

FEBRUARY 2024

# YANTIS TYMES

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Newspaper

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VOL 12 ~ Issue 2



## ONE OF A KIND EVENT COMING TO YANTIS FEB 10TH

20

FREE TO THE PUBLIC

### LAKE FORK CAMPFIRE EXPO

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FREE TO THE PUBLIC

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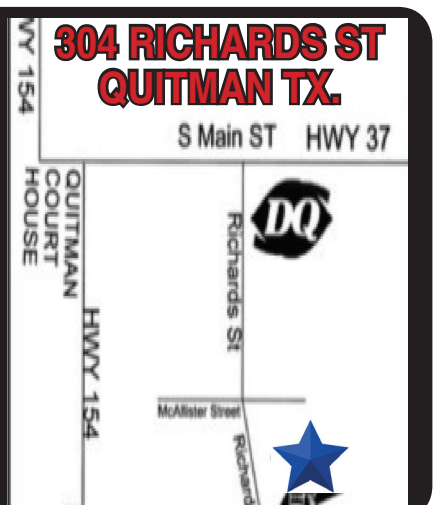
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# Seasons of Change



feeling inside. It was a time to be still..and reflect on the positivity that surrounds us if we only take the time to slow down and look carefully at the simple things that can bring us such joy and happiness every day! The pure serenity of the snow on the pier ...with flakes falling silently across the water it is teaching us all a big dose of patience.

In January we had a beautiful weather surprise here at Lake Fork - a soft blanket of fresh snow! It has been awhile since we have had such a calming gentle accumulation of such beauty!

Patience? Yes - because for now we are just in amazement of the beauty. The seasons of change are what brings out so many emotions in all of us.

I walked outside and it was so quiet as the snow continued to fall and stick to the trees and the grass! It was truly a peaceful feeling in my soul! With all of the negativity of the things in the past year and even some that continue now - this snow was a pure gift from God.

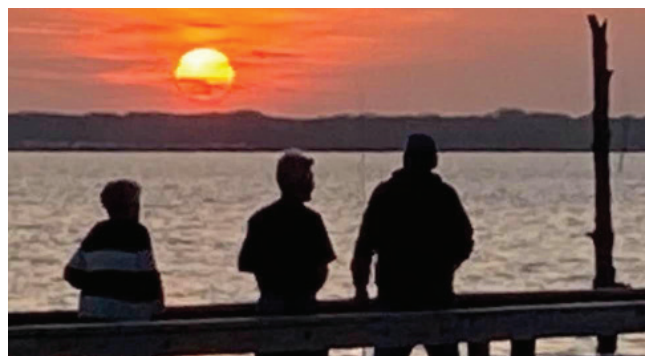
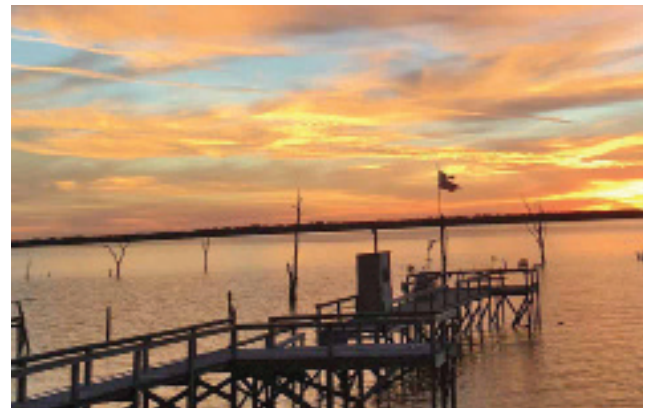
The seasons of hardship and loss are also a time of emotion, but with every heartache, every loss, and every struggle we must keep our faith that these seasons will change as well. That doesn't mean it will just all go away or be easy - it means that we need to strive daily to see the beauty around us and what God is showing us to help us all heal.

This snow was sent in a way to cleanse our souls! At least that is what I was

Whether it is the awe of



silent beauty in fresh falling snow or standing on the same pier with the amazing colors that paint the sky differently each and every day - or watching the sunset fall slowly across the lake into the horizon lighting the sky as a blessing to all of nature, these are small but important reminders to give thanks for the good in the world.



Challenges and blessings are always found in the same season, so as you face your daily challenges always hold tight to your daily blessings as well!



**“As the world fights to figure everything out, I'll be holding doors for strangers, Letting people cut in front of me in traffic, Saying 'Good Morning,' Keeping babies entertained in grocery lines, Stopping to talk to someone who is lonely, Being patient with sales clerks, Smiling at a passerby. I will be kind to a stranger, Give grace to friends who are having a bad day, Be forgiving of myself and others. Why? Because I will not stand idly by and live in a world where love is invisible. Be the Change. Just Be Kind.”**



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# Happy Valentines Day

The definition of Valentines Day : *Valentine's Day is a holiday that's popularly observed as a day to celebrate love, especially by those in romantic relationships.*

The New Year has kicked off and the excitement of that simmers down then the month of February rolls around and here we go again! So many scurry around to find the best gift to impress their loved one while others are trying to find a new love before Valentines Day so they aren't alone! Everywhere you go the hearts, flowers, chocolates and I love you's are there to fully remind us of love - and to spend more to impress more!

But have you ever thought about how love is there in every month if you choose to open your heart up to it. I have fallen in love, I have fallen out of love, I have had my heart broken, I have had my heart healed, I have lost love, I have gained love but through it all

comes down to how you love yourself first. Whether you are married for 20 years or single, if you don't truly love yourself then it is all for show.

We are all perfectly flawed in one way or another and sometimes loving yourself is easier said than done. But I will share with you that when I left a very very long relationship I felt completely broken! I spent so much time focusing on the worst of those years that it consumed me. I felt that somehow I had failed, I had given up, that there was something wrong with me.

It took time for me to realize that many of those years were great and that just because it didn't work out didn't mean that I failed it just meant it was time to move on and find my next chapter in finding love within my self. There were many lessons learned in that relationship, some good some bad, but as I began my new life I began to grow as a person. I started to love this new me and who I was becoming. The biggest lesson I learned about myself was knowing what I didn't want in my life, and moving forward on making myself open and honest with my own happiness. I would rather be single for a lifetime than be with the wrong person.

Now with that being said, remember that although so many people treat Valentines Day as a 'couples' holiday

it is truly for everyone that has love in their heart for themselves that they help but share it with others - love for your family, friends, your pets, your neighbors and yes with the one you love! That love can be expressed best by a simple gesture, an act of kindness and something as simple as an old fashioned hand written Valentine with words of love! But carry the love of Valentines Day forward, remember to share your love and kindness throughout the entire year to everyone around you - starting with your self!



Thank you for all your support!



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Crossword Challenge

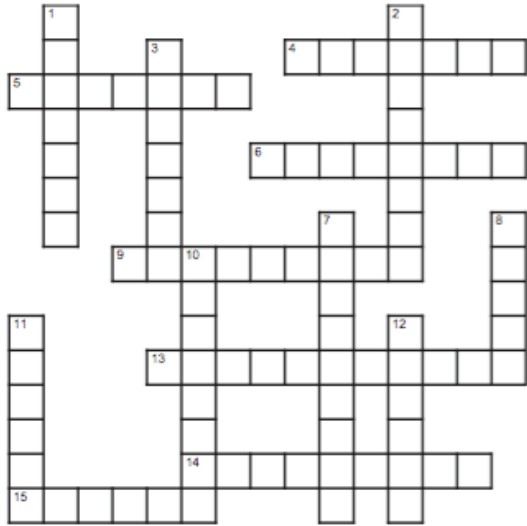
(Answers on page 17)

Word Search Challenge

Candy Crossword

Across

- 4. A soft and chew candy made with sugar, butter, and cream.
- 5. A small, gelatinous candy that comes in various fruit flavors.
- 6. A hard candy attached to a stick that is often fruit flavored.
- 9. A small, bean-shaped candy with a hard outer shell and soft center.
- 13. A fluffy and colorful confection often found at carnivals and fairs.
- 14. A candy made from cocoa beans that melts in your mouth.
- 15. A hard and crunchy caramelized sugar candy.



Down

- 1. A rich and indulgent candy with a soft, ganache-like center often coated in chocolate.
- 2. A sweet confection made from ground almonds, sugar, and egg whites.
- 3. A sweet treat made from nuts and sugar, often coated in chocolate.
- 7. A small, hard candy with a tangy lemon flavor.
- 8. A chewy and stretchy candy usually flavored with fruit extracts.
- 10. A chewy and twisted red or black.
- 11. A chewy candy made with sugar or honey, often mixed with nuts or fruit.
- 12. A sweet Middle Eastern treat made from ground sesame seeds and honey.



Bald Eagle

Word Search



- AERIES
- BALD EAGLE
- BROWN FEATHERS
- CONSERVATION
- DDT
- DIURNAL
- EAGLET
- EMBLEM
- EYESIGHT
- FISH
- HUGE NEST
- MATES FOR LIFE
- NATIONAL SYMBOL
- NO PREDATORS
- NORTH AMERICA
- PLUMAGE
- PRESIDENTIAL SEAL
- PROTECTED
- RAPTOR
- SOAR

- TALONS
- UNITED STATES
- WETLANDS
- WHITE HEAD
- WHITE TAIL
- WINGSPAN
- YELLOW BEAK

DID YOU KNOW?

The bald eagle is the national bird and symbol of the United States of America. They can fly up to 10,000 feet in the air and reach speeds of up to 40 miles per hour.



The Pilot Club of Quitman held its 2024 Chili Contest Friday January 26th at the Carroll Green Civic Center in Quitman and what a great event it was!

They had Chili, a Raffle and yummy desserts with entertainment by Dale "C" Cummings to bring lively fun for the crowd to enjoy!

The Grand Marshall award and a 2nd place trophy for people's Choice went to the Quitman Kiwanis with a huge shout out to those members who came up with the theme - Death by Chili, the booth decorators and cooks!

What a great way to raise funds for the community and share food fun and fellowship for everyone involved! Great job Pilot Club of Quitman and congratulations to all of the winners at this fun event!





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# Wood County News & Events



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Rotary has provided eclipse glasses for all schools in Wood County for the October partial eclipse and for the April 8th eclipse. Rotary is also selling the glasses for the general public.

APRIL 8, 2024

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2024**

**FEBRUARY 10TH  
11-5 AT  
FISHERMAN'S ONE STOP**

What a wonderful collaboration between Stitchin' Heaven Quilt Shop and Quilts of Valor to teach Wood County 4-H youth about patriotism while learning useful skills!

Wonderful East Region 4-H Quilts of Valor Sew Day in Wood County! Honoring our military veterans by learning to make quilts to award at the county level. Thank you to Stitchin' Heaven for hosting our event and providing quilt backing and Texas Quilts of Valor volunteers for cutting and providing fabric for the tops. Awe inspiring day to see all these youth and volunteers making a difference in Texas!



# YANTIS TYMES

**469-552-1824**



**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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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!



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# Veteran News Updates



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 Suicide & Crisis Lifeline  
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 Or text: 838255



## WORLD WAR II FIGHTER PILOT BUD ANDERSON TURNS 102

World War II fighter pilot Col. Bud Anderson turned 102 in January! The legendary triple ace survived 116 missions in #WWII without being hit by fire from an enemy aircraft. He's pictured here on a 2019 visit to the Udvar-Hazy Center to see his flight jacket on display.



Bud Anderson was born on January 13, 1922, in Oakland, California. He enlisted in the Aviation Cadet Program of the U.S. Army Air Forces on January 19, 1942, and was commissioned a 2d Lt and awarded his pilot wings at Luke Field, Arizona, on September 29, 1942. His first assignment was flying P-39 Airacobra fighters with the 329th Fighter Squadron of the 328th Fighter Group at Hamilton Field and then at the Oakland Municipal Airport, California, from September 1942 to March 1943. Lt Anderson was then assigned to the 363rd Fighter Squadron of the 357th Fighter Group at Tonopah, Nevada, in March 1943, moving to various bases in California from May to October 1943, then at Casper, Wyoming, from October to November 1943, and finally deploying to England in November 1943. He completed two tours in the European Theater, during which time he was credited with the destruction of 16.25 enemy aircraft in aerial combat plus 2 probables and 2 damaged, and 1 enemy aircraft on the ground while strafing an enemy airfield. Capt Anderson returned to the U.S. in January 1945, serving at Perrin Field, Texas, until October 1945, when he was assigned as a recruiter in Ohio. He served as a recruiter until May 1948, when he transferred to the Flight Test Division with Headquarters Air Material Command at Wright-Patterson AFB, Ohio. Anderson served as a test pilot at Wright-Patterson from May 1948 to February 1953, and then at Headquarters U.S. Air Force in the Pentagon from February 1953 to September 1954. He attended Air Command and Staff College at Maxwell AFB, Alabama, from September 1954 to August 1955, and then served as Director of Operations for the 58th Fighter-Bomber Wing at Osan AB, South Korean,

from August 1955 to February 1956. Col Anderson was commander of the 69th Fighter-Bomber Squadron of the 58th Fighter-Bomber Wing from February to August 1956, and then served as Executive Officer with the 6511th Parachute Test Group at NAAS El Centro, California, from August 1956 to November 1957. His next assignment was as Assistant Chief and then Chief of the Flight Test Operations Division at Edwards AFB from November 1957 to August 1962, followed by Army War College at Carlisle Barracks, Pennsylvania, from August 1962 to July 1963. He was Deputy Director of Flight Test and then Assistant Deputy for System Test at Edwards AFB from July 1963 to August 1965, followed by service as Deputy Director and then Director for Operations with the 18th Tactical Fighter Wing (TFW) at Kadena AB, Okinawa,

from August 1965 to June 1967. Col Anderson was commander of the 18th TFW from June to December 1967, and then served another tour with Headquarters USAF in the Pentagon until December 1969. He next served as commander of the 355th TFW at Takhli Royal Thai AFB, Thailand, from June to December 1970, followed by service as Chief of the Aircraft Division with Material Command at McClellan AFB, California, until his retirement from the Air Force on February 29, 1972.

His 1st (of 5) Distinguished Flying Cross Citation reads:  
 For extraordinary achievement and heroism in aerial combat and the destruction of three enemy airplanes over enemy occupied Continental Europe. The skillful and zealous manner in which Captain Anderson has sought out the enemy and destroyed him, his devotion to duty and courage under all conditions serve as an inspiration to his fellow flyers. His actions on all these occasions reflect the highest credit upon himself and the Armed Forces of the United States.



Colonel O-6,  
 U.S. Air Force  
 Veteran of:  
 U.S. Army Air Forces  
 1942-1947  
 U.S. Air Force  
 1947-1972  
 World War II  
 1942-1945  
 Cold War 1945-1972  
 Vietnam War  
 1965-1967, 1970



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

*Daily Specials!*

Feb 3rd Acoustic Song Swap Caleb Boles  
 Meredith Crawford Brandon Kruger

Feb 17th Casey Chestnutt  
 Feb 24 Wheelhouse Band  
**MARCH 16**  
**RAY WYLIE HUBBARD**



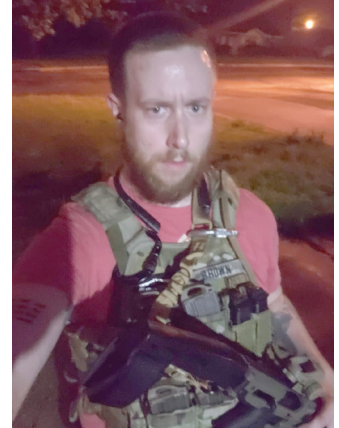
# THEY GOT YOUR 6 NEWS MAURICE PETERSON US NAVY



Please give a warm welcome to Maurice Peterson! Maurice joined our Board of Directors and now serves as Secretary for the They Got Your 6 Foundation. Maurice and his wife have lived in Wood County for over 2 years now, and being a part of any community or volunteering is important to him. He served in the Navy as a Yeoman. Maurice has served as a volunteer for community events, fire departments and CERT teams. He currently volunteers with the Mineola Fire Department. He was voted Rookie of the Year for 2022 and 2023. Maurice is married with 3 daughters and 3 grandkids. He currently works for a telecommunications company as an IT Manager. He is an avid runner and cyclist.



# TYLER BROWN US ARMY



Please give a warm welcome to Tyler Brown! Tyler now serves as our Operations Officer, and sits on our Board of Directors for the "They Got Your 6 Foundation." Tyler Brown served in the US Army. Tyler has spent his life feeding people in the US Army and the civilian world. After moving his family to Wood County in 2021, Tyler has jumped into the community head first opening a business in Mineola and striving to serve the community with great food. Tyler brings his passion for services from the kitchen to the Veteran and First Responder community. His firm belief is that of Colossians 3:23, "Whatever you do, work at it with all your heart, as working for the Lord".



# MEDAL OF HONOR FOR OUR FREEDOM

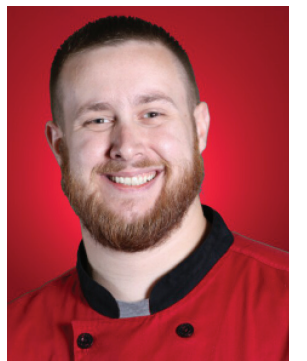
**George A. Davis, Jr.**  
**Lieutenant Colonel O-5, U.S. Air Force**  
**U.S. Army Air Forces 1942-1947**  
**U.S. Air Force 1947-1952**  
**World War II 1942-1945**  
**Cold War 1945-1952**  
**Korean War 1951-1952 (KIA)**

George Davis was born on December 1, 1920, in Dublin, Texas. He enlisted in the Army Air Forces on March 20, 1942, and was commissioned and awarded his pilot wings in 1943. Lt Davis flew P-47 Thunderbolts in the Southwest Pacific Theater during WWII, where he was credited with shooting down 7 enemy aircraft in aerial combat while flying with the 342nd Fighter Squadron of the 348th Fighter Group. Davis remained in the Air Force after the war and was sent to Korea in October 1951, where he flew F-86 Sabres with the 334th Fighter Squadron of the 4th Fighter Interceptor Wing. Davis was credited with shooting down 14 enemy aircraft between November 1951 and February 1952. He was killed in action during a mission on February 10, 1952. Davis shot down two MIG 15's on his last mission and was later posthumously awarded the Medal of Honor. LtCol Davis was one of the few aces in two wars, and had a combined total of 21 aerial victory credits at the time of his death.



twelve enemy MIG-15 aircraft speeding southward toward an area where friendly fighter-bombers were conducting low level operations against the Communist lines of communications. With selfless disregard for the numerical superiority of the enemy, Maj. Davis positioned his two aircraft, then dove at the MIG formation. While speeding through the formation from the rear he singled out a MIG-15 and destroyed it with a concentrated burst of fire. Although he was now under continuous fire from the enemy fighters to his rear, Maj. Davis sustained his attack. He fired at another MIG-15 which, bursting into smoke and flames, went into a vertical dive. Rather than maintain his superior speed and evade the enemy fire being concentrated on him, he elected to reduce his speed and sought out still a third MIG-15. During this latest attack his aircraft sustained a direct hit, went out of control, then crashed into a mountain 30 miles south of the Yalu River. Maj. Davis' bold attack completely disrupted the enemy formation, permitting the friendly fighter-bombers to successfully complete their interdiction mission. Maj. Davis, by his indomitable fighting spirit, heroic aggressiveness, and superb courage in engaging the enemy against formidable odds exemplified valor at its highest.

His Medal of Honor Citation reads:  
Maj. Davis distinguished himself by conspicuous gallantry and intrepidity at the risk of his life above and beyond the call of duty. While leading a flight of four F-86 Sabres on a combat aerial patrol mission near the Manchurian border, Maj. Davis' element leader ran out of oxygen and was forced to retire from the flight with his wingman accompanying him. Maj. Davis and the remaining F-86 continued the mission and sighted a formation of approximately



**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!**

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# 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

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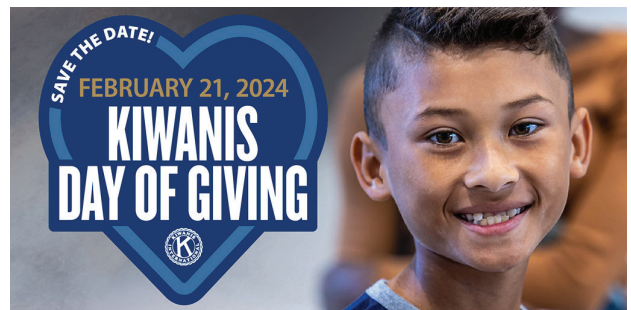
Exciting day! Kiwanis walking trail bridge to the upcoming dog park went in! Thank you to Smith Builders for making that happen for us! Now machines can get in and clean up the dog park area for the fence install. Keep en eye out for progress



### 2024 TOTAL ECLIPSE IS COMING ..... GET YOUR GEAR !

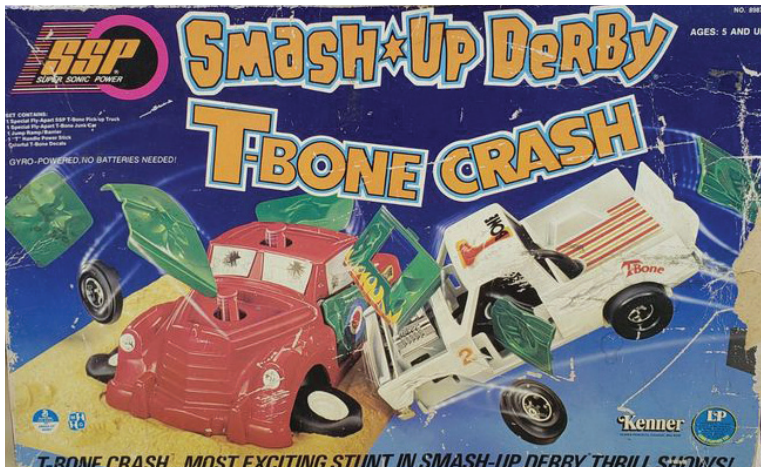
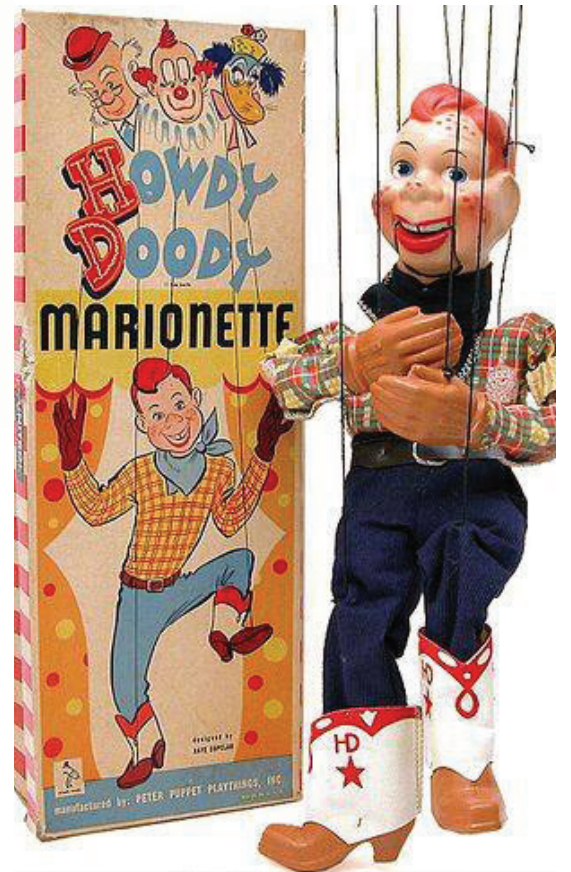
Has your organization been feeling temporarily lost in the shade? Are you looking for a unique way to shine some light on your business or organization this spring? This summer will see one of the few total Solar Eclipse events on April 8th, 2024. East Texas will be in direct path of the full eclipse and this provides an excellent way to both commemorate the special moment while also highlighting your business with Jammie's Jack'd Up Designs! Our studio offers multiple customizable options to put your organization on the map with potential customers and loyal repeat clients such as, pens, keychains, UV stickers, and shirts! Our minimum order count of twelve (12) of any item makes this a great way to explore custom options during once-every-18-year phenomenon.

Contact us now and schedule your order at Jammie's Jack'd Up Designs - 903-932-7873, ammiesjackedupdesigns@gmail.com, or visit us online at www.jammiesjackedupdesigns.com



The countdown is on for our second Kiwanis Day of Giving. Join us online February 21-22, 2024, to enhance the lives of kids around the world. Just US\$2.25 is enough to reach one child through Kiwanis Children's Fund grants. How many kids can you reach on #KiwanisDayOfGiving? Learn more: [kiwanis.org/dayofgiving](http://kiwanis.org/dayofgiving)

## 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!

MANY THINGS IN LIFE

*will catch your eye,*

BUT ONLY A FEW WILL CATCH YOUR HEART,

*Pursue those.*



## Don't Quit

When things go wrong, as they sometimes will,  
 When the road you're trudging seems all uphill,  
 When the funds are low and the debts are high,  
 And you want to smile but you have to sigh,  
 When care is pressing you down a bit -  
 Rest if you must, but don't you quit.  
 Success is failure turned inside out -  
 The silver tint of the clouds of doubt,  
 And when you never can tell how close you are,  
 It may be near when it seems afar;  
 So stick to the fight when you're hardest hit -  
 It's when things seem worst,  
 You must not quit.

Edgar Guest 1921

"We are not what we know but what we are willing to learn." "Good people are good because they've come to wisdom through failure." "Your word is a lamp for my feet, a light for my path." "The first problem for all of us, men and women, is not to learn, but to unlearn."

"Do not let making a living prevent you from making a life." — John Wooden.  
 "The greatest glory in living lies not in never falling, but in rising every time we fall." — ...  
 "Life is either a daring adventure or nothing." — ...  
 "What's the world for if you can't make it up the way you want it?" —

"Believe in yourself and all that you are. Know that there is something inside you that is greater than any obstacle."

Christian D. Larson



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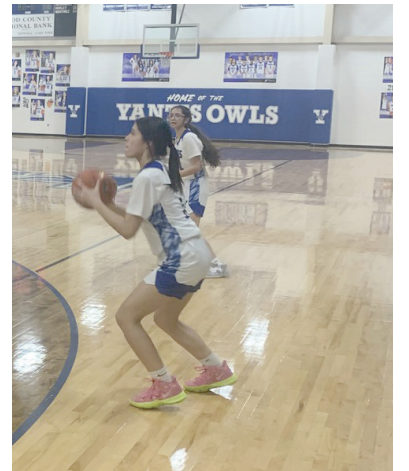


# Yantis Owl's Activities

Our YISD Owls finished strong in the Greenville PTAA tournament, taking 2nd place. They fell short to Hawkins 64-68. Our young athletes played great and showed their spirit throughout the tournament. We are also proud of Alex Lopez and CJ Madison, who took home the All Tournament team award! Go OWLS!



Basektball  
All-Tournament Teams  
Congratulations to the following Lady Owls and Owls for making All Tournament at the Greenville PTAA Basketball Tournament:  
**2023-24 Greenville PTAA All Tournament Leadership Award:**  
**Faith Glenn**  
**All Tournament Award:**  
**Alex Lopez and CJ Madison**



## All District Volleyball

Congratulations to the following Lady Owls for being recognized as All District in Volleyball:

**All District Co-Utility player of the year:**

**Presley Hurley**

**All District 1st Team: Faith Glenn**

**All District 2nd Team: Fancy Ragan and Peyton Wallace**

**Honorable Mention: Avery Rodriguez, Hope Madison and Madison Tabraham**

**Our future looks bright, and we can not wait to see our Lady Owl Volleyball team in 2024!**



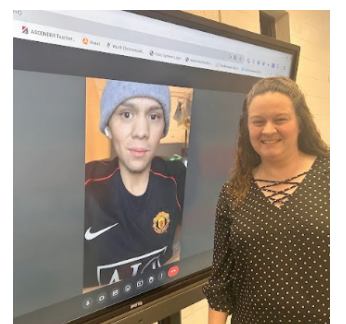
## Yantis FFA

Congratulations to Hunter Walker and Juan Yanez for getting a blue ribbon and placing 3rd in their class at the Forth Worth Livestock Show and Rodeo Ag Mech competition. Their hard work and time spent to plan, build, and show the deer feeder paid off!



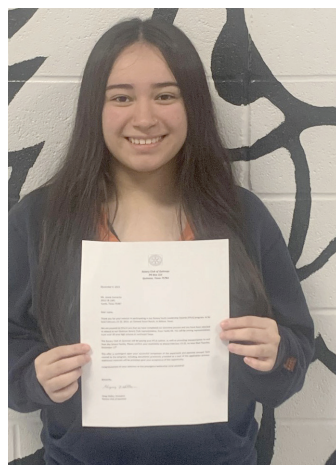
## Ring Ceremony

"THANK YOU" to everyone that participated in our inaugural Ring Ceremony. We are so happy to recognize all ring recipients, and the educator that made an impact on our ring recipient.



## Youth Leadership

Congratulations to Juana Camacho for being selected to attend the RYLA Leadership Camp in Athens, TX in February. The RYLA Leadership Camp opportunity was granted to a Yantis ISD Junior by the Quitman Rotary Club. The purpose of the camp is to provide outstanding student leaders an opportunity to expand and develop their leadership skills at a weekend scholarship camp. Thank you Quitman Rotary Club for sponsoring Juana.



## YHS Letterman Jackets

Shoutout to both Kole Collins and Creager Quinn for receiving their YHS Letterman Jackets!



## Owl of the Week



Congratulations to Katy Miller for being selected as an "Owl of the Week". Katy was nominated by teachers as "always so ready to learn and pleasant - kind to others". Great job Katy !!!





20

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LAKE FORK AREA NEWS

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LAKE FORK CAMPFIRE EXPO

Hosted by Fishermans One Stop



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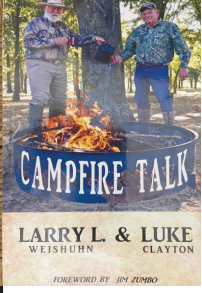
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Luke Clayton



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



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The Prairie Classroom

Super active day at the Prairie Classroom despite the rain! We started with circle introductions to welcome our three new students and a memory game of favorite animal and playing with colors in different languages!

Radioactive Rosie / Fox hayansaeg (white in Korean), Likeable Lance / Whale Blau (blue in German), Diligent Dewayne / Dog Schwarz (black in German), Sharing Charlotte / tiger cub marrón claro (light brown in Spanish), Happy Huck / Duck-Billed Platypus cafe (brown in Spanish), Big-Brained Brody / Persian Ibex, brun (brown in French), Nice Neva / Polar Bear hayansaeg (white in Korean), Powerful Poppy / Cat tous les couleurs (all colors in French), Awesome Annabelle / Axoloti Rosa (pink in Spanish), Jolly Juno / Horse blanc (white in French), Excited Emi / Whale Gris (grey in French), Jazzy Julie / Cow negra (black in Spanish), and Kind-hearted Kelli / Dolphin Rosa (pink in Spanish).

Then, they paired up to venture through 12 Stations to practice balance, focus and concentration, critical thinking, problem solving, art, eye-hand coordination, Science (weather), and U.S. Geography.



They got to use two of their Certificates of FUN in the afternoon that they gave one another in our Christmas exchange (Draw for 2 hours and Board games), nature journaling and a guided drawing of a Bald Eagle (David Allen Sibley). A fun, active day! Great to be back in full swing!





# Quitman - Bull Dog Backer's



These two ladies receiving the Top Bulldog Award are not usually on this side of the camera; you may recognize them from any Quitman ISD extracurricular activities where they capture memorable moments. Pictured to the left is Jayme Karissa, and to the right is Sheree Phillips; both make up the Bulldog Backers. Pictured in the middle is Mr. Mason, superintendent of QISD presenting them with the Top Bulldog Award. The Bulldog Backers are avid supporters of all things Bulldog, with Sheree being a Quitman alumna from the class of '98, and both of her children graduating from Quitman. Although Jayme did not graduate from Quitman High School, both of her children are proud Quitman High School graduates.



When asked about why they started Bulldog Backers, this is what they had to say: "We started with taking pictures with our kids and their friends. Then it blew up from there to taking pictures for parents. From this point, we realized many parents cannot attend all of

their child's events. Brandi Box was the one who started the Bulldog Backer Facebook Page. We took over the page and developed it into a platform where parents and students can get information and pictures from various QISD events and community events. We love our community and want to continue sharing memories of the kids and community!" It is a genuine honor to recognize these ladies as they stand out as some of the most dedicated supporters of the school. You can find all the pictures they capture on the Facebook page: Bulldog Backers. A heartfelt thank you to Bulldog Backers, and congratulations on being recognized as Top Bulldogs; you truly deserve it!

## Quitman FFA

Congratulations to our members on their outstanding efforts in the Sub-area Leadership Development Events!  
 Extemporaneous Speaking: Rainlyn Trawick, 1st  
 Job Interview: Angellyn Wardyn, 1st  
 Prepared Speaking: Lily Eichelberger, 2nd  
 Parliamentary Procedures, 3rd: Katie Kennedy, Rainlyn Trawick, Briley Smith, Ella Isom, Lily Eichelberger, & Jeremyah Green  
 Discussion Meet: Tripp Tapley, 3rd  
 Conduct of Chapter Meetings: Bella Dewberry, Jacob Green, Thomas Tennyson, Madelyn Welch, Raney Martensen, Luken Lewis, Carley Clemons



Texas Farm Bureau 2023 AgVentures Challenge: Pitch It, Market It, Sell It competition finals in Waco. And the future sure is bright! These top 10 finalists developed agricultural products and pitched their concepts to a panel of judges.  
 Winner: Mattison Smith  
 Runner-Up: Joseph Polster Third Place: Whitley Anderson Fourth Place: Justin Hill Fifth Place: Jhett Davis Sixth Place: Aubrey Ellis  
 Other finalists included: Lily Logan Caleb Rappolee Tymber Reust Ammileigh Smith  
 Congratulations to all the students!



## Quitman School Board Meeting

During the school board meeting, two elementary students led the session in reciting the pledges. This special gesture was particularly meaningful as February is School Board Appreciation Month, and these two students have notable connections to members of the school board. The first student, Paisley Crony, a 2nd grader, is the granddaughter of Dr. Smith, president of the school board, while Lincoln Labit, a 4th grader, is the grandson of Mr. Hicks, member of the school board. Both students did an excellent job reciting the pledges, contributing to the appreciation of the school board members during this dedicated month. The school board was also recognized by all campuses with various gifts of appreciation. This month's student spotlight was held by a group of students from Quitman High School representing the Gaming Club and Engineering classes. They presented a table with a flat-screen TV attached, outfitted to meet their gaming needs. Presenting were Brendan Mahoney, senior; Sean Derryberry, senior; Ian McMullen, junior; Aidan Bringard, junior; and Rycke Underwood, 9th grader. Mr. Colby Bridges leads the Gaming Club every Thursday afternoon



where they play various games. Currently, they are involved in playing a captivating game of Dungeons and Dragons using the gaming table. Mr. Cross is the engineering teacher who collaborated with gaming students in creating this innovative gaming device. We express our gratitude to the school board for their unwavering commitment and dedication.



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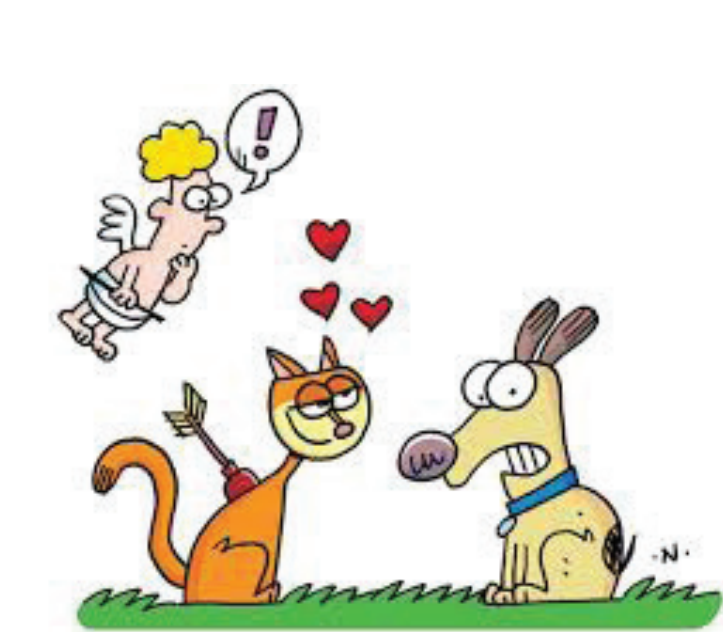




# LIFE IS JUST A HOOOT...



Dear Mother Nature,  
Having received my free sample of winter, I would like to cancel the remainder of my subscription.  
Thank you.



- What did the paper clip say to the magnet?  
I find you very attractive.
- What did the octopus say to his valentine?  
I want to hold your hand, hand, hand, hand, hand, hand, hand, hand.
- What did the train say to his Valentine?  
"I choo-choo-choose you!"
- What do you call two birds in love?  
Tweetharts!
- Why are artichokes the most loving vegetable?  
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# Mid Winter Eagle Count 2024

**The Mid-Winter Eagle Count was held January 12-14 2024**

The first day of the Midwinter-survey was held on Lake Tawakoni and was quite a success with 11 volunteers and 12 eagle sightings along with 2 newly discovered nests! Then it on to Lake Fork with more eagle sightings and many more amazing observations and photos as well! Thank to Lisa Hilbers for sharing her amazing photography of this event to share with everyone! A Big thank you to Barry at Oakridge for letting this great group gather where the coordinator for the whole event goes over the map and fills in his forms regarding the number of eagles seen. And thank you Bruce Allen for providing detail information to include in this article!

BUT it is not over. At lunch many eagle siting stories are told. And then we do it all over again on Sunday. Supposedly confirming what was seen on Saturday.

Members of the Lake Fork

Sportsman's Association have been participating in this event for almost 20 years.

The Mid-Winter Eagle Count is a program put on by the US Fish & Wildlife Agency and administered by the US Audubon Society. Selected areas around the whole USA have volunteers counting eagles on the second weekend in January each year.

The volunteers count eagles on foot, from autos and busses, and by boats. At Lake Fork we use all three methods and at Lake Tawakoni they use primarily autos.

The main factor in deciding what methods of transportation we use is the weather. Foggy-no boats. Real windy-generally no boats. Temperature in the teens-once again no boats. But over the years for the most part, we have been able to get out in boats and count the eagles from the water. Which incidentally, is where we see the most eagles from.

The volunteers meet at Oak Ridge Marina at or before 7 AM and have breakfast prior to forming up in groups to go and count the birds. While we have to buy our own breakfast and lunch the



bird watching is FREE.

So before 8 AM and after having been assigned to a boat, bus or car the volunteers go out to the areas we have divided into seven sections of the lake. Each section has a map. Each group leader must be familiar with his/her section so when an eagle is seen you can mark the map where it was located. Each group should be in their area and ready to start counting by 8 AM.

Groups count eagles for three hours and stop at 11 AM. They make there way back to Oak Ridge Marina

(SH 154 at Lake Fork) Up to fifteen years it was not uncommon to see 50 eagles in the count. But in 2005 the law was changed so that the crap-pie anglers had to keep all the fish they caught in December, January and February. Why, because most of those fish were caught deep and those under 10" had to be thrown back which and would float on the surface with the bends which made for a wonderful winter time meal for the lazy eagles. Now that that forage base is gone and the eagles actually have to work to find food we see far less.

I have been noticing quite a few eagles hanging around Fork over the fall and also quite a large group of Mexican eagles, which we will not be counting.

Right now, we have three boats signed up to participate. We could use about 4 more including anyone that would want to bring their barge.

If you plan to stay overnight you can call Oak Ridge at 903-878-2529. And you'll like the food.

For more info contact the coordinator Sanford Valentine at 903-985-9825 or me at 903-440-2797.



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# HEALTH AND WELLNESS

## CABIN FEVER IN THE WINTER

Cabin Fever is a 'real' issue this time of year at the lake. And with the cold winter weather zapping us quickly this year alot of us are really feeling the wrath.

It has been a few years since we have had a hard winter so most of us are running around fixing pipes that were good for several years - but not this year! We all know better but sometimes it doesn't wake us up until we are trying to repair in the cold and getting our mindset ready for some colder nights that are coming!

Living life at the Lake during the winter is not for everyone. But for those that do live here and endure the coldness there are several tips that help make it easier.

First of all the basics of winterizing your home should have already been done by now but from personal experience I can assure you that occasionally you will still have some possible pipe issues. During the summer I had made some changes on my property, these little changes effected how the wind blew differently into my property and therefore I had pipes burst that had been fine for three years. Just keep that in mind when making changes to your property.

But the main tips are about taking care of the most important thing - yourself!

So I have listed a few things that I have followed that has helped me in the past years living at the lake.

### EXTRA SLEEP

With the shorter, cooler days and longer nights, our bodies naturally need more sleep. Try going to bed 30 minutes earlier than usual in the winter months. A sleep deprived body is more susceptible to illness.

### EXERCISE OUTSIDE

Get outside and exercise! Bundle up, and take a walk. Even a 15 minute walk can make a huge difference! Exercise naturally supports a healthy mood and energy levels. So basically it is something not just to help your physical well being but it helps your mental alertness as well.

### STAY SOCIAL

The Winter months can naturally cause people to turn inward and be more isolated. Make a date with friends or a family member at least once a week to keep spirits high. Keep in mind that this is not just healthy for you but you will be making a difference in someone else's life as well.

### EAT PROTEIN

Make sure and eat protein at each meal! Protein helps keep blood sugar levels stable, and can reduce sugar cravings. Many people increase carbohydrate and sugar intake during winter months, which can compromise the immune system. The importance in keeping your immune system strong is very important during the winter months.

### FRUITS & VEGGIES

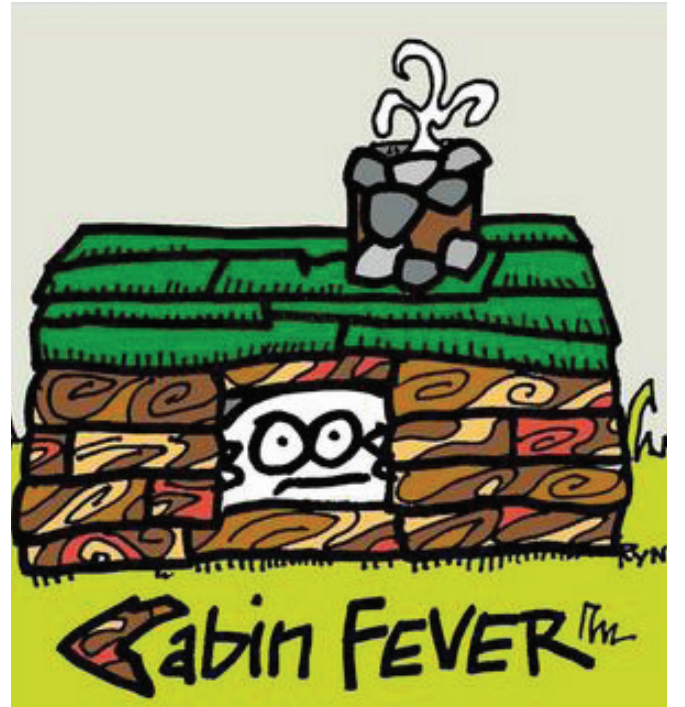
Focus on fruits and vegetables. While the Farmers Market may be closed and your garden is under snow, it's more important than ever during the winter to get a wide variety of fruits and vegetables every single day. Think 'eat like a rainbow' when you are grocery shopping.

### TAKE TIME TO PREP

Take time to prepare the little things on warm days. During the warm days make sure you have a couple gallons of water stored just in case of freezing pipes. Prepare bedding and shelter for your pets.

Don't wait until the day before the storm to stock up on groceries. Can goods are a must because no matter you will have your fall back food. A suggestion though is to get foods including can goods that you will actually eat.

There is nothing worse than being stuck inside for days



with food that isn't tasty.

Also it doesn't hurt to make sure your fire pit (or grill) is prepped with wood or you have covered wood to start a fire in case of emergency.

It is much better to be over prepared and have peace of mind than to stress at the last minute. Also keeping flashlights, medication and important items in a easy to grab container.

The good thing is we are in the last leg of the hard core winter and I know that we will all be so grateful when Spring starts peeking out at us again! We will have great fishing weather again and many tournaments and events to look forward to!

Stay warm and keep a look out for all pets and lake animals as well! It never hurts to throw a little extra food out for our birds and squirrels this time of year!



## WINTER TIPS FOR YOUR PETS

### Pet Winter Safety Tips

**LIMIT CAR TRAVEL**  
Never leave your pet in your car.

**HIDING IN THE HOOD**  
Warm engines attract cats and small animals. Bang on your hood before starting the engine.

**PAW PATROL**  
Check regularly and wipe away salt after outdoor walks.

**GET COZY**  
Provide warm beds for naps.

**BE ALERT**  
Signs of hypothermia include: shivering, whining, sluggish or anxious behavior.

**STORM PREP**  
Create disaster kit with food, water and medication that can last 5 days.

**STAY INDOORS**  
Keep cats and dogs inside. Consider providing dry, well-insulated shelter for feral and neighborhood cats.

**SWEATER WEATHER**  
Play dress up with cozy sweaters and coats.

Winter weather can be rough on all of us, including our furry friends. Don't forget to consider the safety of your pets during cold weather. The American Red Cross offers these steps people can follow to help ensure their pet's safety when chilly weather hits their area.

- Bring your pets inside during cold weather.**
- Protect their paws.**
- Take care of their coat and skin.**
- Antifreeze is a deadly poison. Wipe up spills and store antifreeze out of reach.**
- Know your pet's limits outdoors.**
- Use space heaters with caution.**
- Avoid walking on frozen water.**

**Cold Weather and Arthritis!**  
For pets with arthritis, cold weather can be extra painful. Limit outdoor time and outfit your pet in a coat. Ask your vet for medication to help ease your pet's pain. Know the areas of your pet's body where pain can be felt.



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# FISHING REPORT BY ANDREW GRILLS

When customers ask about the best time to catch the biggest bass, I always mention the month of February. The thing about this month is it's a high risk, high reward time. You could hit it on a nice warming trend and have a great trip, or you could hit it on a severe cold front and not get a bite.

This time of year can be a back and forth game with warming trends and cold fronts. Fish show up in shallow areas when it warms up, but when a cold front comes through they'll back out to nearest deep water refuge. "Deep" just means what they have available nearby. They may go back to a nearby creek channel that's a few feet deeper, or they may hunker down in a drain if

that's all they have. A "drain" is simply an area water used to flow after a rain before there was a lake there. These low spots can really load up during cold snaps. A small depth change can be all it takes to draw them.

The main thing to keep in mind when dealing with bass that have been pushed back by cold weather, is slow down. Be patient. Fish the area thoroughly. I focus on a few areas I know are holding fish, and take my time instead of running around. I like to show the fish a variety of presentations before I give up on an area. Sometimes a slow moving soft plastic or light weighted jig can do the trick. At other times you'll have to resort to reaction techniques, like lipless

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crankbaits or bladed jigs. The key is to figure out what will trigger a fish on that given day.

Also keep in mind that there will probably be a window during the day that the fish will wake up and feed a little. We often think it will be in the afternoon when the water is warmest, but that's not always the case.

Hopefully this gives you some ideas for dealing with lethargic, post-front bass. Sometimes the worst conditions yield the biggest bass of the year! Pictured are some big bass from this time of year over the past couple years.



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

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**LAKE FORK ANGLERS**

For information on Joining the Lake Fork Anglers  
send an inquiry to [sjbasser@gmail.com](mailto:sjbasser@gmail.com).  
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  
new members= Boaters.

**THE WELL ARMED WOMAN**

shooting chapter of Lake Fork meets on the 1st  
Thursday each month at Winnsboro Gun Club range in  
Winnsboro. Shoot at 4pm until 7pm for  
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Join Our Sewing Group :



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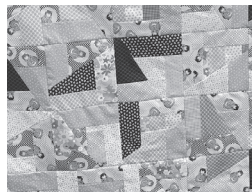
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903-243-5344 or

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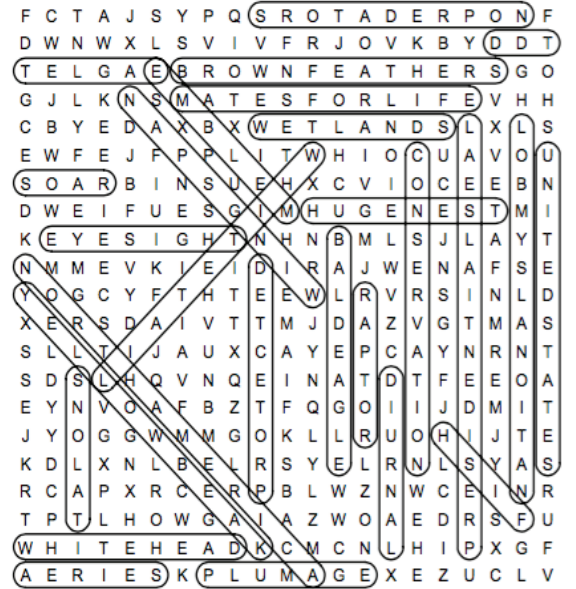
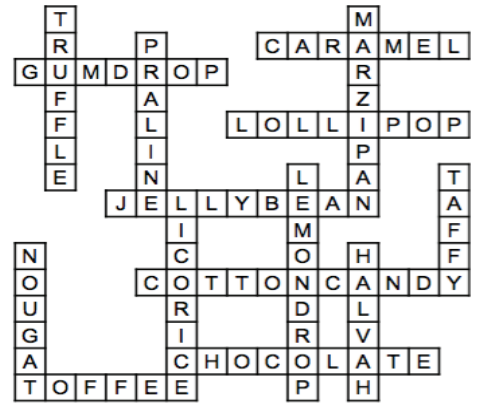
We Will soon offer Nighttime class  
or Saturday Class

Come Join Us For  
Fun & Fellowship!  
We Have Lunch  
Together Too!

We Each Bring a Dish



**Puzzle Answers**



*Mineola Library News & Events*

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

The Library had a very good year in 2023. We  
circulated 28,388 items that included books, au-  
dio books, and DVDs. We welcomed 449 new  
patrons. We hosted 160 in-person programs, 65  
out-reach programs, and had a total attendance  
for all programs of 3,194 persons. It was a great  
year for seeing people again. The estimated  
value of the Library based on circulation, pro-  
gramming, internet access, reference questions  
was \$581,913.75. And please, note, we are not  
funded by city or county tax money.

We are so glad people are starting to come  
back into the Library. We try to offer a variety  
of books and audio books as well as program-  
ming. If you have a suggestion for the Library,  
please, let us know. We cannot accommodate  
every request or put together every program,  
but we need your in-put so we can better serve  
our community.

Just a reminder as we get into the season  
where we don't know what the weather will  
bring, due dates. We do have a four week  
check on materials borrowed from the Library.  
If the weather turns bad and it becomes difficult

to get around, we will make sure to not charge  
late fees on the days we are closed. It's not  
anyone's fault when Mother Nature decides to  
make her presence know. If something happens  
in your household (sickness, death, new baby,  
accident), we can work with you on returning  
your items but you have to let us know there  
are extenuating circumstances.

We continue to have Toddler Story Time on  
Tuesdays at 9am, Preschool Story Time on  
Wednesdays at 10am, STREAM on Tuesday  
afternoons at 4pm, Home-school Heroes on  
the first and third Fridays of the month at 10am,  
and this month we will host the East Texas Li-  
brary Friends Book Club on January 27 at 2pm  
discussing Karen Kingsolver's Demon Copper-  
head.

Remember, the Mineola Memorial Library is  
a 501(c)3, non-profit and is not tax-supported.  
Your donations may be tax-deductible. The  
Library received several generous donations  
over the Winter holiday and they are very much  
appreciated.-

Mary Hurley  
Mineola Memorial Library

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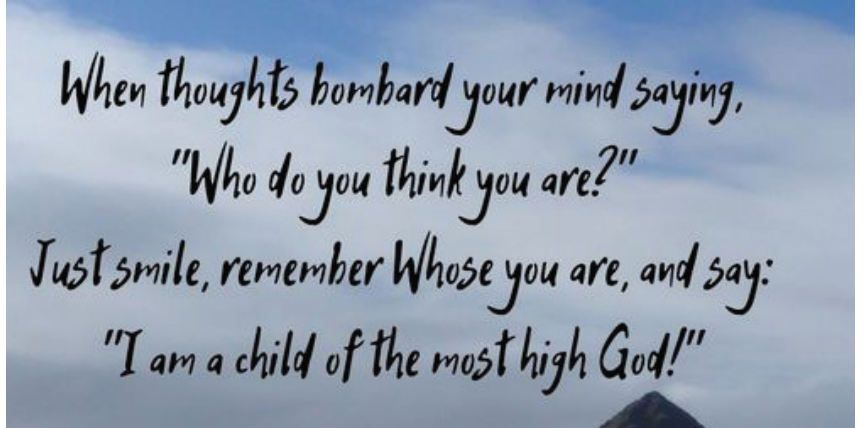
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*Worship & Praise*



Philippians 4:6-7  
 "Be anxious for nothing, but in everything by prayer and supplication, with thanksgiving, let your requests be made known to God; and the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and minds through Christ Jesus."



# WELLNESS FOR THE SPIRIT

For so many of us we focus on our body - whether it is to stay fit and healthy or it is with aches, pain and illness.

Don't get me wrong we must all take care of our bodies physically but sometimes it all begins with the heart, mind and soul. Now I can say from experience that I have had a heart attack - it was immense pain that stopped me in my tracks, physically unbearable - I went to the hospital and was immediately scheduled for open heart surgery to relieve this pain and to repair my heart.

I have also had pain in my heart that was also immense and painful that was not physical but emotional. This is not a pain for a doctor to heal. It is for us to seek a deeper stronger sense within our soul to begin the repair and recovery process. But you are never alone in this journey. But God



is always with us, through physical pain as well as emotional heartbreak. When I was younger I believed in God but I didn't really understand his patience or love for me until I began to get older and knew that I needed to lean on him for every aspect of my life.

This gives me peace in my heart and soul through the toughest of times as well as the best of times! Take time to slow down and listen to what God has to say to us!

**The Lord is my Shepherd ----- that's a Relationship!**  
**I shall not want ----- that's Supply!**  
**He maketh me to lie down in green pastures ----that's Rest!**  
**He leadeth me beside the still waters -----that's Refreshment!**  
**He restoreth my soul ----- that's Healing!**  
**He leadeth me in the paths of righteousness --that's Guidance!**  
**For His name sake ----- that's Purpose!**  
**Yea, though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death--that's Testing!**  
**I will fear no evil ----- that's Protection!**  
**For Thou art with me ----- that's Faithfulness!**  
**Thy rod and Thy staff comfort me -----that's Discipline!**  
**Thou preparest a table before me in the presence of mine enemies-----that's Hope!**  
**Thou annointest my head with oil -----that's Consecration!**  
**My cup runneth over ----- that's Abundance!**  
**Surely goodness and mercy shall follow me all the days of my life----that's Blessing!**  
**And I will dwell in the house of the Lord -----that's Security!**  
**Forever ----- that's Eternity!**

**Face it, God loves you!**  
**What is most valuable is not what we have in our lives, but WHO we have in our lives!**

## WHO OR WHAT SHAPES YOUR LIFE

What is the future of the American Christianity? Church attendance is down. Many of the youth who do attend Christian church activities and lessons are lost to the secular world soon after their teen years. It once was expected that as they started families they would come back to church. This is not happening as expected.

The question becomes can Christian churches adapt and meet the needs of people to recover from a Greek culture of moral and personal decay as described in Bible Acts chapter 17? In a sales career I found that meeting the needs of the customers was paramount to success. The

conclusion seems that many churches are not meeting the needs of unchurched people. Are the unchurched scorned without an attempt to understand the needs that the fruits of the spirit would give.

Do the many Bible studies available teach the lessons Christ taught in the gospels? Are the Bible studies about end times? Christ said in the gospels only the father knows so why spent time on such a subject. I find a lack of Bible studies on the gospels and how we should conduct our lives.

The church matters only if it meets the needs of people living as Christ intended and taught in the gospels. The Mercy Ships Ministry see successful evangelism by caring for and ministering to those who have need and can not care for themselves. They do not preach or impose gospel, but bring people to Christ by their example.

Do our churches cling to orthodox/traditional ideas driven more by church attendance and donation needs than the Mercy Ships Ministry

model. Christ never said he came to die for our sins. He came to teach us how to live for eternal glory.

The parable of the wine skins tells us new wine in old wine skins breaks the old wine skins. The Pharisees did not understand this teaching or did not care to try and understand that Christ was talking about the renewal the human mind. They had the mindset that the Messiah would come as a royal king and establish secular government to their liking.

Up lifting teachings on conducting our lives are readily available on YouTube or the internet. Is their crisis in your life? Draw near to God as the alcoholics anonymous program suggests. Accept Christ as the higher authority. Church attendance only matters if it brings Godly behavior and meets needs for Godly growth and lives.

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

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 Dorinda Crisp - Wife  
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 Tuesday Bible Study - 6pm  
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**First United Methodist Church**  
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 903-763-4127

Keefe Cropper  
 Pastor

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**FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH**

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