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MAY 2023

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Geoffery Williams
appreciates history while
preparing for the future

Festival Food and the FFA

A creative yearly
fundraiser sends Ennis
students to the state
convention

In the Kitchen With
Kathy Cikanek

Also inside:

Scavenger Hunt

Crossword/Sudoku

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Davis Dermatology

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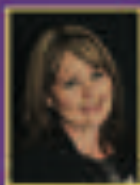
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EDITOR'S NOTE



Bill

Bill Smith
EnnisNOW Editor
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What happened to winter?

Here we are in the heart of “festival season” in Ennis. What a mild winter we had this year. Oh, I remember the cold snap we had in February, but it was really brief, and Ennis did not experience near the ice or freezing rain that was predicted. Better safe than sorry is fine with me, too!

Is it just an old wives’ tale that the mosquitoes will be bad if we do not have a hard winter? Several years ago, we took a vacation to Banff Springs, Canada, where I know the temperatures plunge for extended periods in the winter. We were there in July, and the mosquitoes were huge and plentiful. I tend to think North Central Texas is still the best place in the world to live, even if our summers can be over-the-top with heat, and it will be here before we know it.

Enjoy the festivals. Bluebonnets were last month. Cinco de Mayo and Polka Festival are this month, and the Blues on Main will be in June. All of these are before Texas really heats up, and every Saturday morning through October seems like a festival downtown with the Bluebonnet Market. Get down there early while it is still cool!

Many of your fellow Ennisites put a lot of sweat equity into making Ennis a place for us to enjoy the quality of life, as well as attract tourists. If you see some of these folks as you stroll down Main or Dallas Street, be sure to let them know you appreciate their hard work.

Now let’s fire up the grill!





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PROGRESS *and* PRESERVATION

— By Bill Smith

Having been at the helm of the Chamber of Commerce for over a year, Ennis feels like home to Geoeffery Williams now. His first day as Chamber president and CEO was in January 2022, but he was here doing some contract work for a few weeks before that. “The Chamber Auction had been postponed the prior year because of COVID, and everything was essentially in place for the event in February, just after I came. I was able to get pretty deeply involved as soon as I arrived,” he said.

“While most of my career has been in the Metroplex, I grew up in a town much smaller than Ennis. My graduating class at Medina High School had only 15 students, and there is not even one traffic light there.” Geoeffery is married to his wife, Lisa, who is originally from Great Britain. “She still has family overseas, and her mother lives in Austin, Texas,” Geoeffery explained. “But she is a North Texas girl now. It was certainly with her support that I took the position with the Ennis Chamber, and we moved here.”

Geoeffery has enjoyed learning the history of Ennis, and already recognizes the names when you mention some of the founders of the Ennis Polka Festival and Bluebonnet Trails Festival. “History is important to me. I actually taught history for a while after I graduated from college. The heritage of a community like Ennis is special, and we do not want to lose sight of it as the city grows.” Geoeffery sees the growth of the city as inevitable, perhaps as much as doubling in size over the next 10 years.

“The Metroplex has gone about as far north as it can go,” he reflected. Having served as vice president of engagement with the North Dallas Chamber of Commerce (NDCC) for 12 years, he witnessed how other communities in the area managed their growth and retained their small-town values. “McKinney does not look anything like it did 30 years ago,” he continued. McKinney has an attractive, modern courthouse now, but the old courthouse is still on the square and has been repurposed as a performing arts center. There are a number of small businesses around the square that appear to be thriving.







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“The IH-35 corridor expanded just to our west before the development of the IH-45 corridor. I think part of the reason for that was the travel to and from not only Dallas but also Fort Worth,” he opined. “The triangle of businesses between IH-35E and IH-35W is significant. Just look at the effect it has had on Mansfield and Midlothian. Ennis is attractive because of the land that is available, but also because of the things that the community has to offer to those who live here. You can live here and drive 50 miles to work if you want to and still enjoy the small town and know your neighbors. But employment opportunities continue to expand here. Some major industries like Schirm and Freshpet are major employers and are poised to grow.”

With expanded opportunity comes the need for workforce development. “College degrees are still important to a lot of people, and there will always be opportunities for employment from there, but we are also seeing workers opt for skills training in other venues. We appreciated our partnerships with vocational training at Navarro College, as well as our association with Eric Pierce at Ennis High School and his work with vocational education. Today’s employment emphasis is more on a willingness to work. One can now be certified with a marketable skill in two years and able to earn a livable wage.”

Goeffery spent enough time in the corporate world to realize that he did not want it to be his lifelong career. “I worked for Mary Kay Cosmetics for a while in a corporate position and decided it was not for me. I wanted my professional life to benefit others, and for the past 25 years, I have been working for nonprofit organizations,

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including teaching, the Volunteer Center of North Texas, Boy Scouts of America, the American Heart Association/ American Stroke Association and, of course, the North Dallas Chamber.

“Every town is different, but they all have some similarities. Much of the same stuff happens here as in the larger markets, it is just handled differently. One significant difference is the value system. Here a handshake can and should be enough. We have pillars of the community and leaders here like we had where I grew up. People have a lot of choices about how they can be involved. Down here, just about everyone is ‘tied together’ somehow.”

The Ennis Chamber of Commerce website says it is “dedicated to the expansion of the individual goals of its members as well as the businesses they represent. ... A high-quality, balanced and diverse community of happy families is the Ennis way.” Geoeffery said, “Ultimately, progress is happening as much as we might like to hold back. It is still coming. We want to protect the community and keep it, but still accept the progress that is undeniably coming. Being lucky means being prepared and meeting the opportunity.”

In just the short time he has been here, Geoeffery has seen projects completed that were underway when he came, as well as significant additions to industry, retail and housing. “I know the Chamber just recently sold their building and moved to this location. We had a similar decision to make at the NDCC after a tornado destroyed the building in 2019. We had to decide whether to rebuild or relocate. The Chamber of Commerce is not the building, it is the businesses and the people of the community. Partnerships and collaboration lift everyone.” **NOW**

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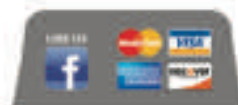
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— By Bill Smith

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Dr. Lance Davis decided he wanted to be a physician when he was only 5 years old. Interaction with a couple of doctors as a child and teenager shaped his desire to pursue medicine as a career, though he was undecided exactly what specialty he would pursue until those studies began.

In medical school, Dr. Davis said he fell in love with the complexities of the skin. “I am very grateful for the education



I received from Parkland, UT-Southwestern, Baylor Scott & White in Temple as part of the A&M system and their departments of dermatology. Those schools molded me into the doctor that I am today.”

In his practice, Dr. Davis treats a multitude of skin disorders in patients of all ages. He performs a variety of cosmetic procedures, including BOTOX, fillers for wrinkle treatment and chemical peels. However, he affirms that his passion is for medical and surgical dermatology, with a significant emphasis on the diagnosis and treatment of skin cancer. “In 2018, we opened the Texas Melanoma Institute, which works hand-in-hand with our dermatology practice. The institute was founded to promote awareness, detection, diagnosis and early intervention of malignant melanoma skin cancer. We are saving lives, one patient at a time.”

Dr. Davis has been married to his wife, Lauren, for 13 years, and they have five children. “I try to keep a balance between work and family, and I have really enjoyed coaching my sons’ soccer teams. I get a lot of my work done early in the

morning so I can have family time, but Lauren is the one I give credit to for taking care of so many things that allow us to have quality time together. She is amazing,” he related.

Others have influenced Dr. Davis’ path over the years, and he referred to his high school English teacher, Mrs. Mary Dillard, as one who was so motivating that he still visits her on Thanksgiving. However, Dr. Davis speaks with such compassion about what he does and his desire to make a difference in people’s lives, that you know his primary motivation today is his patients.

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Davis Dermatology also has offices in Dallas, Kaufman and Fairfield, but he is quick to point out that Ennis is the most rewarding part of the practice. His parents, Edwin and Cathy Davis, grew up in Ennis, graduating from Ennis High School in 1970 and 1971, respectively. He continued, “I spent much of my childhood in and around Ennis with family and friends. It was always my desire to practice medicine here.

“Though we work in the other offices also, all of our employees are from Ennis. We really enjoy the small town, and there is great satisfaction working in what might otherwise be under-served communities. I have had the opportunity to speak to local service clubs in Ennis about skin cancer. We have great relationships with our patients, as well as with the community leadership. We love Ennis, and we plan to practice here for many years to come.” **NOW**



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7:30 p.m. - 11:00 p.m.	Czechaholics	KJT Auditorium
9:00 p.m.	King & Queen Dance Contest (sponsored by SPJST Home Office)	KJT Auditorium
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11:00 a.m. - 1:30 p.m.	Vaneks of West	Sokol
11:30 a.m. - 3:00 p.m.	Mark Halata & Texavia	KJT Auditorium
11:30 a.m. - 12:30 p.m.	Střibřianka	SPJST Lodge #25
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
1:00 p.m. - 3:00 p.m.	Praha Brothers	SPJST Lodge #25
2:30 p.m. - 5:00 p.m.	Texas Dutchmen	Sokol
4:00 p.m. - 7:30 p.m.	Jodie Mikula Orchestra	KJT Auditorium
4:00 p.m. - 7:30 p.m.	Fritz Hodde & Fabulous 6	SPJST Lodge #25
4:30 p.m. - 7:00 p.m.	Alpenmuzikanten	Downtown Ennis
8:30 p.m. - 12:00 a.m.	Brave Combo	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 - Mike Ryan w/ special guest Alex Meixner	Sokol
SUNDAY, MAY 28, 2023		
9:00 a.m.	Polka Mass	St John Church
10:00 a.m. - 1:00 p.m.	KBEC Polka Party Live Broadcast (10 a.m.- noon): with Dujka Brothers	KJT Auditorium
11:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m.	Arts & Crafts, Food, & Pivo/Beer Pavilion	Downtown Ennis
11:30 a.m. - 12:30 p.m.	Střibřianka	Sokol
12:00 p.m. - 3:30 p.m.	Street Dance - Czechaholics	Downtown Ennis
1:00 p.m. - 8:15 p.m.	Czech & Then Some / Alex Meixner	Sokol
1:30 p.m. - 4:30 p.m.	The Moravians	KJT Auditorium
9:00 p.m. - 11:30 p.m.	Brave Combo	Sokol



Parade in Downtown Ennis

Saturday, May 27, 2023 • 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 "Polka in the USA."



12th Annual Kolache Eating Contest

Sponsored by the KJT Home Office

Saturday, May 27, 2023 • 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.



FESTIVAL

Owen Anthony has been active in the FFA for six years and currently serves as president of the local chapter. A mainstay of the Polka Festival food booth for the past three or four years, he looks forward to working the booth again this year with his fellow FFA members.

"It is fun to work in the booth," he said. "It is what gets the other officers in the FFA and me to our [state] convention each year. If we are going to go to the convention, we are required to work two shifts at the booth, but I enjoy it so much, I'm usually there most of the time on both Saturday and Sunday."

The FFA members didn't always have the opportunity to earn the funds for the convention trip this way. Josh Zapletal was in FFA about eight years ago. While he had worked in the booth for years and is part of the third generation of his family to be actively involved with the festival, it didn't become a source of funds for the FFA until the club was advised that there was no money in the FFA budget to send the chapter officers to the annual convention. "Our FFA instructor said we needed to find sponsors," Josh recalled. "My grandfather, Raymond Zapletal, was one of the original committee members who got the Polka Festival started, and I started going to the committee meetings with Grandpa Joe Landsfeld when I was just a kid. My father,

Danny, served on the committee for over 25 years. I had worked in the festival booth for several years, and we never really got paid, but they would give us tickets to the country/western band performance during the festival. I asked if we might get paid for working the booth as a fundraiser for the FFA. Everyone thought it was a pretty good idea."

Danny asked if Josh could get some other FFA students involved. Josh continued, "That first year, I worked with Benny Conn, Tyler Woods, Ariel Banks, Caleb McCabe, Paige Brazil and Lane and Chase Schlottman. We had a good size group, and it was a learning year. The good news is we made enough money that each student only had to come up with \$50 to go to the convention."

Bethany Tucker is one of the current agriculture teachers at Ennis High School. "We have this down now," she related. "Kevin Marek is the chairman of the Polka Festival food booth committee, and he knows he can count on our kids for the weekend. We take 16 kids to the convention each year, and it costs about \$500 for each one."

Tanner Schlottman continues to work with the FFA and mentioned how much the kids enjoy working the booth. "They will also give the kids a Polka Festival T-shirt, and they are really glad to wear it," he said.

While the downtown part of the festival has grown to include

AND



FOOD THE FFA

— By Bill Smith



a number of other food vendors, those who have been around for a while will remember during the early days, the Polka Festival Committee's booth was the only food booth there was. Also, the size of the booth has doubled and includes other merchandise. "Years ago, we got the klobase and barbecue from Ennis Meat Market. Today, the meat comes from Mike Landsfeld with Holy Smoked Sausage in Waco. The recipe for the barbecue sauce goes back to the Ennis Meat Market, as Tommy and Mike Liska continue to provide the old recipe," Tanner added.

Owen likes working the cash register at the booth, and he loves to visit with the people who come by. "I also serve the kolaches and klobase we sell in the booth. We get a lot of funny questions about the food. One person asked for a kolache sandwich. There is always someone asking for a sausage klobache, which we have learned should be called a *klobasnek*.

"In FFA, I show market goats and got second place in the county show this year. I am looking forward to going to the convention again, and after high school, I plan to pursue

an associate degree from TSTC in Waco to be a biomedical equipment technician. I have learned a lot through FFA about leadership, public speaking and respecting others. We have both leadership development events and career development events." The effect that the FFA has had on Owen is obvious, and working in the Polka Festival booth has certainly played a part as well.

Josh praised the FFA for how much the students have contributed to the festival. "They just do a great job. We know we do not have to worry about the booth. It allows many adults to work at the halls who otherwise would be in the booth. It has been a win-win for both the FFA and the Polka Festival Committee."

Bethany added, "Being part of a Czech community was new to me. It's like a whole new world. At the school where I previously worked, it was always a challenge to get the kids to convention. This is a lot of support for our kids. Once you are part of the Czech community, you have made it!" **NOW**

Saturday, May 27, 2023 — Country Concert

Time: 9:00 p.m.-12:30 a.m.

Location: Sokol Hall • 2622 TX-34, Ennis, TX 75119

Cost: \$29 in advance/\$35 day of the event

MIKE RYAN



Singer-songwriter Mike Ryan has achieved impressive accolades in just under 10 years, independently building a career that's earned the devotion of fans and the respect of other artists in the music industry. Ryan co-wrote Brad Paisley's Top 20 "Last Time For Everything," and his songs have garnered over 265 million streams.

By the time he was in college, Ryan was making his own music and building an audience on the competitive Texas music scene. The years of hard work are paying off, as he has since scored nine No. 1 songs on the Texas music charts, and his previously released album *Blink You'll Miss It* landed at No. 15 on the Billboard Heatseekers Albums chart and in the top 40 on Billboard's Independent Albums chart.

Ryan is proud of his new album, *Longcut*, a 13-track collection that spotlights his growth as an artist and songwriter. The songs run the gamut from the playful drinking song "Off My Thinker" to the soulful anthem "All My Songs" and the album's intriguing closer "Forgiveness and Rain."

There's an edge to this album and a more expansive feel because COVID led to a more relaxed timeline. Ryan and his co-writers and producers, Bart Butler and Ryan Gore, took their time, and as a result, the up-tempo tracks kick harder and the poignant ballads pack more emotional punch. There's an intensity and maturity in this collection that signals a new chapter for Ryan.

For tickets, visit <http://www.nationalpolkafestival.com>.



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Brave Combo

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Sunday - 9:00-11:30 p.m. - Sokol Hall



Alex Meixner

Saturday - 8:00 p.m.-midnight - Sokol Hall

Sunday - 1:00-8:15 p.m. - Sokol Hall



Czech & Then Some

Thursday - 7:00-11:00 p.m. - KJT #35 Hall

Sunday - 1:00-8:15 p.m. - Sokol Hall



Ennis Czech Boys

Saturday - 8:30 p.m.-midnight

SPJST #25 Hall



Stribrňanka

Friday - 6:00-7:00 p.m. - KJT #35 Hall

Saturday - 11:30 a.m.-12:30 p.m. - SPJST #25 Hall

Sunday - 11:30 a.m.-12:30 p.m. - Sokol Hall



Jodie Mikula Orchestra

Saturday - 4:00-7:30 p.m.

KJT #35 Hall



Czechaholics

Friday - 7:30-11:00 p.m. - KJT #35 Hall

Sunday - Noon-3:30 p.m. - Downtown Ennis



Texas Sound Check

Saturday - Noon-3:30 p.m.

Downtown Ennis



The Moravians

Sunday - 1:30-4:30 p.m.

KJT #35 Hall



Dujka Brothers

Sunday - 10:00 a.m.-1:00 p.m.

KJT #35 Hall



Texas Dutchmen

Saturday - 2:30-5:00 p.m.

Sokol Hall



AlpenMusikanten

Saturday - 4:30-7:00 p.m.

Downtown Ennis



Mark Halata Texavia

Saturday - 11:30 a.m.-3:00 p.m.

KJT #35 Hall



Praha Brothers

Saturday - 1:00-3:00 p.m.

SPJST #25 Hall



Fritz Hodde & The Fabulous Six

Saturday - 4:00-7:30 p.m.

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Sokol Hall

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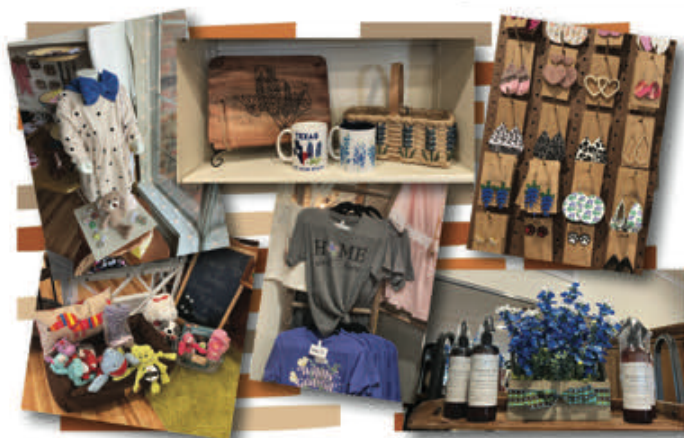
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POLKA FESTIVAL

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POLKA FESTIVAL

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36th King and Queen Dance Contest

Sponsored by the SPJST Home Office

Friday, May 26, 2023 • KJT #35 Hall

Doors Open: 5:00 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 ages 6 to 10 years are eligible to participate in the Polka Prince and Princess Contest. Contestants must have their parent's or guardian's consent. Winner must have a costume.

The National Polka Festival

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Zoomed In: Aaron Woods

By Bill Smith

Aaron Woods' background since graduating from Ennis High School in 2007 includes time as a record producer and as an assistant manager for Kohl's Distribution for 12 years. "I still enjoy music production, and I did just about everything you could do at Kohl's," he reflected. He entered the insurance business with Bibby, Brilling & Associates, LLP in 2021 and recently started working primarily from their Ennis branch at Arden Insurance Agency. "I am excited about this career change."

He said that his stepson, age 13, and his daughter, age 2, keep him busy in his spare time, and he and his wife also enjoy traveling. "We live just outside of town near Alma, so the kids go to school in Ennis," he shared. "And I look forward to helping as many people as possible."



Brad Ackland charms his audience as he eloquently performs jazz at The Vine at 119.



Brandon Zamorano takes Rue for her morning stroll.



Carol Martin and her granddaughter, Makenzy Baugh, enjoy crafts at the Ennis Public Library.



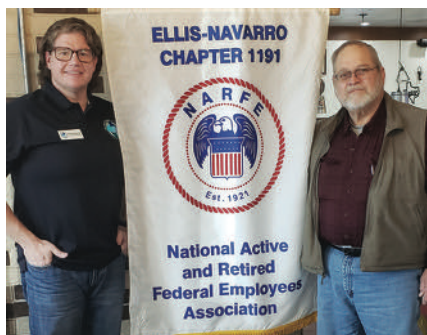
Lindzee Neuman prepares to assist a customer at H-E-B.



Kristi and Tommy Copeland start a new season at the Bluebonnet Market.



Pastor Chet Hensley and wife, Tia, visit the statue of Elijah on their recent trip to Israel.



Korey McCrady is introduced as speaker at the NARFE meeting by James Patak.



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CookingNOW *In the Kitchen With* KATHY CIKANEK

— By Bill Smith

A native of McGregor, Texas, Kathy Cikanek came to Ennis for her first teaching position, and recently retired after 48 years with EISD. “I was surprised when I came here to learn that Ennis is a Czech community. My father is full blood Czech and my grandmother spoke very little English. She was a great cook and always seemed to have a feast of pork roast, potatoes, kolaches, strudel and my favorite — plum dumplings with butter sauce,” she recalled.

“The Czech tradition continues and will be passed down to my daughters. I married into the Cikanek (Trojacek) family and am blessed to have so many good cooks become immediate relatives. The cabbage roll tradition was started by my mother-in-law, Adelle. She made them every New Year’s Day.” **NOW**

Czech Cabbage Rolls

This has been served on New Year’s Day for over 40 years in my family.

PAM Cooking Spray

2 lbs. hamburger meat

1 lb. Jimmy Dean Original Breakfast Sausage

1 large head of cabbage (or 2 small heads)

1 1/4 cups Minute Rice, uncooked

1 small onion, finely chopped

2 tsp. garlic salt

1 1/2 tsp. black pepper

1 32-oz. jar Libby’s Sauerkraut (glass jar)

1 64-oz. bottle Campbell’s Tomato Juice (not V8)

1. Grease a 9x13-inch or 9x14-glass pan with PAM Cooking Spray.

2. Set out the hamburger meat and sausage

for about 30 minutes before you begin.

3. Core the cabbage by making four deep slits around the core and removing it.

4. Fill a large soup pot with water; place the cabbage into the pot core side down.

5. In a large bowl, mix the hamburger meat, sausage, rice, onions and seasonings until well blended. This is best done with clean hands mashing the ingredients together.

6. Bring the pot with the cabbage to a low boil. Then turn the cabbage over with a fork, and begin to let the leaves peel off one at a time. The leaves should not be fully cooked, but pliable enough to bend.

7. Remove the leaves; cut out the middle vein of each leaf leaving two halves.

8. Place about 1/4 cup of the hamburger mixture shaped into a log (like a thick cigar) into the middle of the leaf. Roll it; place seam side down in the pan. There is no need to tuck the ends — just trim excess off with a knife. If the leaves are not soft enough to work with, return them to the boiling water. Continue rolling until the pan is full. This makes a large pan with two rows of cabbage rolls side by side.

9. Drain the sauerkraut in a colander; squeeze out all excess juice with your hands. Cover the cabbage rolls with the sauerkraut.
10. Completely cover the rolls with the tomato juice. Do not overfill as it will bubble up while cooking.
11. Bake, uncovered, in a 350 F oven for 60-70 minutes. The juice will cook down, and the top will begin to look dry.
12. Serve with black-eyed peas, mashed potatoes and cornbread.

Blackberry Wine Cake

Cake:

- 1/2 cup pecans, chopped
- 1 box yellow cake mix
- 1 small box vanilla instant pudding
- 1 cup blackberry wine
(Manischewitz 100%)
- 1/2 cup Wesson oil
- 4 eggs, room temperature

Glaze:

- 1 cup sugar
- 1 stick butter
- 1/2 cup blackberry wine

1. *For cake:* Grease and flour a Bundt pan. Sprinkle the chopped pecans into the bottom of the pan.
2. Mix the cake mix, vanilla instant pudding, wine, oil and eggs. Pour the batter into the prepared pan. Bake at 350 F for 50-60 minutes. Leave in the pan for 30 minutes.
3. *For glaze:* Mix the sugar, butter and wine. Boil for 2-3 minutes. Pour over cake while hot in the pan.

Beer Bread

- 3 cups self-rising flour
- 3/4 cup sugar
- 1 12-oz. can Coors Light or beer of your choice
- 2 Tbsp. butter

1. Mix first 3 ingredients; place in a well-greased/floured loaf pan.
2. Bake at 350 F for 45 minutes.
3. Drizzle with the butter; return to the oven for an additional 15 minutes.

Mary Kuback's Apricot Nuggets

Dough:

- 2 sticks margarine
- 1 8-oz. pkg Philadelphia Cream Cheese
- 1 tsp. vanilla
- 2 cups flour, sifted

Filling:

- 1 6-oz. pkg. dried apricots



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Blackberry
Wine Cake

1 1/2 cups water
1 cup sugar
Powdered sugar, for dusting

1. For dough: Cream the margarine; add the cream cheese and vanilla. Beat until fluffy.
2. Blend in the sifted flour; mix well. Wrap the dough in Saran paper; refrigerate for at least 2 hours. (It can be refrigerated overnight.)

oven; dust both sides with powdered sugar while warm.
8. For a shortcut, use a can of Solo Apricot Pastry Filling found on the baking aisle.

Poppy Seed Chicken

5-6 chicken breasts, cooked and cut into cubes

3. For filling: Cut the apricots into very small pieces; boil them in the water until soft.

4. Add the sugar; blend until thickened. Puree in a food processor, if needed.

5. On a floured surface, roll the dough to 1/8-inch thickness; cut out circles with a biscuit cutter.

6. Place a small amount of the filling on each circle; fold over. Crimp the edges with a fork to seal.

7. Bake at 350 F on an ungreased cookie sheet for 20 minutes or until golden. Remove from the

2-3 10.5-oz. cans Campbell's Cream of Chicken Soup

1 8-oz. carton sour cream
1/2 cup chicken broth
2 sleeves Ritz crackers
2-3 Tbsp. butter, melted
2 Tbsp. poppy seeds

1. Mix together the chicken, soup, sour cream and chicken broth. Place the mixture in a 9x13-inch baking dish.

2. Crush the Ritz crackers; add the melted butter. Sprinkle this over the ingredients in the dish. Cover with the poppy seeds.

3. Bake at 350 F for 30 minutes. Serve over cooked rice with a side of broccoli.

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— By Virginia Riddle



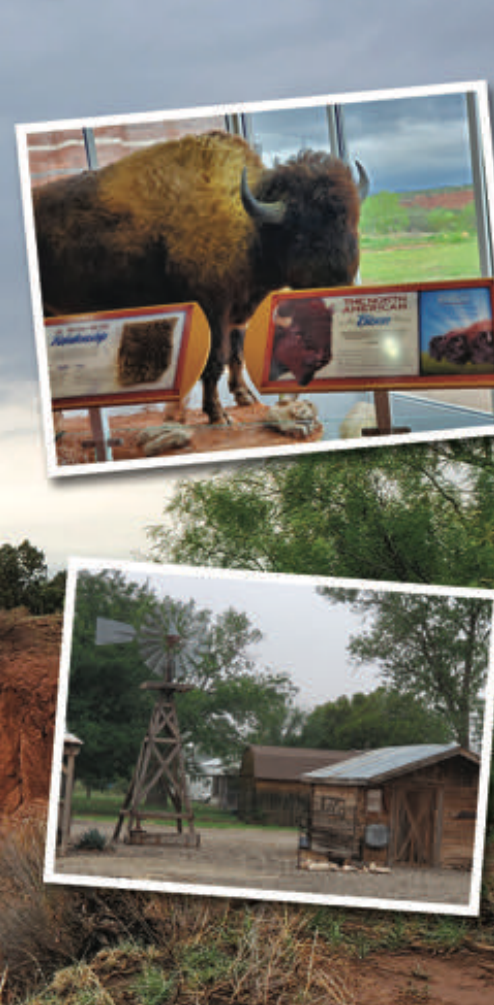
Camp in Caprock Canyons State Park, and awaken to a glorious dawn, glowing on red, orange and white shale, sandstone and siltstone walls. Bison graze freely nearby in the park's almost 14,000 acres. Prairie dogs scamper around in "towns." Sheep, mule deer, bobcats, coyotes, porcupines, jackrabbits and birds live among the blue grama, buffalo grass, sideoats grama, Indian grass, yucca, wildflowers, cacti, cottonwoods, wild plum thickets and junipers that dot the park's many vistas.

Caprock Canyon was formed by two forks of the Little Red River, cutting into the Llano Estacado High Plains Escarpment for almost a million years, producing some rock walls over 1,000 feet high. Nomadic people, the Folsom, arrived in the canyon about 10,000 years ago. From the rock, they fashioned spear tips used to kill large animals. Hunter-gatherer groups followed. Permanent settlements began about 1,000 years ago, and the Spanish explorer, Francisco Vázquez de Coronado, discovered the canyon in 1541. The Apache, Kiowa and Comanche occupied the canyon during the 1700s-1870s.

Anglo settlers arrived in the 1800s, when bison were being killed in large numbers by trappers, hunters, *comancheros* (traders) and the U.S. Army. Mary Ann Goodnight, who was co-owner of JA Ranch with her husband, Charles Goodnight, saved bison to prevent probable extinction. The Texas State Bison Herd is genetically descended from the Goodnight herd and is perhaps one of the last examples of native Texas bison.

Also unique to the park is an abandoned railway line that offers hiking, biking and an equestrian trail. The 64-mile trail crosses Quitaque Canyon to Estelline, running through the 742-foot-long Clarity Tunnel, home to Mexican free-tailed bats, and along many original trestles. Over 90 miles of multiuse trails exist ranging from easy to very challenging, and visitors can boat, fish and/or swim in Lake Theo. A lodge, as well as campsites with water or water and electricity are offered, and backpackers and equestrians can take advantage of primitive camping sites. Hands-on activities await visitors of all ages at the Children's Discovery Center, and the exhibits at the Interpretive Pavilion explain the canyon's geology and Native American history.

In this ranching country, the weather and terrain changes quickly, making for hardy residents. The town of Quitaque is near the intersection of the Cottonwood and Los Lingos creeks. Area attractions include Camp Resolution, one of four encampments of the Texan Santa Fe Expedition; the Valley of Tears; and the Comanchero Canyons Museum, which tells the history of the area with exhibits of artifacts



dating from the Clovis era through the 1800s. Dining, bed-and-breakfasts and hotel accommodations are available in Quitaque, Silverton, Turkey and Childress, Texas. Horseback riding is offered at the historic Pole Canyon Ranch and the Quitaque Riding Stables.

Internet and cell service are rare or nonexistent in the area, but that's not why people flock to Caprock Canyons State Park. The stunning vistas, geology, wildlife, adventures, bison and a return to ranching days of old where a handshake still means something are just a few reasons to visit. **NOW**

Sources:

1. Parent, Laurence. *Official Guide to Texas State Parks & Historic Sites*. 2018, University of Texas Press, Austin, Texas. pgs. 102-104.

2. "Caprock Canyons State Park & Trailway." Texas Parks & Wildlife online.

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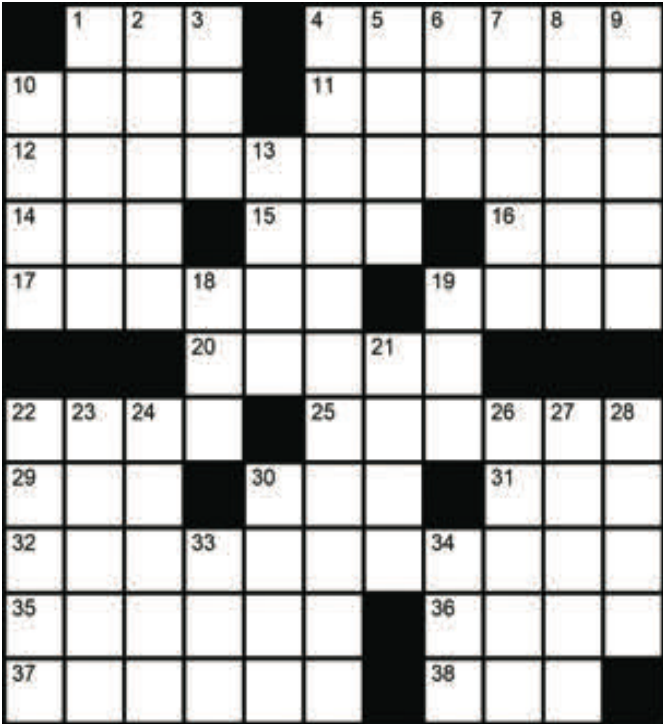
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- Across

1

USSR successor

4

Savanna grazer

10

"Bless me, Father, --- have sinned"

11

Impulse transmitter

12

Formal attire

14

1/100 yen

15

Contents of some whistles

16

Heard in a herd

17

Small earthquake

19

Numerous

20

Sesame Street grouch

Down

1

Lid

2

Castle of the turkey trot

3

Transgression

4

Coterie

5

Starter for a million

6

Brick-making clay

7

Fragrance

8

Running out of

9

Bug

10

Celebration suffix

13

Nasdaq events

18

Witty remark

22

Encourage in wrongdoing

25

Stifle awkward pronoun

29

They're white at Guaranteed Rate Field

30

Hindu honorific

31

Myself, in Munich

32

Repaired, decrepit lab is unsurprising

35

Sign up

36

Shellac

37

Irritate

38

Health security agency

19

Miss, once?

21

On the job

22

Trembling poplar

23

Carried

24

Apply

26

Plant firmly

27

Pale purple

28

Guitar ridge

30

Low-down horizontal beam

33

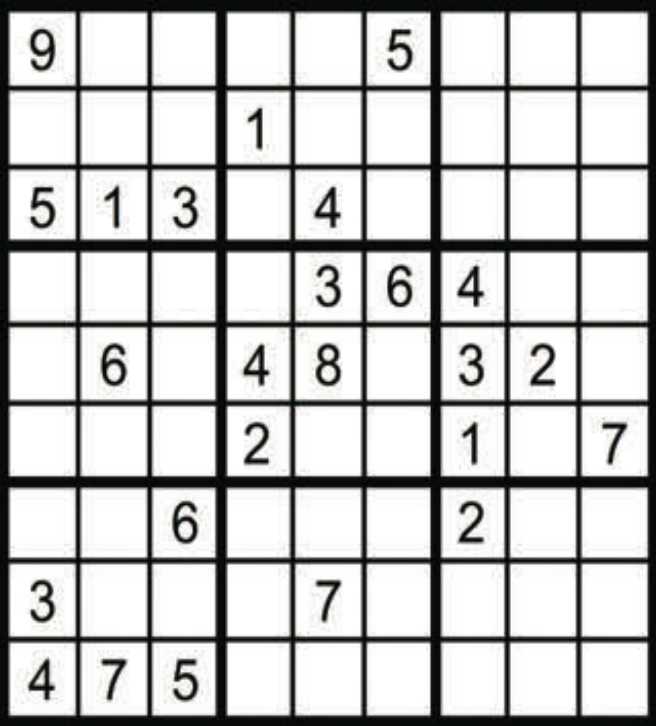
Half a colon

34

Simplicity simile

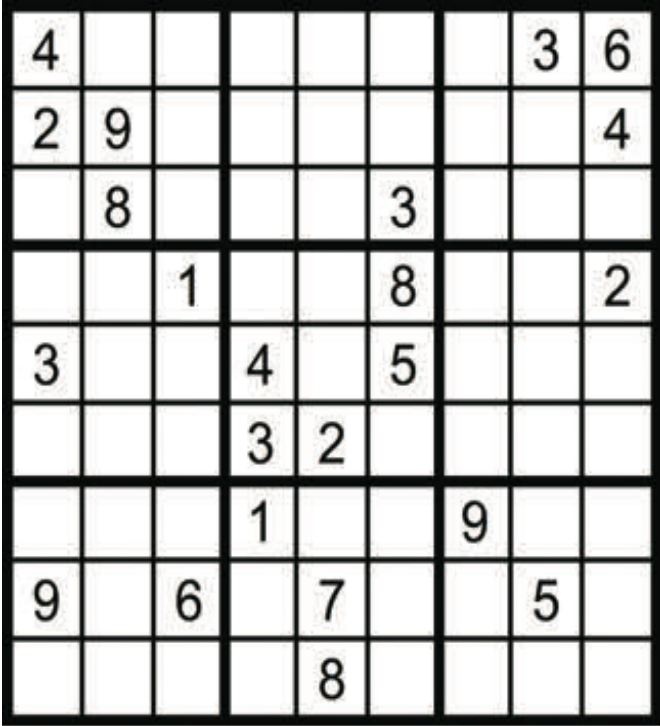
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Easy



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Medium



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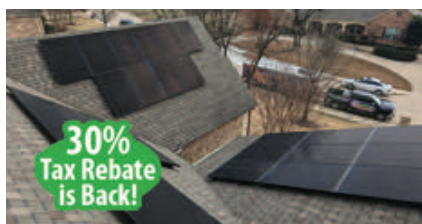
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HAPPY Mother's Day

MAY

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.

5/4

National Day of Prayer:

Please join us at Minnie McDowal Park as we join with others across the country for this event. 6:30 p.m., 119 North Dallas Street.

5/7

Cinco de Mayo Celebration:

Food, shopping, entertainment, kids' activities, margaritas and more! Bobby Pulido, Latin Grammy Award winner, on the main stage. See event schedule for specific times. 1:00-9:00 p.m., Downtown Ennis.

5/25

Polka Pre-Party With

Czech and Then Some:

7:00-11:00 p.m., KJT #35 Bar, 1216 S. Paris St.

5/26-5/28

National Polka Festival:

Come help celebrate the Ennis Czech heritage and traditions. **Friday:** The festival kicks off with an opening dance featuring polka music and the King and Queen Dance Contest. **Saturday:** The parade begins at 10:00 a.m., followed by food, arts and crafts booths and live music and dancing downtown.

Saturday and Sunday: The halls will host food and dancing. For more information, go to nationalpolkafestival.com, visitennis.org or the Ennis

Welcome Center,
201 NW Main St.
(972) 878-4748.

5/27

23rd Annual Polkafest Run-Walk/5K/10K:

Presented by the Ennis Rotary Club. Cost: \$0-\$30, depending on age and event. Registration: 5:45-6:45 a.m. 10K Race: 7:00 a.m.; 1-mile Fun Run/Walk: 7:10 a.m.; 5K Race: 7:30 a.m. Awards will follow at 8:30 a.m. The event begins in front of Lonestar Fitness Center at 2405 Yorkstown Drive. For more information, visit <https://runsignup.com/Race/Events/TX/Ennis/PolkafestRunWalk5K10K>.

6/3

Annual Pancake

Breakfast Fly-In/Drive-In:

Classic airplanes and fighters, helicopter and airplane rides, classic cars and motorcycles, live music, children's activities and more! Adults and children 8 and over: \$7; children under 8: \$3. Free entrance and parking. 8:00 a.m.-11:00 a.m., Mid-Way Regional Airport, 131 Airport Dr., Midlothian. Contact Tammy Bowen at (972) 923-0080 or tbowen@waxahachie.com.

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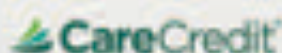
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