cash, just buy it on credit. Yeah, and pay for it for years. If you have a roof over your head, clothes on your body, and shoes on your feet, and food to eat, be satisfied with what you have. Yes most of us need a vehicle to drive, but you don't need the best.

When you go into debt and keep going deeper, it's a trap. You lose perspective of what life is about.

Life is about serving God and his Son Jesus Christ. It's about caring for your spouse and children and grandchildren, about spending time with each of them.

As black Friday approaches don't be lead into the chaos if frantic buying.

Instead of going into debt to buy gifts, give your loved ones your time.

Then you have given them something that is priceless. God's word tells us not to be a slave to the lender.

Staying out of debt gives you freedom to serve God and his Son Jesus Christ, it gives you the time to be with family, it gives you the peace of not worrying about what will happen if you are sick for a week, and can't make a payment.

The Bible is God's rule book for life. There is wisdom there for those who seek it.

This Thanksgiving be free to truly be thankful. May God bless your day in Jesus name I pray Amen. Raymond Bell



- Ten things I want my kids to know:
1. Happiness is a lot of work. You can't be lazy or entitled to achieve it.
  2. You will make mistakes and they will only define you if you give it that kind of power. If the lesson is learned, the mistake is worth it. It's your choice whether or not it wins. You are not a prisoner to your past and you are allowed to grow.
  3. The world owes you nothing. It does not care who you are, where you come from or what you think you deserve. Everything you achieve will have to come from your own dedication to what you love. It will not be handed to you easily.
  4. People do not get to tell you who you are. Make peace with your own soul and give no one the power to tell you that you're something you're not. Know who you are and be okay when others do not understand you.
  5. Work hard. Never go into anything with half your heart. Respect is earned by how you did the job and not the title by your name.
  6. Show up for your people. No matter what has happened, show up. That's what people will remember about you in the end of all of this.
  7. Choose grace for others and for yourself. No one gets it right. You won't either. Bitterness is the anchor to the soul but grace sets you free.
  8. Have fun. Be adventurous. None of us are getting out of this alive so make the time you have count with the people who actually matter.
  9. Laugh in the good times and the bad. Your sense of humor and your ability to take a punch will set a strong foundation of stability.
  10. Love God. He's the most consistent thing you'll ever have.

**WHO OR WHAT SHAPES YOUR LIFE**

**THE GOOD FISHING NEWS**  
The good news is living for and belief/faith in an Almighty God brings you the fruits of the spirit. The fruits include love, joy, peace; patience, kindness, goodness; faithfulness, gentleness, self-control.  
Some will say I had a bad experience with church/religious organization. Remember Jesus Christ, the Messiah had a bad experience with a

religious group. The very group waiting hundreds of years for him with many still failing to recognizes him.

Some will say I have a problem with God. Have your tried to draw close to God or expect Him to listen to your commands. Try that on your employers and see how that works. You get what you do. A warming fire only comes after you add the spark and fuel.

Rewards in life come from serve to others and being thankful for the blessings you have. We all have many blessings and you may need to take an inventory of the blessings.

Being a Christian has a few simple requirements. Do not make it complicated. The basic requirements include:

- Rule # 1 Know, love and serve God
  - Rule # 2 Know, love and serve others
- Accept the resurrection of Jesus Christ as the Son of God  
Accept and follow the teachings of Jesus Christ  
Recognize sin as anything that harms you or others.

Gerald Schmidt  
[www.WhoOrWhatShapesYourLife.blog](http://www.WhoOrWhatShapesYourLife.blog)

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FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH  
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