Toys for Tots needs your help!

LIBERTY COUNTY - Christmas is a time of joy, happiness and goodwill. It is a time of giving and helping those who are less fortunate. For over half a century the U.S. Marine Corps is the unchallenged leader in looking after America's less fortunate children at Christmas through the Toys for Tots campaign.

You can help bring holiday joy to the children of Liberty County by joining Luxe Prints and Cuts and the Dayton Police Officers Association for this year's Toys for Tots toy drive. The goal is to bring toys to 4,000 kids in Liberty County. The gift of a new toy helps bring the joy of Christmas and send a message of hope to area children.

Families in all areas of the county including Liberty, Dayton, Hardin, Hull, Raywood, Daisetta, Ames, Devers and the Cleveland area can apply for toys for their children by using the QR code or by visiting the Toys for Tots website at toysfortots.org.

Your toy donations make a major impact in the success of the campaign. Donations of new, unwrapped toys will ensure that children experience the joy of play and the power of imagination. Visit toysfortots.org for donation information. Donation boxes are located at the ***Dayton Community Center, Dayton Police Department, Luxe Prints in Dayton and The Liberty Gazette in Liberty.***

The event will be held December 12, from 9 a.m. to 6 p.m. at the TVE Fairgrounds, 321 Wallisville Road in Liberty. Volunteers are needed to help with toy collection, sorting, organization and distribution of the toys on the day of the event.

To reach the area coordinator for Liberty County with questions, to volunteer, place a toy donation box at your business or location, or to request toys, email liberty.tx@toysfortots.org or call 936-346-2862.

The Marine Toys for Tots Foundation, is an IRS recognized 501(c)(3) not-for-profit public charity which was created at the behest of the U.S. Marine Corps in 1991. 97% of every donation goes directly to providing toys to children.



Magnolia Place Health Care Administrator Adam Ott gave us a big smile right before the facility's Thanksgiving feast last week.



Stella Paige at Magnolia Place Health Care shows off their just-arrived furniture for the TV room.



DAYTON ROTARY HOLDS SECOND WARM HEARTS SERVICE PROJECT

The Dayton Rotary transformed their weekly meeting into a service project. The second Warm Hearts Project giveaway recently took place. The club secured a matching grant through Rotary International, allowing them to distribute 25 space heaters and 48 warm blankets just in time for the colder weather. The first Warm Hearts Project was initiated under former Rotary President Stephanie Montgomery, and the club was pleased to secure their second grant to continue this valuable service project.

Pictured (l to r): Rotarians Ron Fletcher, James Perkins, Dr. Travis Young, Elizabeth Robertson, Ken DeFoor, Dr. Luke Chachere, Geoff McCracken, and Jeff Jones ready to work their Warm Hearts Service Project.



Frankly Speaking –

How to Be Thankful in Tough Times

by Frank Jordan

With the Thanksgiving holiday we say "thanks" for our blessings, but saying "thank you" is tough when stress assaults us from family, jobs, money, health, government, crime, war and faith or all of the above! Perhaps you need to refocus on the positive instead of the negatives in your life. The choice is yours, but you might consider participation in a Spiritual Wellness Program. What is that?

A Spiritual Wellness Program involves your personal spiritual growth and health program to help provide what we all seek – peace and happiness. Spiritual nourishment is found when our living diet includes five basic spiritual food groups – the true soul foods:

- ***Bible reading:*** Study the Bible daily as the Word of God and life's guidebook;
- ***Prayer:*** Pray regularly to God as your friend and Father in heaven;
- ***Forgiveness:*** Forgive others and yourself to remove the thorns that prevent peace.
- ***Fellowship:*** Join in fellowship with other believers to develop your faith; and
- ***Service:*** Serve others for selfless reasons and put aside jealousy and bitterness.

You need vitamins, vegetables and verbiage from God to have balanced health! We are spiritually nourished when we gain knowledge and understanding from regularly reading and studying God's Word. Then we apply the wisdom and instruction in faith to our thoughts, words and actions every day. Spiritual nourishment requires you to ingest God's Word every day as nutrients for a successful life, or succumb to the misery of spiritual starvation.

The second essential in the Spiritual Wellness Program is prayer as our direct link to God. Read the Bible to have God talk to you, while praying so that you talk to God and He listens. 1 Thessalonians 5:16-18 says, "Rejoice always! Pray constantly. Give thanks in everything, for this is God's will for you in Christ Jesus." Express your needs, not just your wants and ask for His will – not yours – to be done in His time.

Forgiving yourself and others, including family, friends, business associates and others, releases your emotions to be positive instead of draining. Hate hurts you more than your adversary and hinders clear thinking. God forgives you so forgive yourself and start anew!

The fourth necessity involves your having fellowship with other believers. We are not meant to live in this world alone, but in a community of believers that worship and work together, share encouragement and share Christ with others. The church feeds us spiritually as we hear God's Word preached and taught so that we can apply the wisdom of the Bible in our daily lives to learn how to be thankful in times of stress for the true blessings of life.

A final critical component of the Spiritual Wellness Program is service to others. You are commanded to use your gifts and talents to serve your family, your associates on the job, the community and your church.

Frankly speaking, we don't all have the same gifts, strengths and/or talents, but the Bible tells us each one of us does have something to share, especially if a smile and encouragement. God desires that we positively impact our world as we give of ourselves to meet the needs of others, knowing life is a rocky road, and serve Him while being thankful to Him from whom all blessing flow.

Life is not easy with challenges in present times sometimes seeming overwhelming. But read the plan again and be assured of positive results from God the Father. Enjoy your blessings and Happy Thanksgiving!

Your Homeowners Policy Probably Doesn't Cover Flood; Dec. 11 Is a Good Reason to Check

by Eric Dick

FEMA puts it in one sentence: most homeowners insurance does not cover flood damage. You need a different policy for that.

That matters right now. Congress has a deadline of 11:59 p.m. on Dec. 11, 2026, to renew the federal flood insurance program, FEMA says. In a lapse, FEMA says, it would still have authority to pay valid claims from available funds, but it would stop selling or renewing policies.

Nobody can say what Congress will do. Four things to do this week:

Look through your papers for a separate flood policy. If you can't find one, assume you don't have one.

Got one? Find the renewal date. After Dec. 11? Call your agent now.

No policy? Ask for a quote. FEMA says new policies typically have a 30-day waiting period, with some exceptions, so waiting cuts into your time.

Buying a home? Ask your lender how it will handle flood insurance if the program lapses. The Congressional Research Service says that in past lapses, some borrowers in high-risk flood zones couldn't buy the flood insurance required to close until Congress renewed it.

A policy you already have keeps running through its term, CRS says. The people caught short are the ones without one.

Eric Dick founded Dick Law Firm, PLLC, a Houston insurance-dispute practice. He holds an MS in Applied Data Science from the University of Chicago and an MSQM from Duke. General information, not legal advice.

The Bethlehem Experience coming to Calvary Baptist

DAYTON - Step back in time and experience the story of Jesus' birth brought to life through an immersive Christmas experience. The Bethlehem Experience will take visitors through several important moments in the life of Jesus Christ.

The journey will begin with the angel appearing to Mary and continue through the birth of Jesus, the bustling Bethlehem marketplace, Jesus' childhood, His ministry and the healing of blind Bartimaeus, the crucifixion, and ultimately the empty tomb and resurrection. The experience will feature live actors, animals, authentic-looking marketplace scenes, biblical narration, music, and special effects designed to transport visitors back in time.

The event will take place December 11, 12 and 13, from 6-8:30 p.m. each evening at Calvary Baptist Church in Dayton. Admission is free. Refreshments and children's activities will be available before groups begin their guided journey. The experience will last roughly 30 minutes. The organizers are arranging overflow parking, transportation assistance, and golf cart accommodations to help visitors with mobility challenges.

For additional information or volunteer opportunities regarding The Bethlehem Experience, contact Suzanne Chachere at 936-334-5598.

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YOUR NEW BEST FRIEND IS WAITING

DAYTON - The dogs, puppies and kitties at the Dayton Animal Shelter are waiting for their forever homes and they can't wait to meet you! From playful puppies to gentle adult dogs and gentle cats and kittens, there's a perfect match for everyone. Each one deserves a safe, loving home and you might just find your new best friend! Call 936-258-7621 for more information on adoption details.

Liberty Church of Christ



Bryant Perkins, Minister

Join us this Sunday for Bible Classes for all ages at 9 a.m. and stay for Worship at 10 a.m.

We meet Sunday night at 5 p.m. and Wednesdays at 6:30 p.m.

We meet at 3201 North Main Street and have a parking space just for you.

We'd love to see you soon. We've saved you a seat!

3201 N. Main St., Liberty • 936.336.2213 • libertycofc.org