

JANUARY 2024

YANTIS TYMES

FREE

Newspaper

COVERING WOOD COUNTY AREA NEWS

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VOL 12 ~ Issue 1

2024

HAPPY
New Year



Here's is to the bright New Year
and a fond farewell to the old:
Here's to the things that are yet to come
And to the memories that we hold



EAGLE EYE NEWS

Midwinter Bald Eagle Survey Newsletter

The Midwinter Bald Eagle Survey is in full flight for 2024

This year's survey will be held on the weekend of January 12-14, 2024.

Lake Tawakoni will be surveyed on the morning of the 12th from 7:30 a.m.— 11:30 a.m. Meeting location will be the State Park office on Lake Tawakoni. Please dress for the weather and bring your cameras and optics to get the best viewing of the eagles.

The Lake Fork survey will be held on the morning of the 13th and 14th from 7:30 a.m. — 11:30 a.m. Meeting location will be the Oak Ridge Marina on Lake Fork. As in past years, many volunteers will meet early for breakfast and enjoy sharing eagle stories and fellowship. Don't forget those cameras and binoculars!

State of Texas
MWBE Coordinator

Sanford Valentine

Email: sanfordvalentine19@gmail.com
Mobile: 903-985-9825

Eagles on the Horizon

Experience the beauty and thrill of watching eagles in their natural habitat



The eagles are waiting;
Don't miss the show!

Lake Tawakoni Survey

When: January 12th

Check-in: 7:15 a.m.

Where: State Park Office/Gate

10822 FM 2475

Wills Point, TX 75169

Lake Fork Survey

When: January 13th & 14th

Check-in: 7:15 a.m.

Where: Oak Ridge Marina

2949 SH -154

Quitman, TX 75783

The Fledgling

By Evelyn Wings Pignataro

I hear a whispering in the wind
An ancient voice beckoning to me
Telling me I am a part of the air and sky
A yearning deep inside surfaces
I lean into the wind and feel its power
I stretch my weak wings and feel its caress
The longing grows as the days march
onward
I practice and practice anxiously waiting
The voice becomes stronger—urging me on
A primal memory pushes gently
I flap with all there is within me
Suddenly I am free of the nest
I am where I was destined to be
I have severed my earthly bonds
And became one with the wind



FEBRUARY 10TH



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David & Janet Harrison

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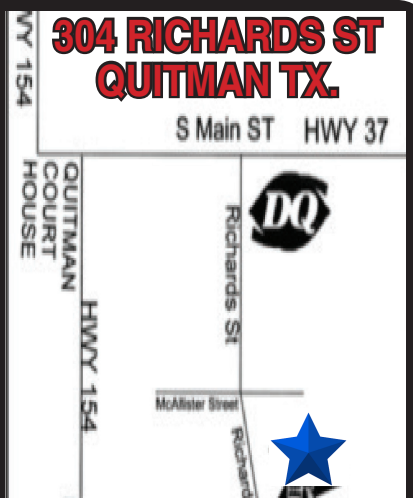
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Happy 2024

Let's face it after the holidays are all over and the resolutions are made ... it's time for the New Year to really begin. Everyone has high expectations and is filled with motivation.

But the reality of it all is we all tend to fall back into some of the same old patterns and paths that we know well and are comfortable with. The world we live in now makes it easy to do that. It is back to work, back to school, back to bills and our everyday rat race of life. It is after all part of living life, and most of us let our resolutions fade and move on not even realizing it.

But what if this year really was different, what if you could find a way to make this the best year yet? Sounds great but how do we really accomplish this without being distracted by the fast paced life that surrounds us?

So I thought and prayed hard about how we can structure more positivity not only for ourselves but also for those around us.

It all begins with our personal choices and how to bring simple joy back into your life. Live for the moment .. take a look at the good things in life. Beginning with the fact not just the New Year, but each day that you wake is a chance to live life to the fullest. Don't stress over the bad but focus on the good.

Whether it is as simple as having a meal, or a warm place to live, family to reach out to, friends to laugh with, the love of your pet, or

even the fact your heart is beating and you are alive and breathing!

So how do we live in the moment? It is easy as viewing a new sunrise each day...it is there to remind us that God has given us all a new day.

Do not stress over what happened the day before, or become anxious of what tomorrow will bring. Take a deep breath, relax and thank God for the day. Keep an open mind and have faith that no matter what obstacles or setbacks you will encounter that God has your back.

Let's face it life can throw us curves at any turn, but it is up to us how we face it and trust that we can overcome anything. I recall many times that something as simple as spilling a drink, or having a sore back would cause me to become so grouchy. When this happens sometimes we just let negativity take over for the rest of the day.

When this happens now I just have to think about people all around us are going through something that is much worse than this, and I let it go. I even reflect back on my own health obstacles including open heart surgery where I was helpless for so long depending on so many people in my life just to get out of bed or to walk.

Because of this it changed my look on life, I am much healthier now, God granted me the opportunity to enjoy life again. Yes I still face setbacks at times, and have been discouraged at times, but once again I wit-



nessed my own sister fighting cancer for 2 1/2 YEARS for her life on a daily basis! I have seen friends battling as well, losing loved ones, children and tragedy in our community and across our nation...and yet I see people complain about the smallest of things in life that in reality are meaningless.

The best resolution should be done on a daily basis. Keeping the following things in mind:

- Give Thanks for what you have!
- Keep your mind open to positivity
- Keep life exciting and fun
- Be Kind and patient, with other's and with yourself!
- Take your goals one step at a time
- Look out for others in need
- Take pride in yourself and what you have to offer to inspire others we are all gifted individually
- Change conflict into Peace
- Don't try to change things you cannot control
- Embrace what you do best and share it with others

And once you find peace within, you will be fulfilled and each day will be filled with more joy! Be the person that you are meant to be and not what the world around you *thinks* you should be!

Just like the sunrise is there to remind you of hope and goodness so is the sunset at the end of each day... this is the time of day to give thanks for another beautiful day on earth and prayers for all of those in need!

There is always a way to show others that you care about what they are going through with a simple gesture of a smile or a hug!

So start the New Year and each day with a resolution of positivity and peace !

Happy 2024 !!!!



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LAKE FORK Area News

The Quitman Christmas Decoration Winner's

Thank you to CollisionX for sponsoring the cash prizes for our home decorating contest. And a HUGE shout out to everyone that participated making our town merry and bright! It was a such a hard decision. Congratulations to the winners!



And let's talk about our beautiful businesses! All the storefronts looked amazing. Congratulations to Marketplace On Main for receiving Best Storefront.



Thank you for all your support!



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Crossword Challenge

(Answers on page 17)

Word Search Challenge

A Game of Two Halves

ACROSS

1. Area of play behind the line of scrimmage.
4. Drop kick used to relinquish possession.
6. Hike.
8. Tom Brady's position.
11. Any offensive play that does not involve a forward pass.
12. Broadway Joe.
14. An offensive series of plays.
15. Three point play.
18. Results in a turnover.
20. Defensive player.
21. Game opener.
22. Number of teams in the NFL.
23. Team gathering.
24. Site of annual college game played on January 1st.

DOWN

2. He snaps the ball.
3. A team gets four of these each time they have possession.
5. Pass that hits the ground before possession.

7. Nickname for a football.
9. Take a player to the ground.
10. Field of play in American football.
13. Intermission with entertainment.
15. When a player loses the ball during a play.
16. Championship game.
17. Tackling the quarterback.
19. Area past the goal line.



Friendship Word Search



- BUDDY

CARING

CONSIDERATE

ENCOURAGE

ENJOY

FAITHFUL

FORGIVE

FRIEND

GIGGLE
- HELP

HONEST

KIND

LAUGH

LISTEN

LOVE

LOYAL

PLAY

RESPECT
- SHARE

SMILE

SUPPORTIVE

TEAMWORK

TOGETHER

TRUST



Quitman-Lake Fork Kiwanis Club and various donors graciously joined QES' K-Kids in a ribbon-cutting ceremony for the Quitman Elementary Dawg Park. What was once a vacant area sandwiched between exterior walls has now blossomed into an outdoor learning space. We owe this transformation to the vision of the inaugural K-Kids Club members that took flight in the 2022/23 school year, along with Mrs. Presley, Ms. Farmer, and Mrs. Strong. Last year, the wheels were set in motion for this project, thanks to the generous sponsorship of Quitman Lake Fork Kiwanis Club and members of the Quitman community

LAKE FORK KIWANAS QUITMAN ELEMENTARY DAWG PARK



We are thrilled that what was an idea and a vision of our inaugural group of K-Kids last spring came to fruition this fall. Their primary sponsor last year, Michelle Presley, has moved but was able to FaceTime in where they could present her an award as the Distinguished Adviser for all of Texas' Kiwanis K-Kids clubs. A HUGE thanks to all those who worked on and donated to make this happen.



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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

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

Solar Eclipse Glasses

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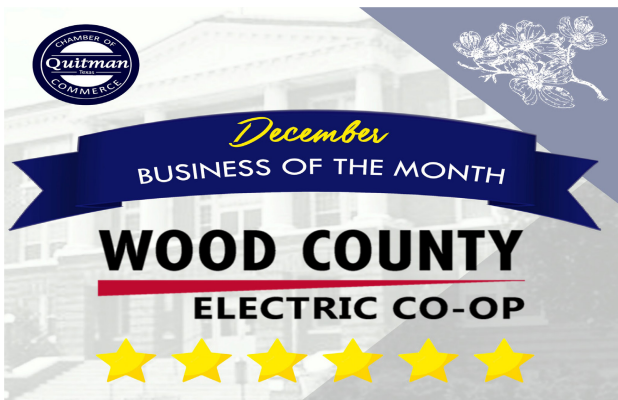
\$5.00 EACH

PRESENTED BY: BIG SANDY, MINEOLA, QUITMAN & WINNSBORO ROTARY

Wood County Arboretum & Botanical Gardens

2024 Events

- Bare Root Tree Sale - Late February**
(Limited stock)
- Spring Plant Sale - April 13**
(Pre-sale for Members Only April 12)
- Fall Plant Sale - October 12**
(Pre-sale for Members Only October 11)
- Barn Sale - November 9**
- Open House - December 12**



We would like to take a moment to talk about our amazing Business of the Month for December - Wood County Electric Cooperative! Founded in 1938, Wood County Electric Cooperative, Inc. is an electric distribution co-op with the mission of providing safe and reliable electric service while improving the communities where the employees live and serve. Headquartered in Quitman, WCEC has over 5,000 miles of line and serves over 40,000 meters in parts of 9 counties: Camp, Franklin, Hopkins, Rains, Smith, Titus, Upshur, Van Zandt, and Wood.



Thank you Wood County Arboretum and Botanical Gardens for proving this beautiful arrangement to our Business of the Month, Wood County Electric Cooperative!



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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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Veteran News Updates

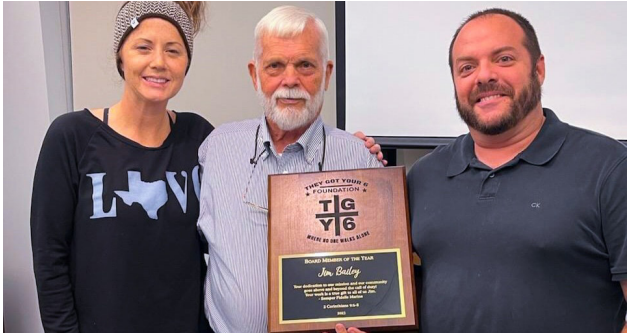


If you are having suicidal thoughts please Dial or Text 988.
Call, or Text 988
Suicide & Crisis Lifeline
Veterans Dial: 1
Or text: 838255



SSG JIM BAILEY VIETNAM VETERAN RECOGNIZED FOR HIS DEDICATED SERVICE

Congratulations Jim Bailey! Jim was recognized by his fellow board members as "Board Member Of The Year" for 2023! Jim's heart and service to this community does not go unnoticed. His actions most definitely speak louder than words! We are so proud of you Jim. Thank you for your service and dedication to Wood County. What a blessing you are sir.



Recently They Got Your 6 Foundation Board Member Jim Bailey was selected by Honor Flight DFW to be flown up to Washington, DC to visit the WWII, Korean, Vietnam, Marine (Iwo Jima), Navy and Air Force Memorials and Arlington Cemetery. SSG Bailey is a Vietnam Veteran who served our country proudly in the US Marine Corps! We are all so proud of you Jim! Jim tirelessly serves our community in a leadership role with our foundation, the Wood County



Marine Corps League, American Legion Post 296, Mineola, Texas, and other civic organizations. Jim has the heart of a giant and truly embodies the Marine Corps motto of "Always Faithful." Semper Fi Marine - Welcome Home

VETERAN TONY LAMA THE STORY OF HIS HUMBLE LIFE

TONY LAMA, SR. (1887-1974) STARTED HIS BOOT COMPANY IN EL PASO, TEXAS 111 YEARS AGO
Tony Lama was born to Italian immigrants in the year 1887. Orphaned at age eleven, his uncle apprenticed him to a cobbler in Syracuse, New York. As an apprentice, young Tony learned to be a cobbler and learned the properties of the different skins and leathers. He joined the United States Army and in 1910 was stationed with the Cavalry at Fort Bliss, Texas. Naturally he was assigned to duty as a cobbler and started hand-crafting boots for the soldiers. His expertise as a custom boot maker spread quickly among the cowboys and ranchers of the Southwest. Once he completed his tour of duty with the Cavalry, he settled in the border town of El Paso, Texas.
Tony Lama started his company in 1912 as a small boot repair shop on East Overland Street. He continued to do business with the soldiers at Fort Bliss. That first year, with the help of one assistant, he repaired boots for the soldiers and hand crafted twenty pairs of hand-made boots. About this time, the Army started to phase out

the Cavalry and Tony Lama concentrated on the western boots for his customers. Cowboys and ranchers would come to Tony Lama's shop with hides, requesting custom made boots. He would hand craft custom-made western boots for his customers with unmatched style and comfort. In 1917 he married Ester Hernandez and they had six children. The children became active workers in his company. He taught his children the boot-making skills which had made his boots famous across the Southwest. By 1933 his factory was producing forty pairs of boots a day. During World War II the company had a difficult time due to scarcity of leather but as soon as the war ended the business boomed. In 1946 Tony Lama turned his business into a corporation. In fact, in 1948 he made a pair of custom-made boots for the President of the United States, Harry S. Truman. Business continued to boom during the 1950s as the company became an innovator in styles and technology. They made boots that were extremely stylish for both cowboys and the general public. Some of the characteristics were low heels and vibrant colors and designs. At this

time the company employed 780 employees and produced 3,100 pairs of boots a day. Tony Lama died in 1974. The legacy created by the cobbler from Fort Bliss lives on in legendary boots made with unmatched craftsmanship and innovative technology. Today the company is owned by Berkshire Hathaway.







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Restaurant Hours
Monday: CLOSED Tuesday: CLOSED
Wednesday: 11:00 AM - 9:00
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 !



January 6th Landry & Co
January 13th ERIC GEORGE
January 27th JAMIE RICHARDS

Feb 3rd Acoustic Song Swap Caleb Boles Meredith Crawford Brandon Kruger
Feb 10 The Wilder Blue
Feb 17th Casey Chestnutt
Feb 24 Wheelhouse Band

WREATHS ACROSS AMERICA

the Wood County Marine Corps League, members of American Legion Post 296, Mineola, Texas, Veterans, DAR, family members and outstanding Patriots gathered at Roselawn Memorial Gardens Cemetary to lay wreaths on the graves of those who served our country - Thank you for continuing to honor our loved ones and those who gave their service and lives for our freedom!



Volunteers from the Wood county Marine Corps Corps League and Daughters of the American revolution (DAR) joined in placing flags to identify all 696 veterans and buried at Roselawn Cemetery in Mineola, Texas. We have the honor of laying a wreath on their gravesites to honor them through Wreaths Across America.



WOOD COUNTY TOYS FOR TOTS

Wood County Toys for Tots campaign is nearing its total completion! We thank the community for the incredible donations, the many volunteers who helped out day after day, to Steve Lucas as the 1st time coordinator for Toys for Tots, to the organizations who reached out for assistance and lastly and most importantly to the many families of Wood County who made the initial request and collected their toys.... We thank you all!!



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

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Yantis TX 75497

yantisnews
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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

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>

Mid Winter Eagle Count

Mid-Winter Eagle Count Will be held January 12-14 2024
By Bruce Allen

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) where the coordinator for the whole event goes over the map and fills in his forms regarding the number of eagles seen.

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.

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

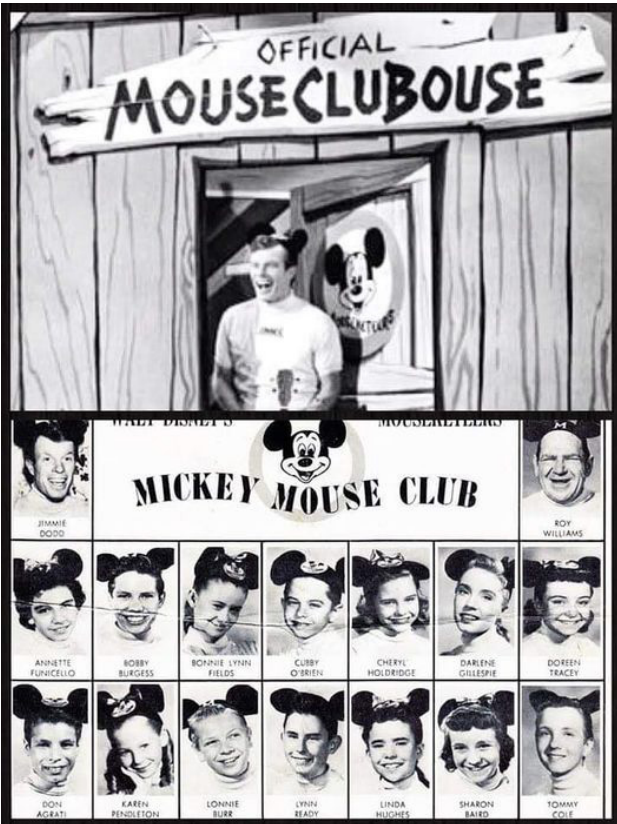
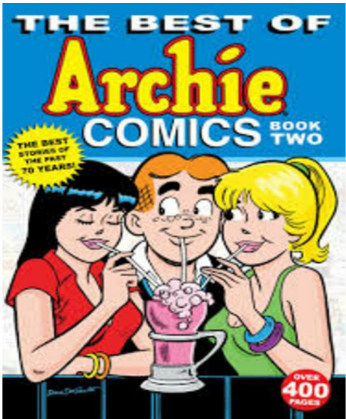
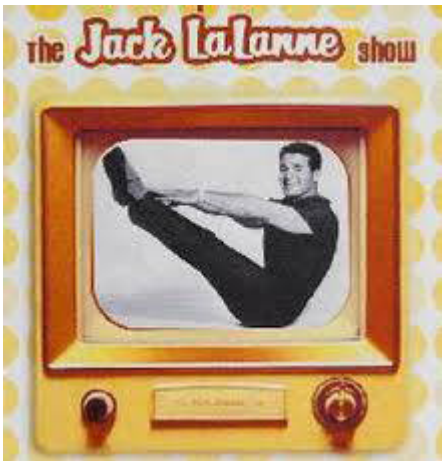
few eagles hanging around Lake Fork over the fall and also quite a large group of Mexican eagles, which we will not be counting.

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.

The Good ‘ol days...remember when?



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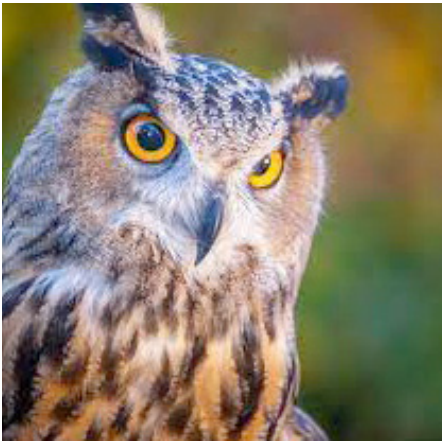
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Advice from a Wise 'Ol Owl

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!

7 tips to keep your New Year's resolution

- 1. Be picky about your resolutions. ...
- 2. Plan your resolution. ...
- 3. Set very specific goals. ...
- 4. Don't take on too much. ...
- 5. Choose a new resolution. ...
- 6. Identify accountability partners for support. ...
- 7. Give your resolution time to become a habit.



How to Start the New Year Right

Expand your thinking with new experiences. ...
Write letters to three people in your life to let them know what they mean to you.
Start a business plan. ...
Write a 101 life-goal list.
Make a commitment to fitness. ...
Find a volunteer opportunity
Privately reevaluate the past year.
Many people tend to focus only on what's ahead when it comes to New Year's Day. ...
Arrange a day to declutter your life. ...
Formally invite prosperity into your life. ...
Spend New Year's Eve in meditation. ...
Place special emphasis on the first twelve days.

HAPPY NEW YEAR !

falling together.

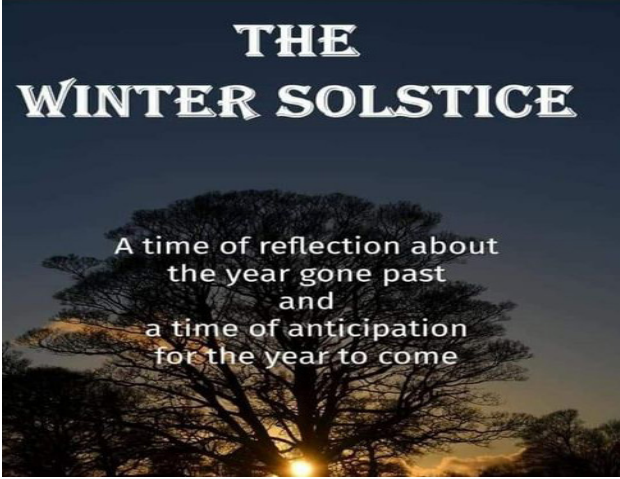
why do you love me this way?
which way?
broken.
why would i not?
because it can't be easy.
i never asked for easy.
i hung on a cross, remember?
but i am so complex.
yes you are. it's how i made you.
intricate.
how do you keep seeing the good in me
even after all this time?
because i chose you.
chose me - for what?
to be loved. not as the world loves
but beyond reason and boundaries
and comprehension.
and what do you want from me?
trust.
it's hard to trust when everything keeps
falling apart.
i know. believe me, i know.
but sometimes your falling apart
is really a falling together.

ullie-kaye

Did you know:
If you have a pacemaker, you can put it in your Will to have your pacemaker donated to a dog in need after you pass. Pacemakers cannot be donated to another human, but they can be donated to dogs with cardiac issues who would depend on it to stay alive.
You can have the pacemaker brought to a vet of your choice. So many of those get thrown away and dogs die because people don't know they can do this. It even saves the dog's owner the cost of the actual pacemaker which sometimes means the difference in being able to afford life-saving treatment or not.

Hugging Mom

When an adult child hugs their mom, it's so much more to her. It opens up a memory box, the times of yesteryear. It takes her back to childhood, when you sat upon her lap, when she'd settled you after a dream, or set you down for a nap. If she holds you a little tighter, she's keeping those past days alive, remembering how she hugged you when you were only four or five. So when you hug your mother, don't be quick to leave her embrace. Let her hold you a little longer, and live those days she'll never replace.



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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!



JuanUpdate Alert!!

Our 2024 Senior, Juan Hernandez, has been rocking his chemo treatments and got great news this weekend! They have found a donor that is a 100% match and will be scheduling his Bone Marrow Transplant soon. Juan, Yantis ISD will continue to support and root for you as you beat this cancer!



Kind, Thoughtful and Hardworking are just a few ways to describe these amazing students! Very deserving of their Positive Office Referrals!



20

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LAKE FORK AREA NEWS

Presents The 1st annual

LAKE FORK CAMPFIRE EXPO

Hosted by Fishermans One Stop

24

FREE TO THE PUBLIC

Celebrating

Fishing Hunting and the Great Outdoor's

SATURDAY FEBRUARY 10TH 2024 11-5PM

HELD AT FISHERMANS ONE STOP Junction of Hwy 515 CR 1970 YANTIS Tx

FEATURING SPECIAL GUESTS

"Mr. Whitetail" Larry Weishuhn

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

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

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

VENDORS WELCOME

IF YOU WOULD LIKE TO BE A VENDOR AT THE LAKE FORK CAMPFIRE EXPO CALL AND RESERVE YOUR SPOT NOW!

For More Information on joining in on the Expo Contact Donna at lakeforknews@yahoo.com 469-552-1824

LAKE FORK AREA NEWS

BROUGHT TO YOU BY

THE YANTIS TYMES

The Prairie Classroom

One day. Tons of FUN! Presenting graphic notes of our classroom novel, nature exploration for ornaments for our tree, learning about purple martins and their gourds, greenhouse discovery, nature journaling, hiking and laughing with friends, learning more and tracing / coloring birds for our winter tree canvas, decorating the Christmas tree and ending with a step by step drawing of an American Eagle. Care-free learning. Joy.

40 Blessing Bags created with such LOVE and excitement!
 Thanks, Donna Wooldridge, for the idea in your November Yantis Tymes!

Winter Session begins Jan. 15, 2024 and kicks off with our 7th Annual MLK Freedom Bike Ride / Peace Run at the Ebel Grasslands Ranch in Sulphur Bluff (more details to come).
 Session III dates: Jan. 15, 22, 29, Feb. 5, 12, 19, 2024.
 You can begin letting me know if you would like your child to attend!
 \$35 per class (\$50/2 siblings). Cash/check to the Prairie Classroom, or Paypal / Venmo @prairie-classroom (make a note of child's name + date of class). Let's carry on in nature and explore, learn and create más!



Quitman ~ Bull Dog News

The student spotlight at the school board meeting showcased outstanding students from Quitman Junior High School and Quitman Elementary School. QJH students took the lead in reciting the pledges, with Khloe Cooper and Bryn Boisclair leading the way. Khloe Cooper, an 8th grader with a passion for the band, has consistently achieved A/B honor roll status and aspires to intern for NASA in the future. Bryn Boisclair, a 6th grader actively involved in FFA and goat showing, excels in volleyball and maintains a spot on the A/B honor roll. Her future plans include becoming an Ag teacher. In addition, first-grade students from Mrs. Tanner and Mrs. Faulkner's class at QES showcased their Flat Stanley project. Mrs. CJ Russell, the librarian at Quitman Elementary School, collaborated with the first graders on this en-



gaging project. The Flat Stanley character, inspired by the 'Flat Stanley' book series by Jeff Brown, undergoes adventures worldwide after being flattened by a bulletin board. During the presentation, students Layla Farmer, Emilee Lane, Xander Farrell, Cason Erwin, and Brinkley McCullough shared the adventures of their Flat Stanleys, articulating the various places and experiences in an impressive manner. They all did a wonderful job bringing Flat Stanley's adventures to life for the school board.



Congratulations to all the players who earned honors during the 2023 football season as part of the 9 AAA Football All-District Selections.

1st Team Offense Landon Green, Fullback Chuck Matthews, O-Line Austin Jones, O-Line	2nd Team Offense Kameron Crockett, Quarterback Klayton Meadows, Running Back Carter Smith, Wide Receiver Jace Peek, Tight End Jason Attaway, O-Line	Honorable Mention Offense Mikey Pickering, Running Back Bryson Hobbs, Wide Receiver Michael Hipp, O-Line Mason Williams, O-Line
1st Team Defense Devin Robertson, Defensive End	2nd Team Defense Austin Tanner, Defensive End Jace Peek, O-Line Mikey Pickering, Safety Carter Smith, Corner	Honorable Mention Defense Braxton Burchfield, D-Line Jesse Clark, Inside Linebacker Jacob Breeding, Inside Linebacker Luke Williams, Outside Linebacker

THROWBACK QUITMAN'S FIRST FOOTBALL TEAM 1926



Quitman's first football team, c. 1926, included, from left to right (front row) Ernest Frank Smart, Loman Bozeman, Paul Conger with the mascot, and Thomas Corley Hart (middle row) Clyde Lawrence, J.U. Searcy, Campbell Cathy holding the ball, James Wright, Marvin Taylor, and A.L. Dyer; (back row) Edison Blalock, Howard "Slim" Walker, Osburn Sanders, Pet Green, John Ingram, William Rainwater (captain) and Theo Wilder. Don Hamm served as their coach.

Congratulations Quitman FFA

Quitman FFA received a \$5,000.00 grant from Legacy Ag Credit, ACA. We extend our sincere gratitude for blessing our program with this generous grant.



Congratulations to these Quitman FFA students! They competed in the Texas FFA State Leadership Development Contest held at Sam Houston State University on Saturday. Placing 4th in the State was our Greenhand Quiz team and placing 7th in the State was our Senior Quiz Team. These students work countless hours preparing for these events, and their hard work and determination paid off. So proud of these kids!

Greenhand Quiz Team: 4th place at State
 Riley Mason (also placed 3rd high individual)

Hazel Lively
 Tristen Ogg
 Ruby Bringard

Senior Quiz Team: 7th place at State
 Kendall Davis (also placed 9th high individual)

Kandace Herring
 Daniel Kernes
 Isabel Corbat



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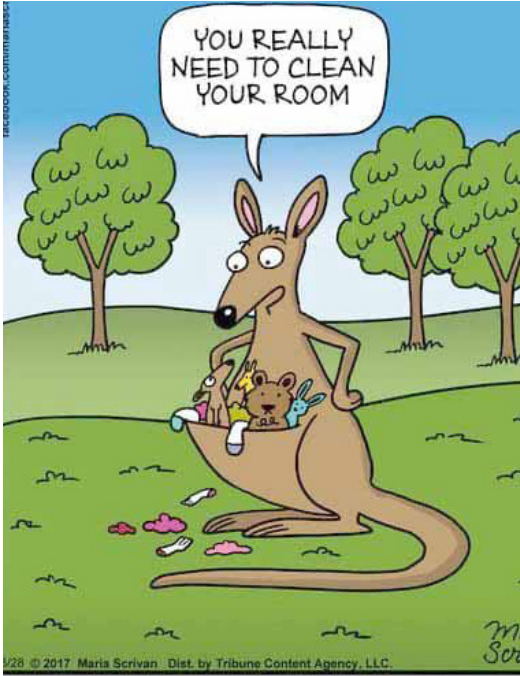
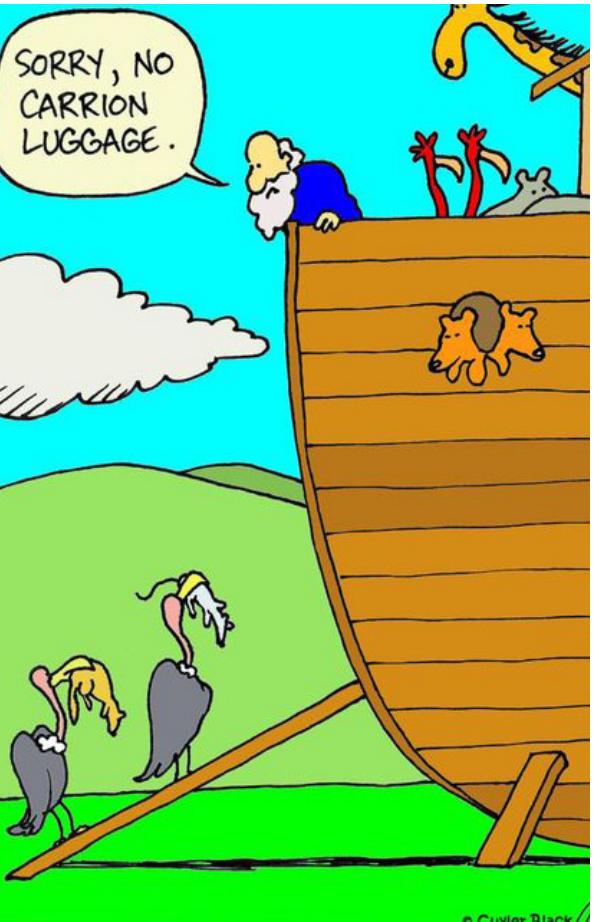
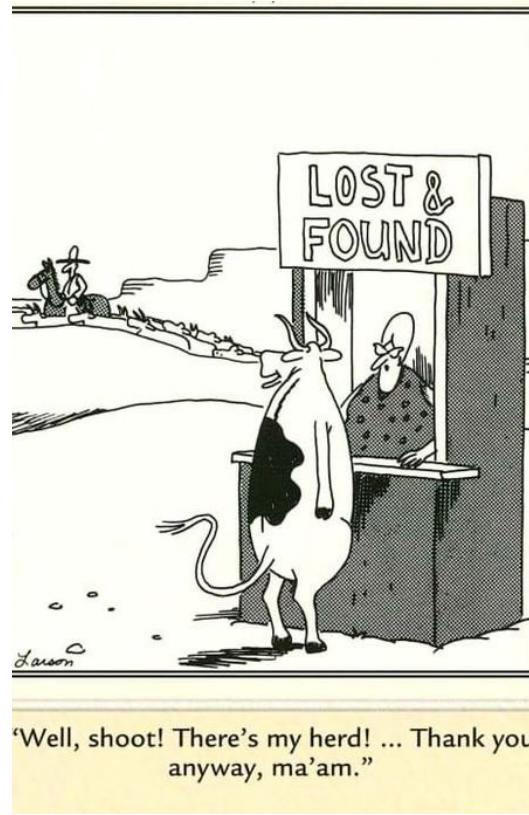
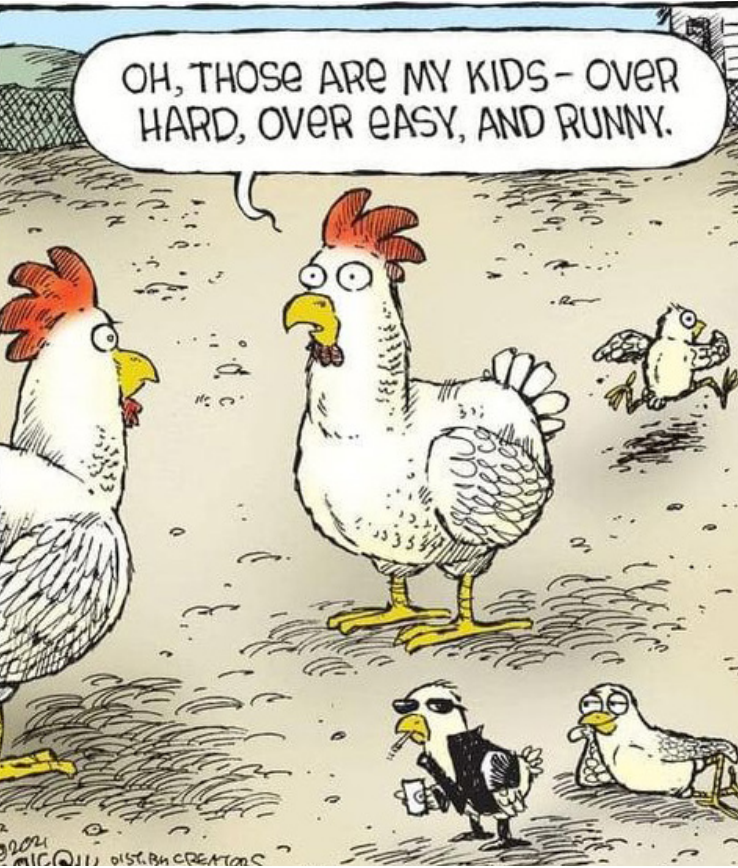
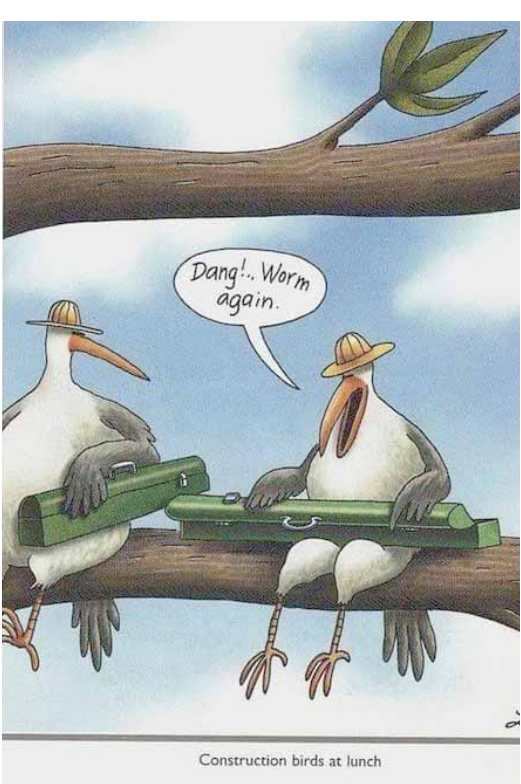
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33 YEARS



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Congratulations to artist Linda Parks for winning the \$500 Best of Show award at this year's Winnsboro Art and Wine Festival. She uses vibrant colors in her eclectic creations of acrylic paintings. Her works are found in galleries in Granbury and in Winnsboro. Learn more about her on www.blueheronartistry.com. Sandra Shiroma won second place and \$250 for her exquisite paintings using feathers as her canvas. Birds and other wildlife scenes are her primary subjects. Third place and \$125 went to Bethany Klein for her amazing work created with acid-free brewed coffee, charcoal, and pastel.


WCA is proud to present CHANGING LIGHT an exhibit featuring artists, Nancy Beauchamp, Kathy Zimbroy and Bob Haydon. The exhibit will hang in WCA's gallery now through January 20th.



QUITMAN JR HIGH DOES GREAT IN THE DISTRICT ONEACT PLAYS IN DECEMBER

Congratulations to all the One Act Plays from the district 13-3A that competed in December
1st: Mt. Vernon-Girl in the Pin-afore
2nd: Quitman-Triangle
3rd: Mineola-Oz
QJH Honors:
2nd Place Play: "Triangle" by Laurie Brooks
Outstanding Crewmember: Taylor Drinkwine
Best Overall Crew: Taylor Drinkwine, Carlee Alcorn, Brooklyn Campbell, and Lilly Anderson
Honorable Mention All-Star Cast: Abby Johnson and Rylan Styron
All-Star Cast: Khloe Cooper
Outstanding Performer: Abbie Hurst
Congratulations to Quitman Junior High Theater Arts on an outstanding performance! We are very proud of your achievements.





WOOD COUNTY 4-H

Wood County 4H

Kaiden King and Jacob Reed traveled to Kaufman to the KCJLS Holiday Classic Show. Kaiden placed second with his junior breeding buck, 3rd with his junior breeding doe, and a very close second with his black senior breeding buck. Jacob placed 1st with his senior breeding doe and 3rd with his senior breeding buck. Great Job by BOTH!



Quitman 4-H Club at the Hometown Christmas Parade in Quitman!



HEALTH AND WELLNESS

Replace Your New Year’s Resolution with One of These 8 Goals:

Not too keen on New Year’s resolutions? Instead, pick one of the following worthy goals, and do your best to stick with it. Here’s to becoming your best self in 2024!

Reboot Your Diet: Reassess what you eat. Do you feel fatigued midday, bloated, or have digestive issues? This could be a result of what you are eating. Use a food journal to track what you are consuming and have a support system in place. Take a moment to think about your eating habits and patterns with a nonjudgmental mindset. What are your stumbling blocks? Try listing out several ways to improve your habits: eat more vegetables, consume fewer sugary foods, practice less snacking while watching late-night TV, try eating more mindfully.

Stay Hydrated: Proper hydration is a year-round requirement for a healthy body. Plain water isn’t the only thing you can turn to though:
Try starting your day with warm lemon water, which can help rehydrate and energize you after a long night’s sleep. It can also kickstart digestion first thing in the morning rather than having a cup of coffee. Numerous studies have shown a variety of teas may boost your immune system, fight off inflammation, and even ward off cancer and heart disease. Pour yourself a cup starting today. Another way to spice up your water intake is to infuse it with fruit. This low-calorie option promotes increased water consumption, makes water more appealing and rids toxins from the body.

Stay in Touch: Research shows that people with strong social ties live longer than those who don’t. In a technology-fixated era, it has never been easier to stay in touch. Make it a goal to reach out to a loved one weekly – schedule a Zoom date, a phone call or a coffee.

Quit Smoking: For those who smoke, this may be one of the toughest resolutions to keep. Tobacco smoke contains more than 7,000 chemicals, ac-

cording to the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention – 70 of these can cause cancer. If that isn’t enough incentive to simply quit, a crucial step is to have a plan – one that’s customized for you. Make sure it’s personal, targeted, realistic and sustainable.

- Expect setbacks
- Be prepared to start over, but commit to keep trying
- Line up support in advance
- If quitting smoking completely seems a bit daunting, set a goal of cutting back how much you smoke. Reducing your consumption by 50 percent can get people started toward the ultimate goal of being smoke-free
- See what the effects of quitting are after 20 minutes to 15 years.



Cut Back on Alcohol: Whether you’re concerned you may have a drinking problem, want to cut calories, or wondering if you should scale back, it’s always worth checking in with yourself. Refraining from drinking can help you sleep deeper; brighten your skin and mood, and give you more time and energy. It can have positive effects on the way you look and feel – often within a few days. In the long term, you will reduce your risk of some serious illnesses such as cancer, liver and heart disease. Make it a goal to quit altogether or drink less often.

Get More Sleep: Getting enough sleep and maintaining a regular sleep schedule is crucial for your health. When you’re tired, you can’t function at your best. Sleep helps you think more clearly, have quicker reflexes and focus better. People who get enough sleep get sick less often; are more likely to stay at a

healthy weight; have less stress and see an improvement in their mood; have a healthier immune system and have higher levels of reasoning, problem-solving and attention to detail. Start tonight - make it a goal to get more shut-eye.

Stay Organized: Living in a messy, disorganized and cluttered situation can cause extra stress. Having mountains of clothes to wash or “stuff” everywhere can make it difficult to fully focus on chores, appointments, work, school, paying bills, caring for pets, and even relationships. Getting organized can help with concentration. Try setting up daily habits or times for tidying up. Donate or throw away things you no longer use – clothes, batteries, books, shoes, papers. Start with a small space – a room in your house, your car, or your home office, then build on from there. Organizing can take time, but once you know where everything is, you’ll know how to find things quicker and that leads to less stress.

Practice Self Care: We live lives of activity, noise and hurry and it can be difficult to feel completely healthy or fully rested at times. Thus, we become stressed and burned out. To nurture the health of our mind, body and soul we need to find ways to recenter and restore. Here are some quick ideas for self-care: Simplify your schedule; practice good hygiene; unplug for a day; meditate; create a list of what you’re thankful for; try something new.

Mental Heath Bank Account

Withdrawals

- stress
- life transitions
- breakups
- moving
- death
- job change
- changes in health
- traumatic life events

Deposits

- self care
- coping skills
- therapy
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FISHING REPORT BY ANDREW GRILLS

It's hard to believe we are wrapping up another year here on Lake Fork. This year had it's highs and lows. There were periods of some of the toughest fishing I've ever experienced, and there were also good times. We got to see a lot of smiling faces, get some good pictures, and make some great memories. I'm hopeful that 2024 will be a good year for fishing for us.

A strong cold front just passed the day before writing this report, so things will have changed some. We had 2.25" of rain in one morning, and that brought the lake level from 2.33' low to 1.78' low as of this report. More water is coming in so it may still rise another inch or two.

The water temperature has been between 52 and 54, depending on the area of the lake. That will drop some this week as we have several nights in the 20's forecasted.

Cold, muddy water is about as bad of a scenario you can get in bass fishing, but that doesn't mean you can't catch a big one. This is the time of year the big girls make mistakes.

I have been doing well on Texas rigged craw type baits in shallow water. I'm just covering water, but I'm fishing slow on my retrieve. Chatterbaits, spinnerbaits, and lipless baits are staples here this time of year, so don't forget them. Better size has been out deep. My best success

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ANDREW GRILLS
LAKE FORK GUIDE
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has been on spoons lately, but the Carolina rig has been important too. For the deeper fish, I've been looking between 16 and 22' of water on main-lake points and humps. They can be close to the bottom, so don't expect to see them real well on your electronics everywhere you look.

Hopefully this helps you with your upcoming trip to Lake Fork. As always, please don't hesitate to contact me if you need any help. Here are some nice fish from our most recent trips.



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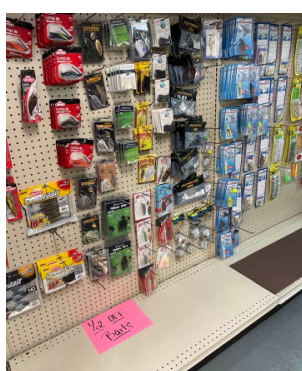
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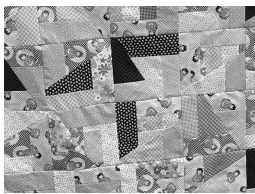
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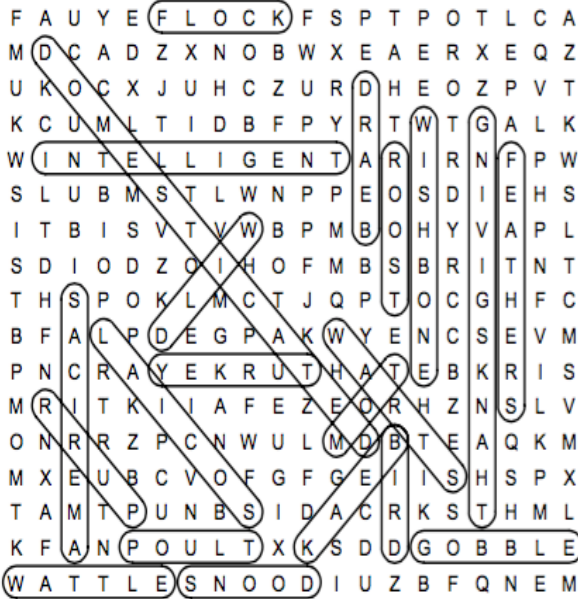
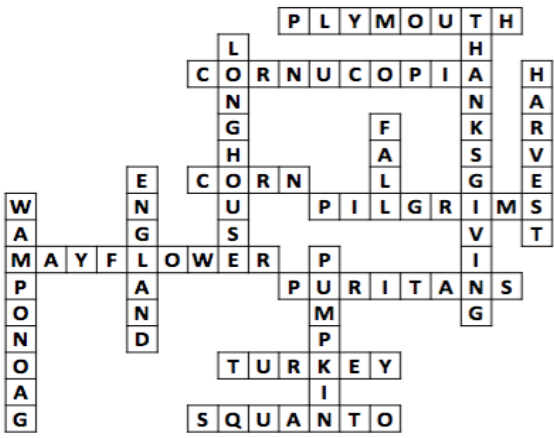


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Puzzle Answers

SOLUTION



Mineola Library News & Events

Mineola Memorial Library's Notes
by Mary Hurley

What a fantastic afternoon on December 14,
2023. It was our Annual Open House and it
was the best attended in many, many years.
So grateful to those that attended, prepared
refreshments, visited with us, and of course, we
cannot forget Santa Claus' visit.

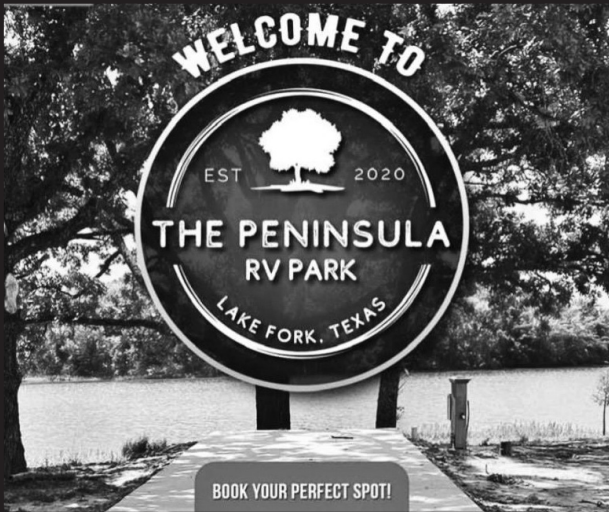
As the year winds down, we reflect on all that
we have attempted and accomplished over the
past year. Soon we will give you a run down of
what happened in the Library in 2023.

In the meantime, please stop by and see us.
We have a variety of books, audio books, and
movies to help pass the time. We think we are a
friendly, welcoming place and would love to see
you.

If you can't make it to the Mineola Memorial
Library in Mineola TX, why not stop by some
other local libraries? Alba Public Library and
Museum, Sulphur Springs Public Library, and
Quitman Public Library to name a few would
love to have you stop by and see what they
have to offer.

The Mineola Memorial Library is a 501(c)3,
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tions and we are so happy to have received
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--
Mary Hurley
Mineola Memorial Library
Mary Hurley



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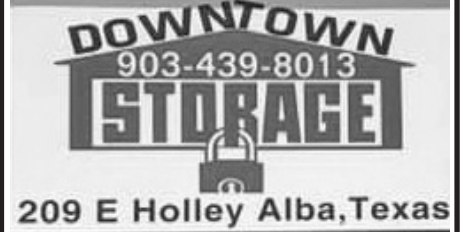


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Worship & Praise



Happy New Year!

The arrival of a new year brings a great opportunity to renew our faith and love for God. It's also an excellent time to renew the joy of salvation in our hearts as a new creation in Christ. "Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation. The old has passed away; behold, the new has come" (2 Corinthians 5:17).

Whether this past year brought you success, fulfillment, and joy, or you faced grief, setbacks, and struggle, you can look ahead to the new year with hope. Jeremiah 29:11 tells us, "for I know the plans I have for you," declares the Lord, "plans to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to give you hope and a future."

Let's end this year with a thankful heart and start the new year with peace and faith. Let us release the bitterness and frustrations of the past year. Let us move into the next year knowing God loves us and wants the best for us. Let's pray that the new year will be focused on healing ourselves through repentance and renewing our minds. We were not meant to do life alone! We can bring the light of hope into our own hearts, home, and world.

"Do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewal of your mind, that by testing you may discern what is the will of God, what is good and acceptable and perfect." ~ Romans 12:2

As the dawn breaks on a new year, let us give thanks for all we hold dear: our health, our family and our friends. Let us release our grudges, our anger and our pains, for these are nothing but binding chains. Let us live each day in the most loving ways, the God-conscious way.

WHO OR WHAT SHAPES YOUR LIFE

What are the basics of living a Christ-Centered Life? In my inquiry to answer this question I searched the Bible, goggled and finally deferred to ChatGPT. The result is as follows.

Living a Christ-centered life involves striving to follow the teachings and example of Jesus Christ in every aspect of one's life. While it's challenging to condense such a profound concept into a simple list, here are some essential basics to consider:

1.Faith and Relationship with Christ: Develop and nurture a personal relationship with Jesus Christ through prayer, Bible study, and worship. This relationship is the

Prayers For The New Year

A Prayer for New Days Ahead

Heavenly Father, thank You for making all things new! As another new year begins, help me live each day for You. May I continually have a new song in my heart to sing to You, no matter what comes my way. I trust in You because I know that Your mercies are new every morning, and nothing ahead of me will take You by surprise. In Jesus' Name, Amen. - Joan Walker Hahn, Encouragement Cafe

For Peace in the New Year

At the start of each day, help us to recognize you above all else. Enlighten the eyes of our heart that we might see you, and notice how you're at work through our lives. Give us the wisdom to make the best choices, fill us with a desire to seek after you more than anything else in this world. Let your Spirit and power breathe in us, through us, again, fresh and new. Thank you that you are greater than anything we may face in our day. Thank you that your presence goes with us and that your joy is never dependent on our circumstances, but it is our true and lasting strength, no matter what we're up against. We ask that your peace lead us, that it would guard our hearts and minds in you. We ask for your grace to cover our lives this day. We love you Lord...we need you. In Jesus' Name, Amen." - Debbie McDaniel

A Prayer for Hope in the New Year

Dear Lord, As the new year begins, I look to You for our hope, joy, and peace. Give me the courage to do all that You ask of me. Please also make me brave to not do what isn't from You. Show me how to walk in grace and embrace Your love for me even more. In Jesus' Name, Amen. - Holly Gerth

Prayer for Strength and Power in the Year Ahead

Lord, we ask for your wisdom, for your strength and power to be constantly present within us. We pray you would make us strong and courageous for the road ahead. Give us ability beyond what we feel able, let your gifts flow freely through us, so that you would be honored by our lives, and others would be drawn to you. In Jesus Name, Amen.

foundation of a Christ-centered life.

2.Love and Compassion: Embrace love as a central principle, not only loving God but also showing compassion and care for others, including friends, family, neighbors, and even strangers.

3.Humility and Servanthood: Embrace humility and follow the example of Jesus, who demonstrated servant leadership by humbly serving others.

4.Forgiveness: Practice forgiveness, just as Christ forgave us. Let go of grudges and seek reconciliation when conflicts arise.

5.Integrity and Moral Living: Strive for moral integrity, upholding values and principles taught by Jesus, and seeking to live a life of honesty and ethical conduct.

6.Prayer and Dependence on God: Cultivate a habit of prayer and seek guidance, strength, and wisdom from God in all aspects of life.

7.Generosity and Stewardship: Recognize that all we have comes from God, and be generous with time, talents, and resources in helping others and supporting worthy

Prayer for Grace and Favor in the New Year

We ask that you would provide for our needs, we ask for your grace and favor. We pray for your blessings to cover us, we pray that you would help us to prosper and make every plan that you have birthed in our heart to succeed. We pray that others would take notice of your goodness and could not help but to say, "These are the ones that the Lord has blessed." Shine your light in us, through us, over us. May we make a difference in this world, for your glory and purposes. Set your way before us. May all your plans succeed. We may reflect your peace and hope to a world that so desperately needs your presence and healing. In Jesus Name, Amen.



End of Year Prayer Points

- 1.Thank God for his faithfulness in the past year ask for his continued faithfulness in the coming year
2. Pray for wisdom & guidance as you make decisions in the coming year
3. Pray for God's provision in all areas of your life- financial, physical, emotional and spiritual
4. Pray for protection from all forms of evil - physical,emotional & spiritual
5. Pray for God's blessings in all areas of your life - personal, family, career, etc.
6. Pray for God's strength to help you overcome any challenges you may face in the coming year
7. Pray for God's peace to fill your heart & mind
8. Pray for God's joy to be your strength & source of hope.
9. Pray for God's love to be your motivation in all that you do
10. Pray that you would have a heart of God and others and that you would be a light for Christ in the coming year

causes.

8.Compassion for the Marginalized: Follow Christ's example of showing compassion to the marginalized and those in need, including the poor, the oppressed, and the vulnerable.

9.Humility and Grace: Approach others with humility, grace, and a non-judgmental attitude, recognizing that everyone is on their unique journey.

10.Seeking God's Will: Seek to align one's life with God's will, seeking His guidance and direction in decisions and actions.

Remember, living a Christ-centered life is a continuous journey of growth and transformation, and it's essential to approach it with sincerity, patience, and openness to learning and growing in faith and love. Different individuals may emphasize different aspects based on their unique life circumstances and spiritual growth.

Gerald Schmidt

Website: WhoOrWhatShapesYourLife.blog

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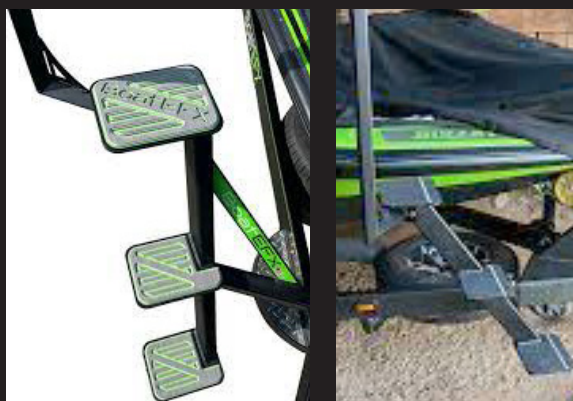
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