

July 27, 2016



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& The Mineola Monitor

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When you cross the Wood County line, city living is in your rearview mirror and the rolling hills and scattered hardwood and evergreen woods lie before you. The grassy fields fill your nose with that rejuvenating fragrance of the country of which you can never get enough.

And then there are charming residents who seemingly go out of their way to be helpful, restaurants with a wide variety of great tasting food, and shopping opportunities. Antiques are a plenty as well as the aroma of brewing coffee from shops all over which draws customers in by the dozens. Enjoy the nostalgia of walking the sidewalks or brick streets of our towns and enjoy a slower pace of life.

No matter what interests you, Wood County is one of the best vacation spots and day trips in all of East Texas. Take a trip to the first-class Mineola Nature Preserve or one of the many great destinations yourself – you will not be disappointed.

If you stay long enough, you will understand why so many people call Wood County home and wouldn't change it for the world. Stay too long and you may very well be the next to call this enchanting East Texas county your home.

No matter what interests you, Wood County is one of the best vacation spots and day trips in all of East Texas.



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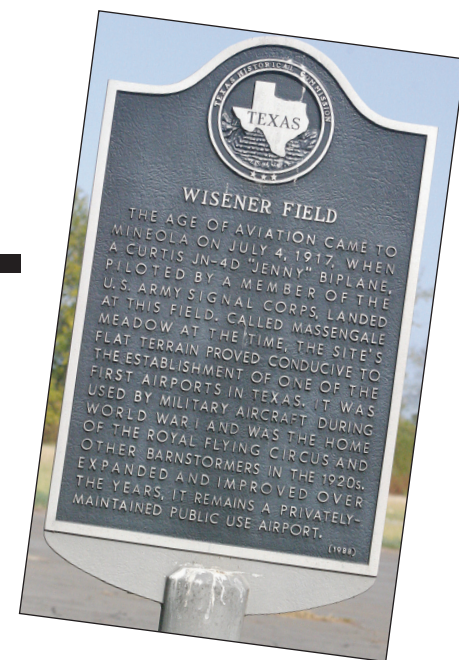
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Recreational – to vocational – Wood County has it all



If you are looking for a way to escape the hectic pace of daily life, that desire can be fulfilled with a day or a weekend or even longer in Wood County.

The county is located four counties south of the Red River and Texas border with Oklahoma and three counties east of the Texas-Louisiana state line. The 645-square mile county is nearly square-shaped, with the exception of the southern perimeter which is the Sabine River. Neighboring counties are Smith, Van Zandt, Rains, Upshur, Camp, Franklin and Hopkins.

The towns in the county are Mineola, Quitman, Hawkins, Alba, Yantis and Winnsboro. Other sizeable communities include Lake Fork and Holly Lake Ranch. Wood County is located approximately 80 miles east of Dallas.

Four county lakes built in the 1960s were the original reason for the area being branded "the lake country" and later Lake Fork in Wood and Rains counties was built, solidifying that status. The county lakes, Holbrook west of Mineola, Quitman, Hawkins and Winnsboro each have different qualities that draw local residents and Lake Fork has a worldwide reputation for trophy bass.

There are many opportunities to step into the slower paced life in the area. Lake Hawkins RV Park offers electric and water hookups, showers and restrooms in a pine and hardwood tree-shaded park. Much of it overlooks the glistening lake and white sand beach. Holbrook offers first-class fishing and a free sandy beach.

For people who prefer a different sport, there are also fine golf facilities in the area. The Mineola Country Club, Holly Lake Ranch Golf Club, the Links at Lands End and Lake Fork Golf Club are good places to indulge

in this pastime.

Wood County is also the home of many agricultural endeavors. Beef and dairy cattle operations are located here and hay, sweet potatoes and watermelon are grown in the area. Local farmers markets provide a retail outlet for homegrown produce and most communities offer those on Saturdays during summer months. From squash to peas, tomatoes and peppers, the markets offer local farmers an opportunity to sell their produce.

In addition to Texas highways that lead into Wood County, there are three airports – Wood County Airport halfway between Mineola and Quitman off Highway 37, Wisener Field Airport on Country Club Drive in Mineola and the Winnsboro Airport. The Texas Department of Transportation named the Wood County Airport the Airport of the Year in 2010. It offers a 4,001 foot long asphalt runway, 24-hour self-service fuel station and a terminal open seven days a week.

Wisener Field was named a Texas Treasure by the state and a historical marker commemorates the site where an airplane first landed in a field on July 4, 1917.

Additionally, those who prefer to do their traveling by land can get on or disembark on the Amtrak Texas Eagle twice a day from the comfort, convenience and safety of the train depot at Highway 69 and Front Street in Mineola.



Cattle farming is just one of many agriculture vocations, and avocations, in Wood County. TOP PHOTOS: Wisener Field historical marker and train service at the Mineola depot.

Hawkins



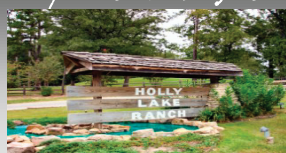
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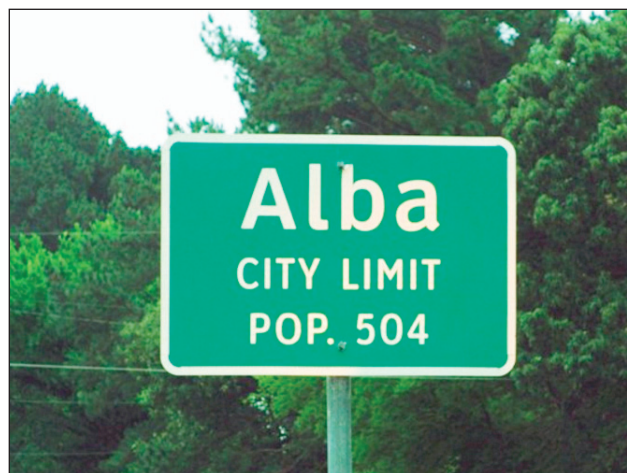
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Alba: The little city with a big heart

Joseph Simpkins and his family settled Alba in 1843. Alba was first known as Simpkins Prairie. Alba continued to be settled in the next 30 years or so. Living in the immediate Alba area were about 40 settlers. These people were busy clearing land and farming. Supplies had to be hauled by teams of oxen from Jefferson, Texas. The laying out of town lots was in 1881.

The town was incorporated in 1908. The city was created under the Mayor Council type of government. The coming of the M.K.&T Railroad in 1881 played a very important part in the economy of the town. In 1887 a depot was built in Alba. In 1901 the Short Line Railroad was built between Alba and Grand Saline.

Cotton was "King" in the early years with the rich fertile soil in the area. Alba had the largest cotton market in East Texas. There were as many as four cotton gins operating in the area. In the late 1890's, coal was discovered and this began an era that would last until about 1940. Alba is located over a broad vein of lignite coal which extends from Texarkana south and west across the state. During the coal mining period there were as many as 7 mines



operating at one time. The mines employed about 650 men.

Alba was a growing town with 2 banks, 25 business houses, 2 hotels, meat markets, jewelry store, 2 theaters, blacksmith shops, tailor shops, newspapers, new car dealerships and 3 drugstores. There were 5 doctors and several dentists and lawyers.

After the depression Alba began to decline with the closing of the banks. Until about that time Alba

had a population of 1,200 in the city with about 5,000 people in the immediate area. About the same time the cotton weevil hit the cotton crop and the farmers quit growing cotton. The closing of the mines about 1940 was the last blow for the area. The factories that once used the coal switched to natural gas. Many people left the area to work in the defense plants during W.W.II.

The discovery of oil in the area in 1948 gave life to some people's hope that Alba might again become a thriving city. The oil turned out to be a very poor grade of oil. It did bring Alba to life again but it didn't last.

New hope came to Alba in the 1970s with the building of Lake Fork. Alba is located on the southern edge of Lake Fork. Lake Fork is the bass capital of Texas. The state record bass was caught in Lake Fork in 1992.

The Alba Country Fair is the city's big fundraising event with the Alba Ladies Club, Alba Library and Museum, and the Alba Volunteer Fire Department all being beneficiaries. The fair added a 5K run this year with plans for an even bigger event in the future.



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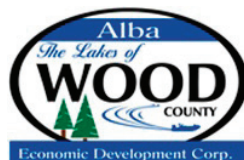
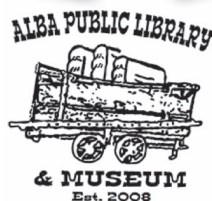
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Sunday CLOSED

www.albalibrary.org



City of Alba
www.albatexas.org

Alba, Texas is a pioneer town with history that dates back to 1841, when Joseph Simpkins, a gunsmith, settled with his family. With the railroad coming through and the discovery of lignite coal, Alba grew into a thriving community during the early 1900's. The Great Depression and the closing of the mines in 1940 dealt a severe blow to the community and the population began to decline. Today, Alba's population is around 500. With the creation of Lake Fork Reservoir, the premier bass fishing lake in the nation, and the ease of transportation on US Highway 69, the incentive for economic opportunity and development is strong for the area. Alba offers a variety of opportunities for businesses wishing to locate in a great little country town.

Hawkins: Come play with us

There is a saying that goes Hawkins is "Tranquility in the heart of East Texas." The center of Hawkins is at the intersection of Highway 80 and FM 14. The town received its post office in 1873, the same year the Texas and Pacific Railway built through the area on its way to Dallas. The area had been fairly well settled before the railroad's arrival, as it was near the river crossing to Belzora, an early port and stagecoach crossing on the Smith County side of the Sabine River.

By 1890 its population was around 200, but six years later there over 500 residents lived there. In 1912 the historically black Jarvis Christian College was founded just east of town. Over 400 acres was donated for the college by Ida Van Zandt Jarvis

The Hawkins area is known for nature trails, hiking, world class bird watching and geocaching.

and Major James Joe Jarvis. The college today is one of the finest Christian institutions in the south-west. It is affiliated with

the Disciples of Christ Christian Church. Jarvis is known for its high quality academics and intercollegiate sports teams.

In October 1940, former lightweight boxer Bobby Manziel made the first major oil discovery in Wood County, a wildcat three miles north of town. Hawkins became an overnight boom-town. Humble Oil and Refinery (later Exxon Company, USA) became the principal driller in the Hawkins field north of the community. To honor and remember those days Hawkins has the annual Hawkins Oil Festival which is attended by thousands. There are activities set aside for the second Saturday of October each year.

The Hawkins area is known for nature trails, hiking, world class bird watching and geocaching. Lake Hawkins is home to a beach and a large RV park which has 41 RV sites available. There are lake-front camping sites and the Hawkins Fire Department puts on an annual Fourth of July fireworks display. In recent years a family fun park with a splash pad was built and is the center of spring and summer activities. The Veteran's Memorial Park, just north of downtown on Highway 14, is one of the finest monuments of its kind in all of Texas.



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County home to four-year private college

Jarvis Christian College is a fully accredited private liberal arts institute of higher learning and the only four-year college in Wood County.

It was originally known as Jarvis Christian Institute, and ever since the school's founding in 1912 it has been affiliated with the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ).

By 1988, it was the only historically black college that remained of the twelve such black colleges originally founded by the Christian Church.

The school, modeled after the Southern Christian Institute in Edwards, Mississippi, held its first formal classes in January 1913 with twelve elementary-level students.

In 1904, the Negro Disciples of Christ in Texas and the Christian Woman's Board of Missions began collaborating to raise money for the school's establishment: the Negro Disciples of Christ (primarily because of efforts by the women of the churches), raised \$1,000, and the Christian Woman's Board of Missions contributed \$10,000 more.

At around the same time, Virginia Hearne, state secretary for women's work, contacted Ida Van Zandt Jarvis, who with her husband, Maj. James Jones Jarvis, in 1910 deeded 456 acres to the Christian Woman's Board of Missions to "keep up and maintain a school for the elevation and education of the Negro race...in which school there shall be efficient religious and industrial training. In 1912 construction began, led by Southern Christian Institute graduates Thomas Buchanan Frost (who served as the first superintendent) and Charles Albert Berry (the first principal), and with help from the school's potential students.

James Nelson Ervin of Johnson City, Tennessee, became the school's first president in 1914. That year the school began officially teaching high school courses and until 1937 it was the only accredited high school exclusively for blacks in the area. The school began regularly offering ju-



nior college courses in 1927 and was incorporated as a college the next year.

Senior college courses were offered beginning in 1937.

When Peter Clarence Washington became the second president in 1938, high school classes were eliminated. In 1939 the college was granted its charter by the state of Texas, and in 1950 Jarvis Christian College was included by the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools on its "Approved List of Colleges and Universities for Negro Youth," the only regional accreditation available at that time for black colleges in the South.

In 1958 an independently elected board of trustees began governing the college, replacing a Texas board of trustees (members of the Disciples of Christ) that had been appointed by the Department of Institutional Missions of the United Christian Missionary Society. The independent board, however, still included representation from the church.

In 1964 the college became affiliated with Texas Christian University, a relationship that was discontinued in 1976. When in 1966 Dr. James Oliver Perpener, Jr., was established as the college's fifth president, he became the first Jarvis alumnus to hold that

office.

The next year Jarvis Christian College affiliated with the Texas Association of Developing Colleges, a consortium of black colleges, and also gained accreditation from the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools. The Texas Education Agency approved the school's teacher-education program in 1969.

Oil wells discovered on school property in the early 1940s were still providing some revenue in the early 1980s, when the college owned about 1,000 acres. At that time the 243-acre campus proper had some twenty-four buildings that cumulatively cost over \$12 million. Buildings included a library built with funds from the Olin Foundation and the James Nelson Ervin Religion and Cultural Center, opened in 1983 and named in honor of the school's first president. Faculty numbered fifty in 1987.

By 1989, Dr. Julius F. Nimmons had become the school's ninth president. Enrollment for the 1989-90 school year was 546. In the early 1980s the school began systematically compiling an archive of materials related to Jarvis Christian College, Southern Christian Institute, and the Black Christian Church (Disciples of Christ). In the fall of 1998 the college

had forty-eight faculty members and a student enrollment of 505 and Sebetha Jenkins was president.

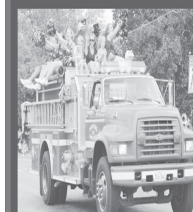
Courses were offered in three divisions: arts and sciences, education, and business. In the fall of 2010 Jarvis Christian College had 538 students. Lester C. Newman became president in 2012.

The Jarvis Christian College Bulldogs and Lady Bulldogs belong to the National Association of Intercollegiate Athletics (NAIA) and belong to the Red River Conference. The Red River Conference has member institutions from Texas, Oklahoma, Louisiana and New Mexico.

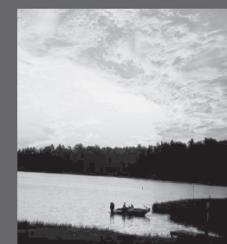
Jarvis College women compete in volleyball, basketball, softball, track and field, cross country, soccer while the men compete in basketball, baseball, cross country, soccer, track and field and golf.

Visit Hawkins, Texas

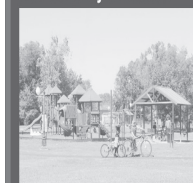
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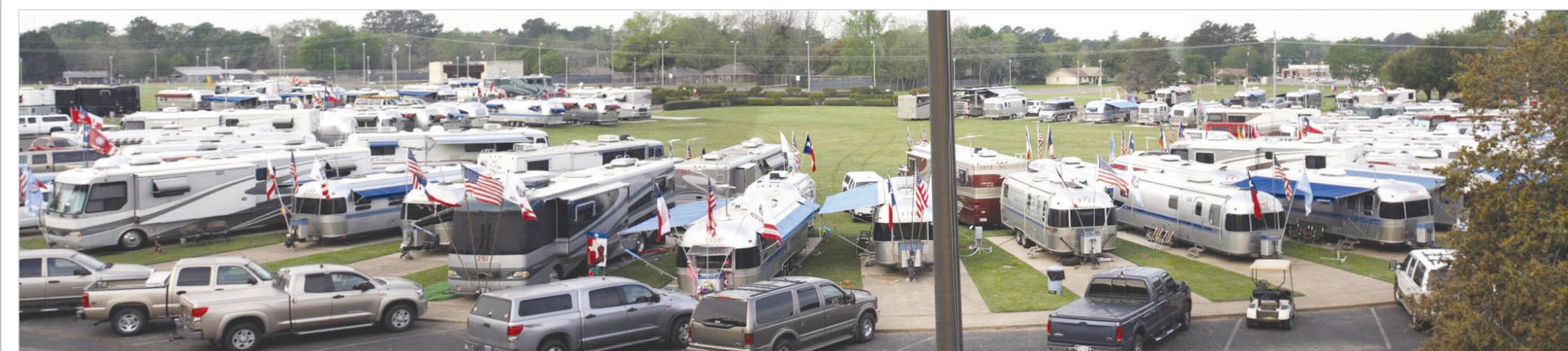
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Veterans memorial in Yantis



Scenic Lake Hawkins



RV towns pop up from time to time at the Mineola Civic Center, a popular and convenient location to park and spend some time.



Winnsboro Farmer's Market



The Links at Land's End in Alba



Quitman car show

ABOUT THE COVER:

Hay is one of the main crops grown in Wood County. Parades "make" a celebration, including the Sweet Potato Parade held during the festival in Golden that is always during the fourth week of October. Bald eagles can be spotted in several areas in and near Wood County. FILE PHOTOS

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Mineola: Hit the trail to nature-lovers' dream

Preliminary work on a mountain bike trail at the Mineola Nature Preserve on the Sabine River will result in yet another activity to lure visitors to this part of East Texas.

The number of biking hobbyists has grown over the years and in Texas with little winter weather, it's no wonder why. A group of enthusiasts are combining the modern day sport of bicycling with an appreciation of the area's history with the railroad as they forge forward with a Rails to Trails program here. While historic amounts of rainfall slowed progress on reclamation of ribbons of land for the trail, they have gone to higher ground to craft a mountain bike trail on what locals call Greer Hill.

There are already several miles of biking trails at the preserve, along with

See **NATURE**, Page 23



A butterfly lights on a tree at the Nature Preserve.



Most of the time the parking spaces are full in downtown Mineola but additional space has been added in the past year on Commerce Street. Restaurants, shops and offices keep the heart of the town lively.

Many things to enjoy about Mineola

All of the towns in Wood County offer nearby lakes and most have parks, but there is the community in the southwestern part of the county that provides more choices than others when it comes to eating and entertainment.

Mineola has a population of between 4,500 and 5,000 in-

side the city limits and many more out in the country; many talented and accomplished people have found their way to this part of the state. Several of these operate small businesses, restaurants and shops that contribute to the enchantment of its visitors.

See **ATTRACTIONS**, Page 16

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The four lakes in Wood County – Quitman, Hawkins, Winnsboro and Holbrook – were opened in 1962 as part of a visionary project by the county and garnered the area the nickname “the Lake Country,” and that was before Lake Fork was even built.

They attracted new residents as fishermen moved to the area because of the lakes.

While three of the four lakes were named for nearby communities, Lake Holbrook was named for the county commissioner serving the Mineola area. Many people may know that the lake was named for the commissioner, but they don't know why.

There appears to be no written accounts about the reason why one lake was named differently. However, Wood County Historical Com-

**Each of the lakes
is a jewel in its
own right.**

Quitman, Hawkins, Winnsboro ... and Holbrook ?

County lakes and commissioner's name

mission Chairman Lou Mallory was able to shed some light on the Mineola area lake name.

B.A. Holbrook, who was the Pct. 2 county commissioner at the time of the project, was a distant relative of Mallory's late husband, Gene. She recalled that the other commissioners wanted the Mineola area lake named for Holbrook “because he had done so much work for it. He was instrumental in the whole project,” Mallory said.

There also is no official account of why the other lakes weren't named after commissioners of the time. There was talk that the other communities couldn't commit to one name. Mallory recalled, putting it politely, “A decision couldn't be reached by the other locales” so the lakes were named after the towns that were close by.

Each of the lakes is a jewel in its own right. Lake Quitman has 814 acres with three boat ramps and pic-

nic areas. Largemouth bass, crappie, bluegill, redear sunfish and channel catfish are caught out of the lake.

Lake Holbrook has 627 acres and is three miles northwest of Mineola. It too yields some nice largemouth bass, crappie, bluegill, redear sunfish and channel cat. Two public access areas are available, each with a boat ramp. Both are equipped with piers and the launch off Farm-to-Market 1799 (the Golden side) also has a picnic table. There are a total of five boat launches and a free access sandy beach.

Lake Hawkins is well-known for its popular RV and camping park and white sand beach. There is a nominal fee for admission, check their website at lakehawkinsrvpark.com for current information. The lake is almost 800 acres and one of the clearest of the four county lakes. It has four boat ramps maintained by the county.

Lake Winnsboro is the largest of the county lakes with 1,100 acres. It has also yields largemouth bass, crappie, sunfish and catfish.



Young anglers are assisted by adults during an annual children's fishing day at the Mineola Nature Preserve.

Attractions

FROM PAGE 14

Dining in Mineola is a delightful experience to locals and visitors alike. There are choices of traditional barbecue, a variety of hamburgers, steaks, Mexican and Chicago-style deli dishes. Buffets offering pizza, Chinese food and home-cooked food are popular.

Rounding out the day's activities with a bit of shopping is definitely an option in Mineola. From upscale apparel and accessories to consign-

ment, collectibles, antiques and chatzkies galore to a plethora of scented candles, soaps, jewelry and bird watching gear, Mineola has it all.

In addition to the dining and shopping, Mineola has festivals each year that attract visitors – some come here just for the events.

From spring to fall and winter, there are plenty of chances of making lifetime memories in Mineola.

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Quitman Development Corp.
dhudman@quitmantx.org
(903) 763-2223

2016 SCHEDULE OF ACTIVITIES/FESTIVALS

April
Dogwood Fiesta
spring festival & parade

April
Dogwood Pageant
beauty & talent contest

July
Picnic in the Park
Declaration of
Independence reading

August
**114th Old Settler's
Reunion**
fair like atmosphere
& music

October
**Haunting in Hogg
Park**

full of contests & candy
for all

November
Veterans Parade
Quitman's Salute
to Veterans

December
**Christmas in the
Park**
parade, show & lighting

December
**Christmas at
Stinson House**
with the Friends
of the Arboretum

Your
Destination
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Gateway to Lake Fork



Scenic Park & Fun Festivals



Veterans Parade



Unique Shopping
& Merchants



Arboretum/Botanical
Gardens



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Quitman: The gateway to Lake Fork

One trip to Quitman is all it takes to secure you as another in a long line of visitors who bookmark the jewel of East Texas as a "place of choice" to visit.

In the heart of Wood County the 80-year old county courthouse stands majestically at the crossroads of U.S. Highway 37 and Highway 154 on the town square.

Quitman brings life to over 2,000 people surrounding lakes and a spectacular array of wildlife and nature. Driving through Quitman in the spring will answer why the town is praised for its dogwood trees as their blooms bring beauty to the city.

Quitman is a mixture of the old and the new. There are modern salons, spas and boutiques along with many churches of mainstream denominations, mom and pop diners and restaurants owned and operated by local residents as well as nationwide cell phone companies, motels, three

large banks and a large electric cooperative.

Quitman offers the city-owned Governor Jim Hogg City Park which includes a Splash Park built by the Quitman-Lake Fork Kiwanis Club. It is the hometown of Oscar-winning actress Sissy Spacek, whose father, Ed Spacek Sr., was a community agriculture and business leader.

The Dogwood Festival brings the town together at the end of March through the first couple of weeks of April. There are parades, the Miss Dogwood Pageant (50th anniversary in 2015), a fun run, golf tournament, a barbeque cook-off and a big street dance on the square.

The Old Settlers Reunion at Governor Jim Hogg City Park is one of the oldest continuous festivals in Texas. There is a fun midway while local civic clubs have food and drink booths. The 700-seat pavilion, built in 1899, hosts a variety of entertainment from



Splash pad at Governor Jim Hogg City Park.

an oldies night to karaoke, gospel and country music during the reunion. It is always the first weekend in August.

Also at the park, the Arboretum and Botanical Gardens provide a beautiful setting of an assortment of flowers perfect for weddings, family reunions and special events. The Friends of the Park are constantly working to maintain and add to the park. The 100-year old Stinson House is located near the Arboretum as is the nature walk.

Next to the park is the Carroll Green Civic Center with a variety of uses from community theater, banquets, fund raisers, music shows and family reunions.

Quitman is also known as the Gateway to Lake Fork, the nationally and world-wide famous bass fishing lake,

and just north of town Quitman Lake provides water sports and fishing.

One of East Texas' finest library facilities is the Quitman Public Library located east of the square on Goode Street. The library has computers for public use, an extensive children's library and is home to one of the best and most resourceful genealogy departments in East Texas. The library offers GED classes and has a community room for activities. They also have special showings each month honoring various aspects artisans of East Texas. In addition to those things, the library hosts an "Acoustic Jam" each second Friday of the month featuring bluegrass, country and gospel musicians from throughout Northeast Texas.

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**SUNDAY SCHOOL
9:45AM**

**WORSHIP
11AM**

Mike Midkiff was called to be the pastor of Faith Baptist Church on Sunday, May 29, 2016. Bro. Mike is the first full-time pastor of the church. He came to Faith Baptist Church after serving 13 years as the Director of Public Relations at East Texas Baptist University in Marshall, Texas.

Prior to ETBU, Bro. Mike served six years as the pastor of Friendship Baptist Church in Marshall, Texas. He has also been the pastor of Mount Carmel Baptist Church, Tioga, Texas; Oak Grove Baptist Church, Harleton, Texas; and Grange Hall Baptist Church, Marshall, Texas. Bro Mike served as the Associate Pastor/Minister of Education of Woodland Place Baptist Church in Magnolia, Texas, in the mid 1990's. The Kilgore, Texas native, has been in the ministry for over 25 years.

Before entering the Gospel ministry, Bro. Mike spent many years working in the field of broadcast media. His first radio job was while he was in high school at KOCA in Kilgore. He has also worked for three television stations, KTRE, Lufkin, Texas; KBTX, Bryan-College Station, Texas, and KLTV, Tyler, Texas.

He is a graduate of Kilgore High School, Sam Houston State University and earned a Master's Degree in Religious Education from Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary.

Bro. Mike, and his wife of 29 years, Marianne, have three children. Their daughter Alison Midkiff Cooley is married to Caleb Cooley and she is a school teacher in Mount Enterprise ISD. Son Andrew is a senior business major at ETBU. Son Ashton is a junior in high school and plans to attend Quitman High School in the fall. Marianne is a high school English teacher and will be teaching at Lindale High School in fall.

Bro. Mike's life verse is Nahum 1:7, "The Lord is good, a stronghold in the day of trouble; and He knows those who trust in Him."



405 S. Hart St. | Quitman, TX 75783 | 903-492-3535

Livin' large at Lake Fork

Lake Fork is one of the premier trophy bass fishing lakes in the world and serves as a reservoir for Dallas and its suburbs.

Lake Fork holds 16 of the top 20 Texas State Record largemouth bass coming from the 27,690 acre body of water. It is situated in Wood, Rains and Hopkins counties between the towns of Yantis, Alba, Emory and Quitman.

There is more than lure of the big fish for coming to Lake Fork including great restaurants and nightclubs which offer some of the best live entertainment in East Texas.

For 30 years in October each year, Bob Sealy of Sealy Outdoors, brings the Big Bass Splash to the west side of the lake. This tournament also brings in thousands of fishermen and fans to the area with great prizes for the winners. In 2014 there were over 3,000 fishermen and the

Avid golfers can choose from two challenging golf courses, each with scenic views of the lake.

contest guaranteed \$500,000 in cash and prizes.

The big lake also hosts the annual Skeeter Owners Tournament, the Yantis Catfish Classic and various events sponsored by the Lake Fork Chamber of Commerce and Lake Fork Sportsman's Association.



Lake Fork Facts at a glance

- 27,690 acres total
- 315 miles of shoreline
- Maximum depth, 70'
- The state's largest bass to-date was caught here in 1992, weighing in at 18.18 lbs.
- Located in Wood, Rains and Hopkins counties.



Avid golfers can choose from two challenging golf courses, each with scenic views of the lake. Lake Fork Golf Course is an 18-hole course designed for mid-handicappers, with shorter challenging fairways and larger greens. It has been voted "Most Improved Golf Course" by East Texas Golf Association and is located on the lake's west side.

The Links at Land's End, on the east side of the lake, was tabbed last year as one the top 100 courses in Texas by the Dallas Morning News and has consistently been named to Top 50 golf courses in the state. Holes 6 through 14 wind through the trees on a peninsula, surrounded only by water and abundant Lake Fork wildlife. On 13 of the 18 holes, you can view the shoreline of the lake. It was inspired by the original Lands End on the southwestern tip of England. The current Golf Professional Emeritus at Land's End is former PGA professional Jacky Cupit who was on the tour from 1961-1973 and later played on the senior circuit.

There are several motels and rental cabins on the lake. You can stay at the lake, but are close to Sulphur Springs, Winnsboro, Quitman, Yantis, Alba, Emory and Mineola where you can enjoy the festivals, entertainment, the arts and shopping year round.

There are several opportunities to attend a variety of churches in the Lake Fork area of all denominations.



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Winnsboro: Scenic beauty blends with bustling downtown

Located at the Northeast tip of Wood County, surrounded by towering trees, lush pastures and beautiful lakes, Winnsboro is a three-county city where Wood, Franklin and Hopkins counties meet. For centuries the Winnsboro area and surrounding area were occupied by the peace loving and agricultural Caddo Indians.

Winnsboro has become known over the past few years for its art galleries, antique shops, fine restaurants and the Winnsboro Center for Arts. The Bowery has been resurrected and there is live music there and at other eating establishments in town. The Bowery has brought noted musicians Adler and Hearn, Peter Yarrow (Peter, Paul and Mary), Ray Wylie Hubbard and Billy Joe Shaver to name just a few.

The Winnsboro Farmer's Market has become one of the region's top food and arts attractions. The Farmers Market is held every Saturday from 8 a.m. till noon. At the market you will find everything from homemade soaps and fine wine to organically grown vegetables, fruits, eggs and meat. There are all kinds of relishes and sauces as well as fresh breads of many flavors. The market is held in the Bowery with the whole street block marked off for



plenty of room to enjoy the many offerings of the day.

In 1854, while traveling from Rusk County, Englishman John E. Winn and his stepson W.R. McMillan were impressed with the rich land and beauty of the piney woods, they bought 361 acres and named it Crossroads after the intersection of what is now North Main and Pine Streets. They opened the first mercantile known as the Cheap Cash Store. In 1855 after finding out there was another community by the same name, the name was changed to Winnsboro in honor of Winn.

The first train depot in Winnsboro was built in 1878 at what is now the intersection of Main Street and Broadway. In the 1950s rail service began to lose its strength to airplanes, buses and the trucking industry and in the 1960s the depot closed. Over the next two decades the depot showed signs of vandalism and neglect.

Saved by the Winnsboro heritage society in 1985 the depot has been fully restored and houses the local chamber of commerce, Autumn Trails office, Winnsboro Economic Development office and a community room for meetings and special events.

Winnsboro's rich history includes the alley north of the depot known as "The Bowery" complete with saloons, gambling halls and bath houses catering to loggers. Winnsboro had its share of gun play during this time.

In May of 1934 Winnsboro was one of the last places the notorious Bonnie Parker and Clyde Barrow stopped on the way to their ultimate death in Louisiana. They were known to stay with an accomplice of the gang who lived near Winnsboro. They were occasionally seen shopping and eating in downtown Winnsboro.

Winnsboro is for all ages and has something for everyone. Known as the Home of Autumn Trails since 1959, Winnsboro celebrates the beauty of fall foliage every October with the whole month filled with arts and crafts, parades, antique cars and tractors and a trail ride through the scenic countryside.

Beautiful bed and breakfast establishments are located in the city limits. Winnsboro is the ideal place to spend a short time or a lifetime.



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Yantis: The place for golf, fishing, hunting

Yantis is at the intersection of State Highway 154 and Farm Road 17, near the Lake Fork Reservoir, twelve miles north of Quitman in northwest Wood County.

Harry M. Matthews was said to have settled the area as early as 1860, and by 1870 a gristmill and cotton gin was being run in the area by J. Singleton. The community was served by the Quitman post office before receiving its own in 1885.

Yantis was named for its first postmaster, George R. Yantis, who by 1890 was also running a gristmill and gin at the community of thirty-five people. The population climbed to fifty by 1892 and to sixty by 1896, by which time the community had at least fifteen businesses, including a mason and two gristmills and gins. At that time Yantis also had a sheriff, a justice and bailiff, two churches, and five schools that served 251 students.

By 1914 the town of 300 had a phone connection and twenty-one businesses, including the Yantis State Bank. The population peaked at 500 in the early 1930s then fell to 400 by 1943. The June 1947 discovery of the Yantis

oilfield nearby apparently had no lasting effect on the community, as around that time population fell again to 350, then to 290 by 1949.

By the late 1960s, Yantis had incorporated. The town had a population of 174 and three businesses in 1968. In 1988 Yantis reported a population of 209 and eight businesses. In 1990 the population was 210. The population reached 321 in 2000.

Today the town is the gateway to the east side of Lake Fork. East Fork Restaurant and Club features a full dining facility and a large stage and dance floor for live music every weekend.

East Fork was formerly known as the Yellow Rose, but current owners Dennis, Shirley, Danny, Kathy and Devin Frazier have been there for over 20 years. Musical artists have been Gary Stewart, John Conlee, Rickey Lynn Gregg, Daryl Dodd, Jason Boland, Chris Beville, and Charlie Robison.

Yantis High School has long been an academic leader in the area, winning several recent academic championships and been well-represented at the state level. They have produced state champions in one act play and team spelling as well as taken golf teams to the state finals in Austin. Boys and girls basketball teams regularly are in post season play.

There are two golf courses near Yantis, The Links at Land's End and Lake Fork Golf Club. Land's End has been the home course for PGA legend Jacky Cupit.

Hidden Lakes Hunting Resort is a unique facility and excursion venue drawing quail and pheasant hunters from across the nation. The Burnett family, Billy, Kathryn and Cord, have fashioned an exclusive experience for their clients located southeast of Yantis.

Nature

FROM PAGE 14

walking and very well-used equestrian trails.

The nature preserve is a perfect example of what Mineola is, full of beauty and continually improving. Its 2,911 acres are host to more than 193 species of birds with a pavilion that can be booked for weddings and other fun festivities.

Venturing off the trail and into town, one of the rural small-town attractions is the Mineola Hay Show. It is one of the longest continuously-running hay shows in the state that raises money for scholarships for students going into the field of agriculture.

The Mineola Civic Center boasts full RV hookups with full pads, water and electricity. Meredith Hall offers fine convention and meeting rooms for all sizes and types with Wi-Fi internet access and the staff is eager to assist anyone with their needs.

Mineola's downtown historic district is on the National Register of Historic Places and is highlighted by the Mineola Historical Museum in the former post office. The museum includes over 40 exhibits about the history of the town, including pictures, military displays, aviation,

antique telephones, railroad history and much more.

The historic backdrop of downtown, and the even wider berth of pastoral scenery that surrounds the area, are great backdrops for photos. It isn't unusual to see photo sessions taking place in what many describe as the jewel of East Texas.



The evening sun illuminating dogwood leaves that dot Wood County is nature's version of stained glass.

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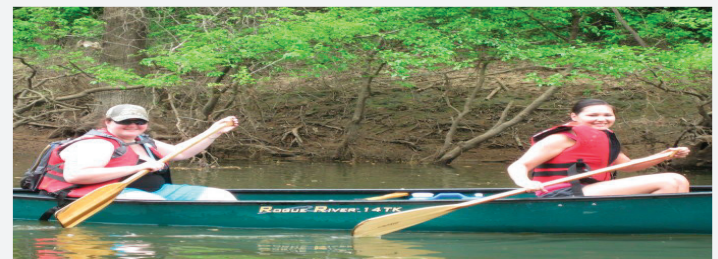
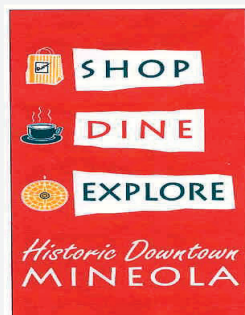
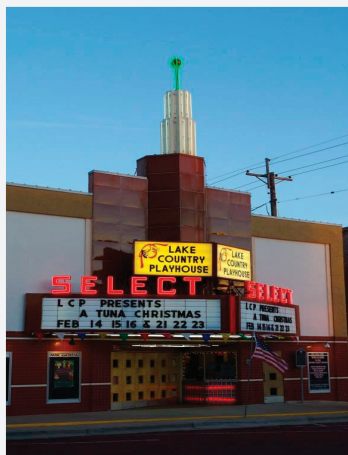
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