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M A G A Z I N E

MARCH 2024



## Weather Aware

Kevin Crouch  
keeps an eye on  
Waxahachie skies

In the Kitchen With  
Nancy Bui

Also inside:

Scavenger Hunt

Crossword/Sudoku

Featured Business:  
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## Embracing Challenging Times

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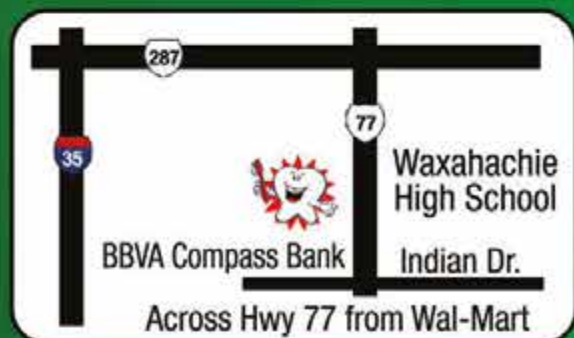
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Adam Walker  
WaxahachieNOW Editor  
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## EDITOR'S NOTE

*In like a lamb ...*

March has a reputation for extremes. And conventional wisdom claims that the weather will be nasty at one end or the other. Often that's true. But Texas weather is capricious all year long. Even in the summer, when you can depend on it being unrelentingly hot, you still have sudden storms of all varieties.

You never know when the weather 'round these parts is gonna "kick up its heels and git lively." That's why you should always have a plan for when extreme weather decides to crash your party. Know where your safe room is. Make sure your kids know. Make sure it stays accessible and remains well stocked with a flashlight, batteries, snacks and water. It's also a good place to store those documents you must keep safe.

March is fun, because it typically has some really nice days mixed in. Tulipalooza will bring some bright blooms and daylight saving time returns that usable hour of sunshine to the end of the day, where it's needed.

St. Patrick's Day is also this month. The luck of the Irish is well-known, but not always beneficial! And leprechauns are known tricksters. I mean who else hides a pot of gold at a location that doesn't even exist — then tells you all about it? Plan your parade route. Plan your menu. And plan to have your best green clothing laundered and ready to go. But be sure to have an extra hair clip to keep those deely boppers or that green bowler on your head. And make sure you have your escape route planned just in case Texas decides to throw a twister into the mix!

*Out like a lion?*

*The Hamilton*

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# WEATHER AWARE

— By Adam Walker

*Kevin Crouch has always been that guy who's fascinated by the weather. "I've been drawing tornadoes since age 6. I laminated a U.S. map, so I could use dry erase markers to make my own weather maps and called it the Ellis County Weather Center!"*

Kevin didn't stop there. A lot of childhood dreams fall by the wayside. Kevin made his real. "I started the Ellis County Weather Twitter page in October of 2015. People knew weather was my hobby, so any time there was a storm, I'd get messages asking, 'What do we do? There's severe weather.' I started the page, so I wouldn't have to answer the same text 20 times. When we had the December 26th tornadoes, the Twitter page was just inundated. That was the first big storm I covered. It really put me on the map. Two days later, I started the Facebook page."

Kevin started covering our weather because he noticed something that a lot of us have noticed — nobody else was doing it. "If you really look at North Central Texas, there are two media markets, DFW and Waco. Dallas looks north. Waco looks south. In between we have these four counties, Ellis, Johnson, Navarro and Hill, with no focus on them. I saw it as a no-man's-land. I had been successful focusing on Ellis County, so I decided to expand. What goes through Johnson and Hill counties usually ends up here. It was a natural fit."

So in March of last year, Kevin rebranded as South Metro Weather. "This whole adventure got so much bigger than I thought. My popularity is in response to necessity. It just evolved as more and more people tuned in. I try to make my content match what people need. People tell me, 'I don't watch the news anymore. I just watch your coverage. The demographics of my following are about 75 percent women, because they're the ones watching the weather, trying to keep their families safe, while their husbands are on the porch watching the storm. That's what men and women both tell me.'"

Kevin puts out a daily seven-day forecast, complete with historic records for the day. "Some people prefer to have their morning forecast in written form, while others prefer to get it as video, so I do it both ways."









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Then there are the days when the weather is popping. “I view going live as almost like breaking into a Cowboys game. It’s only for emergent, important severe weather events. That’s not always a tornado. I went live, from the field, to cover the front coming in when we had the big arctic plunge, but I usually reserve live coverage for when you really need to pay attention. People perceive that. If I go live too often, they will tune it out when a big event comes.”

That said, the next few months are likely to give Kevin plenty of reasons to go live. “March 1st is the beginning of meteorological spring, so when you’re reading this is a good time to prepare your safe space and make sure it’s ready, in case you need it. It should be on the lowest floor of your house, away from windows and outside walls. And if you don’t have a place like that in the place where you live, it’s time to make a plate of brownies and go meet the neighbors! Plan ahead.”

Texas weather is wild. Anyone who lives here knows that. “People ask me, ‘Why do we get all four seasons at the same time?’ Here in Texas, we’re in the perfect position for air masses going to battle all the time. You get cold, dry air from the Rockies and warm, dry air from New Mexico and wet air from the Gulf, and they all collide here. It’s everything, all the time. Texas is hard to predict, but it’s more so because there are so many factors in play. That last snow we had? That was lake effect snow! Our geographical position makes anything possible, because any combination of factors is possible.”







Kevin tries to keep it low-key and serious when he's talking about severe events, since he thinks it's wrong to exaggerate about the weather and play on people's legitimate fears about storms to get views, and that's in a media space that's addicted to hype and sensationalism. "People need an alternative with straight facts. I take severe weather seriously, but when things are calm, I can mix in some fun content."

The fun content can be planned, like funny videos about crazy Texas weather, or less planned and provided by the cats. "I love the 10-second commute across the hall to get to work in the morning, but the cats do get involved sometimes. One day, my wife was working full time, and we were having daytime severe weather. The baby woke up crying, so we had feeding time live on air! Another day, I was sick. My voice was completely gone. My wife has always been very supportive, but from behind the scenes. That day, she had to do the forecast. She got more views than me! Now people are asking when she's going to do it again!"

Kevin has become a bit of a local celebrity. He's in demand at local schools to speak to classes when they study the weather. "They all seem to get to that unit at the same time, so that's a busy time. I'm supposed to emcee the eclipse event at Railyard Park, but I might need a police escort just to get to that! I'm more than blessed by the support of the community, knowing I was able to help someone take cover from a tornado or ease their anxiety in a storm. I'm extremely fortunate." **NOW**

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# Embracing Challenging Times

— By Virginia Riddle



The numbers are staggering predictors of what's to come:

- The first of the Baby Boomers celebrate their 78th birthday in 2024.
- By 2030, the elderly population in the U.S. will double due to the remaining Boomers aging.
- Caregivers often pass away before the person for whom they're caring due to increased stress — physically, mentally and emotionally.

Family members are stepping up to the plate to help, and in some cases, making monumental sacrifices by moving or by helping their elderly loved ones financially. The stress level can be overwhelming, so here are a few tips on how to better embrace these times.

1. *Learn and educate.* Talk to your loved one's doctors. Make appointments and be there. Keep searching for answers. Google is a friend, as are other caregivers whose elderly loved ones have similar impairments. Share your knowledge with other family members, friends or neighbors who might be helping.
2. *Develop empathy.* This one is sometimes hard, because as a caregiver, you are going through so many changes yourself. However, understand it's difficult for your loved one to not be able to do what he or she has always done independently.
3. *Be creative in handling resistance.* Establishing necessary rules, schedules and taking over finances for a loved one can be challenging when met with resistance and an uncooperative attitude. Choose your battles. No shower today? OK, let's settle for a sponge bath instead.
4. *Get trained.* Hands-on caregiving often requires medical training, such as monitoring diabetes and measuring and

- giving the right amount of insulin at the right times. Learn from a medical professional what you can do and not do, and practice under guidance until the skill(s) are automatic.
5. *Carry supplies.* Have a list of all medications, allergies, medical conditions, doctors' names and contact information. Carry medications, a complete change of clothing, hygiene products and appropriate snacks and drinks.
  6. *Change expectations.* A loved one can have a good day, a bad day or can improve with therapy or take a dark downward dive, health-wise, overnight. Cherish the good days, but be prepared to adjust plans during those days that offer more challenges.
  7. *Head off crises.* Keep medical appointments, and seek help when there's any change in your loved one's medical, social or financial situation. Build a support group of family, friends, neighbors and faith communities. Learn what community resources are available in your area.
  8. *Don't give up.* Evaluate what's working and what's not. Make changes. Get second opinions. Remember, doctors "practice" and give "opinions."
  9. *Find expert help you trust.* Build a team of medical professionals. Arrange, if finances allow, for housekeeping, a handyman and lawn services. Don't try to do everything yourself. If possible, order groceries and other goods online for delivery to the home.

These tips for caregivers' self-care through this time are most important:

1. *There are limits.* You can only do so much. Don't feel guilty, grief stricken or distrust your abilities or instincts. Ask for help when needed.
2. *Share the moments.* Learn to appreciate the family and





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life stories your loved one cherishes. Record the stories to share with other family members. Peruse scrapbooks. Don't regret later that your family history is full of questions that will never have answers after your loved one is gone.

3. *Live your life.* Take advantage of respite care and vacation, socialize, exercise, have hobbies, attend important family functions, etc. Respite care is available in most care facilities, and churches and communities have activities for senior citizens. Take those moments for yourself.

4. *This, too, shall pass.* You've done your job. Your loved one has passed on knowing they were loved, or they are receiving more advanced care through a nursing home or hospice. Acknowledge proudly that you've performed one of the hardest jobs successfully. **NOW**

#### Sources:

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2. Owens, Virginia Stem. *Caring for Mother*. 2007, Westminster John Knox Press, Louisville, Kentucky.
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Zoomed In:  
Alayna Vargas

By Adam Walker

Alayna Vargas was all smiles as she was out shopping with her family and her newest friend, just moments after their first meeting. “We just got him, like *just* got him. I haven’t picked out a name yet,” she admitted, as she protectively clutched and stroked her unnamed furry treasure.

This little guinea pig has certainly won the lottery, judging by the affection it received as it snuggled in for safety and warmth in the check-out lane. The fuzzy little taupe and white bundle seemed content with all the attention from his new family, and from store employees and other shoppers. No doubt he’ll have all the love and food a guinea pig could desire at his new home.



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Kaylee Holden, Brylee Freudiger and Randy Garris enjoy a bright spring day at Getzendaner Park.



Ramey Gaston, Dennis Smith and Kendall Murry of Hamilton at Garden Valley welcome the Ellis County Art Association with new gallery space.



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BusinessNOW

# Ennis Glass, LLC

— By Adam Walker

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Commercial: mikevasquez@ennisglass.com  
Instagram & TikTok: @EnnisGlass  
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**Hours:** Monday-Friday: 8:00 a.m.-5:00 p.m.

Ennis Glass has been serving customers in Ellis County and beyond for 35 years. “My grandpa, Ray Vasquez, founded the company in 1986,” Marketing and Media Manager Noah Vasquez reported. “He’s semiretired, and my father and uncle, Chris and Mike Vasquez, run the company now. Chris runs the residential side, and Mike runs the commercial side. My aunts, Adrienne and Jessica, also work for the company. I joined the company after I finished college. We have over 30 employees.”



Ennis Glass provides professional service to both residential and commercial clients. “For residential customers, we install a lot of shower enclosures,” Noah said. “We do frameless, all-glass shower enclosures where the glass panels are held together and joined to the walls with metal clips. Framed shower enclosures typically go around a bathtub and often have sliding doors framed in aluminum. We make a lot of mirrors — from those mounted over the bathroom sink to entire mirrored walls for dance studios. We also replace windows, sliding glass doors and glass table tops.” Glass sunrooms are another reason a homeowner might need their services.

On the commercial side, Ennis Glass installs commercial store fronts and glass curtain walls. They’ve handled many big projects in the area. “Greenhill Private School in Addison was a \$2.6 million project,” Noah said. “We’ve done an elementary school, middle school and CTE high school in Roys City. We’re currently working on the H-E-B remodel



here in Waxahachie. But we do a lot of smaller projects, too. We replaced the windows in Avalon ISD's buses, and we've even replaced windows in travel trailers a few times. We have our own fabrication shop in Dallas, so we can make whatever is needed for your project."

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"We are very involved in the community. We're starting an annual charity golf event to raise funds for St. Jude Children's Hospital. My grandpa used to go there to visit the kids and did different fundraisers for them," Noah shared. "We work with Boys & Girls Clubs and Judge Fite's charity to help people after fires or natural disasters destroy their homes. We are also involved in Ennis' Bluebonnet Festival and Polka Festival. We're longtime supporters of the Ennis Education Foundation and plan to do something with the Waxahachie Education Foundation next year. Of course, we support Lions football through 106.9 FM The Ranch, but we also support many of the smaller sports at Palmer ISD, like track and field and others, by buying pizza for their athletes. We're just getting our feet wet with charitable work in the community."

In addition to their care for the community at large, they care for their customers. Ennis Glass is proud to stand by their work. "Our warranty is really good. We say a job isn't done until you're satisfied. We live and die by that. We stick to our word. If we did something wrong, we'll send a crew out to fix it. In fact, there was one lady we replaced a shower door for, years ago. Then two years ago, she called to say, 'My door sweep is worn down!' We went and replaced it. That's the kind of service you get with us." **NOW**



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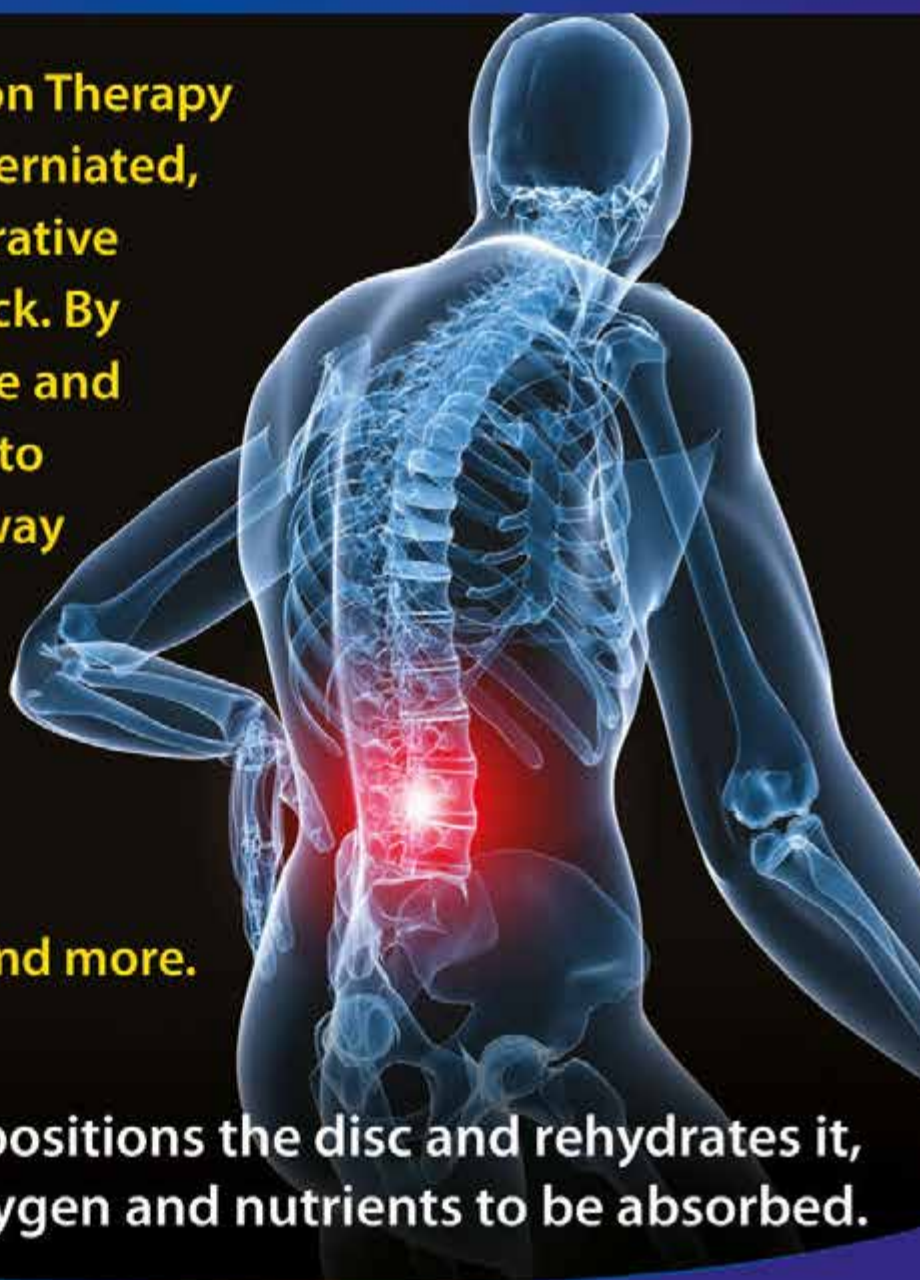
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A woman with long dark hair, wearing a black long-sleeved shirt and a red apron with white polka dots, stands behind a granite countertop. She is smiling at the camera. On the counter in front of her are two white bowls filled with Vietnamese Pho soup, topped with sliced red chilies, green onions, and fresh herbs. The background shows a kitchen with dark wooden cabinets and a stainless steel microwave.

# CookingNOW *In the Kitchen With* NANCY BUI

— By Adam Walker

Nancy Bui was born in Saigon, Vietnam, and moved to Texas when she was 5. “Although I was raised in the USA, my parents always taught me about the Vietnamese culture and food. They made a lot of Vietnamese food, so I grew up loving it. Now, I’m doing that for my kids, as well. My grandma came to visit from Vietnam when I was 13, and I loved to watch her cook. She taught me how to make her delicious fish sauce.

“I love to teach others to cook! Six years ago, I spent two months in Saigon and took a cooking class to learn more about Vietnamese cuisine and culture. When I returned to the States, I incorporated my own spin on what I learned.” **NOW**

## Quick and Easy Phở

1 large yellow onion, quartered  
2 2-inch pieces fresh ginger, peeled and halved lengthwise  
6 cups chicken, beef or vegetable broth  
4 cups water  
1 1/2 Tbsp. fish sauce (or to taste)  
6 Tbsp. sugar

1 10-oz. jar Quốc Việt Foods chicken or beef phở soup base  
1 whole chicken or 2 lbs. beef (raw flank, cooked chuck or brisket)  
1 bag dried vermicelli phở noodles  
1 bunch fresh cilantro, chopped  
1 bunch Thai basil leaves, chopped  
4 green onions, chopped  
1-2 cups fresh bean sprouts

2 limes, cut into wedges

1 fresh jalapeño pepper or red Thai chili pepper, sliced

Sriracha hot sauce, for dipping

Hoisin sauce, for dipping

1. Place the onion quarters and ginger pieces in an air fryer on 350 F for 7-10 minutes until brown.
2. In a large pot, add the broth, water, onion and ginger, fish sauce, sugar and phở soup base; let simmer for 30 minutes.
3. Meanwhile, in a separate pot of boiling water, blanch the meat; rinse and place it in the soup base.
4. Simmer for 45-60 minutes, or until the meat is cooked. Remove the meat; slice it thinly.
5. Prepare the noodles according to the package instructions. Once soft, drain, rinse and set aside.
6. Place the remaining ingredients in individual small bowls for garnishing or dipping.



7. Divide the noodles among bowls; ladle the broth and meat on top. Add desired toppings.

**Vietnamese Spring Rolls**

- 1/2 lb. pork belly
- 1 medium onion, halved
- 1/2 tsp. salt (divided use)
- 1 tsp. sugar
- 1/2 lb. shrimp
- 1/3 pack dried rice noodles
- 1/2 pack dried spring roll wrappers (rice paper)
- 1 head lettuce, separated into leaves
- 1/2 bunch mint
- 1/2 bunch chives
- 2 Tbsp. minced garlic
- 2 Tbsp. oil
- 2 Tbsp. hoisin sauce
- 2-3 Tbsp. peanut butter
- 1/2 cup water
- Crushed peanuts (optional)
- Chili paste (optional)

1. Add the pork, onions, 1/4 tsp. salt and sugar to a small pot; add enough water to cover about 1 inch above the pork. Bring to a boil on high heat; then lower to medium and cook for about 15-25 minutes, or until the pork is fully cooked. Let cool; slice the pork as thinly as you can. This makes it easier to roll.
2. Add the shrimp, remaining salt, and water to a small pot. Boil on medium heat for about 2-3 minutes, or until the shrimp is cooked. Drain; run under cold water to stop the cooking process. Remove the shells and tails; cut in half along the body.
3. Cook the rice noodles according to the package instructions.
4. Add warm water to a bowl; soak a rice paper sheet for about 3-5 seconds, lay rice paper on a plate and begin to assemble. Add lettuce, mint, chives, rice noodles, shrimp and pork belly onto the rice paper. Fold the left and right sides toward the middle, so that it's snug. Continue to roll upwards to complete the spring roll. Repeat with remaining ingredients.
5. In a pan over medium heat, sauté the garlic in the oil. Add the hoisin sauce, peanut butter and water; mix thoroughly. Bring to a boil. Immediately turn off the heat; pour into a heat safe dipping bowl. Add the peanuts and chili, if desired.

**Shaking Beef (Bò Lúc Lắc)**

- 1 lb. steak, cubed
- 1 Tbsp. oyster sauce
- 1/2 Tbsp. soy sauce
- 1/2 tsp. dark soy sauce
- 1/2 Tbsp. fish sauce
- 1 tsp. sugar
- 1/2 tsp. black pepper



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Quick and Easy Phở

- 1 big clove garlic, chopped**
- 2 tsp. cooking oil, plus more for coating**
- 2 bell peppers, julienned**
- 1 pkg. cherry tomatoes**

**1.** In a mixing bowl, combine the beef, oyster sauce, soy sauces, fish sauce, sugar, black pepper and chopped garlic; marinate for 25-30 minutes. Add a little cooking oil; toss to coat.

**2.** Heat a large skillet over medium heat until very hot, add 2 tsp. oil; add the beef cubes in one layer, so that they are not touching each other. Sear without moving until the bottom side is well browned (2-5

minutes). Add the bell peppers, stir until tender, about 1 minute. Add the tomatoes; stir for about 30-40 seconds.  
**3.** Cook the beef to desired doneness. Serve solo or over white rice.

## Vietnamese Fried Rice

- 3 Tbsp. cooking oil**
- 10-12 medium sized shrimp, peeled, deveined and chopped**
- 1 small yellow onion, chopped**
- 3-4 garlic cloves, minced**
- 3 Chinese sausages**
- 2 cups frozen peas and carrots**

- 7 cups cold, leftover white rice**
- 1/2 Tbsp. salt**
- 1/2 Tbsp. sugar**
- 1/2 Tbsp. chicken powder**
- 1/2 Tbsp. white pepper**
- 5 eggs**

- 1.** Heat a large skillet over medium heat; add the cooking oil. Add the shrimp, stirring 1-2 minutes, or until cooked through; remove and set aside.
- 2.** Add the onions and garlic; cook for 1 minute. Add the Chinese sausages; cook for about 3-4 minutes.
- 3.** Add the vegetables; cook for 3-4 minutes. Add the rice; mix with the vegetables. Continue mixing the rice until it is broken up with no lumps.
- 4.** Add the shrimp back in; season with salt, sugar, chicken powder and white pepper. Push the rice to one side; add the eggs. Stir them until they are cooked. Mix all the ingredients together.

To search for more great recipes from any of the 9 NOW Magazines publications, visit [www.nowmagazines.com](http://www.nowmagazines.com).



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# MORE THAN A CROSS

— By Bill Smith

*Travel Interstate 40 east from Amarillo, and in just about 45 minutes, a tall beacon will appear on the south side of the highway. You have been driving along what has been known as “The Mother Road” — or the iconic Route 66. There are a lot of things to see along the way — some historical, some quirky and some inspiring. Without a doubt, The Cross at Groom falls into the inspiring category.*

Route 66 met the fate of becoming a decommissioned highway as recently as 1985, and the route was largely overlaid by Interstate 40 across the Texas Panhandle and beyond. Though many of the towns along the way have turnouts from the highway where you can still travel on the road with the Route 66 designation, a desire to reach destinations with the most expedience tends to make drivers bypass the two-lane routes through the small towns in favor of the interstate. Travel guides for the Route 66 trip still exist, and most of them will mention pulling off the highway at Groom.



The reason the cross stands out so prominently to the passing motorist is the notoriously flat terrain across this part of the Panhandle, as well as the magnificent height of the cross, upwards of 19 stories. Made of steel, the cross weighs 2.5 million pounds, took eight months to build and required the work of more than 100 welders. It was erected in 1995 and is visible for 20 miles.

As significant as the huge cross is, it is only the beginning of the attraction if you take the exit from the big highway. The formal name of the exhibition is The Cross of Our Lord Jesus Christ Ministries. The official website has the mission statement, which reads in part: “Our mission is to serve people from all walks of life by creating an environment that is filled with peace, compassion and spiritual direction. We believe in cherishing and strengthening the institution of the family, which we feel is a vital part for establishing a culture that flourishes.”

The exhibit welcomes more than 1,000 visitors per day, and while that sounds like a lot, the parking area is large enough for a significant number of cars and can accommodate large RVs. The outside exhibits are spaced well apart, and the interior gift shop and exhibits are more than adequate for the traffic. The numerous bronze sculptures depict the stations of the cross — that is, the events leading to the crucifixion of Jesus Christ — and continue with an exhibit of the empty tomb, celebrating His resurrection. Each





station is accompanied by Scripture that explains the sculpture.

At the top of the steps that represent the climb up Golgotha's Hill are three crosses with bronzes representing the scene of the crucifixion. Another large, yet unfinished, sculpture represents the Last Supper.

The Cross at Groom is obviously more than a place to take a break from your drive down the highway. It's a place to pause — a place of spiritual reflection. The exhibits are extremely well done, creating an unforgettable destination. There is no cost to view the exhibit, and it is available for viewing 24 hours daily. **NOW**

#### Sources:

1. <https://www.audleytravel.com/us/usa/country-guides/route-66>.
2. <https://www.roadsideamerica.com/story/12568>.
3. <https://crossministries.net>.

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# Natural Treasure

— By Virginia Riddle



*While walking the trails in national forests and state parks, one experiences the natural state of composting as fallen leaves turn dark and gradually disappear to become fertile soil. Mother Nature understands the need for decay and rot, as do gardeners who value composting to speed up this organic process and give back to the land its needed nourishment.*

Beginning successful composting requires very little:

- A willingness to experiment.
- A basic understanding of the natural process of decay and rot.
- A little effort to build a compost heap.
- Acceptance that mistakes will be made, but usable compost can still be achieved.

## **Choose and Create a Composting System.**

1. Build an outdoor pile or dig a trench.
2. Purchase a bin or box or build one from untreated lumber, wire, square bales of hay or cement blocks.
3. Purchase a composting tumbler or a covered circular black plastic garbage can.
4. Dig honey holes or catholes near or in gardens.
5. Layer leaves/winter debris into existing fall gardens.

All the above systems have pros and cons depending on time, monetary expense and space requirements. However, these systems work well using the composting materials and methods that are discussed next.

## **Start Collecting Compost Materials.**

The material possibilities are endless in composting, even if a composter is a city dweller living in an apartment.

1. Kitchen edibles — Instead of throwing away the leftover parts of a salad into the disposal or trash, toss them into a cute cookie jar or crock kept on the counter or in the refrigerator. Add them to the compost heap after the meal. Coffee grinds, tea bags and scraps of all kinds, except those including sugar, fats and meats can be used. These materials usually fall into the green category of materials.

2. Tree/wood debris — Fallen leaves, frost-killed plants, pine needles, sawdust, wood chips, hay, small sticks and black print/white newspaper and unwaxed/plain cardboard are materials usually considered to be in the brown (carbon-rich) category of materials.

3. “Gutter goo” — Cleaning out home gutters provides already composting materials. Add this brown material to the compost heap or directly into the gardens below the gutters.

4. Grass clippings and hay — Only use these if they are free of weeds and chemicals.

5. Animal manure — Manure from hooved grass/hay-eating animals, poultry and rabbits can be used along with feather, bone, fish and blood meals. Do not use any manure from meat-eating animals.

## **The Great Debate — Hot or Cold Compost?**

Heat is required for the breakdown of the materials, but the question is . . . How much heat is good? Hot composting, especially in summer temperatures, kills weed seeds and unwanted pathogens, and results are achieved quickly. Cold composting requires lower heat in which added earthworms and microorganisms aren’t harmed, and it requires less turning. To turn a cold heap to hot, add already composted materials or nitrogen-rich activators, such as rabbit feed, dog food or chicken crumbles.

## **Turning or Burying the Compost.**

If one is using any of the above ground methods of composting, turning the decaying compost with a rake, hoe or pitchfork every few days is essential. Turning prevents overheating, which destroys beneficial microorganisms and





helps mix all materials. Water the composting materials, keeping the moisture at a relatively constant level throughout the process. An advantage of the circular tumbler or round plastic garbage can is that they can be rolled instead of having to turn their contents.

Dig a 20x30x24-inch honey hole near or between gardens, or dig small catholes in gardens to add kitchen edibles. Always keep them covered with topsoil or a rock/brick to keep flying insects and dogs from swarming or digging into the holes.

#### A Word of Caution.

Bacteria and fungi spores that develop naturally in compost can be harmful, especially to anyone who is immune compromised. Always use gloves when handling compost and wash hands well when finished.

#### Stop and Enjoy the Results.

It should take at least six months to two years for complete fermentation to occur depending on the temperatures and moisture maintained. Finished compost is dark and crumbly and should smell sweet and earthy. **NOW**

#### Sources:

1. *Complete Compost Gardening Guide*. Pleasant, Barbara and Martin, Deborah L., Storey Publishing, North Adams, Maine, 2008.
2. *Let It Rot!* Campbell, Stu. Storey Publishing, North Adams, Maine, 1998.



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Dr. Allala is a graduate of the Texas A&M School of Dentistry. "When I started there, it was still Baylor. My diploma has both names on it," she recalled. "I specialize in oral surgery, and we're really good at it. I'm nothing without my team. We do everything in dentistry. I like being well rounded. I enjoy being an overachiever, so I'm constantly taking continuing education, keeping up with all the

newest techniques and technology. I'm also a native Spanish speaker. I grew up speaking both languages. Our YouTube videos explaining procedures are available in both English and Spanish."

Dr. Allala is proud of the service they provide at Serenity Advanced Dentistry. "I think we give five-star service. And I know my staff is five-star. We know what works and what doesn't. I know it sounds corny, but this is my life's work. Most of my staff have been with me for years, at different locations around DFW, before I came to Cedar Hill. I met Mariela seven years ago, in Pleasant Grove. It was my first job out of school. Racine has been with me four years, and Jazmine three years, both in Red Oak. Our newest team member is Jessica. She found us three months ago when she emailed me looking for an opportunity to shadow a dentist."

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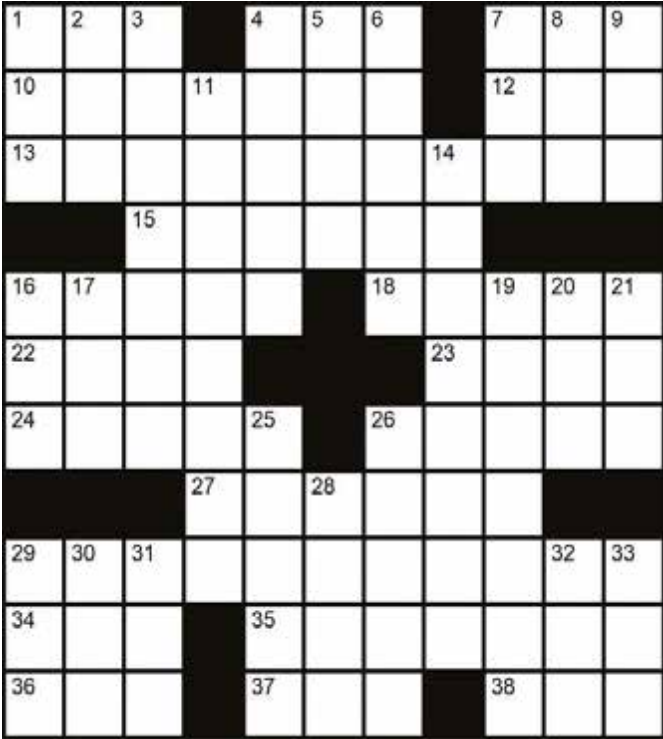


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# Crossword Puzzle



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- Across**

  - 1 Dad, in the boonies
  - 4 TV forensic drama
  - 7 Chinese life force
  - 10 Made self-conscious
  - 12 Strike lightly
  - 13 Competitor
  - 15 Hawk or eagle for example
  - 16 Often split in argument
  - 18 Oklahomans originally from the Midwest
  - 22 Jogger's companion, often
  - 23 Family
  - 24 Blood fluid
  - 26 They're outstanding
  - 27 NASA to shake up composition
  - 29 Concert Ivan arranged for a dodge
  - 34 Arrest
  - 35 Mad Goneril's show with no men and a solitary actor
  - 36 Presidential advisory group created under HST
  - 37 No way, old-style
  - 38 Opposite to 37 Across
- Down**

  - 1 Baby food
  - 2 Lawyers' group
  - 3 Golden State cager
  - 4 Poker pile
  - 5 Religious splinter
  - 6 "Walls have ears" or "in the soup"
  - 7 Bean counter
  - 8 Chinese dynasty of Christ's time
  - 9 "Addams Family" cousin
  - 11 Hoagy Carmichael standard
  - 14 Cause of sticker shock
  - 16 "--- Dark Materials" (Philip Pullman)
  - 17 Take off
  - 19 Its capital is Tirana
  - 20 Floor covering
  - 21 Connections
  - 25 Doofus
  - 26 Goliath's master of old TV
  - 28 Simone of jazz
  - 29 "The Situation Room" station
  - 30 It replaced the Pan-American Union
  - 31 "Superstore" network
  - 32 "--- 'Havoc!' ---" (Shakespeare, "Julius Caesar")
  - 33 Catastrophic occurrence

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# Sudoku Puzzle

Easy

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

Medium

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

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# Happy St. Patrick's Day



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.

## MARCH

### 3/2

#### **Easter Egg Hunt:**

Sims Library hosts this annual event for ages 0-12. Free. 10:30 a.m., 515 W. Main.

#### **Cliburn Pianist Daniel Hsu:**

The Waxahachie Symphony Association presents this world class talent. \$20; \$8 students; \$5 under-18. 7:00 p.m., Hagee Center, 2000 Sycamore St.

### 3/8-3/17

#### **Tulipalooza:**

See thousands of blooms and support local charities. Adults: \$15; children: \$5; under-5: free. 10:00 a.m.-7:00 p.m., Getzendaner Park, 400 S. Grand Ave.

### 3/12

#### **Railyard Park Storytime:**

Join Sims Library staff for an outdoor story time. Free. 10:00-11:00 a.m., Railyard Park, 455 S. College St.

### 3/13

#### **Creature Teacher:**

Bring the kids to learn about cool animals. Free. 8:00-9:00 a.m., Chautauqua Auditorium, Getzendaner Park, 400 S. Grand Ave.

### 3/14

#### **Pi Day Bracelets**

#### **and Bookmarks:**

Make crafts using a color wheel tuned to the digits of pi. Free. 11:00 a.m.-noon, Sims Library, 515 W. Main.

### 3/15

#### **Legal Aid Legal Clinic:**

Learn what you need to know. Free. 10:00 a.m.-noon, Sims Library, 515 W. Main.

### 3/21-3/30

#### **Ellis County Livestock Show and Rodeo:**

Ellis County Expo Center, 2300 West Hwy. 287 Bypass. For events and times, visit the website, <https://www.ecyexpo.com/p/events/ellis-county-youth-livestock-show>.

### 3/22-3/23

#### **Old Fashioned Singing:**

Relive the songs and hymns of tent meetings and brush arbors. \$15. **Friday:** 7:00 p.m.; **Saturday:** 2:00 p.m., Chautauqua Auditorium, Getzendaner Park, 400 S. Grand Ave.

### 3/23

#### **Lawn and Garden Expo:**

Join the Ellis County Master Gardener Association in learning about growing a great garden. \$5; under-12: free. 9:00 a.m.-4:00 p.m., Waxahachie Civic Center, 2000 Civic Center Ln.

#### **VFW Easter Egg Hunt:**

There will be games, cotton candy and lunch and the hunt for ages 1-10. 11:00 a.m.-2:00 p.m., VFW Post 3894, 1405 I-35 E.

### 3/29

#### **Flashlight Egg Hunt:**

Food, games and inflatables for ages 0-12. Free. 6:30 p.m., FaithPointe Church, 908 Sycamore St.

### 3/30

#### **Bunny Stroll:**

Shop Downtown Waxahachie, and get your picture with the Easter Bunny.

### 3/31

#### **Waxahachie Bible Church**

#### **Sunrise Easter Service:**

7:00-9:00 a.m., Railyard Park, 455 S. College Street.

### Wednesdays

#### **Write On!:**

Work on your novel, short story or poetry. Free. 3:00-4:00 p.m., Sims Library, 515 W. Main St.

#### **Coding Club:**

Learn to make websites, video games and apps. Free. 4:30-5:30 p.m., Sims Library, 515 W. Main St.

### Second Fridays

#### **Homeschool Hangout:**

Enjoy hanging with friends. Free. 2:00-3:00 p.m., Sims Library, 515 W. Main St.

#### **Chess Club:**

All ages and skill levels welcome. Free. 4:30-5:30 p.m., Sims Library, 515 W. Main St.

### Fourth Saturdays

#### **Sons of the**

#### **American Revolution:**

Men, come explore your patriot roots. Open to non-members. 9:00 a.m., Sims Library, 515 W. Main St. This is before the library is open, so ring the doorbell to be let in.

### Last Sundays

#### **Literary Ladies:**

Discuss books and make friends. Free. 3:00 p.m., Paper Leaves Shop, 510 Water St.

*Submissions are welcome and published as space allows. Send your current event details to [adam.walker@nowmagazines.com](mailto:adam.walker@nowmagazines.com).*





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