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APRIL 2024

Soarin' Over Texas

Track Monarch migrations and
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In the Kitchen With
Debra Clayton

Managing Changes

Michael Scott oversees
city services in the
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Scavenger Hunt

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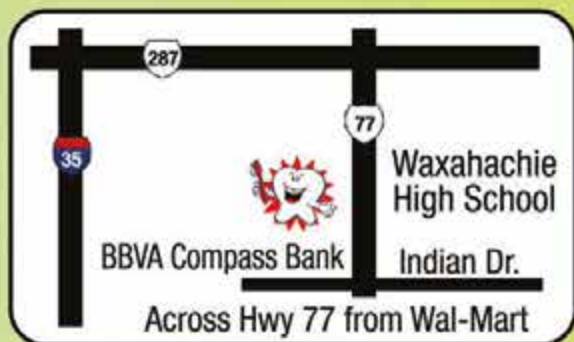
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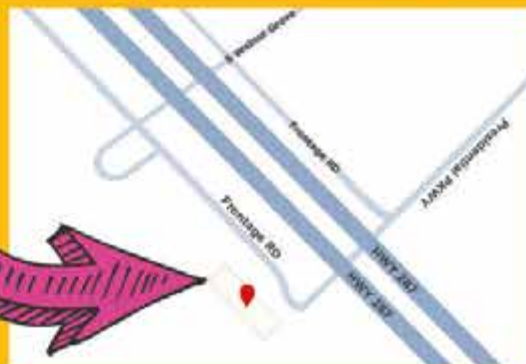
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ON THE COVER



City Manager Michael Scott oversees Waxahachie's success.

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Subscriptions are available at the rate of \$35 per year or \$3.50 per issue. Subscriptions should be sent to: NOW Magazines, P.O. Box 1071, Waxahachie, TX 75168. For advertising rates or editorial correspondence, call (972) 937-8447 or visit www.nowmagazines.com.

EDITOR'S NOTE



Adam

Adam Walker
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I like to eat ...

Most of us do. The DFW Metroplex has the highest density of restaurants, per capita, in the United States. At least that's what I've heard. Restaurants offer all kinds of options for enjoying a meal, and our busy lifestyles don't always leave us time and energy for better options, like eating at home.

I love to cook. I like to try new things. I've made bread a time or two. I like to cook foods I enjoyed while living in Taiwan. I recently baked my first lasagna, which was a hit. I made moussaka once, but no one else would try it, because it has eggplant, so I had to attempt to eat the whole pan by myself!

Apparently, a lot of you like to eat, too. Because when I'm out in the community representing *WaxahachieNOW*, "In the Kitchen With..." is the feature you comment on most often. But it's hard to find people willing to be interviewed for the feature. I think some people have gotten the wrong idea that you need to be some kind of professional, but that's just not true. Family cooks know what other family cooks need to feed their families. Beginning cooks know easy recipes other beginning cooks can try with confidence. People living with special dietary needs know what other people with the same issue can and can't eat.

I know some of you can make meatloaf just like your mother made. And some of you know how to grill the perfect steak. Some of you have a cookie recipe you take to every gathering. Then there are those who can burn like nobody's business.

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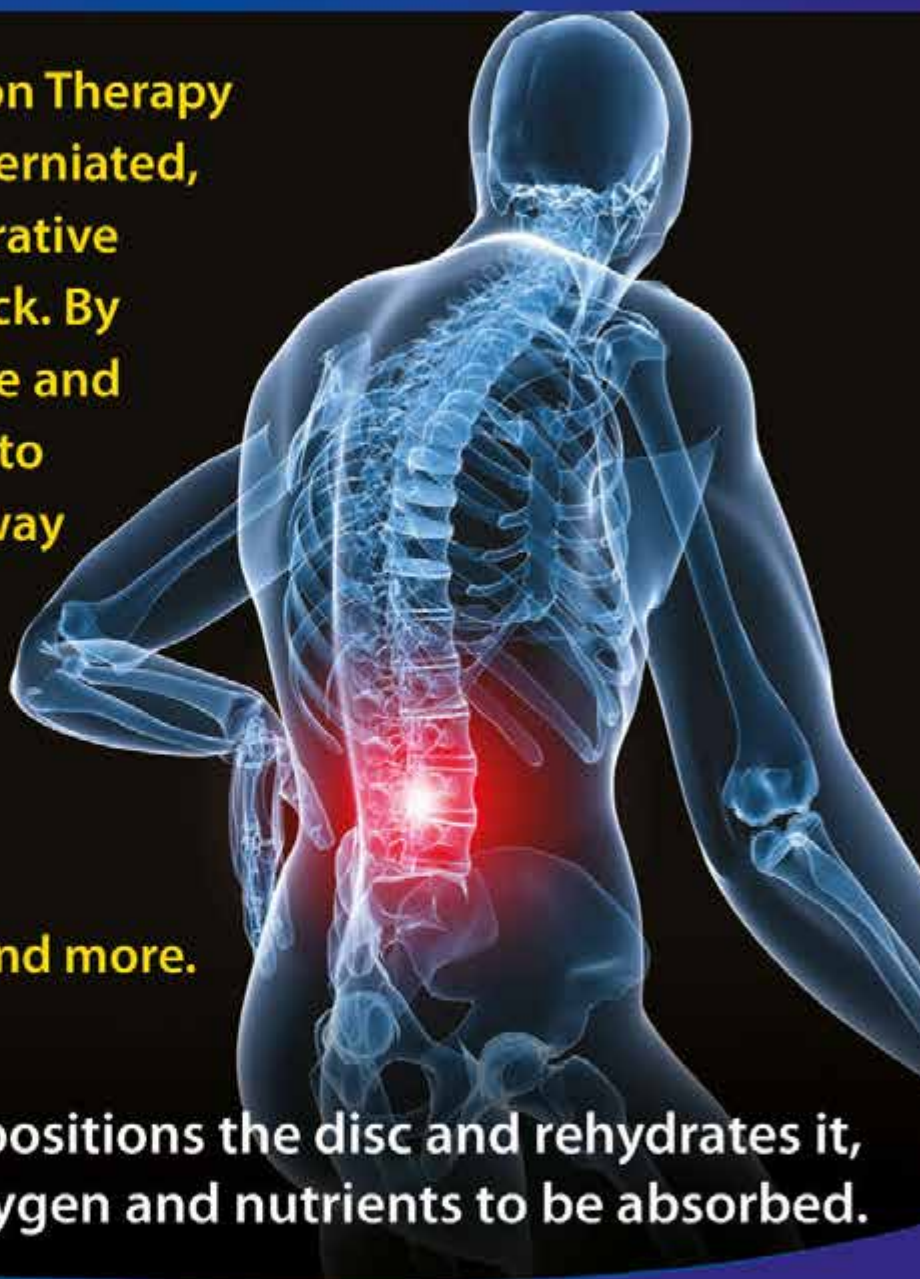
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MANAGING CHANGES

Michael Scott has been the city manager for Waxahachie for seven years. “I started in September of 2017. The city manager works for the City Council. They focus on the politics. I focus on running the daily business of the city. Public safety, emergency management and finance are all my responsibility,” he said.

— By Adam Walker

City manager is one of those positions that sounds important, but many people may not have a very good idea of what the position entails. “The City Council directly hires the city manager, the city secretary, the city attorney and the municipal judge. As the city manager, 20 departments with 420 employees either directly or indirectly report to me. The City Council passes laws and ordinances and approves a budget. I present suggestions to them that they either adopt or don’t adopt. Then it’s up to me and my departments to carry them out. Developers like coming to Waxahachie because they know it’s a politically stable place. They know the rules won’t change after every election.”

“As the city manager, 20 departments with 420 employees either directly or indirectly report to me.”



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That means Michael is directly or indirectly in charge of a great many departments that just moved across the street from where they used to be. “Almost all of the city functions are now in the Charles Beatty Municipal Services Building.” That’s the big new building directly across the street from the old City Hall. “The City Hall building was built in 1911, as the post office. It was expanded in the 1950s, and another big addition was added in the 2000s. In that building, my office didn’t even have its own light switch! The city has grown so much, and as the staff grew, we were looking for space to put the people.” Anyone who had to climb those narrow stairs from the 1910s to one of the attic offices knows how far the city had outgrown that space.

“This space used to be occupied by two lumber yards,” Michael explained. “We want to be good stewards of the city’s tax money, but we needed a new building. The Historic Commission agreed to our proposal to build here. Once this building was finished, the plan was to move most of the departments in here while City Hall was remodeled. But as soon as we got into it, we learned the water issues in City Hall were worse than anyone realized, and the worst problems were in the newest section of the building. There were serious structural issues caused by water infiltration. To rehabilitate the old building, we’re going to have to demolish the 2000s section in the next two to three months, but the 1911 and 1950s sections will be fully rehabilitated. There will be new council chambers and a new separate space for the municipal court. We thought we’d be out of the City Hall building for about a year. Now we realize it will be at least 18 months.



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“All the city services that were previously in City Hall are now in the Beatty Building. The City Council and the municipal court are now meeting at the Civic Center, but if you need to pay a fine to the court, that’s here. This is also where you pay your water bill. We don’t have a drive-thru right now, and there’s no night window. When we moved over here, we thought it would be short term and not worth the expense of putting those in because the utilities department would be moving back into their space across the street. Now that section is going to be demolished, so they will probably be in this building permanently. So we may be creating a drive-thru and night window if they do stay here. The city secretary and many of the administrative offices will move back across the street once the building is ready. Human resources may move. But for now, we’re all in this building.”

Even now, Waxahachie continues to grow, and Michael continues to oversee that growth. “We just added our fourth fire station, and we’re planning a fifth to be near the new high school, which will open in 2027. We’re also planning a new parks and streets building. The new development at 287 and I-35 will include the new Fanatics building and will have new restaurants associated with it. There’s more light industrial space coming in behind the car lots, and Lofland Drive is being extended. Boat Dock Park is getting new parking and a new boat ramp. The pool at Penn Park should be ready by summer, and North Grove Park is under development.” Meanwhile, the departments Michael oversees continue to maintain our infrastructure, improve our quality of life and add new amenities. **NOW**

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Soarin' OVER TEXAS

— By Emma McKay

As the frost begins to melt and flowers bloom once again, humans and animals alike emerge from their shelters to bask in the warmth of the sun. After a long, harsh winter, spring brings about beautiful things to remind us that life is resilient. One of the joys that the April winds carry is the return of the Monarch butterfly.

Like birds, Monarchs migrate south to survive the winter months. These fragile creatures will spend months fluttering through the trees of Central Mexico, until eventually making the journey back north — a journey that only their great-grandchildren will see the conclusion of.

At the beginning of March, Monarchs begin their flight to Texas, where they find a suitable milkweed plant on which to lay the eggs of the first generation of offspring. As the overwintered Monarchs' flights end, the first generation continues the expedition to the Midwest and Northeastern states, spending their two to six weeks of life repopulating old breeding grounds. During the summer months, the second and third generations continue this cycle of growing, flying, breeding and dying. By August, the fourth and final generation of this months-long flight will embark on its southward journey.

Whereas its predecessors only lived a handful of weeks, so they might reproduce the next generations, the fourth generation goes into a reproductive diapause, meaning they will not mature and reproduce until the spring. Due to the energy this lack of breeding conserves and the cool overwintering climate slowing its metabolism, the fourth generation can live up to nine months, allowing the butterflies to see the next spring and begin the journey all over again.

Despite having never known their next of kin, Monarchs will take the same flight paths through the East Coast and the Midwest down through Texas and into central America. After years of research on the migratory patterns of the Monarch, biologists attribute this navigation instinct to the utilization of the sun and the Earth's magnetic field. By using both the sun as a compass and their own internal magnetic compasses, Monarchs can find their way in just about any weather. However, one innate habit of Monarchs stumps biologists to this day. Throughout their journey, they will roost in the same exact trees their ancestors did in previous years.

While the nectar of flowers is a great way to attract just about any sort of butterfly, if you are hoping to lure Monarchs into your garden this spring, be sure to plant lots of *asclepias*, otherwise known as milkweed. Milkweeds are poisonous plants, which contain cardiac glycosides.



Monarchs prefer to lay their eggs on the leaves of these plants. When the larvae ingest milkweed, the toxins will linger inside of them as they grow, making them poisonous and therefore protected against predators.

Antelope-horns milkweed (*asclepias asperula*) is a hardy plant that grows best in soils that allow drainage. Native to Texas, this species of milkweed can weather dry seasons gracefully, provided the occasional watering. Antelope-horns milkweed requires direct sunlight, so it might reach its full 2-foot height. This species of milkweed blooms from March to November, allowing passing Monarchs to drink its nectar when stopping to lay eggs. Despite its Texas-strong resilience, replanting already-grown antelope-horns can be tricky due to their brittle roots. For the best results, grow this type of milkweed from seeds.

Beloved by many Monarch enthusiasts, green milkweed (*asclepias viridis*), another Texas native, thrives in similar sunlight, varied soil and low-watering conditions to those preferred by its cousin, the antelope-horns milkweed. Unlike antelope-horns milkweed, green milkweed can reach up to 3 feet in height. It also sports larger leaves than other species of milkweed, gifting young caterpillars a feast as they grow.

If you neither have the space nor green thumb to maintain a butterfly garden, there is another way to attract this regal insect. Butterflies love the juice from old fruits. Place scraps of fruit — melon rinds,



strawberry tops, apple cores, spoiled peaches, etc. — outside, and watch as butterflies flock to your backyard.

Whether you plan on spotting Monarchs at a public park or attracting them to your own backyard, take a moment to enjoy their presence. Although their flights are fleeting, your time spent with them doesn't have to be. **NOW**

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Zoomed In: Virginia Flanagan

By Adam Walker

Born in Crandon, Wisconsin, Virginia Flanagan grew up during the Depression. “We moved to Houston when I was 2,” she said. “My mother didn’t make fancy food, but it was good. You could buy a loaf of bread for 5¢ ... if you had it.” She graduated high school in 1942. “It was right after Pearl Harbor. I married on Christmas Day, 1944. He was just out of the service and told me, ‘I’ll make us a living. I don’t want you to work.’” She never did, outside the home. “We didn’t have a car or refrigerator because of the war, but we had an ice box,” she shared. “Things have changed, alright!”

She moved to Waxahachie in 2012. Now, Virginia is celebrating 100 trips around the sun with her son, grandson, two great-grandchildren and great-great-granddaughter.



Amanda and Annie Ellis stop by Fresh for a treat.



Chase Pearow and Emma James pose at the WHS Baseball Banquet.



Chase Bishop, soccer coach at Life High School Waxahachie, celebrates his 200th win.



Jonathan Gospodarek makes sure shoppers have carts at H-E-B.



Brandon and Braxton Blansit use the chess set to play checkers while participating in the pizza tasting.



Taichi Fukumura, conductor of the FWSO, introduces Ellis County fifth-graders to a program on The Women of Texas.



Nadia Allen-Penn, from Life High School Waxahachie, is elected the Area 11 vice president for the Texas Association of Future Educators.



Waxahachie Foundation awards a \$5,000 grant to the Ellis County Rural Heritage Farm to build a new meeting pavilion.



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Family Smiles

— By Adam Walker

Family Smiles

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Hours: Monday-Friday: 9:00 a.m.-5:00 p.m.

Saturday: By appointment.

Family Smiles has been serving the dental needs of Waxahachie residents since 2010. “We were founded by Dr. Amandeep Basrai,” reported Dr. Sudha Lakhwani. “We’re a family-oriented practice. We currently see patients from the age of 6 months to 91 years old. We can perform all kinds of procedures in-house, so we don’t have to refer you to outside specialists. We perform implants, All-on-4, Invisalign



and Zoom whitening right here. Also, we use a scanner, instead of impressions, to make models of your mouth. And the iTero scanner can show you what your mouth will look like after your procedure is finished. We also perform 3-D scans of your teeth with a CBCT machine. This is helpful with implants, root canals and wisdom tooth extractions.”

Of course, they offer regular cleanings and preventative care, as well as all the expected procedures like composite fillings, caps and crowns, bridgework, dentures, cosmetic procedures and periodontal care for when you have gum disease. All of their procedures requiring sedation are done with nitrous oxide, commonly called laughing gas. This helps with relaxation.

Family Smiles cares about their patients. “We see a lot of patients every day, but we try to give the exact same high-quality care to every one of them,” Dr. Lakhwani informed. “We see emergency walk-ins with same-day treatment for simple procedures, like broken fillings or extractions. Sometimes, we can even do same-day root canals, depending on how full the schedule is for that day.”

Family Smiles treats the whole family. “Our patients are about 50/50 children and adults,” she explained. “In the beginning, it was mostly children, but now, those early patients have grown up. They have continued as patients here at Family Smiles, but now they’re bringing their own children. We also have many adult patients who never came here as children.”

“We’re a family-oriented practice. We currently see patients from the age of 6 months to 91 years old. We can perform all kinds of procedures in-house, so we don’t have to refer you to outside specialists.”

All the dentists and staff of Family Smiles are well trained and educated. Dr. Basri, the founder of Family Smiles has her DDS from the NYU College of Dentistry. She practiced in Washington for three years before moving to Texas. Dr. Lakhwani graduated with a BDS in 2008, in India. She practiced there for three years before coming to America and earning a master’s in public health and her DDS from the University of Oklahoma College of Dentistry. “I joined this practice in 2017, when my baby was 21 days old, and I never stopped working,” Dr. Lakhwani revealed. “Dr. Sahar Nadimi joined us as an associate in July of 2022. All of our office staff is bilingual. I’m learning Spanish. Our office manager, Gracie, has been with us seven years. The whole staff works very hard. They are dedicated to listening to patients and making them feel comfortable. Our team takes the time to connect with patients and give them the thoughtful attention they deserve. They want to make sure the patients go home happy because of the interactions they had in our office. We want the whole family to smile, like the name says!” **NOW**



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CookingNOW

In the Kitchen With

DEBRA CLAYTON

— By Adam Walker

Debra Clayton is a native of North Little Rock, Arkansas, but she's been in Waxahachie for a long time. "I traveled a lot when I was young. I lived in five states before I was 10 years old." She spent 13 years managing a cafeteria for Lancaster ISD and has been the manager of the kitchen at the Waxahachie Senior Activity Center for 14 years. "The people here love when I make some of the down-home cooking they grew up eating. My meatloaf is an inherited recipe, and people just love it." She also likes trying new recipes. "I find recipes on the internet and make them my own just by changing up the flavorings a bit." When not cooking, her hobbies include learning about her family history. [NOW](#)

bowl. Mix lightly, but thoroughly. Place a rack in an aluminum foil-lined broiler pan. Shape the beef into an 8x4-inch loaf on the rack.

3. Combine the tomato soup, ketchup and brown sugar. Pour the mixture over the loaf.

4. Place the pan on the upper oven rack; bake for 40 to 50 minutes, until an instant-read thermometer inserted into the center of the loaf registers 160 F. Remove it from the oven; let it stand for 10 minutes. Cut into slices and serve.

Meatloaf

1 1/2 lbs. ground beef (93% lean or leaner)
3/4 cup crackers
1/2 cup tomato sauce
1/2 cup onion, minced
1 egg
1 Tbsp. Worcestershire sauce
2 tsp. garlic, minced (or garlic powder)

3/4 tsp. pepper
1/2 tsp. salt
1 23.2-oz. (family size) can tomato soup
1/2 cup ketchup
1/2 cup brown sugar

1. Preheat the oven to 350 F
2. Combine the beef, crackers, 1/2 cup tomato sauce, onions, egg, Worcestershire sauce, garlic, pepper and salt in a large

Old-Fashioned Pea Salad

2 15-oz. cans sweet peas, drained
1/3 cup red onion, diced
2 stalks celery, diced (or 1 Tbsp. celery seed)
1 1/2 cups cheese, shredded
2 eggs, boiled and diced
1 1/2 cups mayonnaise
1 tsp. salt
1/2 tsp. pepper

1. Place the peas into a large mixing bowl; add the onions, celery, cheese and eggs. Mix together gently. Add the mayonnaise, salt and pepper; stir gently, being careful not to break the peas.
2. Chill a few hours before serving.

Shop the Fridge Soup

- 3-4 Tbsp. olive oil
- 2 onions, minced
- 2 cloves garlic, minced
- 1 Tbsp. dried herbs (thyme, oregano, marjoram, rosemary or a combination)
- 2 cups tomatoes, chopped
- 2 cups canned beans (pinto, cannellini or black-eyed peas)
- 8-10 cups liquid (water, vegetable broth, bean juice reserved from the canned beans or a combination)
- 8 cups bite-size pieces of random vegetables (carrots, celery, bell peppers, cauliflower, potatoes, sweet potatoes, parsnips, turnips, bell peppers, squash, zucchini or pumpkin)
- 2 cups kale or spinach, torn (optional)
- Salt, to taste
- Pepper, to taste
- 1-2 tsp. vinegar or lemon juice

1. In a large Dutch oven or stock pot, add the olive oil; sauté the onions and garlic over medium-low heat until translucent, about 5 to 10 minutes. Add the herbs; stir for 1 minute.
2. Add the tomatoes, if using. Break them up with the back of a wooden spoon; cook them for about 5 to 10 minutes, until cooked down.
3. Add the beans, if using. Cover them with broth. Cover the pot with a lid. Bring the beans to a boil, then turn them down to a simmer. Cook them, covered, for about 1 hour, or until tender. Stir them occasionally while they cook.
4. Add the chopped vegetables to the cooked beans. Add more water or broth to cover the ingredients. Bring them to a boil, then turn the heat down to a simmer. Cover and cook for an additional 15 to 20 minutes, or until the vegetables are tender.
5. At the end of the cooking, add the kale or spinach, if using. Season the soup to taste with salt, pepper and vinegar or lemon juice.

Apple Pie Taquitos

- 1/4 cup unsalted butter, melted
- 1 20-oz. can apple pie filling
- 1 cup sugar (divided use)
- 3 Tbsp., plus 3 tsp. cinnamon (divided use)
- 12 medium-size soft flour tortillas

1. Preheat the oven to 350 F. Brush a 9x13-inch baking dish with some of the melted butter.

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Meatloaf

- 3 3.4-oz. pkgs. vanilla instant pudding
- 2 15.5-oz. cans crushed pineapple
- 1 16-oz. tub Cool Whip

1. Preheat the oven to 350 F. Combine the first 5 ingredients. Bake it according to the cake mix package directions; let it cool.
2. In a bowl, slowly add the dry pudding to the pineapple; mix well. Add the Cool Whip; mix well by hand.
3. After the cake has cooled, cut it into 2 layers. Spread half of the pudding mixture on the bottom layer. Place the second layer on top. Spread the remaining mixture on the top cake layer.
4. Refrigerate for about 1 hour before serving.

2. Empty the can of pie filling onto a cutting board; chop the apples into smaller pieces with a knife. Add 1/2 cup of the sugar and 3 Tbsp. cinnamon to the apple pie filling.
3. In a shallow plate, mix together the remaining sugar and cinnamon.
4. Lay a tortilla flat, and top it with a couple of tablespoons of the apple pie filling. Tightly roll up the tortilla to make a taquito. Brush the outside of the taquito with butter; roll it through the sugar and cinnamon mixture. Place the taquito in the prepared

baking dish. Repeat with the remaining tortillas and apple pie filling. You should have enough filling for all 12 of the tortillas.

5. Bake for about 15 minutes, or until the taquitos start to get golden on top.

Pineapple Cream Cake

- 1 box Betty Crocker Yellow Cake mix
- 1 cup water
- 1/3 cup vegetable oil
- 3 eggs
- 2 Tbsp. powdered sugar

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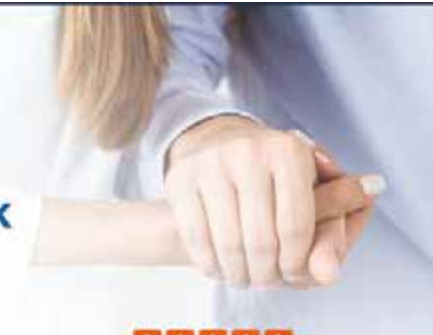
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Hurricane Ian brought winds in excess of 100 miles per hour and a storm surge of about 14 feet in September 2022. The damage to Fort Myers Beach, Florida, was devastating, but just 100 days after the storm, news anchors were reporting that the community was “bouncing back.” A more recent news interview with Sanibel Mayor Richard Johnson indicated that recovery is taking place, as evidenced by the bridges that have been rebuilt, but there is still a long way to go. While there is a tremendous challenge ahead, the climate beckons visitors, and other attractions and beaches in the area continue to draw vacationers to southwest Florida.

The Fort Myers area has been known for its shelling for many years, and while some beaches may remain closed, there are other beaches in the area that offer much of the same experience. Tigertail Beach on Marco Island is about an hour away and offers white sand with shelling, bird-watching and great sunsets.

A trip to Fort Myers would not be complete without a visit to the Edison and Ford Winter Estates. The two great inventors and innovators of the late 19th and early 20th centuries had vacation homes in Fort Myers, and they are

well worth the time and tickets to view and explore.

When Edison traveled to Florida in search of a place with warmer weather than his northeastern home offered in the winter of 1885, the population of Fort Myers was about 350 citizens. (A recent census reported 95,949, but the county population is over 820,000.) He purchased 13 acres for \$2,750 and drew plans for his winter home, including guest and servant quarters, a laboratory and extensive gardens. Edison named the home Seminole Lodge and was visited by friends Henry Ford and Herbert Hoover, as well as many other well-known names of the period.

Ford and Edison’s friendship began with Ford working for Edison at the Detroit Edison Illuminating Company in the 1890s. Ford visited Seminole Lodge in 1914, and a couple of years later, he purchased the estate adjacent to Edison’s. The Ford estate was known as Mangoes and still includes a citrus orchard. The estate’s website indicates that Ford made it a point to visit his winter home on one significant day each year — February 11th — Edison’s birthday.

Both of the estates have large, comfortable rooms with huge porches. You can just imagine these great men and their families enjoying their time on the front porch watching a few of Ford’s Model T and Model A vehicles pattering down a dirt road in front of the estates.

Just across that road, which is now a nicely paved two-lane street, is the site of the museums that display the prolific work of these brilliant men. Examples of Edison’s many inventions are displayed throughout the museum, as well as perfectly restored Ford automobiles dating back to the Model T. The grounds are complete with larger-than-life statues of the men, and Edison’s laboratories and darkroom are replicated in the museum.



*Watch Her
Bounce Back*

If one is interested in the flora and fauna that is native to southern Florida, a visit to the Six Mile Cypress Slough Preserve offers an interpretive center, as well as guided or self-guided tours. A boardwalk of over 1 mile circles through the slough, giving visitors the opportunity to view Otter Pond, Gator Lake and Wood Duck Pond. While these ponds are prominent with landing areas that allow visitors to pause and view the plants and wildlife, stay alert along the boardwalk, as the slough is teeming with a variety of native creatures.

There is no doubt that Fort Myers and its beautiful beaches are building back from the destruction left by the hurricane. Southwest Florida is still a worthy vacation destination and has a lot to offer the savvy traveler. **NOW**

Sources:

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— By Bill Smith



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Handcraft a Custom Kite

— By Amber D. Browne



Logging through a field, hoping for a gust of wind to take the diamond-shaped kite high into the air, is a childhood memory held by many. A breezy day could hold hours of fun watching the colorful kite sway back and forth in the sky above. Kites are simple creations, and only a few supplies are necessary to build one. Once the kite is complete, families can spend an afternoon helping it soar.

Supplies for a Diamond-Shaped Kite

2 36-inch dowel rods or bamboo skewers
Heavy-duty scissors
100 feet of kite string or twine
Tape
1 plastic tablecloth, your choice of color
1 yard stick
1 pen

◆ If using bamboo skewers, cut off the sharp ends with the heavy-duty scissors. Next, cut 12-inches off one end of a 36-inch

dowel rod or bamboo skewer. Set aside the smaller piece. Lay the remaining 36-inch dowel rod or skewer on a flat surface, and add the 24-inch dowel rod or skewer horizontally near the top of the longer rod to create a lowercase “t” shape. Cut a 2-foot piece from the kite string or twine. Wrap the string or twine around the intersection of the rods or skewers. Tie it to secure the lowercase “t” shape, or frame.

◆ Wrap one end of the kite string or twine around the dowel rod or skewer at the top of the kite frame, and secure it with tape. Stretch the string to the edge of the shorter rod or skewer, then wrap and secure with tape. Continue wrapping the string or twine around the “t” shape until it returns to the top, creating a diamond shape. Secure with tape.

◆ Open a plastic table cloth, and place it on a flat surface. Place the diamond-shaped kite frame on top of the table cloth. Using the yard stick and pen, draw straight lines about 1 inch from the frame to leave room to wrap the edges of the table cloth over the string or twine. Once the lines are drawn, cut out the diamond-shaped table cloth to use as the kite’s sail. Wrap the edges of the sail over the string and use the tape to secure all sides.

◆ For the kite’s tail, cut seven 2x5-inch pieces from the remaining plastic tablecloth. Cut about 3 feet of string to use as the tail. Tie the string to the bottom of the kite. Then tie the plastic tablecloth pieces about 5 inches apart onto the string until you reach the bottom of the tail.

◆ Cut a 3-foot piece of string or twine. Tie the string ends about



3 inches from either end of the vertical rod to create the bridle. Tie the end of the remaining kite string or twine to the center of the bridle piece. This will help stabilize the kite when flying. You can use the remaining 12-inch piece of dowel rod or bamboo skewer to tie and wrap the remaining string if necessary, so the string releases easily as the kite reaches a higher altitude.

Kite Flying Tips

◆ To fly the kite, allow a few feet of string for slack, and let the kite hang to the ground. As you walk or jog, raise the kite into the air allowing slack in the line until the kite is flying. Unravel more string until the kite is soaring above. If you need a little extra help getting the kite into the air, another person can hold it in the air about 30 feet downwind. Once released, the kite flier will need to tug at the string until the kite gains altitude.

◆ According to the American Kitefliers Association, winds from 8 to 15 miles per hour offer ideal flying conditions, but lighter winds from 3 to 4 miles per hour would be sufficient. To fly your handcrafted kite, choose an open space away from power lines, buildings and trees, such as a park, field or beach. Protect yourself from the sun with sunglasses, a hat and sunscreen, and consider packing a pair of gloves to protect your hands while flying the kite. **NOW**

Editor's Note: Don't forget to tag NOW Magazines when you share your photos on Facebook!

Sources:

1. kite.org
2. chaoticallyyours.com/how-to-make-a-kite/.



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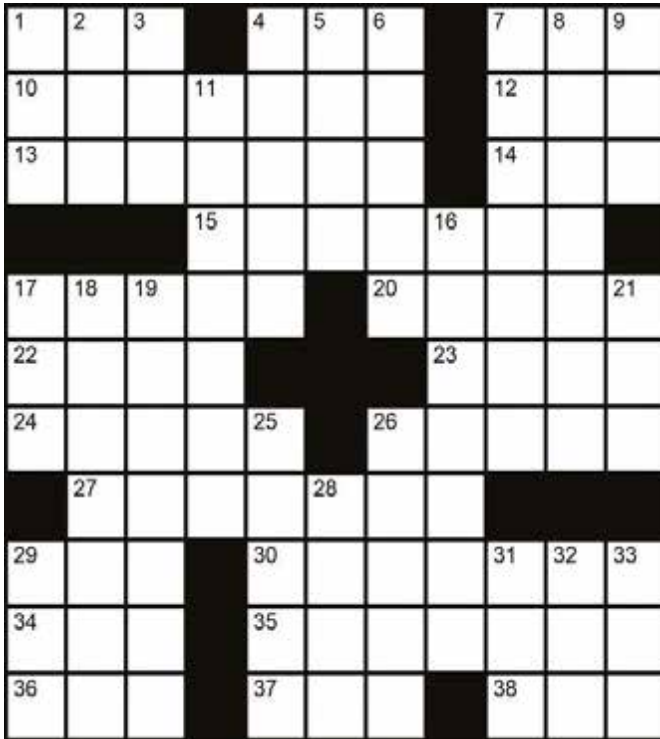


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Across

- 1 Bat wood
- 4 "... Roy" (Sir Walter Scott)
- 7 Prior night
- 10 William Faulkner novelette
- 12 Staff
- 13 Souvenir
- 14 Be recumbent
- 15 Like the Baal Shem Tov
- 17 Challenger
- 20 "The Stepford Wives" author
- 22 Sch. of higher learning
- 23 Noted car collector
- 24 Art supporter?
- 26 Sudden pains
- 27 Flippant fellow
- 29 Automated performer of computer tasks
- 30 Way in
- 34 Indignation
- 35 Cared to restyle style
- 36 Uneven?
- 37 Scale divs.
- 38 In fourth grade, perhaps

Down

- 1 Now, in textspeak
- 2 Yonder lass
- 3 Drape edge
- 4 Kidney-related
- 5 Mares and does eat them
- 6 Grill
- 7 Animate
- 8 Adjusting an organ
- 9 Animal you heard on the farm
- 11 Conducts oneself
- 16 Depressing word on an arrival board
- 17 Road in Reims
- 18 Briefly
- 19 Called upon
- 21 Figures
- 25 OK with the cops
- 26 Strokes on the green
- 28 Attire
- 29 Short life story
- 31 Moisten
- 32 Very skilled person
- 33 Hither and --

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Easy

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

Medium

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

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"Coincidentally, a lot of people who are anxious about going to the dentist are also people who don't have good insurance. That's a bad combination. I have membership plans for patients without insurance, and really good discounts on implants and dentures. A membership might not be necessary if you only need one simple procedure, but if you need sedation and a lot of work, it really pays for itself."

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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APRIL

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.

4/5-4/6

The Sound of Music:

Friday: 7:00 p.m.; Saturday: 2:00 p.m. and 7:00 p.m., Southwestern Assemblies of God University, 1200 Sycamore St.

4/6-4/8

Hachie Eclipse of the Heart:

Waxahachie Solar Eclipse 2024 Weekend: A 3-day weekend filled with fun and food for the family! Railyard Park, 455 S. College St.

4/6-5/27

Scarborough Renaissance Festival:

Fun 16th century style. Handmade crafts, artisan demonstrations, festival food. 10:00 a.m.-7:00 p.m., 2511 FM 66.

4/7

Pink Floyd Dark Side of the Moon Laser Light Show:

8:00-10:00 p.m., Railyard Park, 455 S. College St.

4/8

Sims Library Eclipse Party:

Join us for some solar eclipse fun, a space-themed craft and snacks. Free! Noon-2:00 p.m., Sims Library, 515 W. Main St.

4/13

3rd Annual Waxahachie Cowboy Gathering:

Events at various times and locations around town. For more information, visit www.waxahachiecowboy.com.

Fort Worth

Symphony Orchestra:

7:00 p.m., Hagee Center, 2000 Sycamore St. Tickets: <https://www.waxahachiesymphony.org>.

4/20

Hachie 50 Run:

Benefiting the Waxahachie Lions Club, which supports local children in Ellis County.

runsignup.com/Race/TX/Waxahachie/Hachie50.

4/26-4/27

VFW Post #3894

Brisket Cook-off:

Must cook on premises. All cooks welcome. 1405 N. IH-35E. Call Linda Williams at (972) 322-5073 for details.

4/28

Prairie Wildlife and Wildflower Adventure:

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