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MAY 2021

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the beginnings of an
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ON THE COVER

Just a few of the many instruments that Czech bands will be playing at the Polka Festival.

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EDITOR'S NOTE



Bill

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I wish I could say it just one more time ...

Every year for as many years as I can remember, the radio stations I listen to play a song on Mother's Day that I relate to so well it always brings tears. Jimmy Dean's most famous hit song had to be "Big John," but he was also the artist who recorded "I.O.U." Dean was, in fact, the co-author of the song, along with Larry Markes. The song was a big hit in 1976 and sold over a million copies.

The song is a recitation with an instrumental background. The lyrics, of course, focus on the relationship between a mother and her son, and his memories of the sacrifices she made for him and his brother as they grew up. It mentions things like, "When there were two pieces of apple pie left and three hungry people, I noticed that you were the one who suddenly decided that you really didn't like apple pie in the first place." As I listen to the song, memories come flooding back, like all of the mornings Mom got up long before the sun and not only fixed a full breakfast for me, but also warmed up leftovers and put them in insulated bowls, so I could have a hot lunch while I was doing construction work in the summers during my college years. It sure made the other guys jealous when they were eating a bologna sandwich, and I was having chicken-fried steak with two vegetables and a dessert!

Jimmy Dean's song closes after he recalls so many things that he "owes" his mother for. But he knows she will "mark the entire bill paid in full for just one kiss and four little words: Mom, I love you."

Happy Mother's Day!

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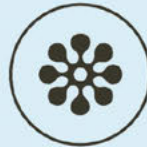
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REMEMBERING

The Liska family is probably as synonymous with the National Polka Festival and the Czech community as any family in Ennis. Along with Len Gehrig and Raymond Zapletal, Stanley's brother Joe L. Liska was one of the original members of the committee that brought the idea of a polka festival to Ennis. The idea was pitched to Ennis Chamber of Commerce Manager Jack McKay, and soon all of the cogs were in place to make the idea a reality.

Last year, the National Polka Festival would have celebrated its 54th anniversary, but due to the COVID-19 pandemic, it had to be cancelled for the first time in its history. It was certainly missed by many in the Ennis community as well as people from all over the United States, and even other parts of the world, who have made the journey to Ennis an annual tradition. Stanley and Barbara

Liska remember the early years. "Len was the president of Ennis Business Forms back then, and he traveled all over the country adding smaller companies to EBF," Stanley recalled. He would see the festivals other communities hosted and brought the idea back to Ennis. While we were still in the planning stages, some of us drove to Louisiana and attended a crawfish festival.

"Pep [a nickname for Stanley's brother, Joel] came up with the idea of having a parade," Stanley said. The idea was well-received. "It may have been Jack who responded, 'Of course we'll have a parade! We can't have a festival without a parade!'"

Stanley recalled that it was Johnnie I. Krajca and his wife, Margaret, who thought there should be a king and



Photo courtesy of Ennis Daily News.

the EARLY YEARS

— By Bill Smith

queen of the Ennis Polka Festival, and their idea was to select them via a dance contest at the pre-party on Friday night. The king and queen tradition continues today.

A lot more names came up as Stanley and Barbara thought of Ennis in the mid-'60s, though they admitted there is no way they could recall all of the names. It took a lot of people to plan the first polka festivals, and it still does today. "I met with the committee every week, and usually we met at the S.P.J.S.T. hall where Bob Trojacek was the manager. Rudy Ozymy was a regular at the meetings. Francis and Betty Rogala were active from the start," Stanley mentioned.

"Sometimes, we thought it was just a good excuse for the men to go to the hall!" Barbara mused. "But, some women were involved in the committee meetings back then, and there was always a lot of work for everyone to do." Of course, there were great amounts of food to prepare for the meals at the halls, as well as kolache and strudel that was for sale. There were volunteers working in all of the halls. The same is still true, and a lot of growth has taken place with the festival downtown.

All of the Liska family, along with many friends, worked together at the family business, Ennis Meat Market. The market was founded in 1918 by Jerry Zazvorka, who later sold the market

to Charlie Muirhead. Stanley's father acquired the market in 1950. Stanley remembered, "I know it was 1950 because Charlie also owned a farm east of town that he had acquired from Maurice Cerf. Dad bought both the 214-acre farm and the meat market, while Charlie opened the slaughterhouse that operated for many years at the end of Burnett Street.

"I was still in high school then, but Dad had Joe and me working there in our 'spare time.' After I went to college, I would come home on weekends to work at the market. Dad used to say, 'Boy you don't need to go to college. I'll teach you what you need to know.'"

It was while Stanley was in college

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that he met Barbara. “Stanley was at North Texas, and I was down the road at TWU,” Barbara explained. “We met in 1957. One of our first dates was to see Pat Boone at the fairgrounds in Dallas. My uncle was a police officer and was able to get tickets for us.”

Stanley and Barbara married a couple of years later, and this year they will celebrate their 62nd anniversary. They moved to Ennis, and Stanley worked alongside his father at the market until his father passed away. The market remained the family business until Stanley retired in 2007. “All of the family worked at the market at one time or another, including Barbara and all of the kids and grandkids. We put in a lot of






hours during the week or two before the Polka Festival each year, often from 5:00 in the morning until 10:00 at night. I remember having as many as 27 people working during the Polka Festival, even my sister would come down and work. We had to set up a separate table in the front because the counter was so busy.”

The Polka Festival was good for their business, and they have been happy with the way it has grown over the years. It has not all been about work, though. “We met a lot of friends we would never have met had it not been for the Polka Festival. We have a lot of friends from other towns that we met because of it,” Stanley related.

It was also a lot of fun because Stanley and Barbara loved to dance. “We would choose a hall to go to based on what band was playing,” Barbara recalled. “Johnny Mensik was very popular and was usually at the K.J.T. Today, it might be Czech and Then Some, as Danny Zapletal bought a lot of music from Ernie Kucera’s band from Nebraska, and we liked the slow tempo that they had.”

A lot of things are changing, and some traditions seem to fade away. But the National Polka Festival in Ennis is a return to their roots for a lot of the Czech community in Ennis as well as others who have joined with them to enjoy it for these 50-plus years. *Everybody polka!* **NOW**



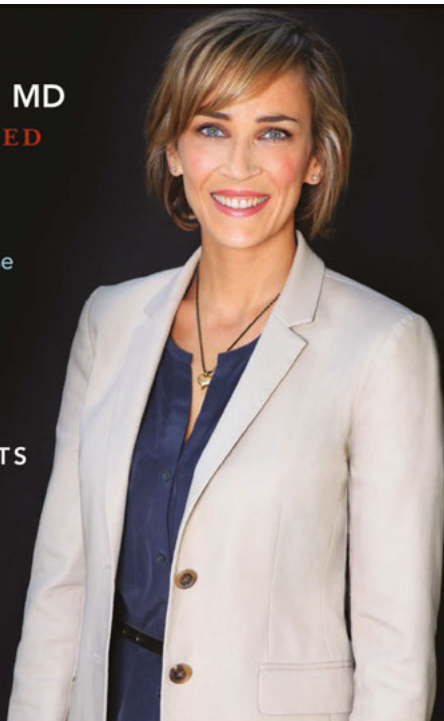

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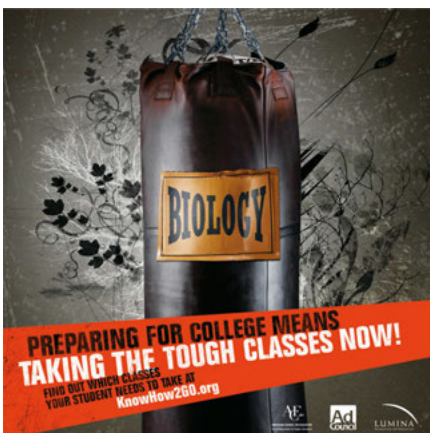
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READY TO RIDE



— By Bill Smith

**Bike Shortages Will Likely Last ...
Bicycling Booms During Lockdown ...
Bike Market Skyrockets ...** *these are some of the headlines in bicycle news that have appeared during the COVID-19 pandemic. Those of us who have been around for a while know this is not the first time bicycling has been popular. In the early 1970s, sales of bicycles was so strong that, like this boom, bike shops had little or no inventory, and waiting lists for bicycles were common.*

Part of the reason for the surge in sales during the pandemic has been the lack of access to gyms that had been relied on for regular exercise. Cycling is an activity that family members can do together, as well as friends looking to be social while still practicing social distancing. Plus, cycling is just fun!

Bicycle shops may have a backlog of customers needing maintenance and repair, so whatever we can do with a few common tools for basic maintenance at home can keep the

wheels turning. There are some specialized tools that are needed for advanced maintenance, but you probably already own enough hand tools for most routine care and upkeep of your bike.

The first thing to consider is keeping your bicycle clean. High pressure spray like one would use on their car is not needed, and, in fact, should be avoided. One should not allow water to get inside the frame, so washing the bicycle with a bucket of water and some liquid soap with a sponge, soft brush or cloth is recommended. A water hose with just normal water pressure is fine for rinsing the bike, then be sure to dry the bicycle thoroughly.

There are very inexpensive chain cleaning tools that quickly and effectively clean the chain. Fill the chain cleaning tool with solvent available from your local bike shop, and rotate the bike pedals so the chain runs through the tool several times. Remove the solvent from the tool and repeat the process with soapy water. After the chain is thoroughly dry, lubricate it with an appropriate chain lube. Wipe the excess lube off with a clean, dry rag to prevent dirt from accumulating on the chain.

Next, clean the sprockets that the chain runs on. There are some narrow brushes made for this, but a lightly oiled shop rag tightly held between the sprockets and “sawed” back and forth is an inexpensive alternative.

Tire maintenance is important, and the No. 1 consideration is proper inflation. Properly inflated tires will ride much smoother and safer than tires that are either over-inflated or under-inflated. Just use the recommended pressure on the tire as your guide, and never use the electric compressor that you would air automobile tires with. The pressure is too great for the bicycle tube, and it is too easy to over-inflate before you know it. A manually operated bicycle pump is a tool every bike owner should have.

If a tube needs to be repaired or replaced, avoid using metal screwdrivers to pry the tire away from the rim, as they can damage both the rim and the tire. Another very inexpensive tool every bicycle owner should have is a set of plastic tire levers. They are very effective and make the repair go smoothly.

If you have a multi-speed bike that is not shifting smoothly, the derailleur adjustments can certainly be intimidating and should be approached with caution. There is a barrel adjustment that can be manipulated by hand for minor adjustments, but adjusting the limiting screws in the derailleur probably should be left to the professional at your bike shop.

Check your brakes to make sure they are working properly, and replace the brake pads if necessary. Your bike may also have some barrel adjustments for minor tweaking of the brake pad tension on the wheel rims. If the barrel adjustment does not produce the desired result, an adjustment of the brake cable may be in order, but this is another adjustment best made by your bike shop professional.

Keeping the bike clean, properly lubricated and making sure tires are properly inflated will go a long way toward keeping your bicycle safely on the road. Beyond this, develop a good working relationship with a local bike shop. Happy pedaling! **NOW**

Sources:

1. *Forbes.com*
2. *DeLong's Guide to Bicycles and Bicycling* by Fred DeLong
3. *Complete Bike Maintenance* by Fred Milson

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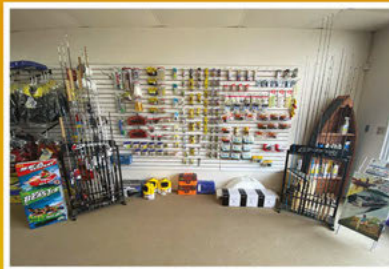


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Tuesday-Thursday: 11:00 a.m.-7:00 p.m.

Friday: 10:00 a.m.-2:00 p.m.

What child would not look forward to going to the dentist if he knew that upon entering the lobby he would be greeted by Spiderman, Batman and Wonder Woman, plus have the opportunity to play video games or watch the Disney classic, *Frozen* in a child-size movie room? Jared Schultz, DMD said, "The kids are relaxed and ready to get into the dental chair after they have been in the lobby playing. Then when they get



to one of the treatment rooms, there is a television on the ceiling that they can watch during their procedure."

Being a part of Camelot Dental Group has its advantages for both the patients and the dentist. "It really allows me to focus on the patients, and the group handles all of the back-office activity. We have a great staff in our local office, including Casandra Herrera, Erica Alvarez, Denise Diaz, Nicole Rivera, Stephany Nunez and Cristal Guevara. Most of them have been here since the office opened," Dr. Schultz related.

A native of Fresno, California, Dr. Schultz said Ennis compares favorably in many ways to his hometown. "Fresno is bigger, of course, but it still has some of the small-town feel, similar to Ennis, because it is located in such an agricultural area. My father was a CPA, and most of his clients were farmers. My grandparents lived in a much smaller community about 30 miles away, Kerman, California. It is smaller than Ennis, and every year they have a Harvest Festival there that I remember attending. I am looking forward to getting involved in Ennis and experiencing the Bluebonnet Festival and the Polka Festival."

Early influences in Dr. Schultz's life eventually led to dentistry. "I would have to mention my grandfather just because of his work ethic, going around California working with oil rigs, and he was a World War II veteran, entering the service at age 17. Mom was in the medical field, and I would say she was the one who inspired me to become a dentist. I was excellent at math and science, and that eventually led to majoring in molecular biology at Berkeley University. I did my graduate work in medical science at Boston University, then I went back to Pomona, California, to study dentistry at Western University.

"The kids are relaxed and ready to get into the dental chair after they have been in the lobby playing."

"Some dental schools do not place much emphasis on working with youth, but Western University did. We went weekly to local schools with mobile outreach clinics," Dr. Schultz explained. "I have also participated in a mission trip to Guatemala, where we treated a gymnasium full of kids."

Like many medical fields, there are specialists in different areas of dentistry, such as pediatrics, endodontics, orthodontics and others. Rather than send his patients out of town or to another office, Dr. Schultz prefers to have the specialists come to his office to see his patients. "Our patients are familiar and comfortable coming to our office. As we add specialists to the Camelot family, we are also incorporating the latest technology in modern dentistry. Whether that is our new 3-D X-ray machine or the ability to take digital impressions. Our goal is simple — to treat every patient with compassion and to provide Ennis the best possible care."

Camelot Dental is certainly not just for children. Often when parents bring their children to the dentist, they mention that they do not have a dentist or that they are having a dental issue that needs to be addressed. Dr. Schultz said their practice is not limited at all, and they are happy to treat the whole family! **NOW**



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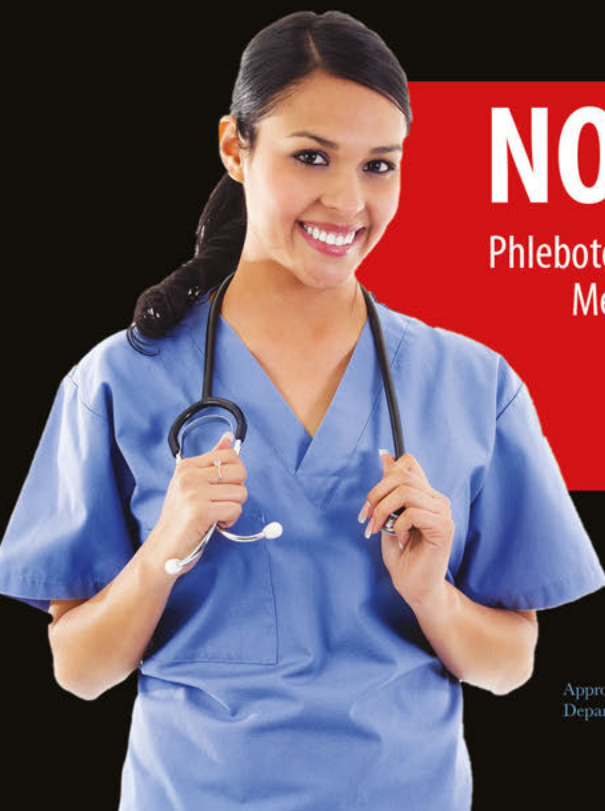


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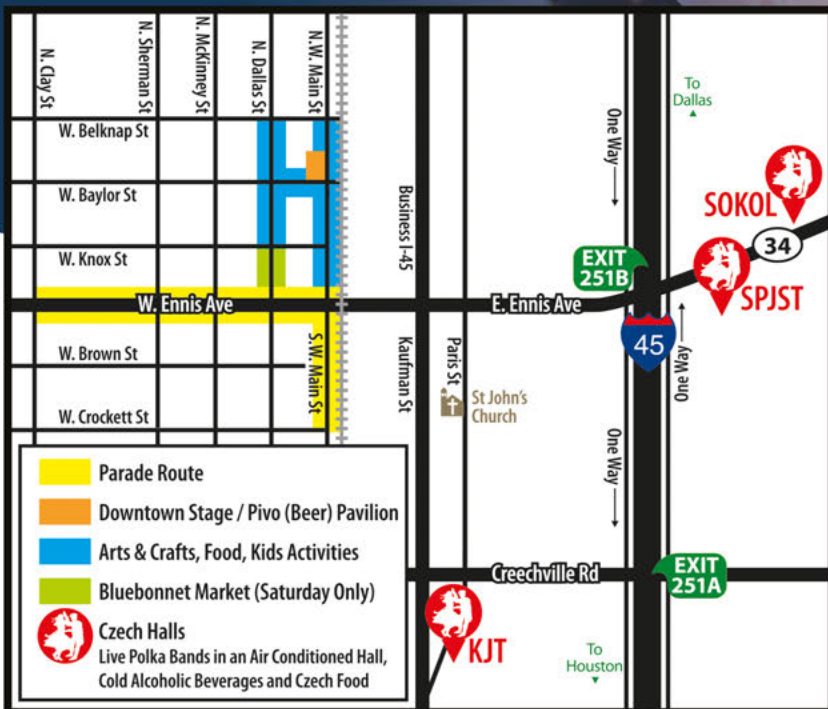
MAY 28-30

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ADMISSION:

One daily admission includes all participating halls: KJT, SPJST and Sokol.
(Jon Wolfe / Jesse Jennings Country Concert admission is additional.)
Tickets available online at www.nationalpolkafestival.com.

Children 12 and under are FREE

Friday, May 28: \$9

Saturday, May 29: \$14

Saturday, May 29: Jon Wolfe with special guest, Jesse Jennings
\$15 advanced purchase/\$18 day of the event

Sunday, May 30: \$11

3-Day: \$30

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NATIONAL POLKA FESTIVAL EVENT SCHEDULE

KJT Auditorium (1216 S. Paris St., Ennis)

SPJST Lodge #25 (1901 E. Ennis Ave., Ennis)

Sokol (2622 E. Hwy. 34, Ennis)

TIME	EVENT / BAND	PLACE
FRIDAY, MAY 28, 2021		
6:00 p.m. - 11:00 p.m.	Texas Dutchmen	KJT Auditorium
9:00 p.m.	King and Queen Dance Contest (sponsored by SPJST Home Office)	KJT Auditorium
SATURDAY, MAY 29, 2021		
10:00 a.m.	Polka Parade	Downtown Ennis
9:00 a.m. - 7:00 p.m.	Arts & Crafts, Food, & Pivo/Beer Pavilion	Downtown Ennis
11:30 a.m. - 3:00 p.m.	Czech Harvesters	KJT Auditorium
11:30 a.m. - 3:00 p.m.	Czechaholics	Sokol
12:00 p.m. - 3:30 p.m.	Street Dance - Texas Sound Check	Downtown Ennis
1:00 p.m.	Kolache Eating Contest (sponsored by KJT Home Office)	Downtown Stage
4:00 p.m. - 7:30 p.m.	Dujka Brothers	KJT Auditorium
4:00 p.m. - 7:30 p.m.	Jodie Mikula Orchestra	SPJST Lodge #25
4:00 p.m. - 7:00 p.m.	Fritz Hodde & The Fabulous Six	Sokol
4:00 p.m. - 7:00 p.m.	Street Dance - Alpine Village Band	Downtown Ennis
8:30 p.m. - 12:00 a.m.	Squeezebox	KJT Auditorium
8:30 p.m. - 12:00 a.m.	Ennis Czech Boys	SPJST Lodge #25
9:00 p.m. - 12:30 a.m.	Country Concert - Jon Wolfe with special guest, Jesse Jennings	Sokol
SUNDAY, MAY 30, 2021		
8:00 a.m.	Polka Mass	St John Church
10:00 a.m. - 1:00 p.m.	Live Broadcast (10 a.m.- noon): KBEC Polka Party - Dujka Brothers	KJT Auditorium
11:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m.	Arts & Crafts, Food, & Pivo/Beer Pavilion	Downtown Ennis
12:00 p.m. - 3:30 p.m.	Street Dance - Jerry Haisler & Melody 5	Downtown Ennis
12:30 p.m. - 7:30 p.m.	Czech and Then Some / Alex Meixner	Sokol
1:30p.m. - 4:30 p.m.	The Moravians	KJT Auditorium
8:30 p.m. - 11:30 p.m.	Brave Combo	Sokol



Parade in Downtown Ennis

Saturday, May 29, 2021 · Start Time: 10:00 a.m.

Floats, bands and colorful costumes will kick-off the downtown festivities. The parade traditionally includes something for visitors of all ages. Enjoy the music of our polka bands riding on decorated floats or the sounds of our award-winning Ennis High School Marching Band.

The Shriners make their annual appearance, as well as celebrities, public officials, motorcycles, horseback riders, clowns, kids and seniors! This giant parade twists through historic downtown Ennis and is sure to please. This year's theme is "Livin' on Polka Time."



10th Annual Kolache Eating Contest

Sponsored by KJT Home Office

Saturday, May 29, 2021 · Start Time: 1:00 p.m.

Downtown Stage

Don't miss the annual Kolache Eating Contest! Prizes will be awarded for Men's, Women's, Youth Boy and Youth Girl Individual Champion. Registration Ends: Noon, Friday at the Chamber of Commerce, or noon Saturday at the Downtown Stage.





Alex Meixner would probably be a musician if polka music had not come along, but he admitted it would probably not be as much fun! Today, he is a leading advocate of polka music and travels all over the United States performing at festivals and other venues, large and small. The genre of music Alex performs can have tremendous variety, and he obviously has great musical aptitude.

EVERYBODY POL



"I can tell you that on my iPod, I probably have 40,000 songs with just about every kind of music. What would I most likely 'chill out' to? I set it on 'shuffle.' I may hear a Beethoven symphony, then a polka by Ernie Kucera, then Willie Nelson and then probably some smooth jazz will come on. I love all of it," he explained. "I grew up with music in our home. My father was a bandleader, record producer and owned a record shop in Allentown, Pennsylvania. My first memories of music are not in a formal setting. It was just always there."

Alex's father was a third-generation leader of a family band, which began in Austria. "I was on stage with an accordion by age 6, and two of my sisters joined in the Meixner Kinder. We started doing things like church picnics and eventually played in parks and resorts in the Catskills," he continued. "I actually started learning the piano at age 3."

Somewhere along the way, it became clear that Alex not only loved music, but had some exceptional talent and a desire to learn, perform and teach. He performed with the London Symphony Orchestra while still in high school, and was a highly sought-after recruit for music school. He eventually pursued and obtained an undergraduate degree from Ithaca College in New York and a Master of Music in trumpet performance

from Pennsylvania State University. One might assume that the trumpet would be Alex's favorite instrument, but he explained that it really depends on the situation. So, it might be safe to conclude that his favorite musical instrument is the one he is playing at the time. "The trumpet is something I am most comfortable with while playing classical music or jazz," he added. Today, Alex might play as many as eight different instruments, give or take a few.

"My roots are in polka music. I love the challenges and different ways I interact with people, and it is what I grew up with. I have pride in it as a family legacy, and I want it to keep evolving, so it remains relevant for future generations. Last year, I had the opportunity to play on a stage full of accordions with Paddy King, the fiddler in the current Alex Meixner Band, and the Accordion Kings at the Acadiana Center for the Arts in Lafayette, Louisiana." The Accordion Kings include Josh Baca, Geno Delafosse, Yves Lambert, Glenn Hartman and Steve Riley. Some of the video from the event is available on Alex's Facebook page. Watch and you will see what enthusiasm for the accordion and polka music is all about.

As most musicians do, Alex has had the "show must go on" experiences on the road, like the van breaking down on the way to a gig. On one particular occasion,

"We were playing in New York City with Dad's band at a place in Queens. The lights twitched, and we could smell smoke. It was coming from our mixer, so our sound system was dead. We wound up moving onto the dance floor and played acoustically. It turned out great, with the people dancing around us and singing along."

In his downtime off the road, Alex likes spending time with family. He has two daughters and a son and loves playing volleyball with them or tossing a baseball around the yard. Another release from his fast-paced musical life is reading, primarily about people, that is, biographies and autobiographies. "Last year I read *Faith: A Journey for All* by Jimmy Carter. I read a lot of philosophical work and books about having a positive mindset. Also, I read because we have to be aware of history to understand where we are in society. I read a biography of Jerry Lee Lewis and how much his rock 'n' roll music was influenced by Southern Baptist church music."

Getting back to music, Alex said he had been to the National Polka Festival in Ennis many times, playing with his own band as well as with others. He offered that he was inspired by artists like Brave Combo, recognizing they have explored so many forms of music. "I also played with Bubba Hernandez in Ennis. Ennis is obviously proud of its Czech roots. The people like the old, traditional songs that everyone knows. It was great two years ago when several musicians from different bands got on stage together. Danny Zapletal was there from Ennis and a number of others. It was an environment where the love of music was the most important thing. It was real. The people got it, and they recognized it as an important part of who they are." **NOW**



KA!

— By Bill Smith

SATURDAY, MAY 29, 2021 — COUNTRY CONCERT

Time: Doors open at 9:00 p.m.

Location: Sokol Hall · 2622 TX-34, Ennis, TX · Cost: \$15 advanced purchase/\$18 day of the event
Purchase advanced tickets online at www.nationalpolkafestival.com or at Kolache Depot



Jon Wolfe

Singer/songwriter Jon Wolfe performs world-class country music from the American heartland that is fired by his own contemporary energy and vision. His 2010 release, *It All Happened In A Honky Tonk*, became a regional success and was re-released as a Deluxe Edition by Warner Music Nashville in 2013. It has collectively sold 25,000 units. 2015's *Natural Man* debuted #13 on iTunes, #25 on the Billboard chart and #8 on the Nielsen SoundScan Top New Artist Albums Chart. *Natural Man* gave Wolfe the undeniable identity of a torchbearer for country music. *Any Night In Texas* (2017) — his most recent and proudest collection of songs to date — landed at #3 on iTunes Country, #15 on Billboard Country and continues to burn up the charts. With three highly lauded studio albums in his repertoire, Wolfe has garnered 12 consecutive Top Ten singles (eight have hit No.1), positioning him as a must-see act.



Jesse Jennings

Jesse Jennings, a talented singer/songwriter and musician based in Crowley, Texas, has toured with the Casey Donahew Band as an acoustic guitar player and harmony singer. He's opened for and toured with acts like Willie Nelson, Jason Aldean and Pat Green. Jesse won the DFW Talent Search contest in February 2012 in Burleson, Texas. His CD *A Long Way From Home*, released in 2015, produced three radio hits. He signed with Mark Caffey's record label, Legend Records, and is working on new music. In 2020, he partnered with Smith Music and released "Live at Ft. Worth Sound" producing two songs, "This is My Goodbye" and "Whiskey." In April 2021, he released a new song to kick off the MLB baseball season "I Kissed Her on the Strikes" — a fun, lighthearted song to celebrate a fresh start as we work on getting things back to normal.

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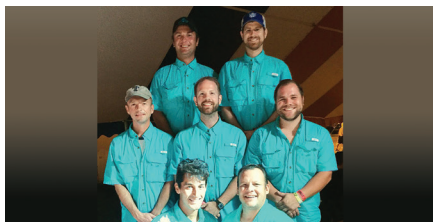


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Ennis Czech Boys
Saturday – 8:30 p.m.-midnight
SPJST Hall



Czechaholics
Saturday – 11:30 a.m.-3:00 p.m.
Sokol Hall



Texas Dutchmen
Friday – 6:00-11:00 p.m.
KJT Hall



Texas Sound Czech
Saturday – Noon-3:30 p.m.
Downtown Ennis



Jodie Mikula Orchestra
Saturday – 4:00-7:30 p.m.
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Saturday – 4:00-7:30 p.m. – KJT Hall
Sunday – 10:00 a.m.-1:00 p.m. – KJT Hall



Brave Combo
Sunday – 8:30-11:30 p.m.
Sokol Hall



The Moravians
Sunday – 1:30-4:30 p.m.
KJT Hall



Czech Harvesters
Saturday – 11:30 a.m.-3:00 p.m.
KJT Hall



Alpine Village Band
Saturday – 4:00-7:00 p.m.
Downtown Ennis



Fritz Hodde & The Fabulous Six
Saturday – 4:00-7:00 p.m. – Sokol Hall



Squeezebox
Saturday – 8:30 p.m.-midnight
KJT Hall



Alex Meixner
Sunday – 12:30-7:30 p.m.
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Czech and Then Some
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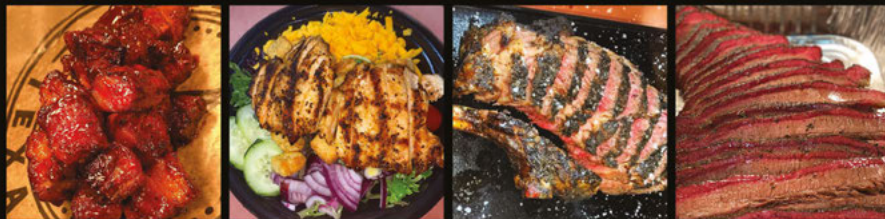


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34th King and Queen Dance Contest

Sponsored by SPJST Home Office

Friday, May 28, 2021 · KJT Hall

Doors Open: 6:00 p.m.

Dance Contest Registration Ends: 8:30 p.m.

Dance Contest Starts: 9:00 p.m.

This year's King and Queen Dance Contest will be like no other! So, dust off your dancing shoes and plan on competing this year. Dance contestants must be 15 years old or older. A Czech costume or "fancy" dancing is not a requirement to compete, but a Czech costume is required for the winners who will participate in the weekend festivities. In addition, contestants age 5 to 10 years are eligible to participate in the Polka Princess Contest. Contestants must have their parent's or guardian's consent. Winner must have a costume.

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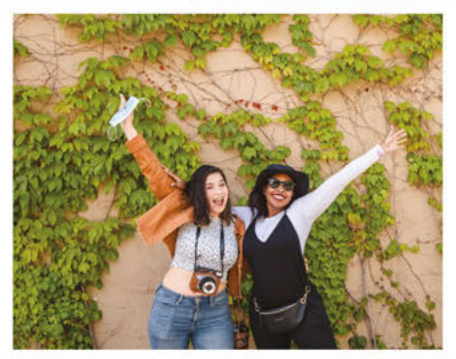
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Dr Swati Pullamaraju and family are moving out of state. Her last day will be May 18th.

We and the community wish her well and will miss her very much.

All patients will receive a mailed notification. Please call 972-875-4700 with any questions.

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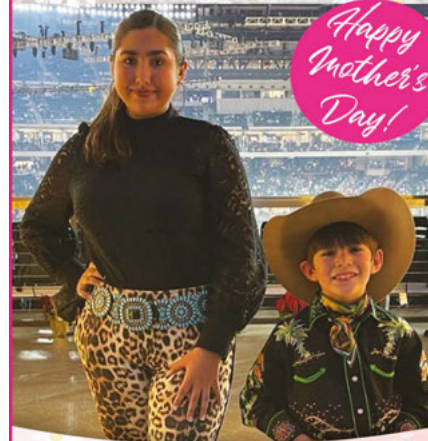
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CookingNOW

In the Kitchen With

KISHA HUMPHREY

— By Bill Smith

Chef Kisha Humphrey finds joy in cooking. “My favorite thing is to take ingredients people wouldn’t think go together and make a beautiful and delicious dish. Besides being a mom and a wife and cooking for my family, I am the dining coordinator for Brookdale Ennis. So, I get the pleasure of being able to prepare food for some of the most special people in Ennis,” Kisha explained.

“Making unique dishes is my specialty, but I also get a lot of inspiration from books. I also like to look at a picture and recreate it in my own kitchen.”

Kisha has a varied vocational background, but recently decided to become a chef. “I buckled down and graduated from culinary school. It was one of the happiest days of my life!” **NOW**

Shakshuka

Olive oil, for sautéing

1 red bell pepper, seeded and diced

1 medium onion, diced

4 garlic cloves, finely chopped

2 tsp. paprika

1 tsp. cumin

1/4 tsp. chili powder

1 28-oz. can whole peeled tomatoes

Salt, to taste

Pepper, to taste

6 large eggs

1 small bunch fresh cilantro, chopped

1 small bunch fresh parsley, chopped

1. Heat the olive oil in a large sauté pan on medium heat. Add the bell pepper and onions; cook for 5 minutes, or until the onions become translucent.

2. Add the garlic and spices; cook an additional minute.

3. Pour the can of tomatoes and juice into the pan; break down the tomatoes using a large spoon. Season with salt and pepper; bring to a simmer.

4. Use your large spoon to make 6 small wells in the sauce; crack 1 egg into each well. Cover the pan; cook for 5-8 minutes, or until the eggs are done to your liking.

5. Garnish with chopped cilantro and parsley.

Sun-dried Tomatoes & Mozzarella Chicken Roulade

4 Smart Chicken breasts, boneless/skinless
Kosher salt, to taste

Black pepper, freshly cracked, to taste

10 oz. spinach, sautéed, drained
and chopped

8 oz. fresh mozzarella pearls

4 oz. drained sun-dried tomatoes in oil,
chopped

Canola or olive oil, enough for sautéing
Extra-virgin olive oil, to taste (optional)

1. Lay each chicken breast flat on a cutting board; with a sharp boning or filet knife, carefully split the chicken breasts in half. Fold them open like a book. Be careful not to cut them all the way through. Cover the chicken with plastic wrap; gently pound the chicken with a meat mallet until about 1/4- to 1/2-inch thick. Lightly season the chicken with salt and pepper.

2. In a mixing bowl, combine the spinach, mozzarella and sun-dried tomatoes; season with salt and pepper. Mix to combine. Place

the mixture in the center of each breast; carefully roll each up like a burrito. Use toothpicks to help keep the seams closed.

3. Heat enough oil for sautéing in a large sauté pan to medium-high heat; carefully sear all sides of the chicken. Finish in a 400 F oven for 5 to 10 minutes, or until the temperature reads 165 F in the thickest portion of the chicken. Let rest at least 10 minutes; slice. Drizzle the chicken with extra-virgin olive oil, if desired.

Instant Pot Korean Beef

2 lbs. beef chuck, blade steak, roast or stewing beef

3 cloves garlic

2 medium green onions

1/2 cup beef stock

1/4 cup low-sodium soy sauce

1/4 cup packed brown sugar

1 1/2 Tbsp. rice wine vinegar

3 tsp. gochujang

2 tsp. fresh ginger, grated

1/2 tsp. black pepper, freshly ground

3 Tbsp. water

2 1/2 Tbsp. cornstarch

2 tsp. sesame seeds, for garnish

1. Cut the beef into small, bite-size cubes, about 3/4 inch to 1 inch in size.
2. Mince the garlic finely, or put it through a garlic press.
3. Remove the root ends from the green onions. Slice them thinly on the diagonal, keeping the white and light green parts separate from the dark green parts; set aside.
4. In the inner pot of the Instant Pot, combine the minced garlic, the white and light green slices of green onion and the next 7 ingredients; stir to blend.
5. Add the beef cubes to the sauce mixture; stir to coat the beef thoroughly.
6. Lock the lid in place; turn the pressure release valve to the sealing position. Choose the pressure cook or manual button (high pressure); set the timer for 25 minutes. When the time is up, carefully turn the pressure release valve to the venting position. (See the manufacturer's instructions for quick release.)
7. Combine the water and cornstarch in a small bowl; whisk to blend. Cancel the pressure cook setting. Choose the sauté setting.
8. Add the cornstarch slurry mixture to the pot; cook, stirring, for 1 to 2 minutes, or until thickened.
9. Arrange the Korean beef in a serving bowl; garnish with the sesame seeds and the dark green parts of the sliced green onions.
10. For individual servings, arrange hot cooked rice or noodles in serving bowls.

GALLERY WILL FEATURE LOCAL ARTISTS ON A ROTATING SCHEDULE.

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Shakshuka

Spoon the beef and some of the sauce over the rice or noodles; garnish with sesame seeds and sliced green onions. Enjoy!

Dijon Baked Salmon

1 1/2 lbs. salmon
1/4 cup fresh parsley, finely chopped
1/4 cup Dijon mustard
1 Tbsp. lemon juice
1 Tbsp. olive oil or avocado oil
3 garlic cloves, minced
Salt, to taste
Pepper, to taste

1. Preheat the oven to 375 F. Place the salmon on a parchment-lined baking tray; set aside.
2. Mix together the remaining ingredients in

a small bowl; generously coat the top of the salmon.

3. Bake the salmon for 18-20 minutes, depending on the size and thickness. Slice it into individual portions; serve immediately.

Creamy Chipotle Shrimp

3 Tbsp. olive oil (divided use)
1 lb. shrimp
1 red bell pepper, seeded and roughly chopped
3 cloves garlic, minced
3 green onions, sliced with green and white parts separated
Salt, to taste
Pepper, to taste
1 5-oz. can chipotle peppers in adobo sauce

1/2 cup milk, dairy or nondairy
Cilantro, to taste, chopped, for garnish
Jalapeños, to taste, sliced, for garnish


1. Heat 2 Tbsp. olive oil in a sauté pan on medium heat. Add the shrimp; sauté for 3-4 minutes, or until the shrimp are cooked through and opaque. Remove the shrimp to a bowl.
2. In the same pan, add remaining olive oil; add the bell pepper. Sauté for 4-5 minutes.
3. Add the garlic, white parts of the green onions, salt and pepper. Stir for another 2 minutes.
4. Blend the adobo/chipotle peppers until smooth.
5. Pour in the chipotle sauce and milk; stir to combine. Add the shrimp back to the pan to warm through.
6. Garnish with the green parts of the green onions, chopped cilantro and sliced jalapeño peppers.

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*"Wait on the Lord: be of good courage,
and He shall strengthen thine heart; wait, I say, on the Lord." ~ Psalm 27:14*



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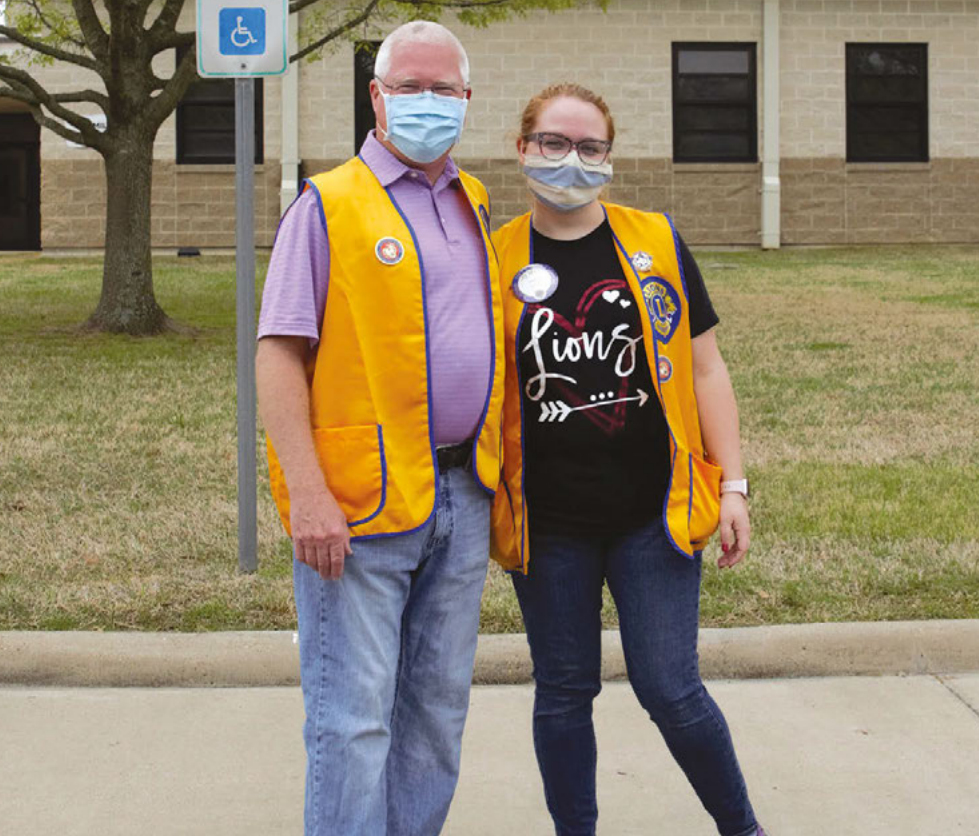
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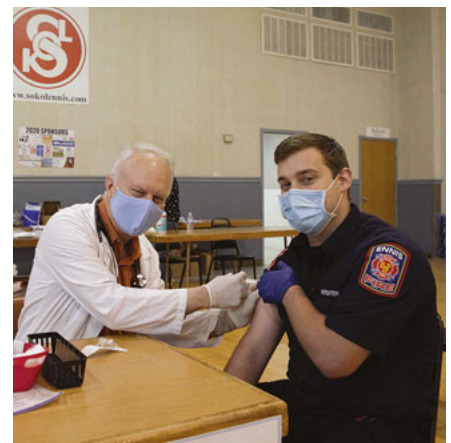
Justin Schiffner and his children, Peyton and Kelton, celebrate Kelton's three goals in his soccer game.

Zoomed In: Dan and Morgan Taylor

By Bill Smith

If ever two Ennis Host Lion's Club members could be considered "legacies" it would be Dan Taylor and his daughter, Morgan. Dan is the son of long-term Lion's secretary, Bob Taylor, and his daughter, Morgan, is currently serving as tail twister in the club.

Dan has been in education for many years, currently serving as career and technology education (CTE) director for Ennis ISD. Though not born in Ennis, Dan came here as a youth and graduated from Ennis High School. Morgan was born in Ennis and besides her Lion's Club avocation, spends most of her time as a nurse. Both of them are examples of the Lion's Club motto, "We Serve."



Dr. Larry Jinks and paramedic Jacob Chapman participate in the COVID-19 Vaccine clinic at the Sokol Hall.



Some of the Ennis High School athletes who recently signed scholarships to attend college this year pose for a group photo.



People enjoy the first Bluebonnet Market for 2021 on a cool, spring day.



Leo and Juana Solis spend an evening at Minne McDowal Park.



National Honor Society members Natalie Devora, Andrea Davis and Madison Bell participate in the local food distribution.



Polly Ann Cannon with Tutormama helps one of her students with phonics.

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— TALES OF TEXAS —

FOUNDING FOLKLÓRICO

— By Angel Morris



Photos courtesy of <http://www.rosaguerrero.com>.

Born in El Paso, Rosa Ramirez Guerrero is best known as an artist, dance historian and humanitarian. Also an educator, she taught for El Paso ISD, El Paso Community College and at The University of Texas at El Paso. Throughout her efforts, Rosa placed importance on cultural awareness. “My belief was to lift the spirit, soul and self-esteem of any student I had in my path. I would make them proud of who they were,” Rosa reflected.

Rosa recalls her own teachers in the 1940s and '50s were not encouraging. At that time, students were punished for speaking Spanish in school, fueling Rosa's desire to become a teacher herself.

As a result, Rosa was the first of seven children in her family to graduate and earn both a bachelor's and master's degree. “I developed a strong sense of leadership in high

school and wanted to continue that as a freshman dance major at Texas State College for Women [now Texas Woman's University],” Rosa recalled. “My counselor told me I was too pushy and aggressive.”

Hearing this took a toll on Rosa's self-esteem. Around this time, however, she met her would-be husband, Sergio, and the couple married in 1954. The coach and modern dance instructor would be her soul mate for 62 years, until his passing in 2016.

With Sergio's support, Rosa started the first folklórico dance group in El Paso in 1970. Burges High School was the first school for the folklórico, sponsored by the Spanish National Honor Society. “We practiced during lunch. Then at El Paso Community College, with the support of Dr. Alfredo de los Santos. We danced at the barracks at Logan Heights, where Ft. Bliss had loaned the college some space,” Rosa outlined. “Then in 1972 at Our Lady of the Light, the first chapel there, and then at St. Joseph's Church with my first real folklórico.”

Calling it the International Folklórico Dance Group, Rosa served as artistic director and truly began to fulfill her mission of cultural acceptance. “I felt many Mexican Americans did not know their culture, or they denied it. If I could share how I felt my culture through dance, they could also build a sense

of pride in their heritage through music, dance, folklore, language, literature, the arts, etc.” Rosa said.

Rosa went on to develop the 1974 film, *Tapestry*, based upon creating cultural harmony, and was honored with a national award for documentary filmmaking. She was a featured dancer in the film, which now has a sequel, *Tapestry II*.

In 1991, Rosa’s International Folklorico performed at the Kennedy Center. “We were told we were the first folklorico in the nation to perform there!” Rosa noted.

In 1992, Rosa Guerrero Elementary was dedicated by Governor Ann Richards. “That was the naming of the first elementary school for a Latina in El Paso. I still cannot believe it,” Rosa enthused.

Awarded a lifetime membership with the Texas PTA, Rosa credited her parents as her first teachers. “They were the best dancers in the world, I thought. My father knew so many steps, so much music, so much culture, too.”

Rosa officially started dance classes at age 6, and her dance career spanned 78 years. “I still dance sitting down, especially tap, Irish jigs, waltzes, folklorico footsteps called *zapateados*, Spanish *taconeos* and all the arm and hand movements possible!” Rosa exclaimed.

Through the years, Rosa has received local, national and international honors, including being named a Distinguished Alumni of The University of Texas at El Paso, inductee into the Texas Women’s Hall of Fame, the Valley Forge Freedoms Foundation Award, the LULAC Arts and Humanities Award, the NEA Human Civil Rights George I. Sanchez Memorial Award and the Mexican Consulate Ohtli Award for her work with Mexican Americans and other minorities. “There should be mandatory human relations classes for all Americans,” Rosa suggested as a significant way to move the country forward in cultural acceptance.

Rosa said seeing her own children — two teachers and a Christian musician — help in their communities makes her as proud as any of her achievements. “Cultural understanding and respect for each other begins in the home,” Rosa credited. “That is where we begin to stop racism.” **NOW**



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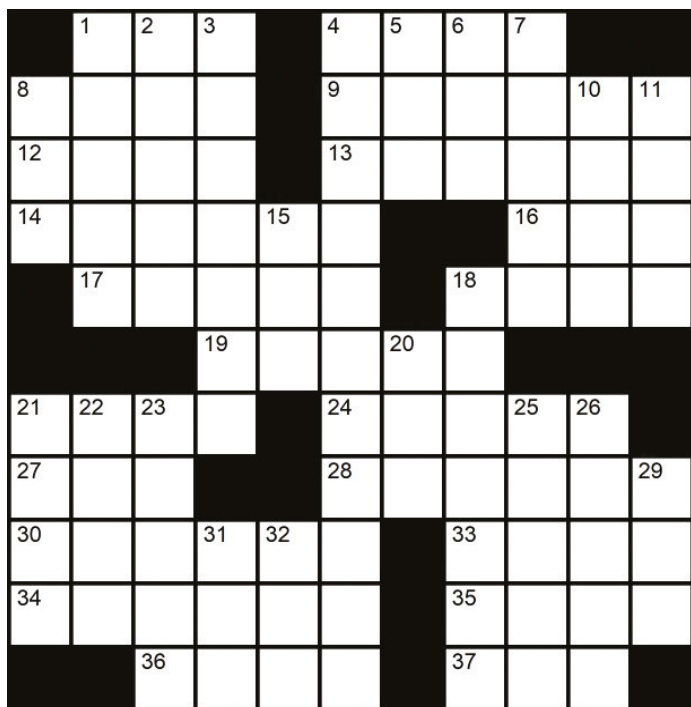
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Across

- 1 London radio and TV network
- 4 "As --- alone, by blue Ontario's shores" (Whitman)
- 8 Miles of "Psycho"
- 9 Incendiary gel
- 12 Wide smile
- 13 Oscar winner --- Loren
- 14 Brush expert
- 16 Surgical procedures
- 17 Up and about
- 18 Essay
- 19 --- Hauptmann, the Lindbergh kidnapper
- 21 Twenty-four were baked in it
- 24 Overtake
- 27 Neuman's mag
- 28 Bay State capital's nickname
- 30 Native American village
- 33 Partiality
- 34 Executioner
- 35 Formerly, one sixteenth of a rupee
- 36 Woodpile
- 37 Stage joke

Down

- 1 He coined the comment: "A nickel ain't worth a dime anymore"
- 2 Cockneys, Liverpoolians et al.
- 3 Incredulous response
- 4 Trainers
- 5 Portuguese holy one
- 6 Software program, briefly
- 7 California border lake
- 8 Computer monitor letters
- 10 Hot --- (M A S H role)
- 11 Nuts
- 15 Respectful form of address
- 18 Carryall
- 20 "Forget it!"
- 21 Current units
- 22 Revere or Robeson
- 23 Best possible
- 25 Crockery
- 26 --- He (Chinese river)
- 29 Youth org.
- 31 Letters on some party invitations
- 32 Section of a race

Solutions on page 52

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

Medium

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

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MAY

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5/1

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Texas Motorplex, 7500 U.S. Hwy. 287 For more information, visit www.texasmotorplex.com.

5/1-5/2

Laugh Theatre, Comic Scenes and Sketches:

Watch in person or live stream. **Saturday:** 7:30 p.m.; **Sunday:** 2:30 p.m., Ennis Public Theatre, 113 N. Dallas St. For tickets and more information, call (972) 878-7529 or visit ennispublictheatre.com.

5/1-5/2 and 5/7-5/8

Cinco de Mayo — A Cultural Celebration:

Live music featuring Sol de la Kumbia (headliner), Veronica Reyes and Quinto Proyecto, margaritas, food trucks and more! Sponsored by Amelia Valdez, City Real Estate. 5:00-9:00 p.m., Minnie McDowal Park, 119 N. Dallas St.

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5/6

Sip, Shop & Stroll:

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5/7

Farm Fresh Dinner & Auction:

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5/13

Carter Blood Drive:

According to Carter BloodCare,

the current blood shortage is the worst that it has been in decades, especially Type O donations. Open for everyone in the community. Social distancing measures will be taken. Noon-4:00 p.m., Ennis State Bank, 815 W. Ennis Ave.

Ennis High School Spring Football Game:

Come see next years' team in action! 5:30-8:00 p.m., Lion Memorial Stadium.

5/16

Night of Worship:

The churches of Ennis invite people of all faiths downtown for a time of unity and worship. 7:00-8:30 p.m., Minnie McDowal Park, 119 N. Dallas St.

5/21

Ennis High School Graduation Ceremony:

8:00-10:00 p.m., Lion Memorial Stadium.

5/28-5/30

National Polka Festival:

Come help celebrate 54 years of Czech heritage and traditions. The festival kicks off with an opening dance on **Friday** featuring polka music and the King and Queen Dance Contest. The parade will begin at 10:00 a.m. **Saturday**

morning, followed by food, arts and crafts booths and live music and dancing downtown. The halls will host food and dancing **Saturday and Sunday**. For more information, go to nationalpolkafestival.com or visitennis.org, or go to the Ennis Welcome Center 201 NW Main St. (972) 878-4748.

Mondays

Sign Language Class:

4:00-5:30 p.m., Ennis Public Library, 501 W. Ennis Avenue. For more information, call the library at (972) 875-5360.

Wednesdays

Ennis Host Lions Club:

We are having in-person meetings again! Tabernacle Baptist Church, 1200 Country Club Road. Please call Bob Taylor at (972) 875-3546 or email bretco3546@gmail.com if you plan to attend, so your lunch can be ordered.

Chess Classes:

4:00-5:00 p.m., Ennis Public Library, 501 W. Ennis Avenue. For more information, call the library at (972) 875-5360.

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Crossword - Sudoku Solutions



Easy

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

Medium

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

IS EQUITY A HEALTH CARE ISSUE?



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BETTER HEALTH
BEGINS WITH
BETTER QUESTIONS

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