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A Z I N E

MAY 2019

Checking in on Czech Culture

Charlie and Jeannette
Patak share their heritage

In the Kitchen With
Jennifer Johnson

Forever Belonging

Marines help Marines
through Project FAITH

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CHECKING IN ON CZECH CULTURE

Music, food and dancing make the Polka Festival the place to be.

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ON THE COVER

Charlie and Jeannette Patak dance through their Czech heritage.

Photo by
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EDITOR'S NOTE



Bill

Bill Smith
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Everybody polka!

If you have ever been one to frequent the Czech fraternal halls in Ennis during May, you have heard the phrase exclaimed hundreds of times. The leader of the band steps up to the microphone, and the dance crowd anticipates whether the next tune will be a polka or a waltz, or perhaps a chair-emptying line dance like the "Cotton-Eyed Joe" or the familiar "Schottische."

Vendors come from near and far to sell a variety of food items and souvenirs of the weekend in Ennis. Don't miss the klobase and kolaches! The bands likewise travel from all over the United States to play for a polka festival where part of the party is outdoors, and part of it takes place in the air-conditioned halls.

As a child, our home was close enough to downtown to walk to the parade, and my father made sure we never missed one of them. We had countless movies of the parade from an old Kodak camera that did not even require batteries. The camera had a key that folded out from the side that Dad just wound up. He loved getting pictures of the Ennis High School Band, as my sisters and brother marched in the parade. He also enjoyed the Shriners that come every year with their clowns, cycles and go-karts. The parade has grown significantly over its 53 years.

Some of our tourists were here just last month for the Bluebonnet Festival and Trails and could not resist a return trip to experience Ennis' hospitality. To all of you, we native Ennisites say *Vitame Vás!* Welcome!

See you at the festival!

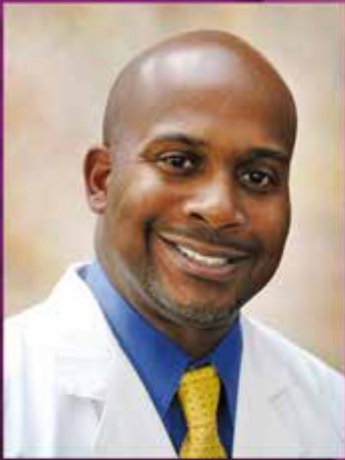
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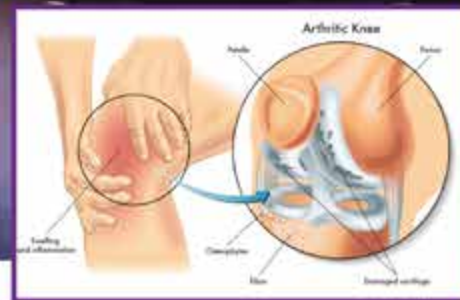
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"Music and dancing have always been a part of our marriage, just as it plays such a crucial role in our Czech heritage."



Checking — *in on* **Czech** **Culture**

— By Derek Jones

It only takes a few minutes of conversation with Charlie and Jeannette Patak to realize the deep sense of pride they have in their Czech heritage, and their excitement for the National Polka Festival, which takes place here in their hometown of Ennis every May. “Music, food and dancing are central to our culture, and we want to share that with others,” Jeanette said.

Jeannette’s grandparents immigrated to the United States from Czechoslovakia, now the Czech Republic. Although Jeannette was born in Ennis, she did not learn English until she was 6 years old. She met Charlie, and the two soon became high school sweethearts. They have been married now for 50 years. “Charlie has always been in bands that played Czech music,” Jeannette shared. “After we were married, we toured through states playing for festivals and even played on cruise ships.”

“Music and dancing have always been a part of our marriage, just as it plays such a crucial role in our Czech heritage,” Charlie chimed in.

He can play any number of instruments, and although his heart belongs to Czech music, he also has a fondness for old-time country and western music. “Playing music is a lot like going fishing,” he explained. “When you play, your troubles just seem to melt away.”

If Charlie provides the music, Jeannette brings the excitement of dancing. “I had to have knee surgery a few years ago,” she said. “However, I was up dancing just three weeks after because I just could not restrain myself any longer.” It seems the Pataks have struck a perfect balance between music and dance in their relationship.

With two sons and nine grandchildren, Charlie and Jeannette want to allow their culture and traditions to live on through their family. Jeannette shared a story from when their youngest son, Darrell, was about 9 years old. “He said he was bored just sitting at the table and asked me to teach him to dance, so I got him out on the dance floor at one of the festivals.” She smiled as she continued, “As we were dancing, an older lady cut in and took off dancing with him leaving me standing on the dance floor with her husband. She commented to me what a great dancer he was for his age. As a mother, I felt so much pride and joy in that moment. All our children and grandchildren are fabulous dancers,” she said with a grin on her face.

The Polka Festival has always held a special place in the Pataks’ hearts. “I played in the polka

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band in the very first Ennis Polka Festival in 1967," Charlie remembered. Since that first festival, he and Jeannette have continued to volunteer and participate in the event. Charlie elaborated, "The only time we missed was a few years while I was serving in the Army."

"Yes, it took the military to drag us away from the Polka Festival," Jeannette laughed, "but we came back to Ennis as soon as possible." Upon their return, they immediately jumped back into action supporting the festival through Charlie's band and volunteering.

Although the couple has volunteered with the festival since its inception, Jeannette took on a more official role when she began working with the Ennis Chamber of Commerce in 1996, eventually stepping into the role of president in 2007. "The Polka Festival Association and the Chamber work together, along with many other important organizations, to make the festival a reality each year," she said. Since its beginning, the event has continued to grow exponentially, and today, it takes place over three days. This year's event will take place Memorial Day weekend, May 24-26.

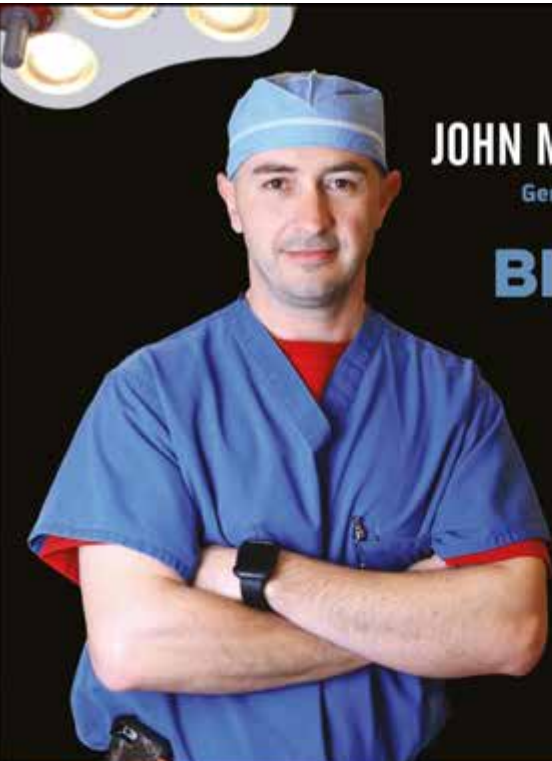
The list of activities over the course of the three days is seemingly endless. "Of course, the heart of the Czech culture is its music, food and dancing," Jeannette shared, "and there will be plenty of all three at the three fraternal halls and in downtown Ennis." There will be many other activities taking place at the festival, as well, such as a parade with more than 100 entries, street vendors selling various foods, arts and crafts, a Rotary Club-



sponsored fun run and many activities for children, including a train, bounce houses and rock climbing. The traditional foods will be in good supply, such as kolaches, klobase, sauerkraut and pork-roast and dumplings. “No one should leave hungry,” Jeannette said. As to what she and the volunteers need to pull off such a large event successfully, she laughed and exclaimed, “Roller skates!”

Elaborating on the Czech culture, Charlie said, “We are a very tight-knit community — always available to help each other out. However, we want to share our culture with others, as well. That is where events like the Polka Festival become important.”

“We want to keep our heritage alive for future generations,” Jeannette agreed. If the success of the Polka Festival is any indication, it would seem people are eager to embrace the joy that radiates from the people of the Czech community. Jeannette beamed, “The Polka Festival is a celebration, and we want everyone to experience it.” She thought for a moment and added, “People may be surprised to find themselves dancing in the streets.” **NOW**



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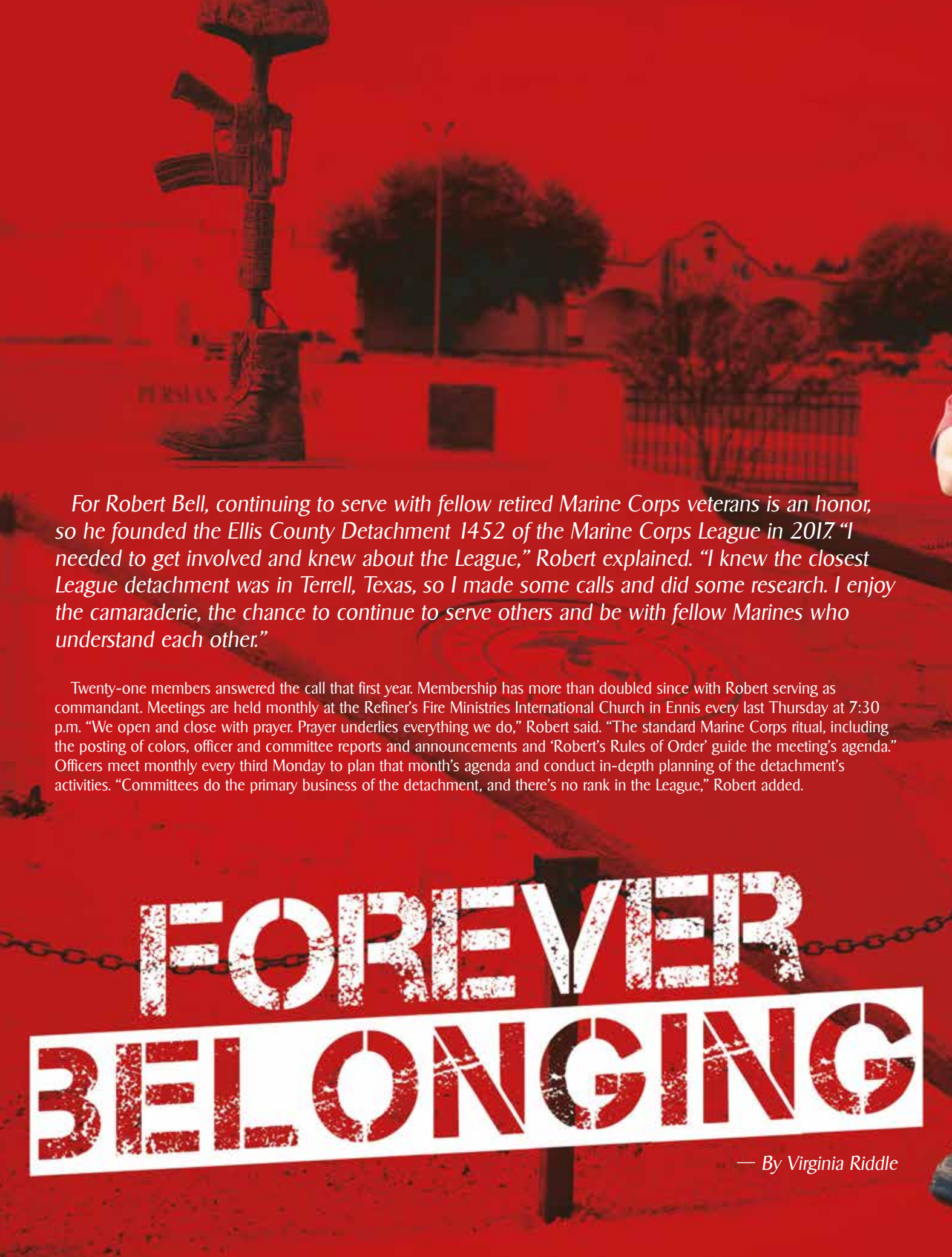
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For Robert Bell, continuing to serve with fellow retired Marine Corps veterans is an honor, so he founded the Ellis County Detachment 1452 of the Marine Corps League in 2017. “I needed to get involved and knew about the League,” Robert explained. “I knew the closest League detachment was in Terrell, Texas, so I made some calls and did some research. I enjoy the camaraderie, the chance to continue to serve others and be with fellow Marines who understand each other.”

Twenty-one members answered the call that first year. Membership has more than doubled since with Robert serving as commandant. Meetings are held monthly at the Refiner’s Fire Ministries International Church in Ennis every last Thursday at 7:30 p.m. “We open and close with prayer. Prayer underlies everything we do,” Robert said. “The standard Marine Corps ritual, including the posting of colors, officer and committee reports and announcements and ‘Robert’s Rules of Order’ guide the meeting’s agenda.” Officers meet monthly every third Monday to plan that month’s agenda and conduct in-depth planning of the detachment’s activities. “Committees do the primary business of the detachment, and there’s no rank in the League,” Robert added.

**FOREVER
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— By Virginia Riddle



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Activities include monthly breakfast get-togethers in Waxahachie. "The food, service and fellowship are great," Robert revealed. The detachment's second Marine Corps Birthday Ball, held on November 10, 2018, at the Texas Motorplex in Ennis, attracted more than 170 guests. "The Detachment collected more than 300 toys for the Toys-for-Tots program for the first time this past Christmas," Robert added. Detachment members sport their uniform in area parades and at festivals.

The nonprofit detachment launched a new program, Project FAITH (Funding Assistance In Trying Hours). "We wanted to do something for our communities and fellow veterans," Robert explained. "Money is raised to help veterans and their families until they can get back on their feet. Committee members don't know recipients' names. Only the committee chair knows. We're able to give quick answers and funding to individuals and families. This is a committee-driven project."

A service that's dear to these Marine veterans is providing military funeral honors to fellow veterans and their families. "It's free of charge to families," Robert said. "We have a growing cadre of members who want to serve by providing this final and earned honor."

The group's camaraderie helps overcome the challenges veterans face. "Mental health is the biggest challenge," Robert admitted. However, it's closely followed by retired veterans trying to fit into an ever-changing civilian world. "Veterans feel an isolation in the civilian world," Robert added. "The League helped me to get out of the house and start doing something positive. For me





and many of the other members, this is a full-time, enjoyable job. Our website has continued to evolve as a central hub of information for veterans and the greater Ellis County community.”

Born and raised in Fort Worth, Robert didn’t want to go the college route as high school graduation approached, so during his school’s career fair, he collected military recruiters’ cards. “I decided I would go into whichever service’s recruiter called me first, and the Marine Corps’ recruiter was first,” Robert recalled. “I could always go to college later.”

He entered the Corps in 1996 and retired on medical disability in 2015 with the rank of master sergeant. Stationed in Hawaii, California and Virginia stateside, he did tours in Afghanistan and Iraq. “I was infantry, performing jobs such as anti-tank assault and demolition,” Robert remembered. “I served as a drill instructor and as a school of infantry instructor and became a staff non-commissioned officer in 2003.” He did earn that college degree — in pastoral psychology in 2017. Robert and his wife, Jeannie, an Ennis native, have two daughters, ages 14 and 17.

The MCL, founded by John Lejeune in 1923, received its federal charter in 1923 from the U.S. Congress. The “few good men and women” who served as Marines for 90 days or more and were honorably discharged are eligible for membership. Robert is serving currently as the district 8 vice commandant for the Department of Texas, Marine Corps League.

His advice to those thinking of making the Marines a career? “Go into the military with the right mentality,” he said. “Be respectful and do your job. The same advice for going in or being out of the military.” **NOW**

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Chili's Grill and Bar

— By Bill Smith

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Friday-Saturday: 10:45 a.m.-11:30 p.m.

The first time you sit across a table from Mike Read, you will feel like you are visiting with an old friend. As the manager of Chili's restaurant, Mike knows that it is, as he put it, "all about the relationship with our guests."

While many restaurants tend to move managers around, Mike has managed the Ennis store for almost 15 years. "I was in Waxahachie for about a year, then I came to Ennis and have been



here ever since," he continued. "I did not plan from high school to be a restaurant manager. I actually went to college to study marine systems engineering, but I transferred from Texas A&M University to LSU at Shreveport and started working for Grandy's."

A series of moves to various towns in East Texas managing various stores eventually led to owning a Grandy's franchise in Dallas. Mike lived in Ennis, and after a while, the hour-long drive to north Dallas took its toll. The Chili's opportunity became available, and "the rest is history."

Chili's is a very popular restaurant in Ennis. Mike said, "I love the Chili's brand. I love the Chili's culture. It is a place where people come to meet, to eat and to have fun."

"The best thing is we never have the same day twice. I meet the neatest people," he said. One customer, who has been coming regularly to the restaurant for more than 6 months, came to Mike's mind. "I got to know this guy and recently learned about his vocation. It's pretty interesting. I meet all kinds of people."

The menu at Chili's appeals to a wide demographic, and specials like "Two for \$25" or "Three for \$10" make dining out very affordable. Mike related, "You would have a hard time making most of these items at home with all of the necessary ingredients for these prices. Plus, you would still have to clean up the mess!"

Of course, Chili's has changed over the years. Mike has seen the pendulum swing back and forth, but today, "We are back to basics. We have actually trimmed our menu back some, and though there is still a lot of variety, our core items and most popular items are what we started with — burgers, ribs, fajitas and margaritas."

**"Nothing is sacred
other than the
guest returns."
— Norman Brinker**

The first part of the story of Chili's on the Chili's website lists these items, and they go all the way back to the start of the franchise in Dallas in 1975. They just celebrated the 44th birthday of the restaurant chain on March 13. "We have more than 1,000 locations in the United States, and our website tells of our expansion into other countries."

Mike went on, "Chili's is a very dynamic culture. Another thing about the Ennis location is we are a training store. We train other managers here who go on to manage other Chili's restaurants in the Metroplex and beyond. One of the reasons for our success as a training store is the long tenure of our employees."

While Mike acknowledges some restaurants have a problem with staff turnover, it is just not a problem here. He mentioned with gratitude, "We have employees who are a team, and they take pride in working together. Sylvia Byrd is a long-term employee who has mentored many others. We have guests who come and specifically request a certain server."

Mike and his Chili's team recognize that it is all about the guest. They look forward to each one returning. **NOW**



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Zoomed In: Dave and Joyce Lindauer

By Bill Smith

Dave and Joyce Lindauer have a Pop Up Gallery in the building they own with Russell and Nancy Thomas on the northwest corner of Dallas and Brown Streets. Joyce said, "We plan to be here three to six months. We completed the renovation of the building, but we don't think it will be a good time to lease the building for retail space until the street reconstruction is closer to being complete."

Most of the art on display is from the Lindauer's own collection, though there are some consignment items available, also. There are some beautiful works on display, and a visit to the Pop Up Gallery will give Ennis residents a good opportunity to see the progress of the brickwork along south Dallas Street.



Robert Castillo represents Lion Nation at the Grand Ole Opry.



Wallace Roberts presents Lisa Fincher with the Lion of the Year Award at Ennis Noon Lions Clubs Sweetheart Banquet at the Telico Gin.



The Chili's crew is ready for all of their dinner guests.



Greg Roth is on his way back to work after picking up supplies.



Kynlie Kubin sells candy as a fundraiser for Lummus Intermediate School.



Home Grown Market holds a ribbon cutting.



Rick Ivey introduces Kathyne Boroughs, executive director of the Ellis Christian Women's Job Corps, as speaker at the Ennis Noon Lions Club.



Rodney Bell, Jeanette Patak and Terry Connor discuss the North Texas Employer Health Plan Cooperative with which the Ennis Chamber of Commerce is associated.



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(Josh Ward/Kody West Country Concert admission is additional.)

Friday, May 24 • \$9

Saturday, May 25 • \$14

Saturday, May 25 — Josh Ward With Very Special Guest, Kody West
\$15 advanced purchase/\$18 day of the event

Sunday, May 26 • \$11
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NATIONAL POLKA FESTIVAL EVENT SCHEDULE

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

Knights of Columbus (850 S. IH 45, Ennis)

Sokol (2622 E. Hwy. 34, Ennis)

TIME	EVENT / BAND	PLACE
FRIDAY, MAY 24, 2019		
6:00 p.m. - 11:00 p.m.	Squeezebox featuring Ted Lange and Mollie B	KJT Auditorium
9:00 p.m.	King and Queen Dance Contest	KJT Auditorium
SATURDAY, MAY 25, 2019		
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. - 7:00 p.m.	Arts & Crafts, Food, & Pivo/Beer Pavilion	Downtown Ennis
11:30 a.m. - 3:00 p.m.	Ennis Czech Boys	KJT Auditorium
11:30 a.m. - 3:00 p.m.	Czechaholics	Knights of Columbus
11:30 a.m. - 3:00 p.m.	Texas Dutchmen	Sokol
12:00 p.m. - 3:30 p.m.	Street Dance - Texas Sound Czech	Downtown Ennis
1:00 p.m.	Kolache Eating Contest (sponsored by KJT Home Office)	Downtown Stage
4:00 p.m. - 7:00 p.m.	Jodie Mikula Orchestra	KJT Auditorium
4:00 p.m. - 7:30 p.m.	Squeezebox with Ted Lange and Mollie B	Knights of Columbus
4:00 p.m. - 7:30 p.m.	Dujka Brothers	Sokol
4:00 p.m. - 7:00 p.m.	Street Dance - Alpenmusikanten	Downtown Ennis
9:00 p.m. - 12:30 a.m.	Country Concert - Josh Ward with very special guest Kody West	KJT Auditorium
8:30 p.m. - 12:00 a.m.	The Moravians	Knights of Columbus
8:30 p.m. - 12:00 a.m.	Brave Combo	Sokol
SUNDAY, MAY 26, 2019		
9:00 a.m.	Polka Mass	St John Church
10:00 a.m. - 1:00 p.m.	Live Broadcast (10 a.m.- noon): KBEC Polka Party-Czech Harvesters	Sokol
11:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m.	Arts & Crafts, Food, & Pivo/Beer Pavilion	Downtown Ennis
12:00 p.m. - 3:00 p.m.	Street Dance - Alpine Village Band	Downtown Ennis
12:30 p.m. - 7:30 p.m.	Czech and Then Some / Alex Meixner	Knights of Columbus
1:30p.m. - 4:30 p.m.	Fritz Hodde & The Fabulous Six	Sokol
3:30 p.m. - 5:00 p.m.	Gary P. Nunn	Downtown Ennis
8:30 p.m. - 11:30 p.m.	Brave Combo	Knights of Columbus



Photo by Crysta Miller

Parade in Downtown Ennis
Saturday, May 25, 2019 · 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 "Deep in the Heart of Polka."



9th Annual Kolache Eating Contest
Sponsored by KJT Home Office
Saturday, May 25, 2019

Start Time: 1:00 p.m. · Downtown Stage

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



T H E
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— By Bill Smith

If you painted a picture of the love of music, the result would be a life-size portrait of Mollie B. “I love music because I love music,” Mollie B practically gushed. Since she started singing with the Jim Busta Band at age 3 and joined on the piano when she was 8 years old, music has been an important part of her life as far back as she can recall. Today, she travels all over the United States and has been to 11 countries, constantly inspiring others with her love of music.

“Our home was always filled with music,” Mollie continued. “While other families might think a great vacation would be a theme park, we would go spend a week at a polka festival, and I thought it was wonderful!”

The versatility as a musician and vocalist that Mollie exhibits is mind boggling to most of us. If you Google “Mollie B,” the first thing you are likely to find is a YouTube video with Mollie playing the accordion and singing a polka. However, in addition to the accordion that she is most often seen with, Mollie plays no less than a dozen other instruments. She shows great vocal versatility, as well. Besides her dance music, she will most likely bring on a melancholy or worshipful air with her rendition of “Ave Maria.”

Mollie remembers with fondness her last visit to Ennis for the National Polka Festival. “They gave me the key to the city and made me an honorary citizen,” she recalled. Besides performing for others, Mollie also likes to dance and looks forward to the opportunity to dance while in Ennis this year. “The polka is happy music. I can’t say I have a favorite polka, there are a lot of favorites that our audience looks forward to hearing, like the ‘Beer Barrel Polka,’ ‘Red Raven Polka,’ ‘Tic Toc Polka’ and ‘Apples, Peaches, Pumpkin Pie.’”

From the stage, Mollie sees the music making an impact on people. “I get to touch people’s lives with my music. I can see eyes light up, sometimes a happy tear, and it all starts with

the music. There are so many people I would never have met without the music. It brings happiness to people.

“And, it really is not so much about the lyrics in the polkas. Some of the words are poetry, some of them are just kind of silly, like ‘Apples, Peaches, Pumpkin Pie’ or ‘In Heaven There is No Beer.’ The melodies are happy and make people enjoy the dancing. I also like the ‘hoolerie’ style where the primary instruments are two clarinets, a concertina, an accordion and a trombone.”

Speaking of dancing, Mollie recently had the opportunity to dance with a legend, Clint Eastwood, as she appeared with him in his latest movie, *The Mule*. “It was one of those ‘the show must go on’ days,” she remembered. “We had one day to shoot with him. We were in Atlanta, Georgia, and I had about 70 friends and extras there to be in this scene in the movie where I played the trumpet, saxophone and piano. I also sang a song I composed. The night before the shoot, I woke up at midnight with a sore throat. I prayed really hard that night and got to the set at 8:00 a.m., feeling a little better. We did the scene all day and wound up around 8:30 that night. I went directly to the emergency room, and my temperature was 103.1. I had strep throat, but we made it. When you travel for 150 performances a year in multiple states, with lots of handshakes and hugs and some nights only sleeping about three hours, it’s going to happen.”

Mollie continued about dancing with the legendary actor, “Dancing with Clint Eastwood was kind of surreal. I was dancing with an 88-year-old man, and it somehow felt normal.”

Mollie composed an original song, “A Day to Say Thank You,” that made it into the movie. “When I wrote the song, I wanted the melody line to be simple and fun — something that would stick in people’s minds, so they would be going home humming the song.”

Mollie believes that the secret to her success is her faith. “When I went to college at age 18, friends would say I had to be the happiest person they had ever met. They would ask why that was. My response was, ‘Well, I love music. I love my family, and I love God.’ Those three things are such a big part of my life. I have a wonderful, wonderful supportive family that was the backbone of my growing up years. I have great faith that God is there for me, and I have the chance to play and dance to such happy music. I love what I do!” **NOW**

SATURDAY, MAY 25 — COUNTRY CONCERT

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

Location: KJT Hall · 1216 S. Paris St., Ennis, TX · Cost: \$15 advanced purchase/\$18 day of the event
Purchase advanced tickets online or at Kolache Depot, 1103 E. Ennis Ave., Ennis, TX.



Josh Ward

With nine consecutive #1 hit singles in Texas, more than 2 million views on YouTube and more than 6 million streams globally on Spotify, Josh Ward is country music blood to bone. In 2017 all six radio singles from his album *Holding Me Together*, hit the #1 spot on the Texas Regional Radio Chart. Josh went from opening act to the headlining spot in a matter of months. To his loyal fans he feels he owes everything. And so, his brand-new album is aptly named, *More Than I Deserve*. The first single on the album, "All About Lovin," is a sexy, tonkafied, driver-of-a-song. "A Cowboy Can" is the true grit of this album and is what Josh says best describes himself. And then there is "More Than I Deserved" ringing out with its vulnerable steel and head-hanging resolve. Josh said, "I never thought I would be rolling down the road with one of the hottest bands in Texas playing shows across the United States."



Kody West

Kody started playing music in 2014, eager to take on as many acoustic gigs and song-writing competitions in the Dallas/Ft. Worth area as he could. A frequent support act of the Texas Country/Red Dirt band Dalton Domino and the Front Porch Family, he took on the role of tour manager in 2015. Thanks to his time on the road with the band and his ability to fill in when needed, he gained a following of loyal fans. Kody recorded his first full production EP, titled *Higher Ground*, later that year. The EP released in January 2016 with "Playing Cards" as the first song. Kody's music has been described as a mix of Texas country and bluegrass with some good-for-the-soul grooves.

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Squeezebox

featuring Ted Lange & Mollie B.

Friday - KJT Hall - 6:00pm - 11:00pm
Saturday - KC Hall - 4:00pm - 7:30pm



Ennis Czech Boys

Saturday - KJT Hall - 11:30am - 3:00pm



Czechaholics

Saturday - KC Hall - 11:30am - 3:00pm



Texas Dutchmen

Saturday - Sokol - 11:30am - 3:00pm



Texas Sound Czech

Saturday - Downtown Ennis
12:00pm - 3:30pm



Jodie Mikula Orchestra

Saturday - KJT Hall - 4:00pm - 7:00pm



Dujka Brothers

Saturday - Sokol - 4:00pm - 7:30pm



Alpenmusikanten

Saturday - Downtown Ennis
4:00pm - 7:00pm



The Moravians

Saturday - KC Hall - 8:30pm - 12:00am



Czech Harvesters

Sunday - Sokol - 10:00am - 1:00pm



Alpine Village Band

Sunday - Downtown Ennis
12:00pm - 3:00pm




Fritz Hodde & The Fabulous Six

Sunday - Sokol - 1:30pm - 4:30pm

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Brave Combo

Saturday - Sokol - 8:30pm - 12:00am
Sunday - KC Hall - 8:30pm. - 11:30pm



Alex Meixner

Sunday - KC Hall - 12:30pm - 7:30pm



Czech and Then Some

Sunday - KC Hall - 12:30pm - 7:30pm



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33rd King and Queen Dance Contest

Friday, May 24, 2019 · KJT · Doors Open: 6:00 p.m.

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

Dance Contest Starts: 9:00 p.m.

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



21st Annual PolkaFest Run

Hosted by the Rotary Club of Ennis

Saturday, May 25, 2019

Lonestar Fitness Center

2405 Yorkstown Drive

Registration/Package Pickup: 5:45-6:45 a.m.

10K Race: 7:00 a.m. · 1-Mile Fun Run/Walk: 7:10 a.m.

5K Race: 7:30 a.m. · Awards: 8:30 a.m.

You are invited to participate in either the USATF-certified 5K or 10K events in the Bluebonnet City of Texas. A 1-mile fun run/walk is also available. The race will begin on the far west side of Ennis, on Yorkstown Drive in front of Lonestar Fitness Center, and will wind its way through residential streets and finish on the east side of Lonestar Fitness Center. Post-race activities will include food, drinks and live entertainment.

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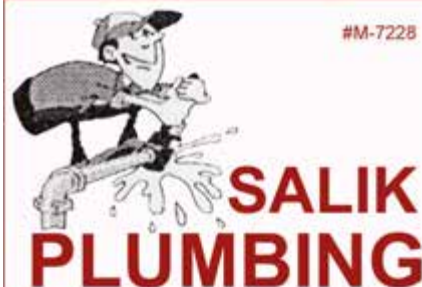
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Polka Festival Menus

Friday, May 24 -
Sunday, May 26, 2019



KC Hall

850 S. I-45 · Ennis, TX 75119 · Prices Vary

Saturday and Sunday: Barbecue brisket and klobase, parsley potatoes, green beans, sauerkraut, bread and Czech pastries.



KJT Hall

1216 S. Paris St. · Ennis, TX 75119 · Adults: \$11. Children: \$7. Price includes meal, tea/coffee and dessert. Food prices do not include admission.

Friday: Sandwiches only.

Saturday: Barbecue beef and klobase, parsley potatoes, green beans, sauerkraut, bread and Czech pastries.



Sokol Hall

2622 E. Hwy. 34 · Ennis, TX 75119 · Adults: \$11. Children: \$7. Price includes meal, tea/coffee and dessert. Food prices do not include admission.

Saturday and Sunday: Barbeque beef & klobase or pork roast & dumplings, parsley potatoes, green beans, sauerkraut, bread and Czech pastries.



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CookingNOW

In the Kitchen With

JENNIFER JOHNSON

— By Lindsay L. Allen

Jennifer Johnson began cooking at 12 years of age, and years later, she fulfilled her dream of owning a bakery! Now Jennifer fills her time baking for her friends and family and, of course, her customers.

Between her favorite celebrity cook and cooking shows, Jennifer has plenty of recipes to experiment with, always adding her own flare to each one. “I was inspired to cook by both family and friends, and I continue to be inspired,” she said. “It makes me happy to make something that someone else eats and enjoys.” As she invents her own recipes, Jennifer is always looking for friends to sample and provide honest feedback, so the honing and perfecting of each recipe can continue. **NOW**

Oh! So Good Cookies

1 16.25-oz. box yellow cake mix with pudding
1 8-oz. tub Cool Whip, thawed
1 egg
Powdered sugar, to taste

1. Preheat oven to 350 F. Mix cake mix, Cool Whip and egg together.

2. Drop mix by teaspoonfuls into powdered sugar to coat.
3. Place cookies on an ungreased cookie sheet; bake for 12 minutes.
4. Let cool on pan for 2-3 minutes before transferring to a cooling rack.

Baked Potato Dip

2 8-oz. pkgs. cream cheese, softened

1 bunch green onions, chopped (white part only)

1 cup cheddar cheese, shredded
2 Tbsp. real mayonnaise

1 6-oz. bottle Real Bacon Bits (divided use)

Tortilla chips, for serving

1. Preheat oven to 350 F. Mix together the cream cheese, green onions, cheddar cheese, mayonnaise and 3/4 of the bottle of bacon bits.
2. Pour mixture into a casserole dish; sprinkle the remaining bacon bits on top.
3. Bake for 10 minutes. Serve while hot with tortilla chips.

Tacos in Pasta Shells

1 1/4 lbs. ground beef
3 oz. cream cheese with chives, softened
1 tsp. salt
1 tsp. chili powder
18 jumbo pasta shells, cooked, rinsed and drained

2 Tbsp. butter, melted
1 cup taco sauce
1 cup cheddar cheese, shredded
1 cup Monterey Jack cheese, shredded

1. Preheat oven to 350 F.
2. Brown the beef. Reduce heat to medium-low after browning the meat; add cream cheese, salt and chili powder. Simmer for 5 minutes.
3. Toss pasta shells with butter; fill each shell with meat mixture. Place filled shells in a baking dish.
4. Pour taco sauce over each shell; cover with foil.
5. Bake for 15 minutes. Uncover the shells; top with cheeses. Bake for an additional 15 minutes.

3-packet Pot Roast

1 cup water
1 0.7-oz. pkg. dry Italian-style salad dressing mix
1 1-oz. pkg. ranch dressing mix
1 0.75-oz. pkg. dry brown gravy mix
1 3-lb. boneless beef chuck roast

1. Whisk together the water, Italian dressing mix, ranch dressing mix and brown gravy mix until smooth.
2. Place the beef roast into a slow cooker; pour the sauce mix over the top.
3. Cook on low until the roast is easily separated with a fork, usually 6-8 hours.

Machaca Beef

1 3-lb. chuck roast
1 tsp. salt
1 tsp. pepper
2 Tbsp. vegetable oil
1 onion, diced
1 tsp. chili powder
1 tsp. garlic powder
1 1/4 cups green chili peppers, diced
1 cup picante sauce
1 tsp. dry mustard
Water

1. Season the roast with salt and pepper.
2. Sear on all sides in oil in a skillet; place in a slow cooker on low heat.
3. In a bowl, mix together the remaining ingredients, except for the water. Spoon the mixture over the top of the meat.
4. Pour the water in along the side of the slow cooker, just until the roast is one-third covered. (You don't want to wash off the ingredients on top of the roast.)
5. Cover; cook for 6-8 hours. Drain the slow cooker. Reserve the liquid if you want to make gravy out of it.

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6. Meat can be used for tacos, burritos or quesadillas.

Texas Chocolate Cake

Cake:

2 cups sugar
2 cups flour
1 tsp. baking soda
1 1/4 tsp. cinnamon
1 stick oleo

1/2 cup Crisco
1 cup water
4 Tbsp. cocoa
2 eggs
1/2 cup buttermilk
1 tsp. vanilla

Icing:

1 stick oleo
4 Tbsp. cocoa
3 oz. milk

1 tsp. vanilla
1 16-oz. box powdered sugar
Nuts, to taste

1. *For cake:* Preheat oven to 350 F. In a large bowl, mix the sugar, flour, baking soda and cinnamon.
2. In a saucepan, add the oleo, Crisco, water and cocoa; bring to a boil, stirring constantly. Pour mixture into the large bowl with the dry ingredients; stir until dissolved.
3. Beat the eggs, buttermilk and vanilla well in a separate bowl. Pour the egg mixture into the large bowl; mix well.
4. Pour batter into a greased 13x9-inch pan; bake for 40 minutes.
5. *For icing:* Mix the oleo, cocoa, milk and vanilla in a saucepan; bring to a boil. Add the box of powdered sugar and the nuts.
6. Frost the cake as soon as it comes out of the oven.

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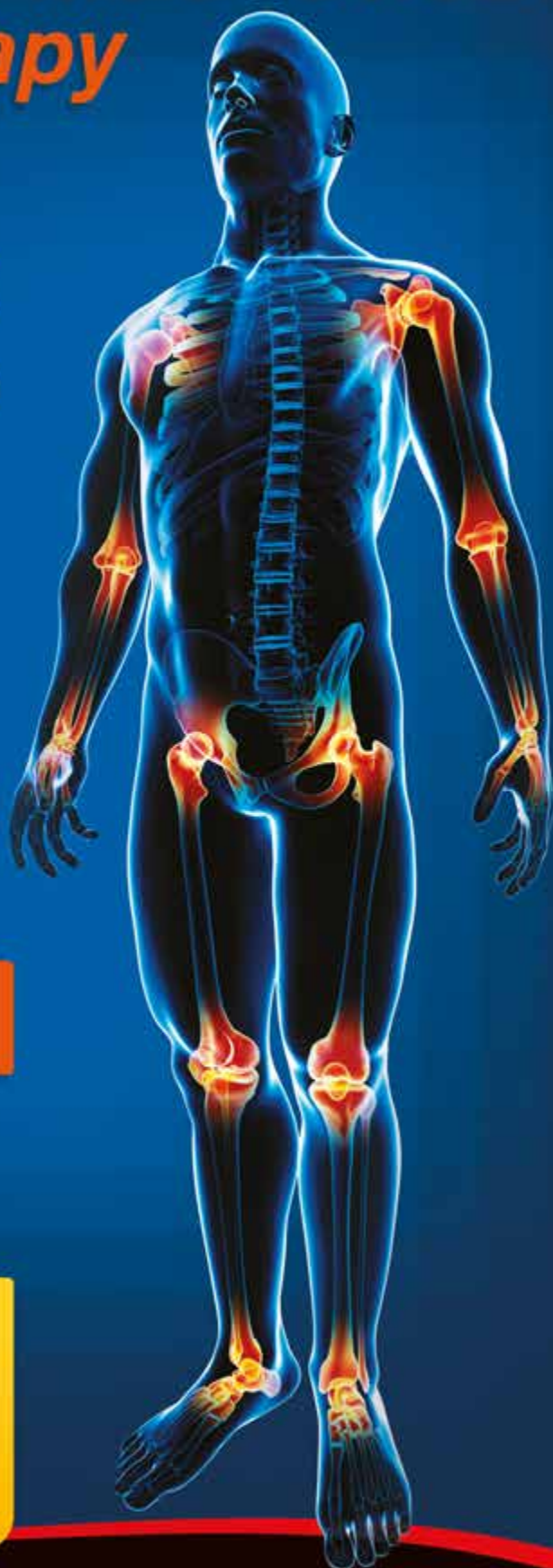
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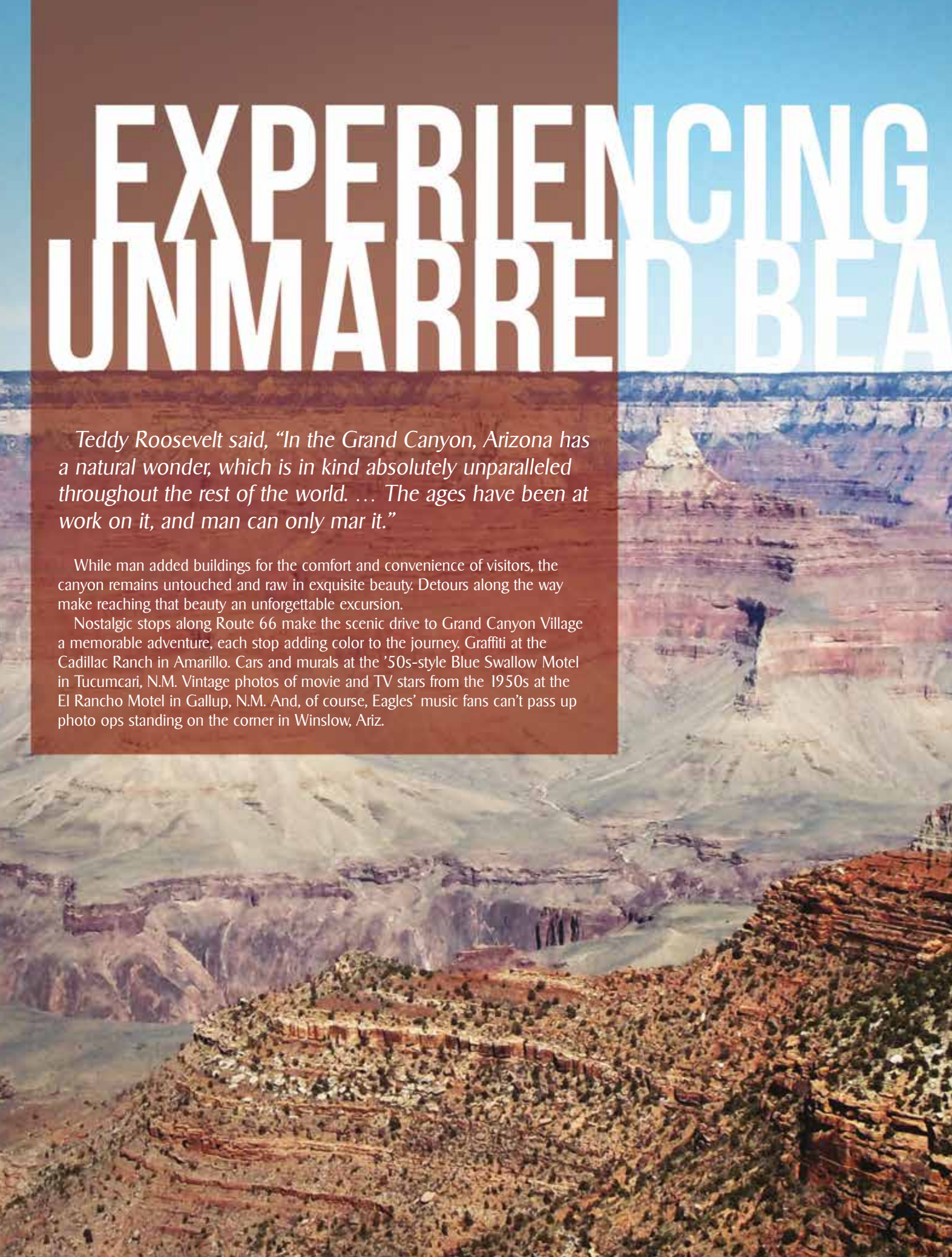
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Teddy Roosevelt said, "In the Grand Canyon, Arizona has a natural wonder, which is in kind absolutely unparalleled throughout the rest of the world. ... The ages have been at work on it, and man can only mar it."

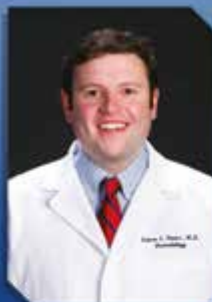
While man added buildings for the comfort and convenience of visitors, the canyon remains untouched and raw in exquisite beauty. Detours along the way make reaching that beauty an unforgettable excursion.

Nostalgic stops along Route 66 make the scenic drive to Grand Canyon Village a memorable adventure, each stop adding color to the journey. Graffiti at the Cadillac Ranch in Amarillo. Cars and murals at the '50s-style Blue Swallow Motel in Tucumcari, N.M. Vintage photos of movie and TV stars from the 1950s at the El Rancho Motel in Gallup, N.M. And, of course, Eagles' music fans can't pass up photo ops standing on the corner in Winslow, Ariz.



— By Wanda Strange

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Near the Grand Canyon, Williams, Ariz., is an unexpected treasure of its own. Shops and galleries line the streets in the small town, offering canyon memorabilia or arts and crafts from local artisans. Here, the Grand Canyon Railway departs daily for Grand Canyon National Park.

Built in 1908 by the Atchison, Topeka and Santa Fe Railroad, the depot served as an oasis for travelers. Listed on the National Register of Historic Places, the Williams Depot and original Fray Marcos Hotel (a Harvey House Hotel) represent the oldest concrete structures in Arizona.

While passengers wait to board the train, costumed entertainers treat the crowd to a Wild West show, setting the mood for a journey back in time. Since its initial trip on September 17, 1901, the millions of enchanted Grand Canyon Railway guests have included presidents, celebrities and ordinary individuals.

In the late 1800s, only the most adventurous explorers experienced the Arizona canyon. As railroads tied the nation together, the main line connected Chicago to Los Angeles passing through Williams, Ariz. Though originally intended to transport ore from the Anita Mines, investors soon realized the potential for tourism.

Because ore and mining proved unsustainable, the railroad relied on tourism to recoup its investment.





The \$3.95 train ride replaced the \$15 eight-hour stagecoach ride from Flagstaff, allowing visitors to experience the Grand Canyon. The adventure is definitely worth the 2019 ticket price.

Train hosts educate passengers about the history and topography of the area. As the train nears the station, hosts offer information about the layout of Grand Canyon Village and the many food options inside the park. The El Tovar Dining Room, a five-star restaurant, provides an elegant atmosphere for a delicious gourmet lunch.

Over the years, the Santa Fe built structures to accommodate an increasing number of tourists. In 1905, El Tovar became one of the finest hotels in the Southwest. In a progressive move, the railroad hired a woman, Mary Elizabeth Jane Colter, to design buildings that became the signature of the Grand Canyon National Park. Landmarks include the Hopi House, Lookout Studio, Bright Angle Lodge, Desert View Watchtower and Hermit's Rest.

These structures are evidence of Colter's distinctive imprint, a natural style of Pueblo Indian architecture. Garden spots, the American flag and architecture of the buildings in the village enhance the canyon experience. Plants and wildlife naturally add color.

Time passes quickly in Grand Canyon Village. Some visitors hike deep into the canyon, while others linger in shops or museums. Many stand in awe at the rim and soak in the magnificence, attempting to commit every detail to memory, experiencing, as Roosevelt said, "the wonderful grandeur, the sublimity, the great loneliness and beauty of the canyon."

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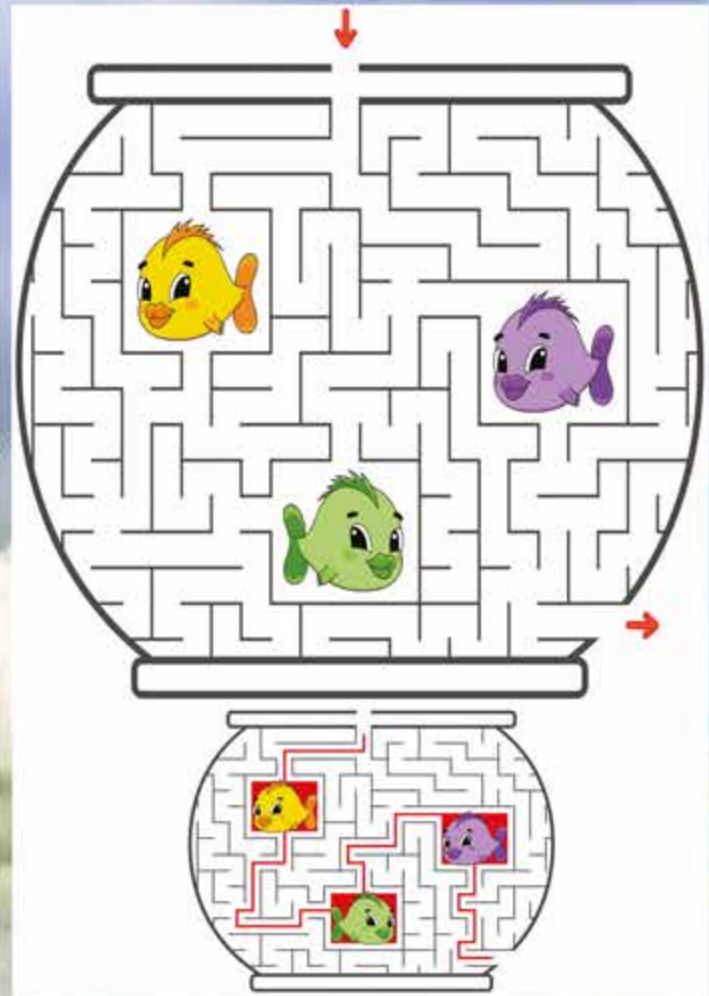
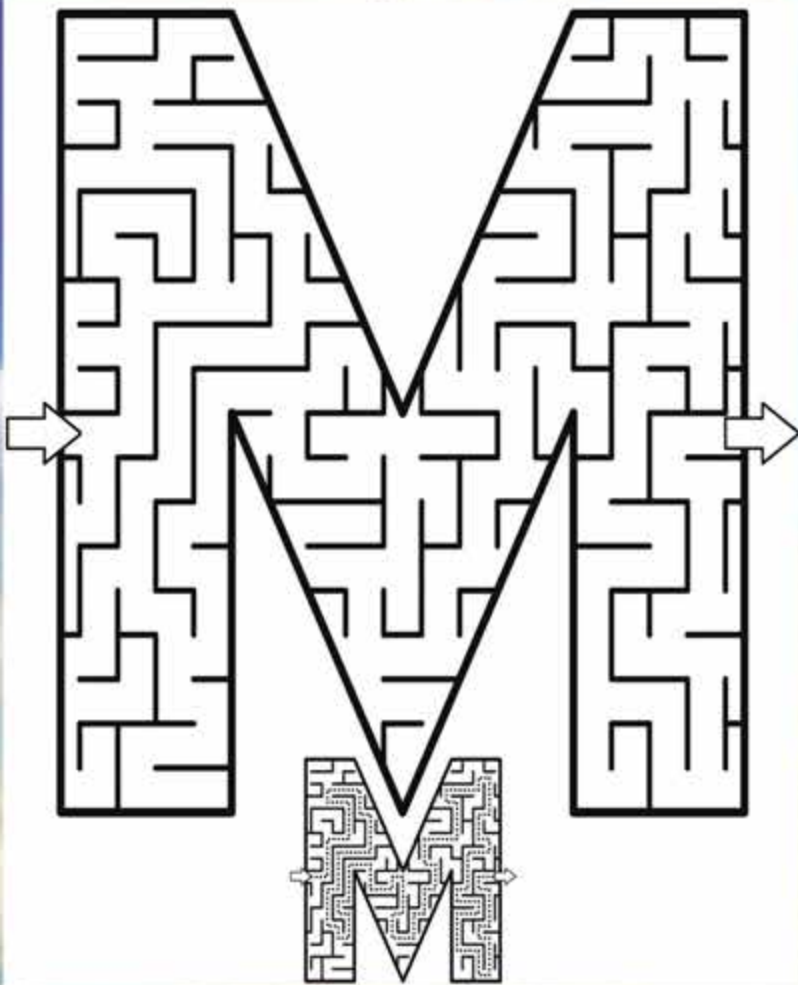
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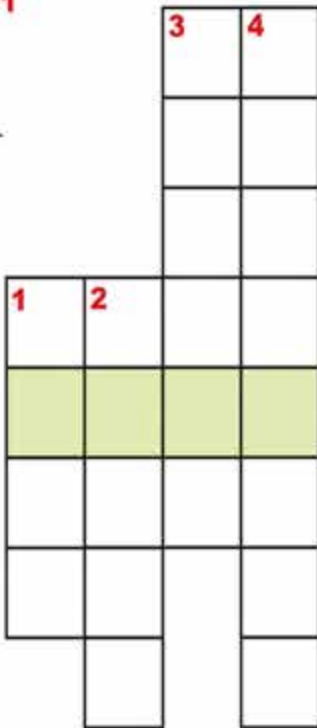


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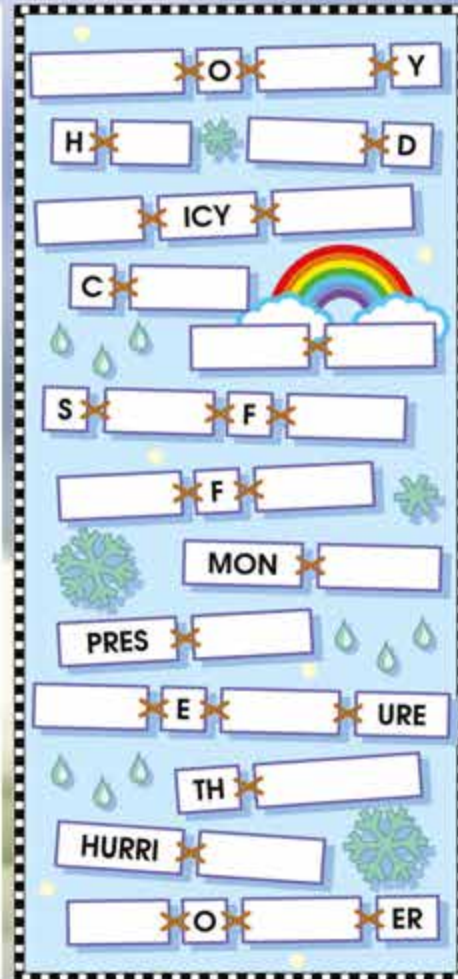
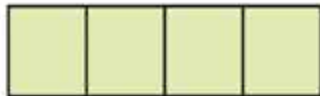
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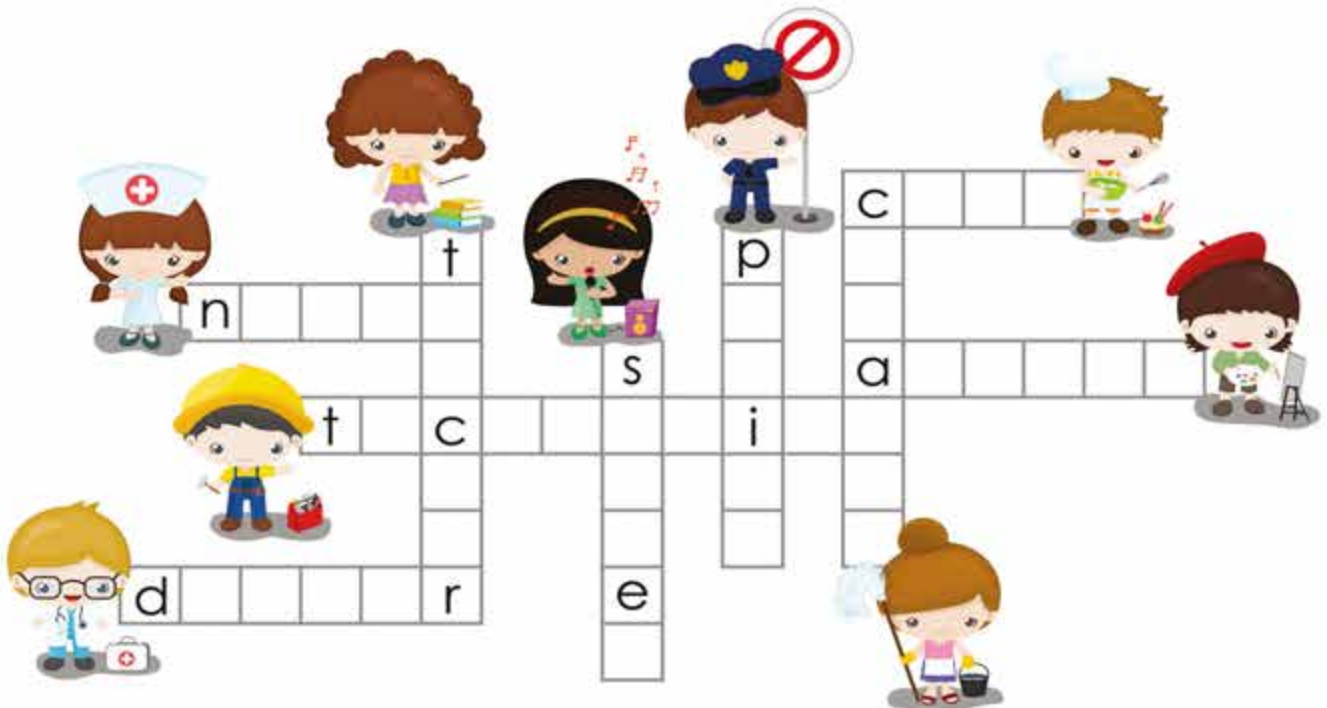
★★★★★
Fill in the blanks with the words ALL, ANT, BAR, BOW, CANE, CLONE, EAT, LAKE, LOG, LOUD, MET, METEOR, NOW, RAIN, RAT, SNOW, SOON, SURE, TEMP, UNDER, WIN to reveal 14 weather related words.



ANSWER:

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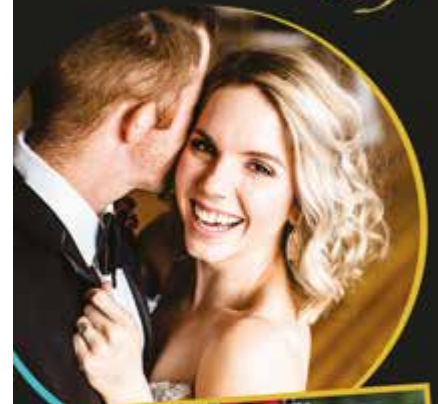


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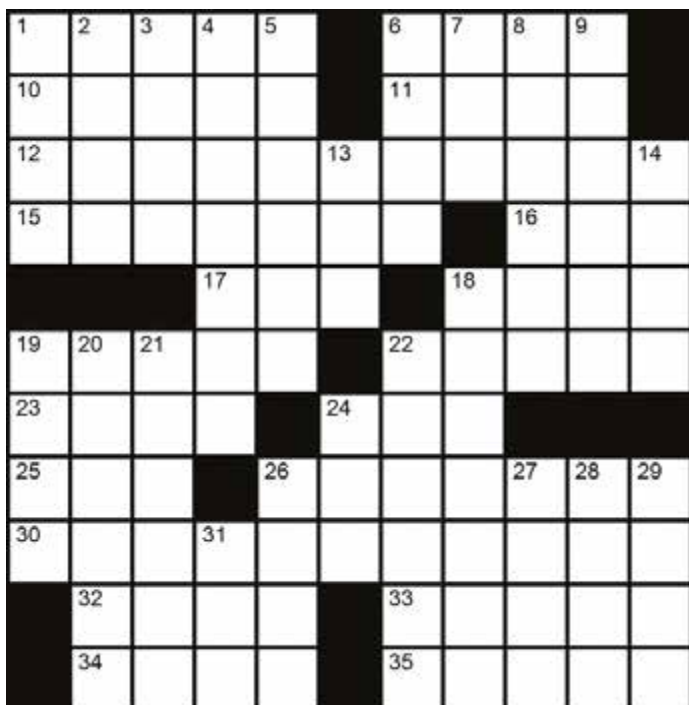
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- 6 Afrikaans speaker
- 10 Hitchcock had trouble with him
- 11 Skin eruption
- 12 Unputdownable
- 15 Virginian drive
- 16 Sticky substance
- 17 Male child
- 18 Abdul the Bulbul ---
- 19 Stigma
- 22 Frighten
- 23 Ornamental vases
- 24 Like 30 Across
- 25 Newfoundland catch
- 26 Prescription option
- 30 Bloody Mary ingredient
- 32 Strip
- 33 Defer
- 34 Maxims
- 35 Valuable item


Down

- 1 Sometimes found with that
- 2 Yarn quantity
- 3 Like many a student film
- 4 Grid for greenery
- 5 Like Steve Jobs's father
- 6 Foundation
- 7 When the Sup. Court's new term begins
- 8 Brain twister
- 9 Impressionist Pierre-Auguste ---
- 13 Stamp out
- 14 Pierce with a tusk
- 18 Pretended to be
- 19 Of like kind
- 20 Marches
- 21 --- Doria, Nantucket wreck
- 22 Could be the Moonlight or Kreutzer
- 24 Unnamed woman
- 26 Dippity-do and others
- 27 Barbecue dish
- 28 Small landmass
- 29 Guitar guru --- Atkins
- 31 Stitch

Solutions on page 60




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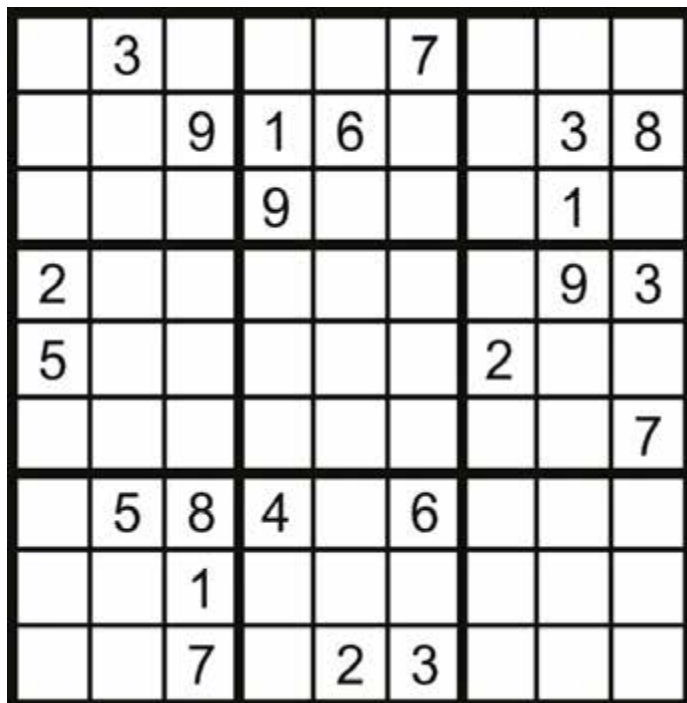


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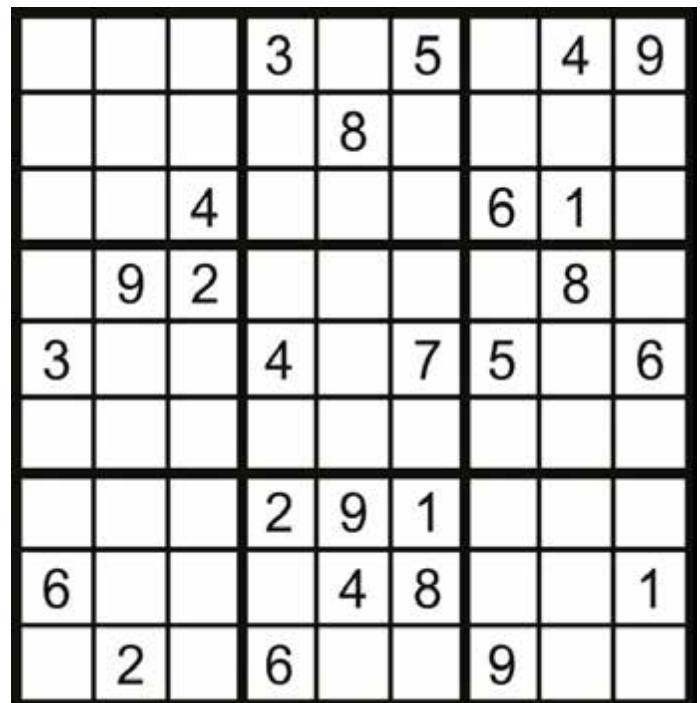
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Sudoku Puzzle

Easy



Medium




Crosswordsite.com Ltd

Solutions on page 60


WHOLE BODY CRYOTHERAPY

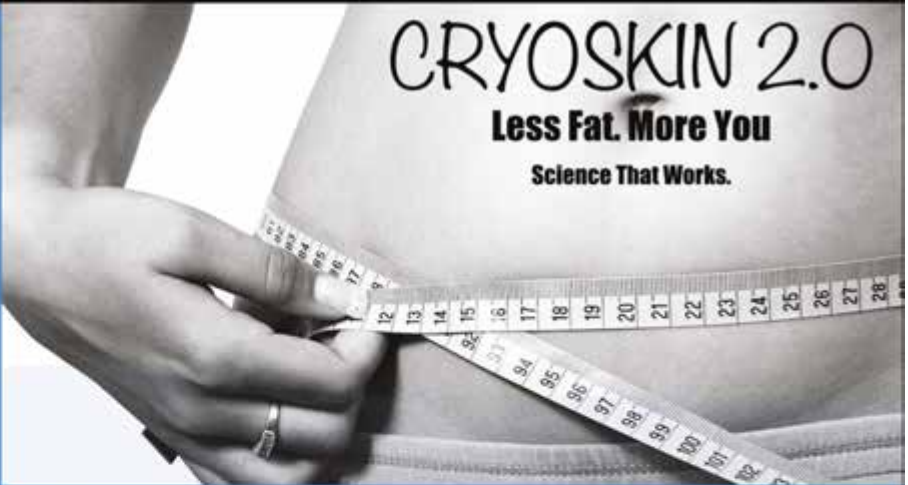
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HAPPY Mother's Day

MAY

5/2

Ennis Chamber of Commerce Networking:

Lunch is provided.
11:30 a.m.,
108 Chamber of
Commerce Drive.

5/3-5/11

A Little Princess:

Theater Rocks, 505 NW Main
St. See website for showtimes
and ticket information.
www.theaterrocks.com.

5/4

The Hoeffler House Hangout:

"A Shopping Experience You
do not Want to Miss!"
Several vendors will be
present and music will
be provided by
Veronica Reyes. 5:00-10:00
p.m., 310 W. Denton St.

5/5-5/9

Car Audio Show:

Come feel the noise! This
contest pits the might of
various vehicles' stereos
and speakers against one
another to determine whose
setup produces the best
sound of all. Free to observe.
Bluebonnet park, 201 S. US-
287 See Facebook page for
participation information.
[www.facebook.com/
events/287464098588312/](http://www.facebook.com/events/287464098588312/).

5/9

Sip, Shop & Stroll Shopping Event:

5:00-8:00 p.m.,
downtown Ennis.

5/10

Farm Fresh Dinner and Dance:

Hosted by the Ennis FFA. A
limited number of tickets
will be sold. Downtown Ennis.
Bethany Tucker,
(936) 645-2338 or
bethany.tucker@ennis.k12.tx.us.

5/16

Ennis Chamber of Commerce Networking:

Lunch is provided. 8:00 a.m.,
108 Chamber of
Commerce Drive.

5/17- 6/2

The Premature Corpse:

Ennis Public Theater, 113 N.
Dallas St. See website for
showtime and ticket information.
www.ennispublictheater.com.

5/18

Bristol Volunteer Fire Department 2019 Spring Fundraiser:

Silent and live auction, bounce
house and dancing to the music
of Ira Bradford & Bustini Loose.
5:30-11:00 p.m.; dinner: 5:30-
8:00 p.m., Bristol Fire House,

101 S. Old Walnut, Bristol. For
more information, call Ruth
Pritchett at (972) 666-3802.

5/23

MACS:

Evening includes a covered dish
meal and a program of singing
or informational message. 6:00
p.m., Tabernacle Baptist
Church Life Center,
1200 Country Club Road.

Pre Polka Festival Party:

Music by Czech and Then
Some. Sponsored by
polkabeat.com. 7:30-11:30 p.m.,
KJT Bar 1216 S. Paris St.
(972) 875-7982.

5/31

Ennis High School Graduation Ceremony:

7:30 p.m.,
Lion Memorial Stadium.

6/1

Annual Pancake Breakfast Fly-In:

Classic airplanes and fighters,
helicopter and airplane rides,
fly-overs, Midlothian Classic
Wheels, Gold Wing Road
Riders, live music, children's
activities and more! Breakfast
tickets for adults and children
8 and over: \$6; children under
8: \$3. Free parking. 8:00-11:00
a.m., Mid-Way Regional Airport,
131 Airport Dr., Midlothian, TX
76065. For more information,
call (972) 923-0080 or

visit www.mid-wayregional.com.

The O'Reilly Outlaw Racing Series:

This race will include 5.0, 5.80,
7.0 and 8.0 index classes. Top
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and action-packed evening. For
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MOTORPLEX or visit
www.texasmotorplex.com.

Mondays

Sign Language Class:

Classes are free and available
for all ages. No sign up required.
4:00-5:30 p.m., Ennis Public
Library, 501 W. Ennis Ave.

Fourth Mondays

American Legion Riders Meeting:

6:30 p.m., Chisolm-Landers
American Legion Post 361,
706 Rumbo Rd.

Second Tuesdays

Ennis Masonic Lodge No. 369 Meeting:

Dinner: 6:30 p.m.; meeting:
7:30 p.m., Masonic Lodge, 209
N. Dallas St. Contact Cecil Curry
at c Curry_98@yahoo.com.

First Wednesdays

Bluebonnet Patches Quilt Guild Meeting:

9:30 a.m., First Presbyterian
Church, 210 N. McKinney.



5/24 - 5/26

53rd National Polka Festival. Friday Night King and Queen Contest at KJT Hall. Saturday: Polka Fest Run at 7:00 a.m., parade at 10:00 a.m. **Saturday and Sunday:** Arts, crafts, food, music and dancing downtown, and food, music and dancing at Czech Halls. See full schedule in the Polka Festival Section of the magazine or at www.nationalpolkafestival.com.

Contact Judy Wensowitch at (972) 921-8800.

Last Thursdays

Marine Corps League, Detachment 1452 Meeting:

All active, retired or former Marines, Navy chaplains or corpsmen are welcome. 7:30 p.m., Refiner's Fire Church, 1611 W. Ennis Ave. (214) 803-4954.

First and Third Fridays

MOPS Meeting:

A ministry for mothers of preschoolers in the Ennis

community. 9:30-11:30 a.m. during regular school semester, Tabernacle Baptist Church, 1200 County Club Rd. www.tabernaclefamily.org/mops/.

Second and Fourth Fridays

Ennis Bridge Club:

1:00 p.m., Ennis Public Library, 501 W. Ennis Ave. Email Judy at judytx@sbcglobal.net or call (972) 878-1035.

Saturdays

Big O Speedway (formerly 85 Speedway):

Clay oval dirt track racing at its best. New owners have added new offerings, such as a go-kart track called The Bullring. Through **November**. www.bigospeedway.com.

Ennis Farmer's Market:

Visit with friends, neighbors and vendors while shopping for fresh produce, cottage goods and more. Bring the kids too! They'll enjoy the free Make-it-at-the-Market craft from 10:00 a.m.-noon, 104 N. McKinney Street.

Fourth Saturdays

Bristol Opry:

Featuring local singers and

musicians. Sponsored by Bristol Cemetery Association and Caring Hands of Bristol. 7:00 p.m. Contact Jim Gatlin at (972) 846-2211.

Sundays

GriefShare Meeting:

2:30-4:00 p.m., Cowboy Church of Ellis County in the sanctuary of Youth Inc. room. Call (972) 935-9801 or visit www.cowboychurchofelliscounty.org.

Submissions are welcome and published as space allows. Send your current event details to bill.smith@nowmagazines.com.



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Crossword - Sudoku Solutions

1	T	2	H	3	A	4	T	5	S	6	B	7	O	8	E	9	R
10	H	11	A	12	R	13	R	14	Y	15	A	16	C	17	N	18	E
19	I	20	N	21	T	22	E	23	R	24	E	25	S	26	T	27	I
28	S	29	K	30	Y	31	L	32	I	33	N	34	E	35	G	36	O
37	L	38	A	39	D	40	A	41	M	42	I	43	R	44			
45	S	46	T	47	A	48	I	49	N	50	S	51	C	52	A	53	R
54	U	55	R	56	N	57	S	58		59	H	60	O	61	T		
62	C	63	O	64	D	65		66	G	67	E	68	N	69	E	70	R
71	H	72	O	73	R	74	S	75	E	76	R	77	A	78	D	79	I
80	P	81	E	82	E	83	L	84		85	T	86	A	87	B	88	L
89	S	90	A	91	W	92	S	93		94	A	95	S	96	S	97	E

Easy

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

Medium

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



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