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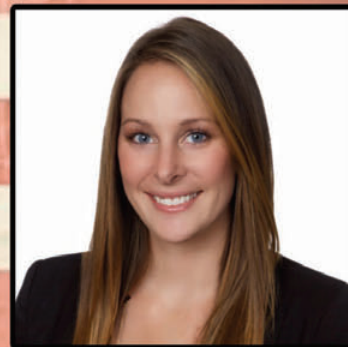
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ON THE COVER



The city of Ennis gets ready to polka!

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Editor's Note

Happy Mother's Day!

Mother has been the most rewarding job title I've held thus far. It's also been the one with the most emotional ups and downs. As the mother of two sons, I've been their best friend and, at times I'm sure, their worst enemy. They've shared their deepest thoughts and kept just as many secrets. We've been proud of one another, and on some occasions, we've shared the sting of disappointment. But through it all, our love for each other has grown roots that will continue to stand the test of time. We've learned we're much stronger together than apart.

The National Polka Festival turns 50 this month. As the official publication of this year's festivities, I'd be amiss if I didn't extend congratulations to all those who tirelessly volunteer their time and talents in order to keep their Czech heritage alive. Although Mother's Day falls earlier in the month, you might think about taking your mother to the festival. She can see a wonderful parade, eat delicious food and dance the day and night away!

Let's all polka!

Sandra

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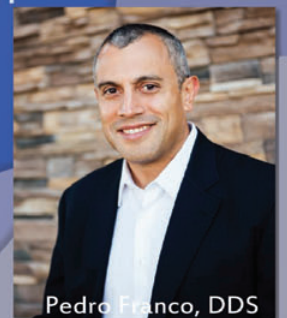
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RESIDENT FOCUS

Ms. Norma Brown came to the Odd Fellow and Rebekah Nursing home for rehabilitation in November 2013 after sustaining a right shoulder fracture due to a fall. Mr. Brown joined her as a resident in November 2014 due to having dizzy spells. They have been married for 60+ years and have three daughters who live as close as Waxahachie and as far away as Maine and Georgia. In addition, they have four grandchildren and three great-grands and have visits and regular conversations with each of them very often.

The Browns have bonded and made many friends through socialization with other residents, rehabilitation and being active in events and activities. They exhibit a very strong spiritual background and take advantage of Bible studies, gospel singing, sharing God's word and uplifting others. They share a suite at the nursing and rehabilitation center and state "they couldn't ask for any better."

At a church function, a lady told Mr. Brown that "this is where God wants you." They feel they have received excellent care, a lot of assistance and through therapy sessions each feel they are getting stronger. They take regular strolls each day, which enhances their daily therapy sessions.

Administrator Geri Callender states, "They are such a delightful couple, always smiling and showing concern for others. We are so pleased they have chosen the I.O.O.F. Home and have entrusted their care to us."

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It's Golden!

— By Sandra Strong

The National Polka Festival is still going strong 50 years later, thanks to five dedicated generations who have a great love for their Czech heritage. What began as an idea has grown to encompass an entire community, as well as guests from all over the world. After visiting other cities in the mid-1960s, Raymond Zapletal, Len Gebrig and Joe Liska saw the positive response polka bands were having on people of Czechoslovakian decent. Soon thereafter, the trio brought their idea before the Ennis Chamber of Commerce. For something this grand to succeed, all those involved knew it would take a partnership between the Chamber and the citizens of Ennis.





While Raymond, Len and Joe agreed to take care of the task of securing bands that would perform at the fraternal halls that first year, the Chamber agreed to organize the parade and any festivities that were to be held in the downtown area. It only took three years for the National Polka Festival to become all the rage. More than 30,000 people visited the city during the third year, and as the years have come and gone, the popularity of the festival weekend has continued to grow.

Although many things in life change during a 50-year span of time, the festival is one event that has continued in the same style and tradition as when it first began. Why? Because the founders and the generations who have followed in their footsteps have been committed to maintaining the authenticity of the Czech heritage they celebrate. Thanks to so many, the festival is one of the largest of its kind in the United States today. The 50,000-plus visitors expected to attend this year are in for a treat that will include the crowning of the 2016 Polka King and Queen, the annual parade, downtown dancing, live band performances at three halls and food that goes beyond delicious.

As Memorial Day weekend draws near, volunteers at the KJT, Sokol and KC halls are tirelessly working to make sure the festival's golden anniversary will be one that goes down in the history books as the best thus far. The meal planning begins over a month in advance. In some cases, the preparations to bake get underway several weeks prior to the actual event.

Sisters-in-law, Phyllis Strunc and Theresa Strunc, oversee the KJT kitchen. They "inherited" the responsibility from Theresa's mom, Janie Patak, and her mom's friend, Rosie Krajca. Theresa and Phyllis remember working on the second shift when they first began to volunteer, but as time marched on and the years rolled by, they found themselves at the helm. "Somebody had to carry the tradition forward," Theresa said. "It's a lot of hard work, but we love it!"





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"We are busy the entire month of May," Phyllis said, "but the hardest work begins the week prior to the festival." Several items such as strudle and kolače have to be prepared early. At the KJT, Evelyn Slovak and her crew make the strudle ahead of time. Then they bake over 2,000 fresh kolače on the Friday morning of the Polka Festival weekend. Husbands are recruited to open oversized cans of green beans, potatoes and sauerkraut. Ned Pleiner and his crew cook over 1,500 pounds of barbecue. "We couldn't do it without the great crews that volunteer throughout the entire weekend," Phyllis reiterated.

Down the road at the KC, John Marek has his volunteers in place preparing many of the same things, and John admits he couldn't have done it all these years without the close help of Edwin Haskovec, Robert Valek, Garland Marshall and Candi Casillas. The main difference — the desserts are prepared off site under the close supervision of Irene Kubin. "We outside source the kolače due to the smaller size of our kitchen and my age," John shared. "I've been involved for the past 30 years. I'm not as young as I used to be!" Frankie Svehlak cooks 800 pounds of barbecue that will serve approximately 1,000 plates and 1,000 sandwiches throughout Saturday and Sunday. "As long as we have food, we serve," John added.

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While Leon Zaic and his crew are cooking 1,200 pounds of meat, Mayfair Mullican and Bernice Hamilton can be found in the Sokol kitchen preparing the fixings for the traditional barbecue plates and sandwiches, but they also serve pork roast with knedliki (homemade dumplings) as a second choice for festival goers. As head of the dumpling making, Bernice admitted that not everyone



prepares dumplings the same. "I make 100 bread dumplings," she said. "And not everyone prepares sauerkraut, or zeli, the same. Some people add sugar, while I mix in brown gravy."

Volunteering for Mayfair began 30-plus years ago, and she didn't follow in the footsteps of any of her ancestors. "I took my kids to gym class," she remembered. "I was asked if I'd like to volunteer. I'm slower, but I'm still here all these years later."

Each one of them has fond memories of the years they've served their community. Theresa, Phyllis and

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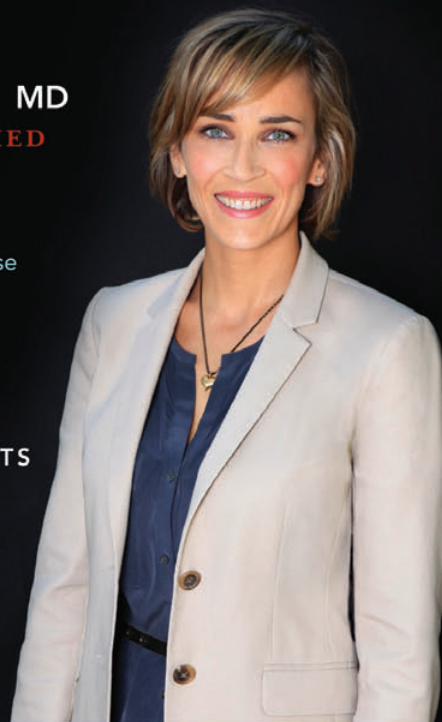
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John look at the festival as a family reunion of sorts, as they visit with friends they've made over the years. Mayfair and Bernice wait each year for Ronnie to announce his arrival. "We don't know his last name," Mayfair said, "but we do know he shows up every year on Saturday morning between 9:00 and 9:30 driving in from Houston. He says, 'Here I am. Put me to work!'"

Each of them also realizes they could not do what they do without the myriad of volunteers who come back year after year to help make the kitchens run smoothly. "I found out a long time ago that if you can, make the volunteers happy," John said. "They will keep coming back." Admittedly, it's a lot of hard work and long hours, but they've had fun being part of the first 50 years.

"We all agree, somebody has to do it," Theresa said. "Why not us?"

As they reminisce about the parades and all the downtown activities they've missed in the past 30 years, the subject of kolače comes up once again. The KJT prepares poppy seed, apricot and cottage cheese-filled desserts, while the Sokol substitutes cream cheese for the cottage cheese and includes cakes and cookies on their menu. The KC also offers poppy seed, apricot and cream cheese, but they've added apple and strawberry, too. "Each hall uses recipes that have been handed down through the years," Phyllis said, "and each hall has its favorites."

Although each of the halls is its own entity, the volunteers of each have the same goal in mind. They want the National Polka Festival to successfully continue for the next 50 years. In order for their desires to become reality, they understand the importance the next generation holds. "They [the next generation] need to step up," Theresa said, as all the others nodded their heads in agreement. "The lasting power will be found in the next generation of volunteers." **NOW**

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Living Through the Obs

At Home With
Andrew & Sara Jakubik



Putting a lot of miles on his truck traveling between Ennis and Waco wasn't a problem for Andrew Jakubik. He had a pretty lady waiting on him and a dream with a "happily ever after ending" he believed in. Sara believed in hope, and with her daughter, Madeline, they were living a comfortable life near family and friends. She was out with friends and met this man who was equally "good looking" and fun. The miles between them seemed to lessen as they took turns traveling the back roads. "Back then, we spent our time in between dates on the computer," Sara said. "We became a couple of the 'You've Got Mail' generation."



Obstacles

— By Nancy Smothermon

Andrew happily works full time at the Red Oak Fire Department. Sara was teaching in Waco when they met. In 2008, she decided to apply at Ennis ISD and, to her surprise, was hired. Sara and Madeline felt at home when visiting in Ennis, just as Andrew was comfortable when hanging out with them in Waco.

Working heroically as a fireman every day comes naturally to Andrew, just as teaching comes naturally to Sara. "I always wanted to be a teacher," Sara said. "I coach junior high cheerleading now, swimming lessons in the summer and Zumba classes."

The loving couple married in 2013. "Andrew and his father started building a home for us out of what was once his workshop," Sara shared. "It was supposed to be his game room — a man cave." They laughed, remembering the space next to the kitchen that was once a slab of empty concrete. Now it's where the family shares breakfast. The house is rustic. Andrew used tin and aluminum skirting on the walls and ceiling.

When Madeline was 12 years old, Sara gave birth to Baylen, who is now 2. "Madeline is a great big sister," Andrew said. They agree growing up on a farm is a great thing for kids.

"My brother lives up the driveway, and my parents live in the front house

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past the cattle guard. We all work together on the farm,” Andrew said. “My brother owns and operates his own agricultural equipment business. The farm was first owned by my grandfather.”

“One of my favorite things is the wood-burning stove. It has kept us warm,” Sara said. She went on to explain that when a tornado came through Ennis and blew the upper level off the house and shop, they cooked on and shared meals right there by the wood-burning stove. She refers to this time in their life as “fond memories.”

The front bedroom was originally a room for Andrew. Then it became a room for Madeline. Now, it is Baylen’s room. The house has two bedrooms and

two bathrooms downstairs. The original bathroom connects the hallway and Baylen’s room off the kitchen.

Andrew and his father soon began a third room, after Andrew and Madeline designed the room she wanted. Then they went to work building it. Every nail, every board, trim and paint went lovingly into place to make what is now a showplace. “They did a great job on this room,” Sara glowed.

At the top of the narrow staircase is a black fencing material Andrew installed for a handrail. Tin and Austin stone surround the staircase. To the right of the stairs and opposite Madeline’s room is a nice size TV room Andrew and his father built with a “man cave” in mind. But, as



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is the case, "We found another use for it, and Madeline often entertains her friends up here," Sara explained. "I use it for a work space for my hobbies." A door to the right leads out to an upper terrace.

The back door opens into the shop, with ample storage space on the right and workspace for Andrew. The right closet allows easy access to the water heater, A/C unit and other conveniences. Up higher and to the right is storage space for those not-so-often used items. Both are enclosed with sliding barn doors and hardware reclaimed from older buildings. Sara and Madeline painted the back door with chalkboard paint, making it convenient for the family to write greetings, well wishes and positive quotes to one another.

The master bedroom is decorated with a rustic and homey theme, as is the rest of the house. Andrew's design and Sara's decorating style suit the couple and their humble natures. The master suite includes a nice walk-in where they start each day looking at pictures of their family, gently placed around the mirrored antique dresser at the back of the closet.

In the hallway between the entryway and their master bedroom is the laundry room, which Andrew redesigned to accommodate a built-in closet space. Beside the new storage space hangs two tack boards where friendships they cherish are displayed with pictures of friends and family. "This space, this



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collection of pictures, reminds us why we are here, why we keep ‘pushing forward,’” Sara said, holding back the tears. The warmth that draws so many friends and family to gather at their place on special occasions is evident. “This is our support group,” she said.

The master bath is another great addition. Andrew built it with a tiled shower and a door for guests to use after swimming lessons. “It is so convenient,” Sara shared.

The patio is a work in progress. They are still deciding where to safely place a fire pit, the patio furniture and grill. Tucked safely in the corner of the patio is a bench made of old wooden, picket fence material. “It’s a wedding gift. Instead of using a guest book at our wedding, everyone shared their wishes and signatures here for us to treasure. The sun has faded the ink, but not the love,” she said.

They have been tested, not just once, but several times. Being hit by storms that destroyed the roof of the shop/home, and then later storms that took out their pool, not once but twice, just made their union stronger. “We push forward,” Andrew said. “We just went about the business of rebuilding and didn’t look back.”

“We’ve become very good at starting over. We are all about starting over,” she said as they grabbed hands and smiled at each other. “We’ve learned to dance in the rain.”

The view from the back of the house and workshop is post card perfect. The third generation farmland rises behind them with rolling hills and timber. Baylen points out and talks of someone getting stuck and a tractor pulling them out. He will grow up and have lots of loving memories to share. This is the home Andrew dreamed of, not so much the details that came to him when designing it, but the family and love that will grow here. It is their journey into “happily ever after.” **NOW**

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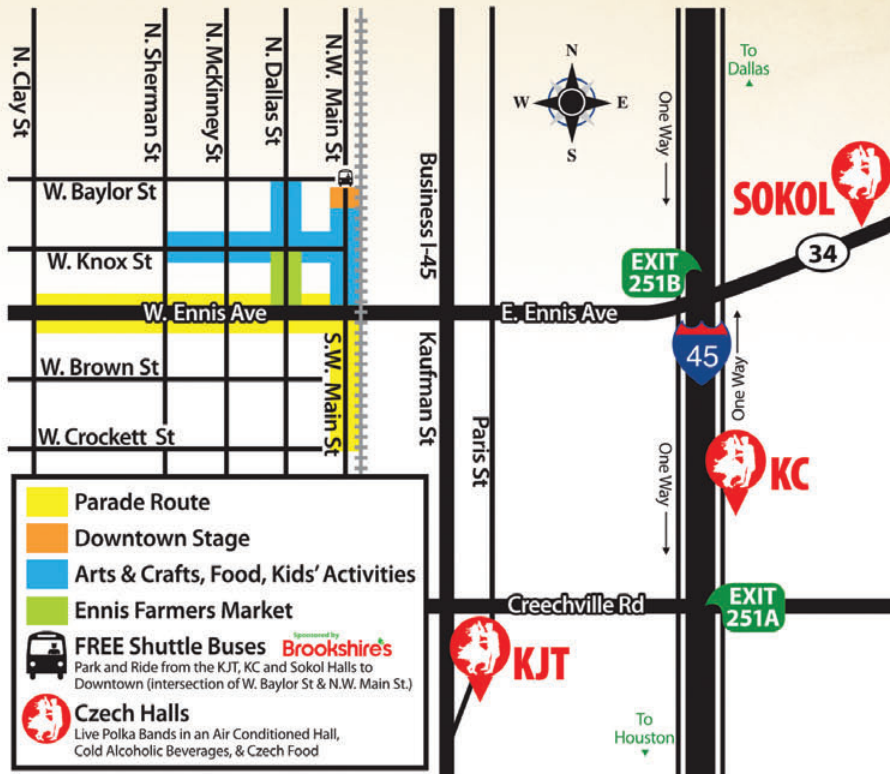
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Friday, May 27 • \$8

Saturday, May 28 • \$15

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

|                         | TIME                    | EVENT / BAND                                                                                                                                      | PLACE                   |
|-------------------------|-------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------|
| <b>FRI. MAY 27</b>      | 7:00 p.m. - 11:00 p.m.  | Mark Jirikovec Orchestra                                                                                                                          | KJT Auditorium          |
|                         | 8:00 p.m. / 9:00 p.m.   | All-Star Dance-Off / 30th King & Queen Dance Contest                                                                                              | KJT Auditorium          |
| <b>SATURDAY, MAY 28</b> | 7:00 a.m.               | Polka Fest Run 10K, 5K and 1 Mile Fun Run/Walk                                                                                                    | Lonestar Fitness Center |
|                         | 10:00 a.m.              | Parade                                                                                                                                            | Downtown Ennis          |
|                         | 9:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m.   | Arts and Crafts                                                                                                                                   | Downtown Ennis          |
|                         | 11:30 a.m. - 4:00 p.m.  | The Moravians & Mark Halata & Texavia                                                                                                             | Knights of Columbus     |
|                         | 11:30 a.m. - 4:00 p.m.  | Texas Sound Check and Fritz Hodde & Fabulous 6                                                                                                    | KJT Auditorium          |
|                         | 11:30 a.m. - 3:30 p.m.  | Jerry Haisler & Melody 5 and The Travelers                                                                                                        | Sokol                   |
|                         | 12:00 p.m.              | Horseshoe Tournament                                                                                                                              | KJT Auditorium          |
|                         | 12:30 p.m. - 4:00 p.m.  | Street Dance - Czechaholics & Happy Players                                                                                                       | Downtown Ennis          |
|                         | 1:00 p.m.               | Kolache Eating Contest                                                                                                                            | Downtown Ennis          |
|                         | 3:30 p.m. - 7:30 p.m.   | Dujka Brothers and Mark Vyhliadal Orchestra                                                                                                       | Sokol                   |
|                         | 4:00 p.m. - 8:30 p.m.   | Praha Brothers and Mark Jirikovec Orchestra                                                                                                       | Knights of Columbus     |
|                         | 4:00 p.m. - 8:30 p.m.   | Jodie Mikula Orchestra and Texas Dutchmen                                                                                                         | KJT Auditorium          |
|                         | 9:00 p.m. - 12:00 a.m.  | Ennis Czech Boys and Happy Players                                                                                                                | Knights of Columbus     |
|                         | 9:00 p.m. - 12:00 a.m.  | Brave Combo                                                                                                                                       | KJT Auditorium          |
|                         | 9:00 p.m. - 12:30 a.m.  | Country Concert: Lonestar / Jamie Richards                                                                                                        | Sokol                   |
| <b>SUNDAY, MAY 29</b>   | 9:00 a.m. - 11:00 a.m.  | Live Broadcast: KBEC Polka Party  KBEC1390 CLASSIC TEXAS MUSIC | KJT Auditorium          |
|                         | 9:00 a.m. - 11:00 a.m.  | Mark Vyhliadal Orchestra                                                                                                                          | KJT Auditorium          |
|                         | 10:00 a.m. - 11:30 a.m. | Polka Mass                                                                                                                                        | Knights of Columbus     |
|                         | 11:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m.  | Arts and Crafts                                                                                                                                   | Downtown Ennis          |
|                         | 12:00 p.m. - 4:00 p.m.  | Street Dance - Holub Polka Band                                                                                                                   | Downtown Ennis          |
|                         | 12:00 p.m. - 4:00 p.m.  | All Around Czechs                                                                                                                                 | Knights of Columbus     |
|                         | 12:00 p.m. - 4:00 p.m.  | Mark Vyhliadal Orchestra                                                                                                                          | KJT Auditorium          |
|                         | 12:00 p.m. - 4:00 p.m.  | Czechaholics and Happy Players                                                                                                                    | Sokol                   |
|                         | 4:30 p.m. - 8:00 p.m.   | Czech and Then Some                                                                                                                               | Knights of Columbus     |
|                         | 8:30 p.m. - 11:30 p.m.  | Brave Combo                                                                                                                                       | Knights of Columbus     |

### Horseshoe Tournament



Saturday, May 28, 2016 • KJT Hall  
1216 S. Paris St., Ennis, TX 75119

Registration Ends: 11:00 a.m.  
Start Time: Noon  
Entry Fee: \$20 Per Team

Double elimination (50 teams maximum);  
1st, 2nd and 3rd place trophies awarded.

### Polka Parade



Saturday, May 28, 2016  
Downtown Ennis

Start Time: 10:00 a.m.

This year's theme is "Polka is Golden."  
This giant parade twists through  
historic downtown Ennis and is  
sure to please.

### 6th Annual Kolache Eating Contest



Saturday, May 28, 2016  
Downtown Stage

Registration Ends: Noon, Friday,  
Chamber of Commerce or noon,  
Saturday, Downtown Stage.  
Start Time: 1:00 p.m.

Prizes for individual champion in the Men's,  
Women's, Youth Boy and Youth Girl categories.





## Brave Combo

*Saturday: 9:00 p.m.-midnight, KJT*  
*Sunday: 8:30 p.m.-11:30 p.m., KC*

“Brave Combo not only loves playing Polka Fest in Ennis, we feel at home with the many longtime friends and fans we have because of this event. We are greatly indebted to the Zapletals and everyone for giving us this opportunity to continue learning about polka. Everyone grab a *pivo*! Here’s to the National Polka Festival in Ennis, Texas! We’re looking forward to the next fabulous 50 years!”

— Carl Finch, Brave Combo

## Mark Jirikovec Orchestra

*Friday: 7:00 p.m.-11:00 p.m., KJT*  
*Saturday: 4:00 p.m.-8:30 p.m., KC*

“We are very honored to be a part of the 50th anniversary of the National Polka Festival! We are looking forward to seeing a lot of our great friends that we haven’t seen for a long, long time and playing our style of Czech music from Wisconsin! Can’t thank my great friend Danny Zapletal and The National Polka Festival Committee enough for including our band in this special weekend! We have been looking forward to this for a long time! Thanks a million!”

— Mark Jirikovec, Mark Jirikovec Orchestra



## The Moravians

*Saturday: 11:30 a.m.-4:00 p.m., KC*

“It’s an honor for us to be able to play at the 50th National Polka Festival in Ennis. All of us have grown up around the festival, and it has always been a fun and exciting time. We love carrying on our Czech traditions, whether it be dancing on the dance floor or playing the music we all love on stage. We look forward to performing in the next 50 years of the festival, and continuing to preserve our Czech heritage and culture.”

— The Moravians

## Mark Halata & Texavia

*Saturday: 11:30 a.m.-4:00 p.m., KC*

“Happy 50th anniversary to the Ennis National Polka Festival! Looking forward to being a part of it!”

— Mark Halata & Texavia







## Saturday, May 28 — Country Concert

Doors open at 9:00 p.m. • \$25 advanced purchase/\$30 day of event  
Advanced tickets can be purchased at [www.nationalpolkafestival.com](http://www.nationalpolkafestival.com).

### Lonestar



The multi-platinum country music quartet, Lonestar, is working on a brand new album and embarking on an extensive 20th anniversary tour. With 10 #1 country hits including: "No News," "Come Crying To Me," and their crossover smash, "Amazed," their awards include a 1999 ACM Single of The Year for "Amazed," which also won the Song of the Year award, and the 2001 CMA Vocal Group of the Year. Their new material sounds as thrilling as any of their classics.

### Jamie Richards

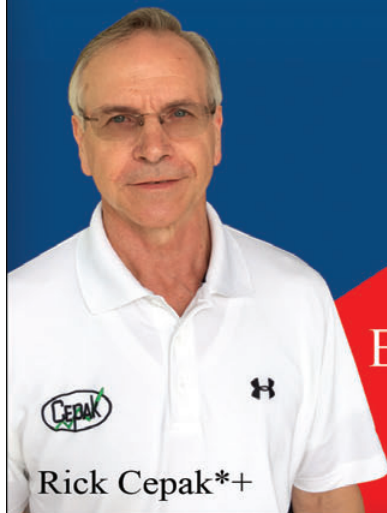


From his first single, "Don't Try To Find Me" (2002), to his most recent hit, "Never Gonna Hear it From me" (2013), pleasing a crowd has always come easy for Jamie Richards, who began singing at age 4 and eventually became a staff writer for Music City's Curb Records. After meeting Wes Daily of Houston's D Records, he became a force to be reckoned with, releasing 16 crowd-pleasing singles, 12 of which made it into the Top Ten/Texas Music chart.

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## Texas Sound Check Band

*Saturday: 11:30 a.m.-4:00 p.m., KJT*

“The Texas Sound Check Band, formerly known as the City Polka Boys, first played for the festival in the early ’70s. We feel privileged to be invited back to perform at the 50th Annual National Polka Festival. Where else do you get to see the traditional Czech costumes and enjoy great food, great entertainment and close friends? What a great place to keep the Czech heritage alive!”

— Ben Orsak, Texas Sound Check Band

## Fritz Hodde & The Fabulous Six

*Saturday: 11:30 a.m.-4:00 p.m., KJT*

“We have been a part of the National Polka Festival in Ennis since 1967, and we are very proud to be invited to participate in this 50th anniversary. We are very honored to share three generations of Hoddes, not to exclude our bass player and drummer, as a part of this 50th National Polka Festival celebration. I think it is wonderful that this festival has continued for so many years.”

— Fritz Hodde, Fritz Hodde & The Fabulous Six



## Jerry Haisler and the Melody 5

*Saturday: 11:30 a.m.-3:30 p.m., Sokol*

“It is a great testament to the vision, commitment and incredibly hard work of many people over the years to reach this milestone of 50 years. Jerry Haisler and the Melody 5 are honored and privileged that we have been part of this great celebration the last few years. Congratulations!”

— Jerry Haisler, Jerry Haisler and the Melody 5

## The Travelers Orchestra

*Saturday: 11:30 a.m.-3:30 p.m., Sokol*

“It has been a privilege to have participated many years at all of the different venues, as well as at the parade. We look forward to being able to do so again at this special 50th celebration. The promoters and organizers should be commended for all their hard work and efforts to help promote polka music, never forgetting our Czech heritage and culture. Best wishes and congratulations from The Travelers Orchestra!”

— Robert Walla, The Travelers Orchestra



## Czechaholics

*Saturday: 12:30 p.m.-4:00 p.m.,*

*Downtown Ennis*

*Sunday: noon-4:00 p.m., Sokol*

“We are proud and honored to be a part of the 50th Annual National Polka Festival. The Czechaholics are celebrating our 10th anniversary this year of performing continuously at the NPF. We would like to congratulate all the volunteers who put so much time and effort into making the NPF a huge success each year. Congratulations also to Danny Zapletal for his many great years as the president of the NPF and to the Zapletal and Slovak families who have made us feel a part of their family each year.”

— Mark Hermes, Czechaholics Band



# POLKA FESTIVAL

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## Happy Players Band

*Saturday: 12:30 p.m.-4:00 p.m.,*

*Downtown Ennis*

*Saturday: 9:00 p.m.-midnight, KC*

*Sunday: noon-4:00 p.m., Sokol*

“I am excited to be back in Ennis for the 50th National Polka Festival. I have fond memories of playing in Ennis with the Ernie Kucera Polka Band and have made lots of friends there over the years! What a great event to be bringing the Happy Players from Nebraska to!”

— Steve Steager, Happy Players Band

## Praha Brothers

*Saturday: 4:00 p.m.-8:30 p.m., KC*

“Congratulations to the 50th Annual National Polka Festival, and to all of the people involved, who put on a great celebration year after year. It’s been an honor to have been a part of the festival for many years. It’s given our band a chance to express and promote our love of polka music and the Czech culture as well.”

— Billy Havlik, Praha Brothers



## Jodie Mikula Orchestra

*Saturday: 4:00 p.m.-8:30 p.m., KJT*

“The Jodie Mikula Orchestra is currently celebrating 49 years in the music industry. We have participated in the National Polka Festival almost every year since its inception. The Polka Festival has been very good for our hometown of Ennis and in helping to keep our Czech heritage alive for generations to come.”

— Nick Mikula, Jodie Mikula Orchestra

## Texas Dutchmen

*Saturday: 4:00 p.m.-8:30 p.m., KJT*

“Congratulations on 50 years of festival fun! It’s the place to share heritage with Texas friends and meet new friends from many other states. The festival is known for great youth attendance, and it’s wonderful to see all ages on the dance floor. Thanks for the opportunity to play this year. Join the festivities with the Texas Dutchmen on Saturday at the KJT!”

— The Texas Dutchmen



## Dujka Brothers

*Saturday: 3:30 p.m.-7:30 p.m., Sokol*

“It is an honor to be included in the lineup for the 50th Anniversary Polka Festival! As young musicians, we knew it was one of the best, and to perform there would be a high point in our career. Even after being invited back numerous times, we still get excited and a bit nervous knowing the high standard that has been set in Ennis. We thank Danny Zapletal and the Zapletal family for their leadership and friendship throughout the years.”

— John Dujka, The Dujka Brothers



# POLKA FESTIVAL

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## Mark Vyhlidal Orchestra

*Saturday: 3:30 p.m.-7:30 p.m., Sokol*

*Sunday: 9:00 a.m.-11:00 a.m., KJT*

*Sunday: noon-4:00 p.m., KJT*

“It is an absolute pleasure to be performing for the 50th annual festival. Ennis, Texas, and the National Polka Festival are of great interest to the people in Nebraska, as we will be bringing two buses of polka lovers to the festival. This is our fourth time in Ennis, and we always have a good time!”

— Mark Vyhlidal, Mark Vyhlidal Orchestra

## Ennis Czech Boys

*Saturday: 9:00 p.m.-midnight, KC*

“As a local band from Ennis, the NPF has always been a very special event for us. Growing up in Ennis, it was always fun and exciting to see the bands from around the state and country. Now as a performing band, it is an honor and privilege to perform with the other great bands for the wonderful fans who come from around the country for this spectacular event.”

— Trey Sylvester, Ennis Czech Boys



## Holub Polka Band

*Sunday: noon-4:00 p.m.,*

*Downtown Ennis*

“The National Polka Festival in Ennis signifies the love that polka fans have for polka music. My band has performed at the festival for the past three years, and we are honored to be playing at this year’s 50th Anniversary Polka Festival.”

— John Holub Jr., Holub Polka Band

## All Around Czechs

*Sunday: noon-4:00 p.m., KC*

“It’s an honor any year to be a part of something so great. The 50th anniversary being our first year to participate just makes it that much sweeter. It’s just so hard to find such a big event full of good, wholesome, clean fun these days. We hope to be back for the centennial as well! Cheers!”

— The All Around Czechs



## Czech and Then Some

*Sunday: 4:30 p.m.-8:00 p.m., KC*

“Czech and Then Some is very excited to be a part of the National Polka Festival. It’s really exciting to be playing at the 50th anniversary of the festival. My dad being one of the founders makes it that much more special.”

— Danny Zapletal, Czech and Then Some





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# 30 Years of Polka Royalty

Friday, May 27, 2016

8:00 p.m. All-Star Dance-off (with the past Kings and Queens)

9:00 p.m. 30th King and Queen Dance Contest

Since 1987, Johnnie I. and Margaret Krajca have facilitated the annual National Polka Festival King and Queen Contest, and this year will be one like no other. The winners of this year's contest will be distinguished as the winners for the festival's 50th Anniversary "Golden Year." So dust off your dancing shoes and plan on competing!

Contestants must register at the entrance of the KJT Hall before 8:30 p.m. A Czech costume or "fancy" dancing is not a requirement for the contest, but a Czech costume is required for the winner, who will participate in the weekend festivities. The Polka Princess contest will also be held for contestants 6-10 years of age. Polka Princess contestants must have the consent of their parents or guardian. In addition to the traditional contest, a special dance-off competition will be held just between our previous National Polka Festival Kings and Queens, where a couple will be crowned as the 2016 50th National Polka Festival All-Star King and Queen. It's polka time! So, come "Czech" out what's happening!



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# Polka Festival Menus

Saturday, May 28 -  
Sunday, May 29, 2016



## KC Hall

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Barbecue beef and klobase, parsley potatoes, green beans, sauerkraut, bread, Czech pastries, tea or coffee.



## KJT Hall

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Friday, May 27 • Sandwiches Only

Barbecue beef and klobase, parsley potatoes, green beans, sauerkraut, bread, Czech pastries, tea or coffee.



## Sokol Hall

2622 E. Hwy. 34 • Ennis, TX 75119 • Adults: \$11. Children: \$7.

Barbecue beef and klobase, parsley potatoes, green beans, sauerkraut, bread, Czech pastries, tea or coffee. Or pork roast, dumplings, parsley potatoes, green beans and sauerkraut.

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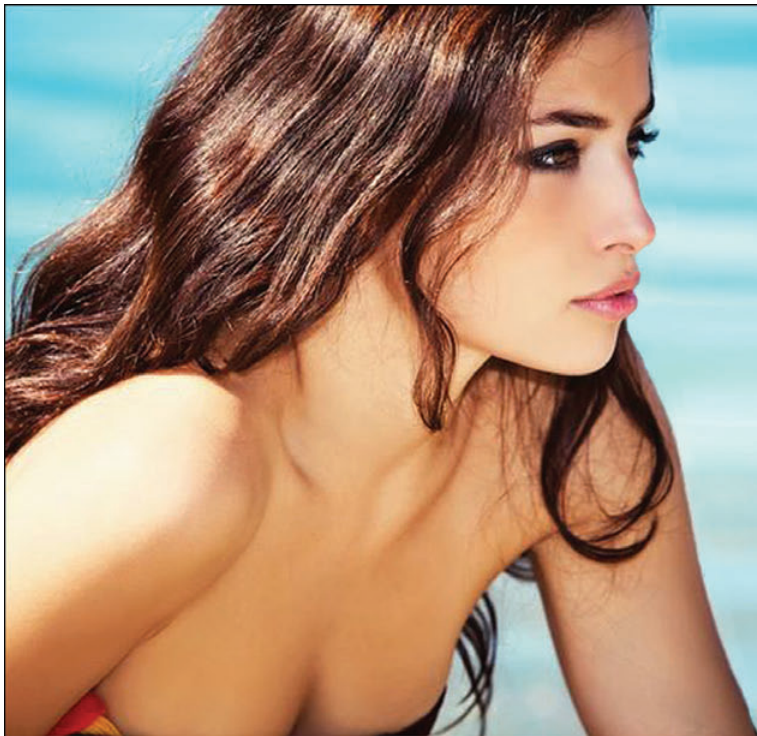
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# MORE THAN A PARTY

— By Donnielle Tyner

*When people hear Cinco de Mayo, the first things that may come to mind are music and dancing, but the Ellis County Hispanic Organization wants the popular Hispanic holiday to be more than a party. They want Cinco de Mayo to be a celebration of community. “We want to bridge the gap in our community,” Linda Alvarez, president of ECHO declared. “We want everyone to come out and celebrate with us.” This year’s Cinco de Mayo festival will begin with a movie night in downtown Waxahachie at Pocket Park on May 5, followed by two days of celebration at Singleton Plaza filled with family fun and entertainment.*





Cinco de Mayo, or the fifth of May, is a celebration that memorializes the Mexican Army's victory over France at the Battle of Puebla during the Franco-Mexican War, which came 52 years after Mexico declared its independence in 1810. Although the holiday is a minor one in Mexico, primarily observed in Puebla, it has grown to encompass an entire heritage in the United States, particularly in areas with substantial



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Mexican-American populations. It is a celebration of Mexican culture. Cinco de Mayo offers a day each year for likeminded people to come together with parades, Mariachi musical performances and all-day festivals. In Ellis County, it's evolved over the years into a celebration of Mexican heritage. "Waxahachie's original Cinco de Mayo celebration started in 2008 under the guidance of Andrew Santos. After its success, the community decided to form ECHO to venture out to include all of Ellis County, offering scholarships and working with the community," explained ECHO's vice president, Cynthia Herrera.

Renee McNeal and Emily Olveda present Judd McCutchen with the winning plaque for the hot salsa contest at last year's celebration.



As the Cinco de Mayo festivals grew larger each year, the members of ECHO saw how the needs of the community were growing beyond celebrating the Hispanic culture. From students who were in need of financial help to further their educations to assisting other nonprofit organizations, such as Hope Clinic, ECHO soon saw many ways to reach out to others in Ellis County. "As the needs kept getting bigger and bigger, we had to bring in more sponsors to help," said Julisa Martinez, board member and ECHO historian.

Sponsors have been the backbone of ECHO since the very beginning. Whether individuals, small businesses or large corporations, every sponsor is important to the organization. Without their financial support, ECHO wouldn't be able to do what they do in their efforts to help others. "Our community has so much heart, and we want to give back," Julisa gushed. "As we grow, we are finding more opportunities to help people and bring more people and possibilities from the outside in to enjoy our culture." This year, ECHO is hoping for more sponsors





to sign up, so students may receive more scholarship money.

Scholarships are one of the major ways the organization gives back. Through the years, ECHO has given scholarships to wrestlers, students who wanted to become nurses and others with an interest in becoming engineers. Their most recent scholarship winner was a young girl whose mother passed away from cancer. Since they started the scholarship program, they've had the honor of awarding four scholarships to young people in Ellis County. ECHO's goal is to continue growing, so they can pass the wealth of such growth on to others in the communities within the county they serve.

ECHO has also helped the local communities in many other ways. In the early years, Julisa assisted in the planning of a quinceañera for a local foster child. The event was filled with ECHO members and other people who came to give the child a family. More recently, the organization has helped at the Hope Clinic, gathered volunteers to go out and paint, and hosted two toy drives through the Ellis County Sheriff's Department and Citizens National Bank. "We don't just involve the adults. We get our kids involved because we want the children to see how important community really is when looking at the bigger picture. Not to take, but to give back," Linda stated with pride.

That "give back" attitude makes the Cinco de Mayo festival more than just a day to party. It's a day to celebrate family and Hispanic culture. It's also a time to share the Hispanic culture with the rest



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ECHO members work hard to make memories for Ellis County kids.

of the community. "People have been really receptive. I think it's because this is a homegrown, small festival that's community based," Cynthia affirmed. "Unlike bigger Cinco de Mayo festivals throughout the United States, this one is free. We don't charge admission or a parking fee."

In past festivals, they have had everything from mariachi bands and comedians to car shows. However, this year's festival is set to be the organization's biggest one yet. Their three-day celebration — or trifecta — begins with a movie night featuring a film made in Texas. The Friday night block party will feature live entertainment by the award-winning group Baraja de Oro. Cinco de Mayo will be celebrated all day Saturday. There will be plenty of activities for the family, including local vendors. Live entertainment during the festival will include bands — Made in Tejas and Elyssia Marie — followed by two amazing headliners — David Marex and Latin Grammy nominated artist Ram Herrera. "I want the community to see this music is for everybody" Linda said.

By the time the annual festival is complete, the members of ECHO are exhausted, but every one of them believes strongly in what they are trying to accomplish. Giving time, energy and resources comes naturally for members of the organization. Giving brings the group immense joy. "We're all here for Ellis County. We're all citizens of Ellis County. We are here to bridge the gap between cultures and to celebrate together," Julisa admitted. "We can become a much more cohesive and stronger community." **NOW**

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# IT'S A-BOAT TIME

— By Zachary R. Urquhart

*Summer is here! With Texas' cool days vanishing rapidly, this month marks the beginning of the summer season. One of the best parts of Texas summer is going to the lake. Before you head out to hit the waters, there are some important things to remember to ensure you experience a fun-filled day.*

## BEFORE YOUR TRIP

### • *Safety starts at home:*

Boating is exciting, but there are many things you should know before getting on the water. The Texas Parks and Wildlife Department teaches safety classes throughout the year, as well as offering an online version of its course. For anyone born after August 1993, the safety course is required in order to operate a powered vessel.

### • *Know your equipment:*

In addition to knowing the safety standards for your boat or personal watercraft (PWC, also commonly called a Jet Ski), you need to ensure you know the equipment itself. If you are renting

a vessel, familiarize yourself with controls and features. If you own your own boat or PWC, check the oil and fluid levels the same way you would a car.

### • *As you are planning:*

While Texas is somewhat lacking in natural lakes, there are a plethora of manmade spots to enjoy. For a perfect sunny day on the water, a local lake might be the place for you. But if you're thinking about a longer trip, you might want to consider traveling up north to Lake Texoma or exploring a lake in the Austin or Houston areas.

### • *When you pack:*

Because you are constantly getting hit by the cool mist coming off the boat, you might forget to apply sunscreen or drink





enough water. Bring plenty of liquids and sunscreen to take care of your body's needs, inside and out. You want to remember your trip for the first time you waterskied, not the wicked sunburn you got spending 10 hours in the heat.

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a small fee, with all but a guarantee of a successful day baiting and luring. If your desires are more for speed and thrills, make sure to find a location free of heavy traffic or shallow water. Choppy waves are great for PWC use, and can be fun for general boating, but for waterskiing and wakeboarding, you will want flatter waters. One trick is to make passes about 20 yards away from, but parallel to, manmade shorelines that act as a natural wind blocker.

• *Equip yourself:*

Make sure you wear life jackets. Legally, adult boaters only have to have a life vest available, not necessarily on. But tragic, avoidable deaths happen every year because someone failed to use a life jacket. Children under 13 are required to wear life jackets, and they should also be closely monitored while the boat is underway. It is also prudent to take a wallet and phone on the lake in case you have any mechanical or user-error problems on the water.

• *Boat safely:*

You should always pass other vessels on the left, or port side. When you pass





another vessel, a person or an object of any type, you must be more than 50 feet away or slow to idle speed. Boats are allowed on the water at night if they have lights, but PWCs must be off the lake 30 minutes before dusk for everyone's safety.

• *Know your limits:*

PWCs are fun and relatively simple to learn to use, but operating larger boats is much more involved, so do not try to take out more boat than you can handle. When it comes to getting maximum speed, or trying tricks on skis and boards, make sure you have someone who can help you if you overdo it.

• *Keep your ears and eyes open:*

You want a full day at the lake, but if waters are too choppy for skiing, or if storms are coming, it is best to be safe. Someone waving hello and someone waving for help looks similar from 60 feet away, so be sure to look for signs indicating that a fellow boater needs help. The Texas Wildlife Department has wardens patrolling the lake for everyone's benefit, so afford them the same courtesy and respect that you show highway patrolmen.



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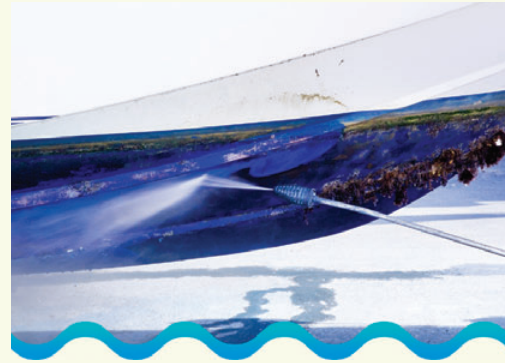


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## BEFORE HEADING HOME

### • *Recheck your hitch:*

Be careful to make sure your boat is securely hitched if pulling or secured on the lift if it stays at the lake. For a lift, make sure to raise the boat based on the highest possible water level, not necessarily the current level. Every year, boats fall off lifts and sink during storms because they were not lifted high enough off the lake level.

### • *Cleaning up:*

There are organisms and bacteria in some water that will eat away at the veneer on a boat if left untouched, so make sure to give it a quick wash when your day is complete. If you travel from one body of water to another, make extra sure to clean the boat, as some organisms in one lake will attack those in another if they are allowed to spread.

It may seem as though there are a lot of rules to follow just to have a relaxing day on the water. But following these guidelines will help you be prepared for your day at the lake, as well as keep you and your loved ones safe. **NOW**

*Editor's Note: More laws, safety standards and general boating information are available on the Texas Parks & Wildlife Boating Page at [www.tpwd.texas.gov/fishboat/boat/](http://www.tpwd.texas.gov/fishboat/boat/).*





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The offices at Family Smiles offer a bright and cheery atmosphere for patients of all ages.

# Same Great Service

*Dr. Reddy and the staff of Family Smiles take time to truly care for patients. — By Virginia Riddle*

Bright, rainbow-colored walls and Gracie Mata's smiling face greet Family Smiles' patients. Gracie, the practice manager, has been with Family Smiles since its opening in Ennis five years ago. "I love being able to help take care of our patients in this community," she said.

Services offered by Dr. Ravi Reddy, DMD, and the staff include general dentistry, whitening, sedation and dentures (partials and full). All ages of patients are welcome. The practice accepts most dental insurance plans, CHIP and Medicaid. "We are here to help people. If someone can't afford dental care, we do what we can to help them," Elena Cano, regional marketing director of Community Dental Partners, said.

Patients are put at ease in the well-appointed waiting area with its Xbox gaming stations, kids' play area, television and coffee

station. "There are televisions in each treatment room," Elena said. "Patients are in a heightened state of stress, so it helps that the patients know they are valued."

The staff of eight includes Gracie and Dr. Reddy, as well as a dental assistant, front desk receptionist and community educator. "Our educator goes into the community to health fairs, schools and Head Start facilities to teach, primarily kids, how to take care of their teeth. Another role of the educator is to make sure people know about the resources available to them," Gracie stated. "Dr. Reddy is amazing with kids, and we enjoy helping our community." Family Smiles is a proud member of the Ennis Chamber of Commerce.

Community Dental Partners has managed Family Smiles since August 2015, and the partnership, located in Denton, Texas,



manages 21 other Texas practices. "It's very important to us that patient needs and fears are truly understood and that we fulfill their expectations as best we can," Elena stated.

Dr. Reddy graduated from the University of Pennsylvania School of Dental Medicine in 2012 with honors in clinical dentistry. However, his dental career began in his native country of India, where he graduated from SDM College of Dental Sciences & Hospital in 2004 with honors and a gold medal. He worked as a lecturer and assistant dental surgeon at a medical and dental school for four years before moving to the United States in 2009 to pursue an MBA at Oklahoma City University, while he took the required dental boards and waited for admission to a U.S. dental school.



Now a member of the American Dental Association, the Texas Dental Association and the Academy of General Dentistry, Dr. Reddy moved to Texas in 2012 and has practiced as an associate dentist at Family Smiles offices in Palestine, Burleson and Ennis. He and his wife, Siri, a software engineer with the Army and Air Force Exchange in Dallas, enjoy traveling and spending time with friends and family, which include Dr. Reddy's brother and sister-in-law, a pediatric interventional cardiologist and nephrologist, respectfully, who live in Lewisville, Texas. Dr. Reddy also enjoys reading about history and politics and learning to play the guitar.

"Our doctor and staff are amazing. Dr. Reddy's philosophy of taking time to truly care for each patient translates over to our staff," Elena reiterated.

"The staff is very compassionate," Dr. Reddy said proudly. **NOW**

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*Grandchildren attend the 25th wedding anniversary and vow renewal ceremony for their grandparents, Gene and Janice McAda.*



*Allee Blankenship poses like a little princess for the camera.*



*Noah Sulak and Elizabeth Gonzales with EHS FFA assist with Make it at the Market with Lena and Oliver Foust.*



*Chris Cook, Julie Hejny and Celia Yowell share the Bluebonnet Festival with attendees at the Lawn & Garden Expo.*



*Richard and Ezekial Gonzales share a father and son moment in the bluebonnets.*



*Peyton French is happy with her flower crafted from tissue paper.*



*The Jets U5 soccer team receives kuddos from their coach after playing a good game.*



*Madyson Daniels watches cartoons before her brother's soccer game begins.*





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# Are You Prepared for Financial Disasters?

“Be prepared” is the Scout motto, and it’s also pretty good advice for anyone seeking to guard against various disasters — including financial ones. Here are some events that can have serious financial consequences, along with suggestions on preparing yourself:

• **Loss of employment** — If you were to lose your job, your family might have to struggle financially to make it until you’re employed again. To protect against this potential threat, try to build an emergency fund containing three to six months’ worth of living expenses. That’s a lot of money, of course, so it will be challenging to build such a fund. But try to contribute something each month to a liquid, low-risk account. Without such an emergency fund, you might be forced to cash out your 401(k) or other retirement plans to pay for your living expenses during your period of unemployment.

• **Loss of health** — If you were ill or injured, you might be out of work for weeks or months. Your employer may offer you some type of disability insurance as an employee benefit, but it might not be sufficient. So you may also want to purchase an individual plan to cover as much of your after-tax income as possible. You’ll have the flexibility to create a policy that is tailored to your needs, budget and overall financial goals. However, policies vary widely in cost and benefits, so you’ll want to shop around for the coverage that best meets your needs.

• **Loss of life** — Death may be an uncomfortable topic to discuss. If you were to pass away, it would be emotionally devastating to your loved ones, but it could also be financially catastrophic. Would your family still be able to pay the mortgage? Could your surviving spouse afford to send your kids to college? Without life insurance, your death could leave your family

without the ability to cover financial obligations. The exact amount you require depends on a variety of factors, such as your family’s expenses, size of family, savings needs over time, and so on. Generally speaking, you can choose between two broad categories of insurance: term and permanent. Term insurance, as the name suggests, is designed for a specific number of years and only provides a death benefit. Permanent insurance is typically more expensive, because, in addition to the death benefit, it offers a savings component. A financial professional can help guide you through your options to determine which one is appropriate for your needs.

• **Loss of property** — If you own a home, you already have homeowners insurance, but it doesn’t hurt to periodically check your policy to make sure it’s kept up with any improvements or additions you’ve made to your house or other property. If you’re under-covered, and had to pay out-of-pocket for some major damage, you might be forced to dip into your long-term investments. And while you’re making sure your property is covered, you might also want to consider adding “umbrella” coverage, which can provide extra protection to you in case someone is injured at your home, or even at an event at which you may be in charge, such as a Scout meeting.

With luck, you can avoid all the threats to your financial security and that of your family. But you can’t count on always being lucky, so you need to take “financial disaster preparedness” measures soon. **NOW**

*This article was written by Edward Jones for use by your local Edward Jones Financial Advisor. Jeff Irish is an Edward Jones representative based in Ennis.*

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## Fibromyalgia Help

— By Betty Tryon, BSN

Fibromyalgia was a perplexing illness. Those afflicted complained of chronic fatigue and debilitating pain deep inside their bodies. There was no lab test to point to a specific illness, so sometimes, it was all chalked up to one of two things — either the patient was faking, or it was all in their head. Although the symptoms of fibromyalgia syndrome were identified as early as the 1820s, it was not until the late 1970s that the term *fibromyalgia* was given to the condition.

The most common symptom of fibromyalgia is pain in muscle tissue. According to the Arthritis Foundation, “Fibromyalgia pain has been described in a variety of ways, such as burning, aching, stiffness or soreness. It often varies according to the time of day, activity level, weather, sleep patterns and stress. Many people with fibromyalgia say that some degree of pain is always present, although the pain can come and go. For some people, the pain may be quite severe.” Distinctive to fibromyalgia are specific tender pressure points located all over the body. Having at least 11 of these pressure points usually points to fibromyalgia.

Along with pain, sleep problems, fatigue, anxiety and depression are familiar complaints. The fatigue experienced with fibromyalgia is different. It can be overwhelming, limiting and chronic. A night’s rest doesn’t help. Sleep problems could include difficulty in falling asleep and a disruption in the sleep phase called deep sleep, where the body’s restorative operations take place. Anxiety

and depression are common bedfellows with illnesses that can be debilitating in activity and pain.

There is no definitive laboratory test or X-ray one can take to diagnose this syndrome. Diagnosis is made from your presenting symptoms, medical history and ruling out other diseases that could cause the same symptoms you experience. There is no cure for fibromyalgia. A person will always have this, and there will be good days and bad days. To enjoy life is to maximize the good days.

On those days when life is too difficult, it is beneficial to already have a plan in place. Mobilize your support system for meals and chores. These can be family members, volunteers or paid help — even after-school help from a teen. Take the time to indulge yourself with a comedy or a book you’ve been meaning to read. Avoid online chat groups that focus on the pain and suffering of your condition. Utilize those who have a positive bent and encourage coping techniques. Try yoga’s deep breathing and stretching practices. People of faith may find comfort in prayer. If you have fibromyalgia, difficult days are unavoidable, so master your coping strategies to get through the day. **NOW**

Source: <http://www.arthritis.org/about-arthritis/types/fibromyalgia/symptoms.php>.

*This article is for general information only and does not constitute medical advice. Consult with your physician if you have questions regarding this topic.*



### May 5 — 7

Waxahachie Cinco de Mayo Festival: Singleton Plaza in historic downtown Waxahachie. The event is hosted by ECHO.

### May 7

Fifth Annual Race for the King 5KRun/Walk and Kids' Fun Run: 8:00 a.m., Ferris Junior High, 1002 E. 8th St., Ferris. Race begins and ends at Ferris ISD Yellowjacket Stadium. The race benefits the Kyle King Scholarship Fund. To make payments and for additional race information, contact Traci Rodriguez at (972) 544-2279 or [tdrodrig@ferrisisd.org](mailto:tdrodrig@ferrisisd.org). You can also access the school's website to get a registration form.

### May 12

Senior Job Fair: 2:00-5:00 p.m., Ennis High School, Ensign Cafeteria. Local businesses and industries will be looking for future employees. For more information, call Ryan McCabe at (972) 872-3523 or email at [ryan.mccabe@ennis.k12.tx.us](mailto:ryan.mccabe@ennis.k12.tx.us).

### May 14

Bristol Volunteer Fire Department Dinner & Dance: 5:30-11:00 p.m., Bristol Firehouse, 100 S. Old Walnut, Bristol. Event includes live and silent auctions, bounce house for the kids and a BBQ dinner served from 5:30-7:00 p.m. Adults, \$10; kids, \$6. Live music by Ira Bradford & Bustin'loose.

### May 19

Ellis County Amateur Radio Club: 7:30 p.m., Ellis County Sheriff's Office Training Center, 2272 FM 878, Waxahachie. For more information, visit [www.wd5ddh.org](http://www.wd5ddh.org).

### May 26

Honoring the Past Celebrating the Future: 4:30 p.m., Alamo Education Center, 501 N. Gaines. The event celebrates 100 years. For more information, call (972) 872-7332.

### May 27 — 29

50th Annual National Polka Festival: for a full schedule of events both in downtown Ennis and at the halls, visit [www.nationalpolkafestival.com](http://www.nationalpolkafestival.com).

### May 28

18th Annual Polkafest Run: 10K/5K/1-mile Fun Run/Walk: first race begins at 7:00 a.m., 2405 Yorkstown Dr., Ennis. The event coincides with the 50th anniversary of the National Polka Festival. For more information or to register, visit [www.polkafestrun.com](http://www.polkafestrun.com) or on Facebook at Ennis Polka Fest Run.

### June 4

Mid-Way Regional Airport Annual Pancake Breakfast Fly-In: 8:00-11:00 a.m., Mid-Way Regional Airport. Breakfast tickets: adults and children 8 and over, \$6; children under 8, \$3. The event features classic airplanes, helicopter and airplane rides, fly-overs, live music, children's activities, Midlothian Classic Wheels and Gold Wing Road Riders. Parking is free. Public is invited. For more information, call (972) 923-0080 or visit [www.mid-wayregional.com](http://www.mid-wayregional.com).

### June 11

Second Unity One Music Fest: downtown Ennis. The event, hosted by Unity in the Community, is a free, family-friendly event promoting all the wonderful things Ennis has to offer. The event will include food vendors, a zone for kids, Farmers Market vendors and much more. Drawings will be held throughout the day. For event information for sponsorship and vendor rates and details, call UNITY7-9227.

National Active and Retired Federal Employees Association Chapter 1191 monthly meeting: 11:00 a.m.-1:00 p.m., Grand Ennis Buffet. The event also includes a guest speaker. For membership information, call (214) 949-6197.

### June 16

Ellis County Amateur Radio Club: 7:30 p.m., Ellis County Sheriff's Office Training Center, 2272 FM 878, Waxahachie. For more information, visit [www.wd5ddh.org](http://www.wd5ddh.org).

### Ongoing:

#### Mondays and Wednesdays

Sign Language Class: 4:00-5:15 p.m., Ennis Public Library, 501 W. Ennis Ave. Classes are free and available for all ages. No sign up required.

#### Third Mondays

Ellis County Aggie Moms meeting: 7:00 p.m., Waxahachie First United Methodist Church, 505 W. Marvin, Waxahachie. For more information, visit [www.elliscountyyaggiemoms.org](http://www.elliscountyyaggiemoms.org).

#### Fourth Mondays

Creative Quilters Guild of Ellis County meeting: 6:30-8:30 p.m. at the Waxahachie Bible Church, 621 Grand Ave.

#### Second Tuesdays

Ennis Masonic Lodge No. 369 meeting: dinner at 6:30 p.m., meeting to follow at 7:30 p.m., Masonic Lodge, 209 N. Dallas St. For more information, contact Cecil Curry at [c Curry\\_98@yahoo.com](mailto:c Curry_98@yahoo.com).

### Third Tuesdays

Ellis County Veterans Networking Group: 6:30 p.m., Ryan's Steakhouse, Waxahachie. Come join the group for dinner and listen to what the guest speaker for the evening has to share. For more information, call Mike Lamb at (214) 763-0378.

Skyblazers of Waxahachie R/C Club meeting: 7:30 p.m. at the Parks and Recreation Building, downtown Waxahachie.

### First Wednesdays

Bluebonnet Patches Quilt Guild meeting: 9:30 a.m., First Presbyterian Church, 210 N. McKinney. Contact Judy Wensowitch at (972) 921-8800 or Diana Buckley at [SeldomSeenQuilting@gmail.com](mailto:SeldomSeenQuilting@gmail.com) for more information.

### Third Wednesdays

The Ellis County Christian Women's Connection meeting: 11:30 a.m.-1:00 p.m., Waxahachie Country Club. Cost is \$13. For more information, contact Kay at (972) 935-2054 or Margaret at (972) 937-1016 for reservations.

### Thursdays

Chess for Kids: 6:00-7:30 p.m., Ennis Public Library, 501 W. Ennis Avenue, Ennis. Elementary age and above. No sign up required.

### Fourth Thursdays

MACS: 6:00 p.m., Tabernacle Baptist Church Life Center. Evening includes a covered dish meal and a program of singing or informational message.

### Second Thursdays

Mom's Connected meeting: 9:30-11:30 a.m., Tabernacle Baptist Church, 1200 Country Club Rd. Call the church office at (972) 875-3861 for more information.

### Fourth Saturdays

Bristol Opry: 7:00 p.m., featuring local singers and musicians. Sponsored by Bristol Cemetery Association and Caring Hands of Bristol. For more information, contact Jim Gatlin at (972) 846-2211.

### Sundays

GriefShare meeting: 2:30-4:00 p.m., Cowboy Church of Ellis County in the sanctuary Youth Inc. room. For more information, call (972) 935-9801 or visit [www.cowboychurchofelliscounty.org](http://www.cowboychurchofelliscounty.org).

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





## In the Kitchen With Irene Kubin

— *By Virginia Riddle*

Growing up as the youngest of six children, Irene Kubin remembers the wonderful aromas of something always baking in the oven. “I come from a Czech heritage and always helped my mother bake bread, kolaches and strudels. Every Sunday we made chicken soup with noodles,” Irene said.

Retired from a career decorating cakes and managing H-E-B bakeries in the area, Irene and her husband, Bobby, enjoy selling veggies from their garden and baked goods at the Ennis Farmers Market. She looks in magazines for new recipe ideas that she tweaks to make her own. But she is passing down her family’s recipes to her daughter and son-in-law, two sons and their wives and four grandchildren. “When they all come to visit, we have a full house,” she said. **NOW**

### Pie Crust

Makes 2 pie shells, 1 double crust or lattice-top pie.

**2 cups flour**  
**1 tsp. salt**  
**2/3 cup shortening**  
**7-8 Tbsp. cold water**

1. Using a food processor, mix flour, salt and shortening; add 1 Tbsp. of water at a time until mixture forms a ball.
2. Divide dough in half and roll out.
3. Bake at 450 F for 10-12 minutes.

### Coconut Meringue Pie

*Filling:*

**3/4 cup sugar**  
**1/3 cup flour**

**1/4 tsp. salt**  
**2 cups milk**  
**3 beaten egg yolks**  
**2 Tbsp. butter**  
**1 tsp. vanilla**  
**1 cup coconut**

*Meringue:*

**3 egg whites**  
**1/2 tsp. vanilla**  
**1/4 tsp. cream of tartar**  
**6 Tbsp. sugar**

1. *For filling:* In a saucepan, combine sugar, flour and salt; add milk and mix well.
2. Stir over medium heat until boiling; then cook 2 more minutes; remove from heat.
3. Stir small amount of mixture into egg yolks; return to saucepan; cook 2 more minutes, stirring constantly; remove from heat.

4. Add remaining ingredients; mix well; pour into cooled, baked pie shell.
5. *For meringue:* Warm egg whites to room temperature; beat with vanilla and cream of tartar until soft peaks form.
6. Gradually add sugar until it’s dissolved; spread onto pie, sealing edges.
7. Sprinkle coconut on top; bake at 450 F for 12-15 minutes.

### Pecan Pie

**1 Tbsp. flour**  
**1/4 cup sugar**  
**1/4 cup melted butter**  
**3 beaten eggs**  
**1 cup white corn syrup**  
**1 tsp. vanilla**  
**1 cup pecans**

1. Mix flour and sugar; cream in butter.
2. Stir in remaining ingredients; pour into unbaked pie shell.
3. Bake at 350 F for 45 minutes, or until mixture passes toothpick test.
4. *Hint:* If crust browns too quickly, cover edges with a strip of foil.

### Enchilada Casserole

**1 lb. hamburger**  
**1 small onion, chopped**  
**1 tsp. garlic powder**  
**2 Tbsp. chili powder**  
**1/2 tsp. cumin**  
**Salt and pepper, to taste**  
**1 8-oz. can tomato sauce**  
**1 15-oz. can chili**  
**1 pkg. flour tortillas**  
**1 lb. cheddar cheese, grated**

1. Brown hamburger with onion; drain.
2. Add garlic powder, chili powder, cumin, salt, pepper and tomato sauce; cook until blended.
3. In a large casserole dish, spread 1/2 of chili on dish’s bottom; layer tortillas, hamburger mixture and cheese twice.
4. Spread on rest of chili; bake at 350 F for 30 minutes.
5. Remove from oven; top with additional grated cheese; let rest for 5 minutes before serving.

**To view recipes from current and previous issues, visit [www.nowmagazines.com](http://www.nowmagazines.com).**



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## Common symptoms of *sciatica* include:

- Pain in the buttocks or leg that is worse when sitting
- Burning or tingling down the leg
- Weakness, numbness or difficulty moving the leg or foot
- A constant pain on one side of the buttocks
- A shooting pain that makes it difficult to stand up

*If you are experiencing any of these problems, you may be suffering from sciatica. Sciatica affects everything you do, from work to play and ultimately, your quality of life. If you are tired of taking drugs that only mask the problem, or you are facing surgery, we invite you to come in and find relief. We want you to know there is hope. You can get rid of your sciatica pain and get your life back. We have helped hundreds of people just like you.*

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