

# EnnisNOW

M A G A Z I N E

MAY 2025

## The Color of Music

Aydric Griffin  
conducts emotion

## Passionate About Polka

After four decades,  
Brave Combo  
continues to entertain  
festival goers

Best of In the Kitchen:  
Czech Recipes

Also inside:  
Scavenger Hunt  
Crossword



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*Bill*

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## EDITOR'S NOTE

*Vitáme Vás! Welcome!*

My world went a little off track right after the first of the year with an unexpected medical excursion. While my experience was unplanned, about six weeks into my recovery, my wife had a planned surgery that caused us to switch roles from caregiver to patient and vice versa. As I compose this note, I can see our return to "normal," and normal will be welcomed with open arms!

So, what does normal look like in Ennis this time of year? Well, we are in the heart of festival season, of course! We enjoy the Bluebonnet Trails and Festival every year, and this was no exception. Visitors enjoy the Ennis hospitality, and the events are truly family friendly. The Bluebonnet Market is going strong every Saturday, and we love going downtown and seeing our friends and neighbors as they man their booths, and we trade with our local vendors and merchants.

While the market continues each Saturday, the National Polka Festival will draw thousands of visitors during Memorial Day Weekend. This has been Ennis' big party for 59 years, and it is sure to be as much fun as ever this year. Be sure to read the article in this issue about the festival and about Brave Combo. You'll have to reach way back to recall a time when Brave Combo was not a part of this great event in Ennis.

Enjoy the great parade, the Czech food, dancing downtown and at the halls, the vendors and the friendly Ennis hospitality. If you see a Polka Festival Committee member, let them know you appreciate what they do. This is our normal, and we are proud of it!

*Everybody polka!*



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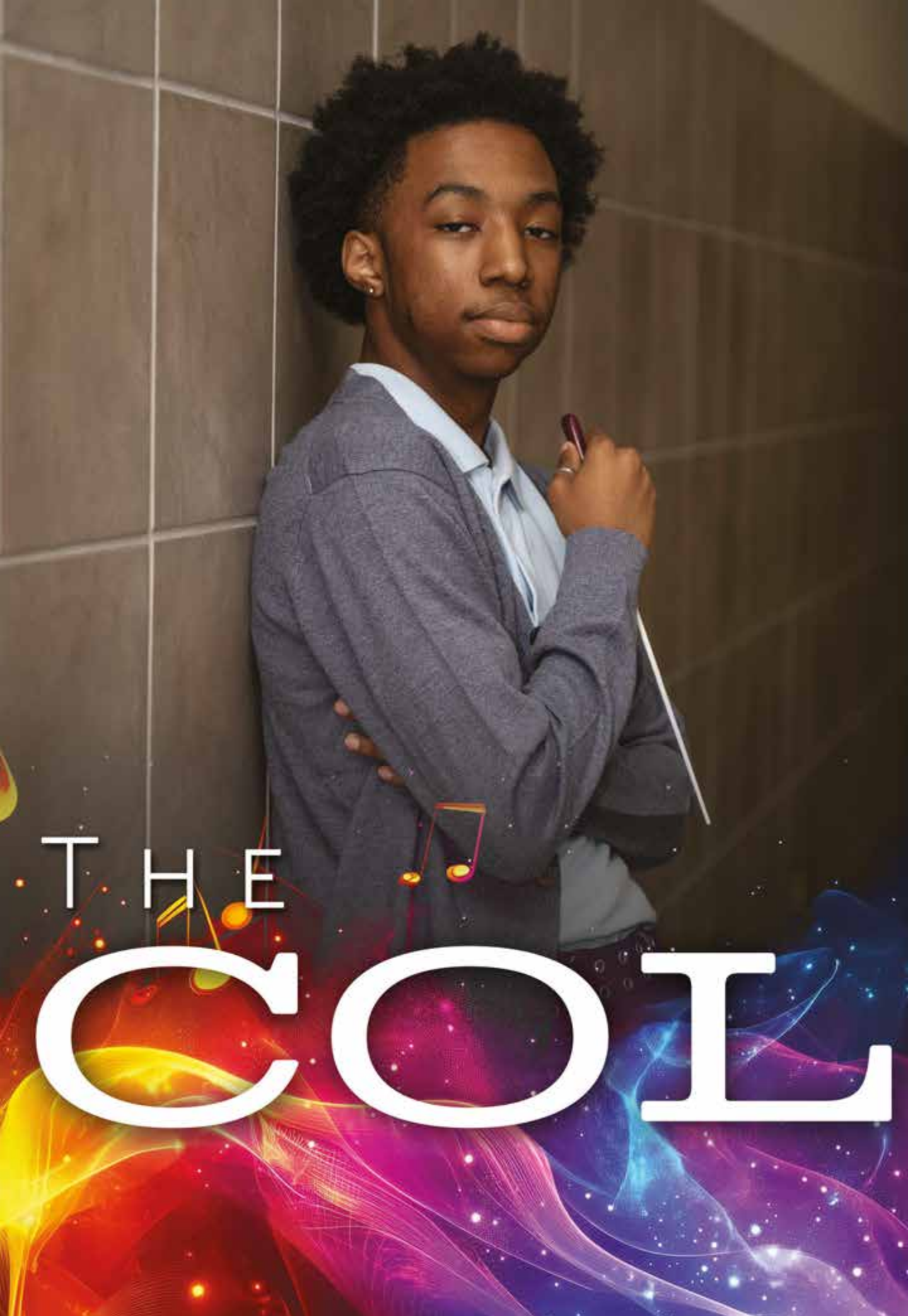


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# THE COIL

*Just four percent of the population is affected by synesthesia, a neurological condition in which multiple senses are activated in the brain. The rarer form of synesthesia, known as chromesthesia, affects just one percent of the population. It allows its host to see colors when they hear sounds. This is how it is with Ennis High School's own prodigy Aydric Griffin who, until recently, assumed everyone saw colors when they heard music or read literature.*

Born into a musical family, he grew up listening to classical, jazz, contemporary and gospel music. It was when he was in elementary school that he fell in love with choral music while watching his older brother and sister perform under the direction of now Grammy Award winner Pamela Dawson at DeSoto High School.

Almost immediately, Aydric mapped out his future. He would attend DeSoto East Middle School, join the choir and bide his time until he could also train under Ms. Dawson. COVID-19 had other plans, however, shutting everything down and ultimately forcing his family to move to Ennis.

"I was mad," Aydric confessed. In what he can only explain as "my stubborn attitude," he refused to join Ennis High School's choir program as an incoming freshman. But his love of music and his undeniable talent could only be refused for so long.

As a middle schooler in DeSoto, Aydric was introduced to choir director Jamal Walker, who would play a critical role in Aydric's future. Mr. Walker was later named East Middle School Teacher of the Year in 2020 and was chosen to take part in the largest virtual choir ever assembled. He believed Aydric to be of exceptional talent and checked up on his former student with EHS Choir Director Jason Gadberry. As it turned out, Mr. Gadberry and Mr. Walker were friends.

In Aydric's sophomore year, Mr. Gadberry placed him in Varsity Chorus, where he has now served as student conductor for more than two years, a prestigious position most students do not see until college. Under Mr. Gadberry's direction, the choir program earned a rating of sweepstakes, the highest possible rating at UIL competition, making program history in Ennis ISD. Aydric was selected for the National Honor Choir, All-State Choir while also making a name for himself within the American Choral Directors Association. Together, they were — literally — making beautiful music.

"Mr. Gadberry helped me so much with my musicianship," Aydric said. He also opened Aydric's world by making him student conductor. "As a conductor, it sounds cliché, but I want to make the world a better place," Aydric said. "Music is about emotion. As a conductor I love the process of learning the text. We can all be vulnerable together. Inspired. Scared. Hopeful."



— By Alexandra Allred



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“Choir is an egalitarian community that also allows people to express their humanity in a beautiful way,” Mr. Gadberry said. Aydric has readily adopted this philosophy. At just 18 years of age, he is driven to make audiences feel and see the composer’s intent.

From Beyoncé, Billy Joel and Olivia Rodrigo to Duke Ellington, Vincent Van Gogh and even Nikola Tesla, chromesthesia has served as a superpower for many musicians and artists. Aydric sees the centuries of composers driven by how a certain timbre or musical note brought color to the world, or, as he puts it, “relaying a message. Music spreads awareness. It connects us.”

During the pandemic, after Aydric and his family were forced to move and the plans he made seemed to slip away, Mr. Walker promised Aydric if he made All-State Choir at TMEA, the Texas Music Educators Association, he would be there.

“I was going to sit out this year,” Mr. Walker said. Then, he learned that Aydric was in! Aydric, he said, had always been so eager to learn sight-reading and improve an already natural talent. “I didn’t think I had the talent, and I shared this feeling with Aydric. I told him to do better than I did.” Good to his word, Mr. Walker attended the TMEA convention.

In fact, Aydric’s transformation has been nothing short of incredible. By his own admission, he hadn’t cared about his grades until he returned to the world of music in his sophomore year at Ennis High School. Today, this humble and polite but self-assured young man breaks down the great works of Mozart; Bach; Beethoven; and fellow musician with





chromesthesia, Franz Liszt, thoroughly and effortlessly. It is his dream to earn his choral doctorate, compose and publish, teach and inspire a new generation of students.

“Aydric wants to be a choir director, but the truth is, he could be whatever he wants — a professor, a conductor, president of TMEA, whatever it is, he is going to be successful,” Mr. Gadberry said.

Although Aydric’s taste in music is broad, from rap, pop and rock to neo-soul and jazz, it is classical music that most inspires him. And it is not just music, but also poetry, that allows him to see color, “earth tones that are beautiful.”

The common belief that music is “just bad poetry,” doesn’t sit well with Aydric, who sees music as a way to unite, inspire and lift up society — particularly in times of discourse. “For example,” he said, “the poem, ‘Silentium!’ by Russian poet Fyodor Tyutchev, was set to music.” Written in 1830, the poem was one of self-expression and introspection, suggesting that true emotion and thought should be kept private. “But my job as a conductor is to give emotion,” and convey this premise. “If I can do that, it makes me happy.”

This shone brightly as Mr. Walker was in attendance at the All-State convention. “Seeing him up on the screen was amazing,” Mr. Walker said. “To see what a musician he’s become and how much of a name he has made for himself among composers is just amazing. He is putting himself out there, and they know him. The composers already know who he is. I wouldn’t have missed this for the world.” **NOW**



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## MAY 23-25, 2025



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**Saturday, May 24: \$15**

**Saturday, May 24: Southall Country Concert**  
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May 23 - 25

## ENNIS FREEDOM FEST

June 28



# SCHEDULE

## FRIDAY, MAY 23, 2025




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

DOORS OPEN 5:00 P.M.

5:30 P.M. - 6:45 P.M.  
**Stříbrňanka**

7:00 P.M.  
**Beseda Dancers**

7:30 P.M. - 11:00 P.M.  
**Red Ravens**

9:00 P.M.  
 **King & Queen  
Polka Dance Contest**



## SATURDAY, MAY 24, 2025



**Downtown Ennis**  
(201 NW Main St., Ennis)

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

**Sokol**  
(2622 E. Hwy. 34, Ennis)

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

7:00 A.M.  
**PolkaFest Run**  
9:00 A.M. - 4:00 P.M.  
**Vendors &  
Pivo Pavilion**  
10:00 A.M.  
**Polka Parade**  
12:00 P.M. - 3:30 P.M.  
**Texas Sound Check**

1:00 P.M.  
 **KJT Kolache  
Eating Contest**  
2:30 P.M.  
 **Beer Stein  
Hoist Contest**  
(držení tupláků)

DOORS OPEN 11:00 A.M.  
11:30 A.M. - 3:00 P.M.  
**Dujka  
Brothers**  
3:15 P.M. - 3:45 P.M.  
**Czech Slovak  
Dancers  
of CHS**  
4:00 P.M. - 7:30 P.M.  
**Vaneks of West**  
8:30 P.M. - 12:00 A.M.  
**Brave Combo**

DOORS OPEN 10:30 A.M.  
11:00 A.M. - 1:30 P.M.  
**Ennis  
Czech Boys**  
2:15 P.M. - 5:00 P.M.  
**Mark  
Jirikovec Band**  
SOUTHALL COUNTRY CONCERT  
TICKET REQUIRED  
DOORS REOPEN AT 8:30 P.M.  
9:00 P.M.  
**Opening Band,  
Alex Meixner**  
10:30 P.M.  
**Country Headliner,  
Southall**

DOORS OPEN 11:00 A.M.  
11:30 A.M. - 12:30 P.M.  
**Stříbrňanka**  
1:00 P.M. - 4:00 P.M.  
**Czechaholics**  
4:45 P.M. - 7:45 P.M.  
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Mikula  
Orchestra**  
8:30 P.M. - 12:00 A.M.  
**Moravians**



## SUNDAY, MAY 25, 2025



**Downtown Ennis**  
(201 NW Main St., Ennis)

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

**Sokol**  
(2622 E. Hwy. 34, Ennis)

**St. John Church**  
(401 E Lampasas St.)

11:00 A.M. - 4:00 P.M.  
**Vendors &  
Pivo Pavilion**  
12:30 P.M. - 3:30 P.M.  
**AlpenMusikanten**

DOORS OPEN 9:30 A.M.  
10:00 A.M. - 2:00 P.M.  
**Mark  
Jirikovec Band**  
10:00 A.M. - 12:00 P.M.  
**Live Remote  
Broadcast KBEC  
Polka Party**

DOORS OPEN 11:00 A.M.  
11:30 A.M. - 12:30 P.M.  
**Stříbrňanka**  
1:30 P.M. - 8:15 P.M.  
**Czech and Then Some  
& Alex Meixner**  
9:00 P.M. - 11:30 P.M.  
**Brave Combo**

9:00 A.M.  
**Polka Mass**



**SATURDAY & SUNDAY SHUTTLE SERVICE**

**TO & FROM DOWNTOWN (CORNER OF NW MAIN ST & ENNIS AVENUE),  
AND THE CZECH HALLS - KJT, SOKOL, & SPJST**





# **PASSIONATE ABOUT POLKA**

— By Amber D. Browne

Fans cheering from the dance floor, moving in formation and interacting with the rich sounds of Grammy Award-winning polka band Brave Combo has been a recurring sight at the National Polka Festival in Ennis for more than 40 years. As the festival celebrates its 59th year this Memorial Day weekend, crowds can once again expect energetic performances from Brave Combo on Saturday and Sunday night. Carl Finch, who founded Brave Combo in 1979, experienced all that the National Polka Festival has to offer one year before starting the band. Several years later, the band was performing at the festival. “We are so much a part of the fabric of it now,” Carl shared. “Crowds are showing up, and everybody is having a good time.”

In the band’s early years, Brave Combo wanted to learn polka music and play it as authentically as they could, but none of the members had a background in the genre. Carl considered them more of a rock band playing Texas Czech polka, and the National Polka Festival gave them a chance to play for the people. “The Ennis folk, especially the young people, got what we were doing. They were also way into their heritage and their culture, but they also dug what we did,” he explained. “We were embraced.”

Although playing polka was a new venture, Carl was no stranger to its melodies. When he discovered polka music, Carl had been on a journey to become nonjudgmental and more accepting. For two years, he refrained from saying words considered judgmental, such as right and wrong. “Try not to be judgmental,” he said. “Magic happens. Things just happen, but you have to work really hard at it.” During this journey, Carl discovered dozens of polka albums on final sale at a shop, and he was hooked.

Carl had long been interested in polka music and often wondered why mainstream media and pop culture did not offer it the respect it deserved. “They considered it the music of backward Europeans, primarily Eastern Europeans,” he explained. “I thought, *There’s nothing wrong with this music. It’s great music.*”

With two Grammy wins under their belt, Brave Combo can take liberties when creating new music and performing. With that recognition, the band continues to use its position to share the belief that polka music deserves just as much respect as any music. “That’s been our crusade,” Carl shared. “We’ll be this voice of reason.”

Carl is passionate about polka, but music has been part of his life since early childhood. At the age of 7, he began taking piano lessons. He sang in the church choir and performed in marching band, concert band and other bands in high school. “I’ve been consumed by music forever,” he



shared. “It’s just something I’m drawn to. It makes sense to me, and it’s easy for me.”

Brave Combo — with Carl on keyboard, accordion and guitar; Alan Emert Mansfield on drums; Jeffrey Barnes on woodwind; Robert Hokamp on guitar; Carl Kleinstueber on tuba; and Danny O’Brien on trumpet — brings elevated performances to the National Polka Festival each year. “When we’re onstage, it’s all one organic thing. It’s a pretty great feeling, but it has to stay positive.” Motivation comes from connecting to the audience, and with a great production crew, Carl said it is easy for the band to communicate with the crowd.

“When we come to an event like this, it’s a pretty big sound.” Crowds have come to expect traditional Texas Czech polka songs such as “Seven Step Polka,” “A Ja Sam Polka” and “Blackbird Waltz.” Brave Combo also entertains with their own unique version of the “Chicken Dance” and original songs.

Polka performances across the country include German and Tejano polka, whereas the Lone Star State is a hot spot for primarily Texas Czech. “It’s called the National Polka Festival for a reason. This is a nerve center for progressive Texas Czech music. This is a very important spot.” Danny Zapletal and Michelle Zapletal Slovak, children of festival co-founder, Raymond Zapletal, continue the festival tradition today. “They have been working really hard to bring the Texas Czech sound into more of the national and international arena.”

For Carl, being invited to perform at the National Polka Festival for more than four decades is an honor and a privilege. “It’s humbling. To be asked back over and over, and to know we’re reaching die-hard polka fans with our own twisted interpretation of polka music, it’s hard to beat that,” Carl said. “I want to keep that feeling going.” NOW



**Saturday,  
May 24, 2025  
Country Concert  
Time: 8:30 p.m. -  
Midnight  
Location: Sokol Hall  
2622 TX-34, Ennis,  
TX 75119  
Cost: \$35 in  
advance/\$40 day  
of the event**



Formerly known as the Read Southall Band, every member of Southall brings lyrics, melodies and even full songs to the table. "It's the colors of different people with different influences making music," Read Southall said. "I've always been confident in the talents and abilities of the guys onstage with me, and I want our fans to see and hear that, too. That's why we changed our name to Southall."

Their new album, the self-titled *Southall*, sparks and burns with 11 crank-it-up songs that expertly combine country, rock-and-roll and the dust and grit of the band's native Red Dirt scene. The album roars with collaborative power. Reid Barber, the group's resident metalhead, hammers his drums. Bassist Jeremee Knipp provides a brooding low end. Keys player Braxton Curliss adds both tasteful accents and off-the-rails bar room piano. And guitarists John Tyler Perry and Ryan Wellman wring wild sounds from their instruments. All of it is tied together by Southall's scrappy, yearning voice.

The album's first single, "Scared Money," is an acknowledgment of hard work and a dogged determination to pay the bills. "Out Alive," meanwhile, taps into Southall's harder and more experimental sound and is about the fear of saying, or posting, the wrong thing in today's quick-to-crucify society, and instead saying nothing at all. "By Surprise," meanwhile, is a study in contradictions, a song that's musically simple but probes complex mysteries. The band has more than 133 million streams on Spotify and more than 101 million on Apple Music, with nearly 1 million monthly listeners across all platforms.



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- Photos from Monika Klučiarová, Krojované Bábátká (Kroj baby photographer from Slovakia)
- Sale of books about Czech and Moravian Costumes

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## KING & QUEEN POLKA DANCE CONTEST

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Sponsored by the SPJST Home Office  
**Friday, May 23, 2025 • KJT Auditorium**  
Doors Open: 5:00 p.m.

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

Dance Contest Starts: 9:00 p.m.

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.



## KOLACHE EATING CONTEST



Sponsored by the KJT Home Office  
**Saturday, May 24, 2025 • Downtown Stage**  
Start Time: 1:00 p.m.

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 on Friday at the Greater Ennis Chamber of Commerce, or noon Saturday at the Downtown Stage.

## PARADE IN DOWNTOWN ENNIS



**Saturday, May 24, 2025**  
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 ... "Peace, Love & Polka"

## BEER STEIN HOIST CONTEST



Sponsored by the Corona Premier  
**Saturday, May 24, 2025 • Downtown Stage**  
Start Time: 2:30 p.m.

In the Czech Republic the Beer Stein Hoist is known as the (držení tupláků). Competitors hold a full, one-liter beer stein straight out in front of them, parallel to the ground, for as long as possible. The person who can maintain the correct posture and hold the stein for the longest duration wins. Prizes will be awarded for Men's & Women's Individual Champion.

Registration is Limited. Registration Ends: Noon on Friday at the Greater Ennis Chamber of Commerce, or noon Saturday at the Downtown Stage.

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# Polka Festival

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—TALES OF TEXAS—

# IN DEFENSE OF THE FRONTIER

— By Bill Smith

*The city of Fredericksburg will always be known as a historic community, especially considering its German heritage. At one time, it was certainly considered part of the frontier of the United States westward expansion, and Fort Martin Scott played an important role as the first U.S. Army outpost of the Texas Frontier. Now a Texas Historical Site owned by the city, the fort has an interesting history and is worthy of a visit by history buffs touring the Texas Hill Country.*

The fort's namesake was Major Martin Scott, an army soldier who died in 1847 during the Mexican-American War. Originally from Vermont, Martin Scott enlisted with the "Green Mountain Boys" during the war of 1812. Maj. Scott was well known for his marksmanship and spent his free time hunting wild game. Legend allows that one of his favorite feats of marksmanship was to toss two potatoes into the air, and when they lined up with one another, to shoot through both of them with a single shot. His bravery was unquestioned, and

he was cited for gallantry during a number of battles, including Palo Alto, Resaca de la Palma and Monterrey.

Fort Martin Scott was established in 1848 and was named for Maj. Scott after an order to name frontier posts in honor of officers killed during the war. Prior to 1849, the fort was just known as the "camp near Fredericksburg."

The fort was originally established by Captain Seth Eastman of the First United States Infantry about two miles southeast of Fredericksburg on Barons Creek to protect settlers and those traveling the area from Indians. While Eastman referred to the fort as Camp Houston, the name was not well established, and the order to name it for Maj. Scott was well founded. The well-known treaty of 1847 between the German settlers and the Comanches went a long way to keeping peace in the area, and while the continued growth of settlers into the fertile areas led to small conflicts, there was not much that could be considered warfare.

However, by 1850, the influx of settlers, soldiers and travelers was creating enough tension with the Indians that an Indian agent was escorted by soldiers from Fort Martin Scott to meet with the Indians. The Fort Martin Scott Treaty resulted from the meeting and improved relations to the point that open hostilities were avoided.

The westward movement of the United States meant Fredericksburg and Fort Martin Scott were no longer a part of

the “frontier.” The fort was functionally obsolete, and after being used as a forage depot for about a year, the fort was closed by the Army in 1853. It was used sporadically during the Civil War. Some records indicate it was occupied briefly by the Confederate Army, while others indicate it was never occupied, though it was considered “held” by the Confederates from 1861 until 1865. In 1866, General Sheridan ordered troops to the fort to once again calm any potential Indian uprising, but by the end of 1866, the fort was no longer used by the military.

After the property was abandoned by the military, many of the buildings were destroyed as local area residents removed lumber and stone to use as building material on their own property. The Braeutigam family purchased the property in 1870 and farmed the land for 90 years. The buildings left intact were repurposed by the family as living space and barns. Interestingly, the old officer’s quarters were converted into a saloon. The city of Fredericksburg purchased the property in 1959. The historic site now displays one original garrison building that has been restored and three reproduction garrison buildings, as well as one late 1800’s farm shed.

The Texas Rangers were an important part of keeping the peace along the Texas frontier as well and used the site of Fort Martin Scott as a camp both before and after the military occupations. Adjacent to the fort, the Texas Rangers Heritage Center pays tribute to these brave defenders of Texas. The exhibits include the Ranger Ring of Honor, magnificent bronze statues, a pavilion, amphitheater and the Campanile Bell Tower. The center is a beautiful addition to the attractions of Fredericksburg and hosts a number of special events throughout the year. **NOW**

Photos by Becky Walker.

Sources:

1. <http://www.ftmartinsscott.org/>.
2. <https://www.fbgtx.org/416/Ft-Martin-Scott>.
3. <https://www.fbgtx.org/927/Martin-Scott-the-Man>.
4. <https://trhc.org/visit-the-texas-rangers-heritage-center/>.
5. <https://www.fbgtx.org/924/Braeutigam-Farm>.

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Jake Anthony shows his prize-winning hog at the Youth Expo.

By Bill Smith

Zoomed In:  
Chad Wester

Chad Wester celebrated his retirement from the city of Ennis with a reception hosted by his family. Many friends and former co-workers attended to wish Chad well with his next career opportunity.

His career with the city spanned 26 years with the fire department but goes a few years further back to include four years as a volunteer fireman. During the most recent 10 years, Chad served as fire marshal and was well known throughout the community. Not one to stay still for very long, Chad has already accepted a similar position performing fire inspections for a private company, SAFEbuilt.

Chad is a lifelong Ennis resident, having graduated from EHS, then furthering his education at Navarro College and obtaining a degree in Fire Science from Texas A&M University-Commerce. He and his wife, Elizabeth, have two daughters and two grandchildren.



EHS baseball player Jase Baker celebrates Senior Night with his parents.



Children from Bowie Elementary bring a spirited program to the Lions Club.



Employees of Ennis State Bank host their annual Shred Day at the local drive-in bank.



Garden Club Incoming President Nancy Swindell shows the new historic marker for the Bluebonnet Trails.



Lionettes Amare Robinson and Kaylee Jurica support the fundraiser at Chick-fil-A.



Library Director Jessica Diaz and Reference Librarian Lonnie Berret Blanton enjoy the recently remodeled library.

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Kolaches

## CookingNOW

# BEST OF ... CZECH RECIPES

May in Ennis is a time for celebrating all things Czech, and what better way than with traditional foods? Here is a sampling of some Czech recipes we have shared with our readers through the years. Enjoy! **NOW**

### Sauerkraut, Klobase and Potatoes

*Provided by Ginny Svehlak for the January 2015 issue of EnnisNOW Magazine.*

- 1 32-oz. jar Vlasic sauerkraut**
- Caraway seed, to taste**
- Dry dill weed, chopped, to taste**
- 3 3- to 6-inch klobase, thinly sliced**
- 4 Tbsp. Microwave Fried Potatoes**
- Oil, to taste**
- Onion, sliced, to taste**
- Flour, in sufficient quantity to lightly coat**
- Salt, pepper and garlic powder, to taste**

- 1.** Rinse sauerkraut and add water to a large pot, add caraway and dill weed and boil for 30 minutes or longer.
- 2.** Boil klobase and prepare potatoes.
- 3.** When sauerkraut has cooked, in a small skillet add oil, onion and flour; cook until brown.
- 4.** Pour into sauerkraut; add potatoes, klobase and seasonings; cook for about 10 minutes.

### Kolaches

*Provided by Betty Macalik for the May 2022 issue of EnnisNOW Magazine.*

*Dough:*

- 2 cups whole milk**
- 2 pkgs. dry yeast, or 2 1-oz. yeast cakes**
- 2 Tbsp. sugar**
- 1/2 cup butter-flavored Crisco**
- 1 Tbsp. salt**
- 1/2 cup sugar**
- 4 large egg yolks**
- 6 cups all-purpose flour**
- 1/4 cup butter, melted**
- Fruit, cheese or poppyseed filling, to taste**

*Streusel Topping:*

- 1/2 cup all-purpose flour**
- 1/2 cup sugar**
- 3-4 Tbsp., plus 1/4 cup butter, melted (divided use)**

- 1.** *For dough:* In a small pot, heat the milk to lukewarm, about 100-120 F. Place in a

small bowl; add the yeast and sugar. Stir gently until the sugar dissolves. Let stand for 10 minutes until the mixture becomes frothy.

**2.** In the bowl of a stand mixer, beat together the Crisco, salt, sugar and egg yolks until well blended. Stir in the milk/yeast mixture. Begin adding flour a cup at a time; incorporate the flour after each addition. Work the dough until smooth, about 10 minutes. Transfer the dough to a buttered bowl; set to rise in a warm place until doubled, about 20-30 minutes. Punch down; let rise again, about 15 minutes.

**3.** Preheat the oven to 375 F. Spoon out 1 Tbsp. of dough, form into a ball and place on a greased or parchment-lined rimmed baking sheet. Repeat, placing dough balls about 2 inches apart. Brush each ball with melted butter; let rise for about 20 minutes. Make an indentation with your fingers; fill with fruit, cheese or poppyseed filling.

**4.** *For streusel topping:* In a small bowl, combine together the flour, sugar and 3-4 Tbsp. of melted butter, according to desired consistency. Add the streusel topping to the kolache fillings; allow the dough to rise for 15-20 minutes.

**5.** Bake for 15 minutes at 375 F, or until golden brown. Remove from oven; brush with the remaining melted butter.

### České Brambory (Czech Style Wedding Potatoes)

*Provided by Darren and Debbie Slovak for the May 2024 issue of EnnisNOW Magazine.*

- 1 gal. sliced potatoes (#10 can or 105 oz.)**
- 1 stick melted butter**
- 1 tsp. granulated garlic**
- 1 1/2 tsp. salt**
- 1 1/2 tsp. pepper**
- 2 Tbsp. Italian parsley leaves, chopped**
- 2 Tbsp. green onion tops, finely chopped**

- 1.** Preheat the oven to 300 F.
- 2.** Open the can of potatoes; rinse under cold water in a colander.
- 3.** Place the potatoes in a 9x13-inch casserole dish. Add the butter, seasonings, parsley and green onions; gently mix.
- 4.** Cover the dish with foil; place in the oven for about 45 minutes, stirring gently once and then a final gentle stir before serving.

### Apple Strudel (jablečný štrúdl)

*Provided by Amy Hutyrá for the December 2020 issue of EnnisNOW Magazine.*

*Dough:*

- 1/2 cup butter or margarine**
- 3 cups sifted flour**
- 1/2 tsp. salt**
- 3/4 cup warm water**

1 egg beaten  
3/4 cup butter, melted

Filling:

1 cup sugar  
2 tsp. cinnamon  
8 cups apples, thinly sliced and peeled  
(divided use)  
1/2 cup pecans  
1/2 cup raisins  
1/2 cup coconut  
1/4 cup milk, for brushing

Icing:

1 cup powdered sugar  
1/2 cup pecans, chopped

1. For dough: Combine the butter into the flour and salt; add water and eggs. Stir well.
2. Turn out on a lightly floured board; knead for 5 minutes.
3. Divide the dough into fourths. Cover with a warm bowl; let stand 30 minutes.
4. Roll out one piece at a time into a rectangle shape on the floured board. Brush with melted butter.
5. For filling: Combine sugar and cinnamon.
6. Place 2 cups of apples along one side of the dough, leaving a 4-inch space on the other side.
7. Sprinkle with 1/4 cup of the cinnamon sugar, along with pecans, raisins and coconut.
8. Fold the 4-inch piece of dough over onto the filling. Continue rolling. Seal the edges. Place on a greased pan. Brush top with milk. Repeat with the rest of the dough and filling.
9. Bake at 325 F for 40 minutes, or until golden brown.
10. Icing can be powdered sugar with pecans.



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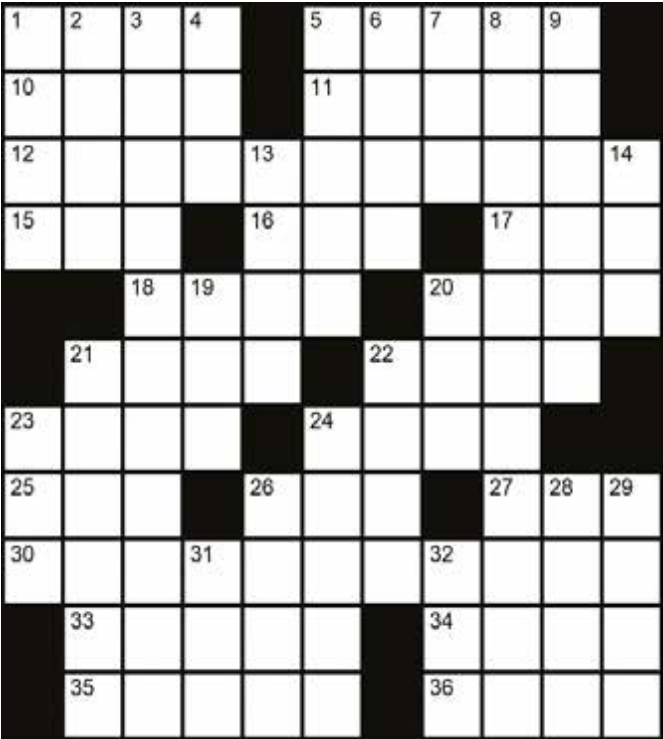
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# Crossword Puzzle



CrosswordSite.com Ltd

## Across

- 1 Wind-driven clouds
- 5 Facebook's home Park
- 10 Without accompaniment
- 11 Understand finer mess
- 12 Juice
- 15 A nickel short of a dollar
- 16 "I Guess --- Rather Be in Colorado" (John Denver)
- 17 It's about three-quarters of the Earth's surface
- 18 Had liabilities
- 20 Colorful-sounding name for a man?
- 21 Bud supporter
- 22 One-third of a 1970 Pearl Harbor movie
- 23 Exact double
- 24 Anger
- 25 Old card game
- 26 Easy-going airport?
- 27 "More info later"
- 30 Owned apartment
- 33 Sao ---, Brazil
- 34 Jane Austen's meddling matchmaker
- 35 The Memorial --- Kettering Cancer Center
- 36 Citrus peel, particularly when grated

## Down

- 1 Citizen Kane's Rosebud, for example
- 2 Health menace E ---
- 3 Stoic
- 4 John Lennon was murdered in this month
- 5 Stuck fast
- 6 Geraint's wife in "Idylls of the King" (Tennyson)
- 7 Packers' group
- 8 Duty-free hours?
- 9 Salsa brand
- 13 Not us
- 14 Mocking cry
- 19 Skin Jump
- 20 Big bike
- 21 Pounces
- 22 Joni Mitchell's was big and yellow
- 23 Maintenance, perhaps
- 24 Manor reorganised a Spanish fellow
- 26 Barry Manilow's drunken showgirl
- 28 Mooches
- 29 "I --- a loss for words!"
- 31 Batman and Robin, for example
- 32 --- Percé (Northwest Native Americans)

Online versions and solutions available at [www.nowmagazines.com](http://www.nowmagazines.com). From our Homepage, click on the Features tab. Click on the Crossword-Sudoku tab. Click on a puzzle to view solutions.

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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

## Cinco de Mayo Celebration:

Join us for our fifth annual *Cinco de Mayo* celebration, bringing culture and traditions to life in the heart of Downtown Ennis. The celebration includes artists who will have the community dancing and singing. Visitors can also expect *ballet folklórico* performances, delicious food selections and unique local artisan vendors. Downtown Ennis. More information will be available at the Ennis Welcome Center, 201 NW Main Street. (972) 878-4748.

5/19

## Creative Quilters Guild

### of Ellis County:

What If Art Group presentation and vote on President Challenge Quilts. Social time: 6:00 p.m.; meeting and speaker: 6:30-8:30 p.m., Waxahachie Bible Church, 621 N. Grand Ave., Waxahachie. Contact Cindy Garris, publicity chair. publicity@elliscountyquilters.com; (972) 935-5799.

5/23-25

## National Polka Festival:

The festival kicks off with an opening dance on **Friday** featuring polka music and the King and Queen Dance Contest, where participants and non-participants are encouraged to wear traditional Czech *kroj* (costumes). On

**Saturday** morning, decorated floats, bands and colorful costumes kick off the downtown festivities with a giant parade. Then experience our traditions, religious customs, dancing, tastes, sights, sounds and "a little bit of the Czech lands" on **Saturday and Sunday** at our three spacious air-conditioned halls (KJT, Sokol and SPIST) and in downtown Ennis. Enjoy a weekend of polka dancing with 14 live polka bands including Grammy Award-winning Brave Combo and a Country Concert on Saturday night! Visit [www.nationalpolkafestival.com](http://www.nationalpolkafestival.com) for ticket information and venues.

5/24

## Annual Ennis

### Polkafest Run:

Sponsored by the Rotary Club of Ennis. The races (1-mile Fun Run, 5K and 10K) begin and finish in Downtown Ennis. The race will wind its way through residential streets. Registration/packet pickup: 5:45 a.m.-6:45 a.m.; 10K starts: 7:00 a.m.; 1-mile Fun Run starts: 7:10 a.m.; 5K starts: 7:30 a.m.; awards: 8:30 a.m. Visit [nationalpolkafestival.com/](http://nationalpolkafestival.com/) aroundtown, and follow the link for registration information.

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

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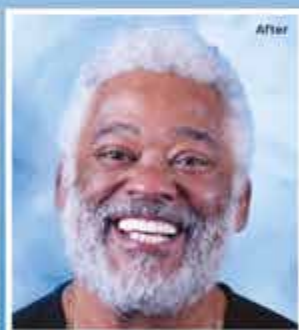
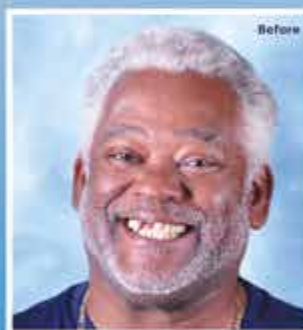
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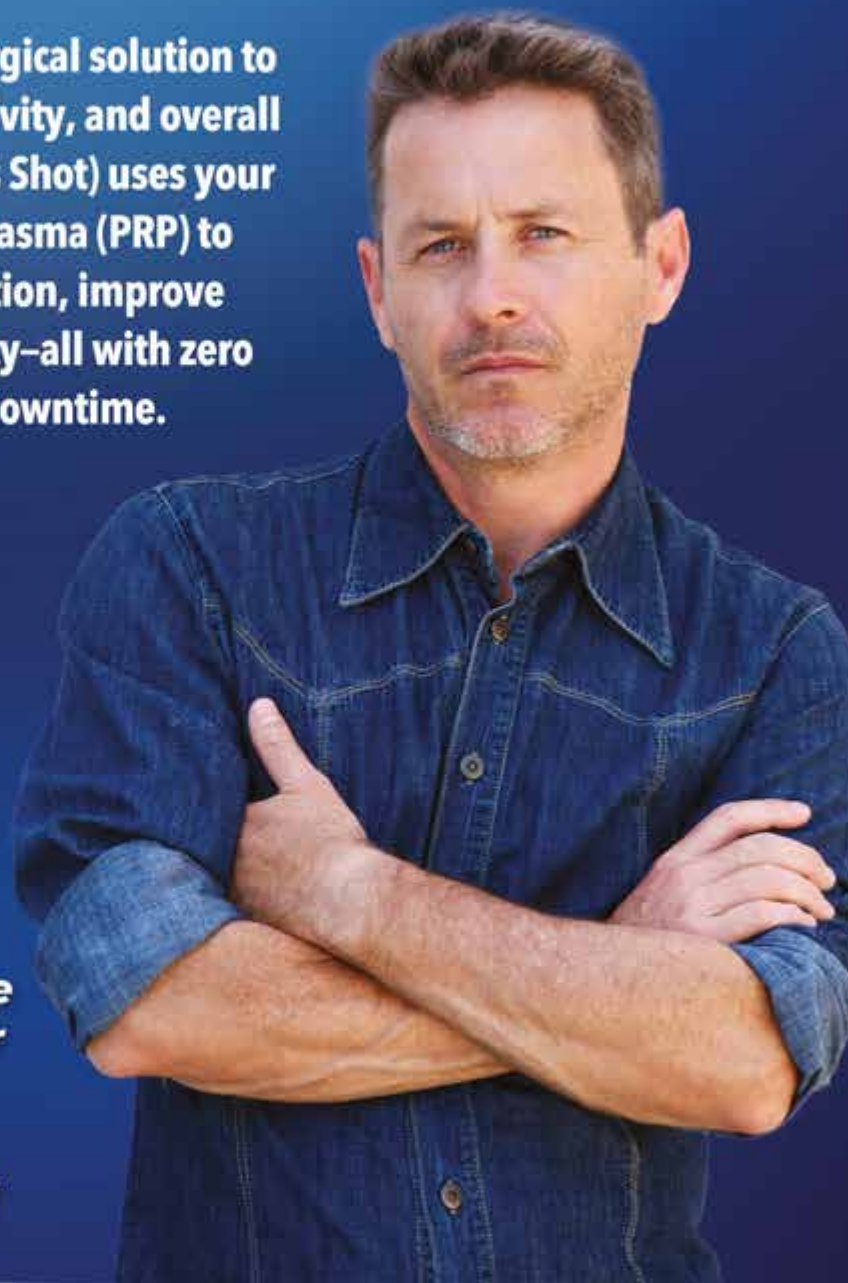
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