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M A G A Z I N E

FEBRUARY 2024

Powerful Persuaders

How the Wiley College Debate Team made an impact

In the Kitchen With Greg Almendarez

Bring on the Cringe

Village Tech's student directors celebrate holiday drama madness

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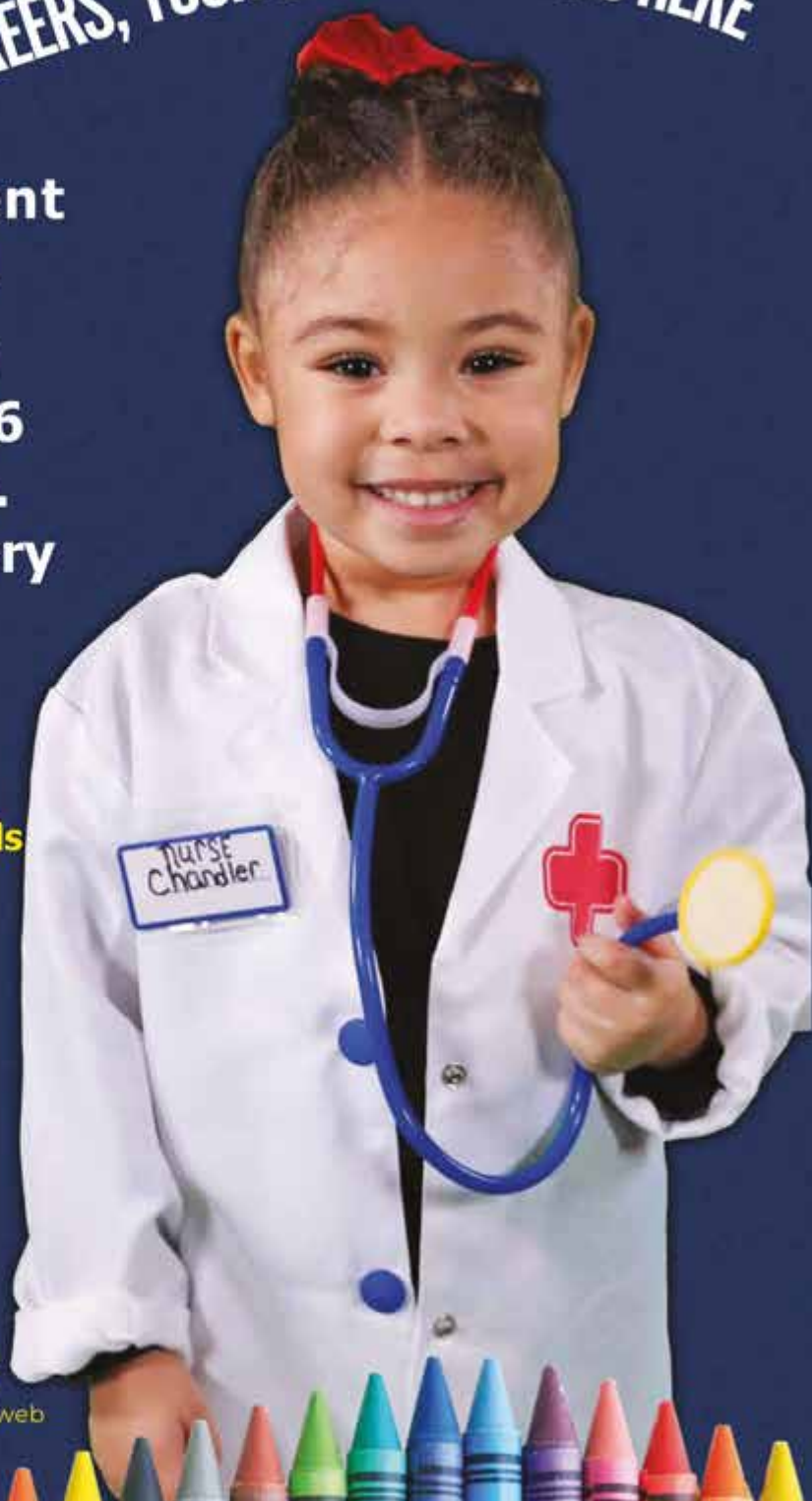
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SCAN ME



ON THE COVER



These directors have fun with their production.

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Here are four tips to help make your Valentine's Day special.

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- Food Favorites:** Show love by delivering their preferred, allergy-free meals, like wheat-free pizza, for a thoughtful and healthy gesture.
- Fragrance Caution:** Be mindful of your partner's sensitivity to strong scents, avoiding perfumes and colognes to prevent allergic reactions like headaches and sneezing.
- Allergen-Free Cleaning:** Impress your partner by cleaning the house to remove allergens like mold and pet dander, using HEPA filters and washing bedding regularly for a healthier environment.



You don't have to spend piles of money or go to enormous lengths to show love for your valentine. Keep allergies and asthma in mind and see an allergist with any questions.



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EDITOR'S NOTE

February is Heart Month ...



Adam

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Whether we're talking literal hearts or figurative ones, this month is as good a time as any to check your heart. The first Friday in February is National Wear Red Day to raise awareness for heart disease, which is still the No. 1 cause of death in the U.S. We all know that a healthy diet and more exercise are important for fighting the effects of heart disease, but many of us don't put that knowledge to work, making changes that mean a healthier life. Doctors have said, over and over again, that even small changes make a big difference, over time, if you stick with them. Just a few more meals with more veggies, just parking a little farther away from the store, just walking a little farther one more night a week — all those things mean a change for the better.

With Valentine's just around the corner, many of us are also thinking about our other hearts. And you know what, healthy relationships also tend to increase our physical health. If you have people in your life that you love and who love you ... or even pets that need your love and freely give theirs back, you tend to live longer and stay healthier longer. Love is healing. Love brings life.


The heart is truly powerful, whether we're talking about the muscle that keeps your blood circulating, or the seat of your emotions that keeps you connected to the ones around you. This month, take time to nourish your heart, in both senses. Do something that's good for the old thumper. And do something good for the ones you love.

Be good to your heart!

Happy Valentine's Day!



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BRING CRINGE

Some people are fans, absolute fanatics, about their Hallmark movies, especially the holiday-themed ones. Some people are not. They have very predictable plots. The characters fall into easily defined types. And many of them are what teenagers would describe as “totally cringe.”

The drama department at Village Tech School recognized that and decided to embrace it wholeheartedly. This month’s production both embraces romance and pokes fun at it. *The Holiday Channel Christmas Movie Wonderthon* is a play by Don Zolidis that “includes all six Hallmark plots,” said serious fan Elizabeth Podany. “I love Hallmark movies. They’re my escape. But when I showed my favorite one to the kids, when we were looking at doing this show, they just shredded it!”

Elizabeth is director of design and innovation at Village Tech, a school she helped found. “I’m the executive producer, I guess you could say. I’m here to support the students, but they do all the decision making and have the authority. I’m a coach who helps the students understand how to achieve their goals. I help them unlock their potential and creativity.”

For this production, that creativity is being led by the co-directors — seniors Savannah Peirce and Skyler Miramontes and junior Jurnee Coleman. They’re in charge of everything from casting and stage direction to costuming, props and set construction.

Savannah is a theater kid through and through. “I’ve been involved in theater here since our first show, *Annie*, in 2016. I was in fifth grade then. I was in gymnastics, so I knew how to do flips. I was understudy to one of the orphans and mostly just did flips.” The department has put on 16 shows since then. “Later, I saw *Hairspray* and became obsessed with acting,” she explained. “The fireplace was my stage, where I’d put on ‘shows.’”

Savannah is excited about her new role. “This is my first time directing. I never thought I would do this, but Ms. Podany said she thought I could. Now, I’m really excited. I want to see where this takes me. Our last show was *The SpongeBob Musical*, and a lot of our actors were in that, so we

ON THE WGE

— By Adam Walker



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only have six weeks from first read through to opening night! We're *really* busy. I'm directing, and I'm also in charge of costumes. But I don't have to make much. The actors will get most of the stuff from thrift stores, so they're comfortable with their costumes. I show them ideas of what they should wear, and they find something that works. The two narrators have multiple costume changes, but the sexy lumberjack and the prince pretending not to be famous and the girl who runs a store that's shutting down don't have to change costumes. We really want to focus on the characters, because Hallmark characters are very specific types. The narrators are my favorites."

Assistant director, Jurnee, the junior on the team, agreed. "The narrators say things like, 'Hurry up and introduce yourselves. We already know what's going on. We don't have time for this!' They're really funny. The narrators are really excited about their roles. When they got the parts, they were like, 'Yeah, this is for us!' They have chemistry, because they've known each other since middle school."

"This play has something for everyone," Savannah explained. "I don't do well with cringe love stories, but this is so funny. Some of these jokes won't go over *anyone's* head."

"The three of us have really different personalities," admitted co-director, Skyler, the other senior on the team. "But we meet in the middle. We originally thought about doing this play in December, but that would have meant back-to-back musicals, so we moved this one to February, between the musicals. And it works for Valentine's. It basically rolls all the Hallmark movies into one. It's really cringy, so the actors are pushed into roles they aren't used to. We're friends with most of the cast outside of theater, so it's fun to watch how different they are in rehearsal. As co-director, I have to make sure the actors have their lines going and know how to play their characters. I set up the background for them."

"As assistant director, I assist with whatever is needed," Jurnee reported. "I handle details. The other directors deal with the big picture. I assist with the props and with communication. This is my second year in drama. I started because I like meeting new people

and getting to know stuff we have in common. I like singing, but I wanted to learn to act. It's interesting to see the actors learn their characters. We have a lot of new leads in this production. We're planning for all three of us to dress alike, in Christmas sweaters, for opening night. I can't wait to see how it comes out!"



"The script starts slow, introducing the characters and their storylines," Skyler explained. "The middle speeds up. Like the narrators say, 'We don't need to know all this!' I'm a big Hallmark fan. I love Christmas in July. But the acting in the movies is really uncomfortable. *Why did they do that?* It's the same in the play. The actors have to get familiar with their characters, but they're not their characters. They say, 'Eww ... that sounds so weird to say!' It's fun to watch. It's so cringy!"

"One of the things you learn, when you're trying to do so many things at once," Savannah admitted, "is that some people need *everything* laid out, and others can just do it on their own. You have to take everything day by day. We rehearse every Tuesday, Thursday and Friday until opening day." The production will run February 15-17, and details are on the school website.

"We started this as something fun for the kids to participate in," Elizabeth remembered. "It was a hit with the students. In 2018, two students proposed that theater become a high school elective and a permanent part of the school, in their senior project. We named our black box theater the Price Family Theater, because of the support they've shown the program."

If you are looking for a different way to celebrate Valentine's Day this year, you might want to see what these kids are doing at Village Tech. They welcome you to come cringe along with them! **NOW**

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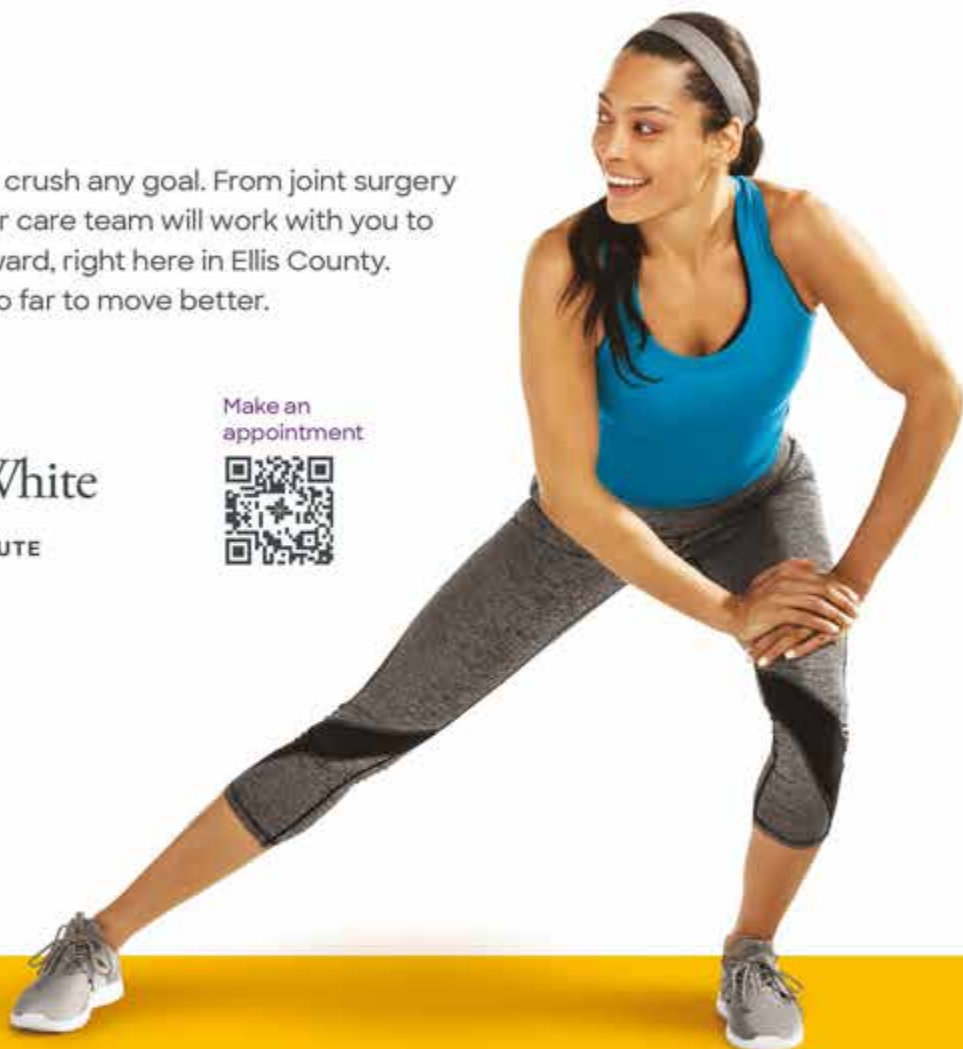
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POWERFUL PERSUADERS

— By Sandra Walters



Wiley University. *The Kitten*, 1930. Marshall: Wiley College Debate Team. Print. Special Collection, Thomas Winston Cole, Sr., Library.



Wiley University. *The Kitten*, 1936. Marshall: Varsity Debaters. Print. Special Collection, Thomas Winston Cole, Sr., Library.

In honor of Black History Month, we recount the story of the 1935 Wiley College Debate Team from Marshall, Texas. A group of African-American students, led by Melvin B. Tolson, set out on a historic journey and challenged the practice of racial segregation but also served as an inspiration to the entire country.

During this oppressive time, Wiley College emerged as a beacon of hope and resilience, offering African-American students a chance to excel academically. At the heart of the debate team's success was their dedicated debate coach, Mr. Tolson. He was a charismatic educator, columnist, poet and politician who believed in the power of words and saw debate as a means to effect change. Mr. Tolson's vision went beyond the competitive aspect of debate. He aimed to empower his students, encouraging them to be critical thinkers and advocates for justice.

However, after the Emancipation Proclamation, the United States denied African-Americans access to educational opportunities and equal rights. Marshall, Texas, was no exception to this harsh reality, with Jim Crow laws governing

every aspect of life. Pi Kappa Delta, the national forensic organization that oversaw collegiate debate competitions in America, only allowed white students to compete, so Mr. Tolson established Alpha Phi Omega to support historically black universities. Wiley students participated in unofficial, no-decision competitions with white colleges.

The Wiley College Debate Team took on a monumental challenge by engaging in interracial debates against white colleges in the segregated South. These debates were groundbreaking in a time when racial segregation was deeply rooted, and the idea of African-American students competing against white students was virtually unheard of. Wiley College's willingness to challenge the racial norms of the era was a testament to the courage and determination of its students and their coach.

One of the most iconic moments in the history of the team was their debate with the reigning national debate champion, the University of Southern California. The Wiley College debaters challenged and ultimately defeated this prestigious institution, marking a huge accomplishment.

The legacy of the team extends far beyond their victory over USC. Their courage and perseverance paved the way for future generations of African-American students and debaters. The team's success inspired other historically Black colleges and universities to engage in debate, challenging the racial status quo in the academic arena.

Wiley College's commitment to academic excellence and social justice continued long after this team. Today, the college stands as a symbol of resilience and determination, continuing to empower students from diverse backgrounds to excel academically and make a positive impact on society.

The story of the Wiley College Debate Team serves as a powerful reminder of the role that debate can play in effecting social change. Through the art of argument and persuasion, these students not only won debates, but also challenged the prevailing notions of racial inequality. They demonstrated that intellectual prowess and eloquence had no racial boundaries.

In 2007, the movie *The Great Debaters*, produced by Oprah Winfrey and directed by Denzel Washington, depicted this powerful story. Denzel Washington portrayed Melvin B. Tolson, capturing his passion and dedication to the art of debate and social justice. The film also showcased the challenges the team faced, both inside and outside the debate halls, as they battled prejudice and racism. The victory over USC (depicted as Harvard in the movie), while a triumph on its own, was just one part of the larger narrative of the team's struggle for recognition and equality.

The debate team from Wiley College showed the tenacity of the human spirit and the power of education. These students and their coach dared to dream, to challenge the laws and to use their voices to effect change. Their victory over the University of Southern California was not just a win — it was a triumph of the human spirit over prejudice and injustice. The legacy of the Wiley College Debate Team continues to inspire us today, reminding us of the enduring power of words and the potential for positive change through education and dialogue. NOW

Sources:

1. <https://mississippitoday.org/2023/04/01/on-this-day-in-1935-wiley-college-great-debaters/>.
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3. <https://texascooppower.com/wileys-sages/>.



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Zoomed In:
Cindie Velasquez By Adam Walker

Cindie Velasquez proudly showed off the newest collection in the DeSoto Public Library. “These 24 new art books were donated by A.R.T., the Art Resources Transfer,” she shared. “They’re a nonprofit that donates art books to libraries, schools and prisons. The publishers donate books to them, and then they donate the books to libraries across the country.” This donation adds new value to the library’s collection and frees up limited funds for buying new children’s books and other kinds of books.

“We have new books on photography, Japanese art, Urban art and graffiti,” Cindie said. “One book, on collages made from family photos, has inspired us to think about a program on how to do that with your own family photos. These are great books to have in DeSoto.”



Danny Martin, CEO of Esposure, addresses DeSoto about their new esports program.



Students of First Methodist School donate food to Duncanville Outreach.



Cedar Hill gets ready for its new library.



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Mark and Christine Beckford enjoy a dinner out.



Lisa Lathon-Brooks shops for Valentine's crafts at Hobby Lobby.

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Lake Ridge

CHARITABLE FOUNDATION, INC.

On November 4th of last year, the LakeRidge Charitable Foundation held our 15th annual golf tournament. Since 2008, the LakeRidge Charitable Foundation has been helping local charities close their funding gaps through this event.

The LakeRidge Charitable Foundation is a 501(c)(3) organization founded in 2008. The Foundation began as a community golf event designed to bring neighbors together. Expanding into an outreach from the LakeRidge neighborhood, the event grew into a formal nonprofit supporting local worthy causes. The Board of the Foundation is composed of LakeRidge neighbors: Chad McCurdy, Candice McCurdy, Kay Davidson, Lynn Davidson, John Marinos, Bill Pierce, Mary Tengra and John Monroe.

The secret to the success of the tournament, and the ability of the Foundation to fulfill its mission, is the partners and the people who have joined us on this journey. Baylor Scott & White Orthopedic and Spine Hospital - Arlington has partnered with the Foundation as the Title Sponsor of the tournament since 2019. Having BSWOSH as our Title Sponsor has been a cornerstone upon which we have been able to create tremendous success.

This year we had one Gold Sponsor, HILCO. They have been a sponsor of the tournament almost since the beginning of the Foundation.

We had four Silver Sponsors for this year's tournament: Grand Manors Community Management, Hillwood Development, Bedrock Homes and Chad McCurdy Cedar Hill City Council Place 4.

We had three Contest Sponsors this year. For Longest Drive, Mprinted.com was our sponsor. Dial One Johnson sponsored the Putting Contest. Our other event sponsor this year was PondMedics as the sponsor for the Closest to the Pin event.

The Hole Sponsors for this year included: Joshua Homes, Charles Pest Control, John & Sharyn Monroe, Clark-Patton Insurance, Legends Custom Homes, A&A Real Estate, Landworks and Lawns of Dallas.

During this year's tournament, we also hosted a new paid event – a golf cannon shoot. We experimented with the event in the past, and decided to make it a permanent part of the tournament by purchasing our own cannon. The members of the Cedar Hill Disabled American Veterans Chapter 240 were present to man the cannon shot event. As a result, they received the proceeds from the event.

These sponsors, along with the many golfers who played in this year's tournament, allowed the LakeRidge Charitable Foundation to provide approximately \$20,000 in support to local charities. The charities supported this year by the LakeRidge Charitable Golf Tournament include: All Pro Dads, Bridges Safehouse, Cedar Hill Shares, CHAT, Mission Cedar Hill, and Cedar Hill Disabled American Veterans Chapter 240. Service is indeed its own reward. The Board of the LakeRidge Foundation, and the LakeRidge Charitable Golf Committee are quite honored to have served again this year.

We hope you will consider joining us for our next tournament to be held Nov. 2, 2024, at the Tangle Ridge Golf Course inside LakeRidge.



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— By Adam Walker

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Teresa Bilsky and the team at BFG Tax Help offer tax preparation, and so much more, for both the individual taxpayer and small businesses. “I’m an EA, not a CPA,” Teresa explained, “which means I’m a federally licensed tax specialist and can practice nationwide. We’re much more than just tax prep. I’ve taken my bar exam, so I can represent you in court. We represent you in disputes with the IRS. Another of our services is monitoring your IRS



transcript, so you know immediately if there’s a problem — sometimes two weeks before you get that letter from the IRS. One lady found out that someone in California was using her identity to file taxes, two years before she would have known otherwise.

“We have a 24-hour-a-day answering service because, while real tax emergencies are really rare, we would prefer for you to be able to ask your question whenever you think of it. We don’t bill to ask questions. We also give second opinions on tax documents. There is a lot of misinformation out there.

“Tax preparation is all about the documents. But tax planning is about impacting the outcome of next year’s taxes. We also offer wealth management, for established clients only. Another service we provide is bookkeeping, and for small businesses with under 50 employees, we can handle payroll. We reconcile bank statements. Basically, we fill in what’s needed, doing the job of the CFO you don’t have. We’re passionate about helping startups and contractors. We like to help small businesses who think they

can't afford the kind of help we offer, because they can."

Some of the unique expertise that Teresa brings to the table is experience with offshore compliance. Many small businesses have some small part of their operation that happens in another country, so they need to navigate tax laws and regulations that apply differently to that part of their business. "We can service any tax form, and we have a lot of experience with oil and gas drillers and investors around the world," Teresa said. "We also have a lot of experience in the real estate space."

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Teresa and her team are here to protect your rights. "Whenever you're dealing with the IRS, it's the unknown that tears people up. One of the top three fears in this country is the IRS. Even if you're in the wrong, just knowing where you stand is more powerful than I can explain. People get behind on their taxes, maybe because documents got lost in a messy divorce, and they don't know how to get back on track, so they just let it slide. We can help you. There is a solution. And it's not just me. We have a whole team. I am very particular about who plays in my sandbox. They have to be customer oriented and passionate about what we do. We work for the client, not the IRS. It's your money. We're about taxes and oh, so much more!" **NOW**



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CookingNOW

In the Kitchen With

GREG ALMENDAREZ

— By Adam Walker

Greg Almendarez started cooking as a child in Arlington. “My passion for food came at an early age, learning to cook for my siblings. I remember getting cookbooks and trying to re-create recipes and making menus up, as if I had a restaurant. Growing up, all I knew was my mom’s home cooking — traditional Mexican food. In college, I learned French cooking techniques, but I started incorporating Latin flavors into my dishes. I try to incorporate my roots into my menu.” That’s true whether he’s cooking for friends and family or clients in his catering business. He now lives in Cedar Hill, but still teaches culinary arts in Arlington. “I want to share my passion with our future culinarians. I’ve been teaching for six years now.” **NOW**

Chocolate Chunk Cookies

8 oz. unsalted butter, room temperature
5.5 oz. granulated sugar
5.5 oz. brown sugar
2 eggs
1 tsp. vanilla
1 oz. molasses
13 oz. flour
4 oz. oats (optional)
1 tsp. baking soda

1/4 tsp. salt
14 oz. chocolate chips
1 1/2 cups walnuts (optional)

1. In a bowl, cream together the butter and sugars until smooth. Scrape the bowl down to the bottom. Add the eggs, vanilla and molasses until blended, scraping the bowl down to the bottom.
2. In a separate bowl, combine the dry ingredients. Add to the butter mixture and

combine, scraping the bottom of the bowl. Fold in the chocolate and walnuts being careful not to overmix.

3. Drop by spoonfuls onto cookie sheets; bake at 350 F for 9 minutes.

Chocolate Chip Banana Bread

2 1/4 cups flour
1 1/2 tsp. baking soda
1/2 tsp. salt
6 oz. butter
1 1/2 cups sugar
3 eggs
2 ripe bananas, mashed
1 1/2 tsp. vanilla
3/4 cup sour cream
1 cup chocolate chips

1. Preheat the oven to 350 F. Grease a loaf pan with nonstick spray.
2. In a medium bowl, whisk together the flour, baking soda and salt; set aside.
3. Using a handheld mixer, or a stand mixer with a paddle attachment, beat the butter with sugar together on high speed until smooth

and creamy, about 2 minutes. With the mixer on medium speed, add the eggs, one at a time, beating well after each addition. Add the mashed bananas and vanilla extract until combined.

4. With the mixer on low speed, slowly beat the dry ingredients into the wet ingredients until no flour pockets remain. Do not overmix. Fold in the sour cream and chocolate chips.

5. Pour and spread the batter into the prepared baking pan. Bake for 45-50 minutes. The bread is done when a toothpick inserted in the center comes out clean with only a few small moist crumbs.

Beef Birria

- 6 lbs. short ribs (bone in) or back ribs (bone in)**
- 1 large white onion, cut in half crosswise**
- 1 garlic bulb (Cut the narrow top off.)**
- 1 carrot, quartered**
- 5 bay leaves, dried**
- 8 guajillo chilis, stems and seeds removed**
- Hot water, enough to cover meat**
- 3 Tbsp. chicken bouillon**
- 1 tsp. Mexican oregano**
- 1 tsp. ground cumin**
- 1 tsp. salt, or to taste**
- 1-2 tsp. chili powder (optional)**
- 14-16 white corn tortillas or 6-8 ramen noodle cups**
- 2 cups quesadilla cheese or any good melting cheese**


- In a large pot, add the meat, onion, garlic, carrots, bay leaves and dried peppers. Cover with water. Add the chicken bouillon, oregano, cumin, salt and chili powder, if using; stir to combine. Bring to a boil. Skim the top of the pot to remove the foam.
- After 30 minutes, remove the peppers; place them in a blender. Add up to 1 cup of the broth to get a smooth consistency. Add the blended peppers into the broth; stir to combine.
- Cover; simmer about 3 hours, until the meat is tender and shreds easily. Once the meat is cooked, taste the broth and adjust the seasonings. Remove the meat from the broth; finely chop.
- Skim the grease from the broth. Pour the grease into a small saucepan.
- Dip the tortillas into the grease; heat them in a skillet over medium heat. Top the tortilla with the beef and cheese. Fold the tortilla with a spatula, pressing down to close it. Cook both sides until the taco is crisp.
- Variation:* Use the broth in a ramen cup. Cut up some cilantro, onions and radishes, for toppings.


Lasagna

- 1/2 lb. Italian sausage (or use all beef if you don't eat pork)**

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Lasagna

1/2 lb. lean ground beef
1 medium onion, diced
3 cloves garlic, minced
1 6-oz. can tomato paste
1 28-oz. can crushed tomatoes
1 15-oz. can tomato sauce
1 tsp. sugar
1 Tbsp. dried Italian seasoning
 (Use fresh if you have it.)
2 tsp. salt (divided use)
1 Tbsp. basil
1 tsp. ground black pepper
 (divided use)
1 15-oz. container ricotta cheese
1 large egg, beaten
1 Tbsp. fresh parsley, chopped

12 lasagna noodles, fresh or oven ready
1/2 cup Parmesan or mozzarella
cheese, grated

1. Preheat the oven to 375 F.
2. Heat a large saucepan; add the sausage and beef. Cook, stirring occasionally. Add the onions and garlic; cook, stirring often, until tender.
3. Stir in the tomato paste; cook, stirring constantly. Stir in the crushed tomatoes; tomato sauce; sugar; Italian seasoning; 1 1/2 tsp. salt (or to taste); basil; and 3/4 tsp. black pepper (or to taste). Bring to a simmer, until slightly thickened, about 15 to 20 minutes.

4. In a medium bowl, stir together the ricotta; egg; parsley, 1/2 tsp. salt (or to taste); and 1/4 tsp. black pepper (or to taste). Set aside.

5. Bring a large pot of salted water to a boil over high heat; cook the lasagna noodles according to the package directions.

6. Lightly grease a 9x13-inch casserole dish with cooking spray. Spread 2 cups of the meat sauce in the bottom of the prepared dish. Layer 4 cooked noodles in an even layer. Spread half of the cheese filling in an even layer over the noodles. Repeat the layers; top with the remaining 4 noodles. Spread the remaining meat sauce in an even layer over the top of the noodles. Top with the grated cheese.

7. Cover with aluminum foil. Bake for 30 minutes. Uncover; continue baking until the cheese is melted. Let rest for 15 minutes before serving.

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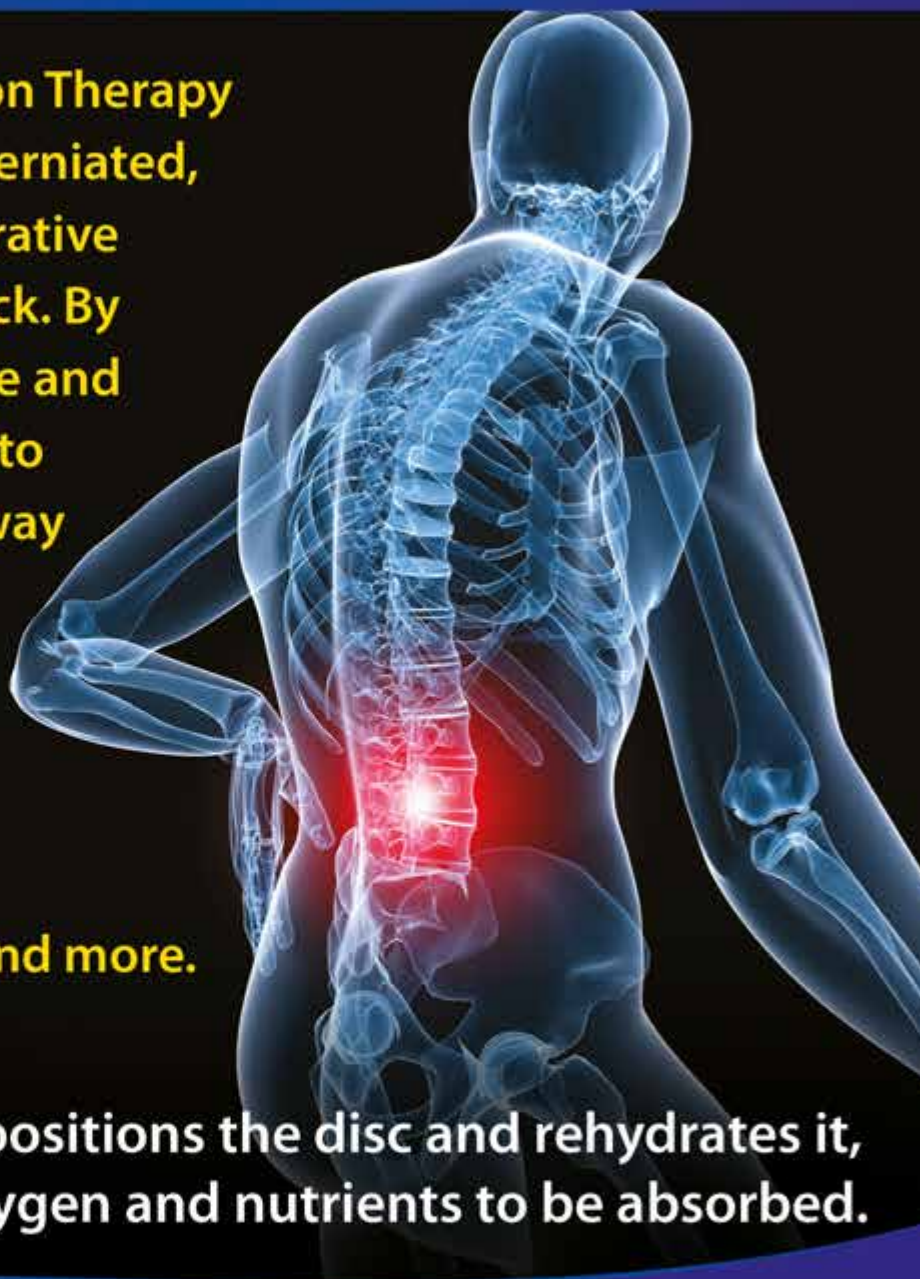
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TOP 5

Texas Travel Destinations

FOR 2024

— By Amber D. Browne

With New Year's resolutions still fresh on the minds of many, travel might top the list for 2024. The great state of Texas has an abundance of travel destinations across its nearly 269,000 square miles. From the Chisos Mountains of Big Bend National Park to the spring-fed Comal River in New Braunfels, The Lone Star State does not disappoint. Here are five great places to visit this year:

#1 Big Bend National Park

This national park has been fascinating visitors since 1944. The best time to visit Big Bend National Park is late fall through early spring, as the summer months are extremely hot. Guests can camp, hike the mountain trails, birdwatch, stargaze and simply enjoy time in nature.

#2 Space Center Houston

Space Center Houston offers more than 400 artifacts to explore. With rockets and a collection of spacesuits, hands-on experiences, historical films and live demonstrations, visitors can spend all day soaking up the fun. You can check out Mission Control and the Astronaut Training Facility by taking a NASA Tram Tour to NASA Johnson Space Center.

Don't forget to stop by the gift shop for some freeze-dried ice cream and other space-related merchandise. Check the Space Center Houston website to view a calendar of upcoming special events and ticket pricing.

#3 San Antonio River Walk

First envisioned by Robert H.H. Hugman in the early 1920s, the San Antonio River Walk provides visitors with ample opportunities to enjoy food and drink, shopping, nightlife and more. It was not until 1939 that construction crews broke ground on the river project with Hugman, otherwise known as the Father of the River Walk, serving as architect to develop the area for flood management and to increase tourism.

The 15-mile stretch of river now includes three main sections. The

Downtown area boasts restaurants, hotels, retail space and boat tours. Museum Reach just north of Downtown includes hotels, residences and a number of museums. The section south of Downtown, Mission Reach, is a woodland habitat that connects several UNESCO World Heritage-designated missions.

#4 Comal River in New Braunfels

The Comal River is considered the shortest river in Texas, at 2.5 miles, and stays a constant 70-72 degrees. When entering the river at Prince Solms Park, the first splash of cold water is a shock, but your body acclimates as you float on a tube toward the tube chute. If you choose to forgo the chute, you can walk around and return to floating down river through several small rapids.

Disposable items, such as sandwich baggies, cans and water bottles are no longer allowed on the river, so be sure to pack reusable containers for food and beverages. Wear a hat, sunglasses, sunscreen and, if necessary, grab a waterproof bag to store important belongings. Paid parking is available at the park, or you can catch a shuttle from one of the local tubing outfitters.



#5 Fort Worth Stockyards

The historic Fort Worth Stockyards has been a staple in North Texas since it was established in 1849 as an outpost for cattle drives along the Chisholm Trail. In recent years, more hotels were added to the area, and horse and mule barns underwent restorations to create Mule Alley.

New restaurant concepts and trendy shops add to some Stockyard staples — Billy Bob's for all of your honky-tonk needs and Cowtown Coliseum for an evening of rodeo. Visitors can ride a mechanical bull, take a ghost tour, taste some wines and catch one of the twice-daily cattle drives of the Fort Worth Herd. Paid parking is available if street spaces are occupied.

No matter your interests, Texas has much to offer. So, have fun exploring The Lone Star State! **NOW**

Sources:

1. nps.gov/bibe.
2. spacecenter.org.
3. thesanantonioriverwalk.com.
4. playinnewbraunfels.com.
5. fortworthstockyards.com.



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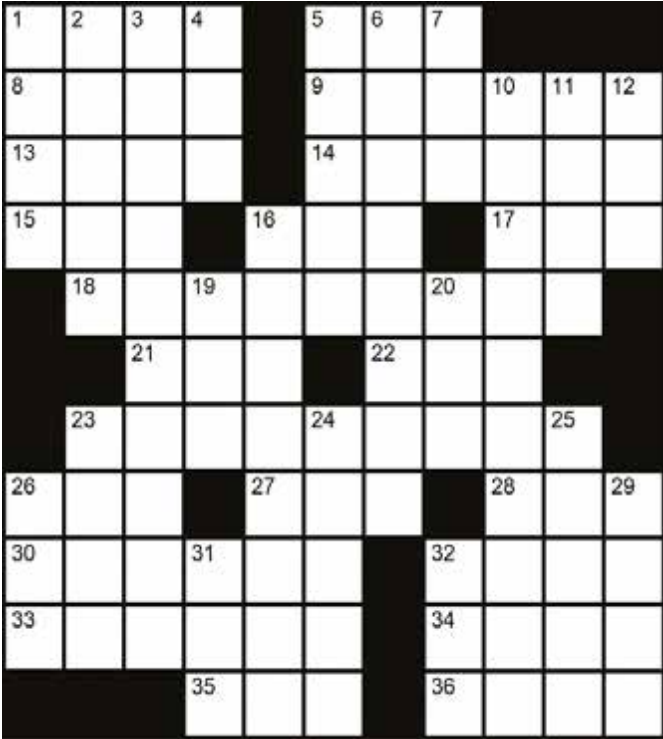
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5 Inlet
8 --- Lackawanna Railway
9 Blood poisoning
13 Day of jubilation
14 Some of the "Bounty" mutineers were found here
15 Feature film channel
16 Artillery angular measurement
17 Tennis call
18 Problem-solving code

Down

- 21 Unagi, at a sushi bar
22 Guide letters for "Homeland" channel
23 Very important
26 "Gentle" bear
27 Long-leaved lettuce
28 Heart chart
30 Handy
32 And others
33 Solidified lava
34 "A Bug's Life" Princess
35 Social competition
36 Every clarinet has one
1 Heave
2 Circus Maximus, for example
3 Tots smashed stolen tile
4 Shelter
5 Up and about
6 A-listers, not regular down to earth types
7 Dash info
10 Dark outline named after a French Minister
11 Separate article
12 Be in session
16 Atomic cluster
19 Special someone
20 Bardic "however"
23 High plateau
24 "Angel Has Fallen" actor Nick ---
25 Edible flatfish
26 Familiar address to a fella
29 More than willing
31 "Awesome!"
32 Vase handle

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				4		1		3
				2	5	7		
2	4		9				8	
				3		9		5
	8			7				
	6							2
4					8	6		
			4	5				

Medium

2				3			9	8
			9		5	7		
				1	4			
4		2						
6	3			8				
				9		3	5	
8					7	1		
	2	6						
							3	9

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Some events may have been cancelled or rescheduled while we were at press. Check with individual organizations or your city or Chamber websites to verify dates and times.

FEBRUARY

2/3

Daddy Daughter Dance:

A formal occasion where dads make their daughters' dreams come true. 6:30 p.m.,

DeSoto Civic Center,
211 E. Pleasant Run Rd.

See link at
<https://desototexas.gov/calendar.php> for tickets.

2/8

Charcuterie Board Making Party:

Learn how put together a culinary masterpiece. Free.

6:30-8:00 p.m.,

Sims Recreation Center,
310 E. Parkerville Rd.,
Cedar Hill.

2/10

The Lagoon

February Freeze:

Take the plunge to see if you're a real polar bear. Win free summer admission. \$15. 10:00 a.m.-noon, Virginia Weaver Park, 631 Somerset Dr., Cedar Hill.

Winter Wonderland

Daddy Daughter Dance:

Create memories with your princess. \$35/couple; \$15 each additional daughter. 6:00-9:00 p.m., Sims Recreation Center, 310 E. Parkerville Rd., Cedar Hill.

2/14

Ash Wednesday Service:

Free. 7:00 p.m., Trinity United

Methodist Church,
1302 S. Clark Rd.,
Duncanville.

2/15-2/17

The Holiday Channel Christmas Movie Wonderthon:

Cringe your way through all six Hallmark movie plots with your Valentine. See villagetechnschools.org for times and tickets. 602 W. Danieldale Rd., Duncanville.

2/16

Black History Month Performance:

Golden Voices Choir celebrates African-American music.

9:00-10:00 a.m., DeSoto Senior Center, 204 Lion St.

2/17

Daddy Daughter Dance:

6:00-9:00 p.m.,
Duncanville Rec Center,
201 James Collins Blvd.

2/22

State of the City:

Free, but must register to attend. 6:00-8:00 p.m., Sims Recreation Center, 310 E. Parkerville Rd., Cedar Hill.

Submissions are welcome and published as space allows. Send your current event details to adam.walker@nowmagazines.com.

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- ⚡ Numbness
- ⚡ Sharp pains from your back



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