

Texas Polka News

Founded in 1987 - A Polkabeat Inc. Publication

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Oktoberfest Guide 2015



From the Publisher



By Theresa Cernoch Parker

Welcome to the first ever *Texas Polka News* Oktoberfest Guide. The newspaper has been covering fall festivals throughout the state for almost 30 years. This year, we decided to put a collection of the major fests in one publication for easy reference.

There is never a shortage of good times any time of the year when it comes to celebrating German, Czech and Polish heritage. The spring is filled with May Fests and the summer is packed with church picnics. The fall brings more church picnics and Oktoberfests. The events range from one-day gatherings to weekends to the 10-day party in New Braunfels. Restaurants get in on the action, some with beer fests every day in October. The town of Helen, Georgia, kicks off its Oktoberfest the second weekend in September, then keeps it going from the following weekend until November 1. And of course, what started it all is the 16-day Oktoberfest in Munich, Germany.

As **Alex Meixner** points out on page 7, it all started as a wedding reception for Prince Ludwig and Therese of Saxe-Hildburghausen who were married on October 12, 1810.

You would probably be hard-pressed to find a state in the U.S. that doesn't have some kind of event that pays homage to beer, sausage and polka. And all add their regional favorite food, craft beer and music.

If you plan to attend a festival that

is several days long, it's best to pace yourself. Why party so much on the first day that you can't enjoy or even bring yourself to attend the rest of the weekend fun.

In talking with **Jimmy Sturr**, polka king and television entertainer from Florida, NY, who headlines many polka fests, it's a matter of choices. "When I'm playing a fest, I either drink beer or I eat the food. I'm not going to tell you which I do," he said half-jokingly. He did declare his affinity for the turkey legs at Wurstfest in New Braunfels. Congrats to Jimmy who will mark his 25th year of appearing at the event.



Wurst hat from New Braunfels/Gary E. McKee photo

All the fairs have many activities to choose from to take breaks from drinking and eating. There's shopping, dancing, contests, carnival rides (although be careful with this after the beer and wurst), and one of my favorite activities - people watching! It makes you wonder what people will say when they wake up the next day and look at that treasured hat that seemed like a good purchase at the time.

To do our part, the staff of the *Texas Polka News* will do our best to attend as many Oktoberfest and fall festivals and picnics as we can. It's our journalistic duty that I think we took some sort of oath for if I recall.

Get out there and have fun. Prost y'all and Polka On!

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Articles, ads, letters to the editor deadline: 5th of the month for the next month

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| 1/2 page: \$255 | 3/16 page: \$75 | |

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Contact Theresa Parker for information.

On The Cover

Prost! to Fredericksburg Oktoberfest, celebrating its 35th year.

About Texas Polka News

The *Texas Polka News* was started by Julius Tupa of Houston in 1987 with the mission to preserve and promote polka music and dance. When Julius passed away in 2002, his wife, Marie, continued as publisher, and his friend, John Rivard, took the reins as volunteer editor. John's wife, Marlys, was a regular contributor to the paper, and the couple were always on the floor at dance

halls throughout Texas and the U.S. John stepped down as editor in June 2014 to care for Marlys' failing health. Marie sold the paper to Theresa Cernoch Parker, who resumed publishing the paper in September 2014. Theresa also founded polkabeat.com in 2010 to honor the memory of her dad, Willie "Bill" Cernoch, to promote polka music and heritage.

Get/Give The Texas Polka News

Continue the polka tradition! Give your children, grandchildren, great grandchildren, nieces and nephews a subscription to Texas Polka News. We'll extend your current TPN subscription one month for each subscription you designate as a family gift. Published monthly. One year (12 issues) for \$25. Clip this out & mail check for \$25 (outside U.S. \$40) to The Texas Polka News P.O. Box 800183 Houston, TX 77280. Or click on the TPN link on polkabeat.com to subscribe or renew online with a credit card.

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Oktoberfest Returns to Panther Island Pavilion in Ft. Worth

Dust off your lederhosen for zie fest with zie best

Panther Island Pavilion is bringing Oktoberfest back to Fort Worth! Zie three-day festival on September 24-26, is presented by Spaten, and will stay true to the traditional, Munich-style Oktoberfest with authentic German food, music and entertainment.

Zie festival will take place at Panther Island Pavilion and feature both indoor and outdoor Biergartens, including a main hall where authentic German beer company, Spaten, will serve its Oktoberfest brew, and other Biergartens will serve fall and Oktoberfest craft beers from around the country.

Zie festival kicks off Thursday, September 24, with local leaders participating in zie ceremonial tapping of the kegs. Zie celebration will continue on both Friday afternoon and evening, and all day Saturday.

Entertainment will include



traditional German music from **Brave Combo, Alpenmusikanten, Das Ist Lustig, Third Generation, Walburg Boys**. You've got to see zie dachshund races, keg-rolling contest, chicken dancing and stein-lifting competition. Plus, dancers of all ages will perform traditional Bavarian folk dances.

Fort Worth Running Co. will produce an Oktoberfest 5k and 1k fun

run as well as 15-mile bike ride on Saturday morning, which will end just in time for the opening of zie festival.

Authentic German food will be available and zie menu will include festival food such as bratwurst, pretzels, strudel, crepes and roasted nuts. Tickets will be sold online and on site during zie festival.

Photos: Festival & TPN's Mark Karasek



ZIE FEST WITH ZIE BEST RETURNS TO FORT WORTH, TX SEPTEMBER 24-26

OKTOBERFEST

presented by **AT PANTHER ISLAND PAVILION**

OKTOBERFEST
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DACHSHUND RACES**

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BIERGARTENS**

**LIVE MUSIC FROM
BRAVE COMBO
ALPINE VILLAGE BAND
ALPENMUSIKANTEN
WALBURG BOYS & MORE!**



OKTOBERFESTFW.COM



The Shack at Panther Island Pavilion 395 Purcey St, Fort Worth, TX 76102 817.698.0700

*Fredericksburg is the
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October 2-3-4, 2015
Celebrating our 35th year!

Downtown | MarktPlatz | Fredericksburg



Four Lively Stages with continuous music--
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Food & Drink - Food booths are ready to serve sausage-on-a-stick, potato pancakes, kraut, burgers, German plates and more. Over 50 varieties of domestic, German, and Texas beer.

Over 40 Artisans - Local artists, handmade works of wood, pottery, clothing, glass, jewelry and gifts. Fun awaits in Kinderpark -for kids (of all ages). Lots of souvenirs...



OKTOBERFEST is presented by Pedernales Creative Arts Alliance (PCAA). PCAA has supported a variety of art related programs in the area through the Oktoberfest proceeds. PCAA supports scholarships for local high school graduates, gifts and grants for art related programs, plus the PCAA MarktPlatz Concert Series.

FREDERICKSBURG is a celebration everyday! Visit our historic district, stay in a cozy bed & breakfast, quaint motel, eat at any of dozens of restaurants, and shopping is plentiful! Make lodging reservations in advance.



830-997-4810 | www.oktoberfestinfbg.com

35th Oktoberfest Stage Is Set, the Tradition Steeps

*Representative
Doug Miller
prepares to kick
off festivities*

Oktoberfest, the family-oriented German event that takes place in the center of Fredericksburg, is poised to again attract 1,200 volunteers and 20,000 visitors in its 35th year. As a result, the oom-pah-pah echo of 34 previous years will carry over in the hearts and minds of people who have made the event an annual tradition, many who traversed hundreds of miles to attend. And for others, the event reminds them of Gillespie County organizations and young people who accomplished artistic endeavors thanks to Oktoberfest proceeds.

Oktoberfest Event Producer Debbie Farquhar-Garner said the 35th Oktoberfest – set for October 2nd, 3rd and 4th at Marktplatz – will be everything people have come to expect and more. She said Texas House Representative Doug Miller will kick off the event at the opening ceremony, celebrating the event's

longevity, growth and contribution to the community. Poised, himself, for the moment, he said, "I'm looking forward to the fun, excitement and the gemütlichkeit. It will be a great time for all."

The engaging sights and sounds of the annual event are of Fredericksburg's German heritage, harkening to the first annual Oktoberfest near Munich in 1810, and to 1981, when Oktoberfest was first held in Fredericksburg.

Ernie Loeffler, president and CEO of the Fredericksburg Convention and Visitor Bureau, said the event is a Fredericksburg hallmark.

"Oktoberfest is one of the great festivals of Fredericksburg - bringing together hundreds of community volunteers who love to support and share this celebration of the German culture and heritage of our town and the Texas Hill Country," he said.

"Visitors come from around Texas, the U.S. and, indeed, from around the world to join in the three day party. Whether it is dancing to polka music or consuming large amounts of Bratwurst and potato pancakes, everyone seems to have a great time at Oktoberfest!"

Volunteers Karen Oestreich and Donna Mittel said Oktoberfest is a great time for families.

"We put on a clean, safe environment with volunteers," said Mrs. Oestreich, who organizes the chicken dance. "We've seen more





for their education,” she said. “It also enables us to support up to 35 local arts programs. Last year alone, we donated over \$40,000 to Fredericksburg arts and music.”

Tooting the Oktoberfest Horn
Ms. Farquhar-

and more participation every year, and it’s great fun for grandmothers, grandfathers, and kids and grandkids to jump in, clap and shake their tail feathers. My whole family gets involved, and we have a great time.”

Donna Mittel, who has also volunteered for many years, said, “What I love is it’s so family oriented. Families sit in the grass, eat their food, play in the playground and kids dance. It’s wonderful to see families together, enjoying each other.”

AN ANGLE ON THE ARTS

The Pedernales Creative Arts Alliance (PCAA) began and orchestrates the Fredericksburg Oktoberfest, and proceeds are used to fund youth arts and music scholarships, as well as community arts and music programs.

PCAA President Buddy Frels, DDS, said, “Oktoberfest was begun here in Fredericksburg with the specific intent to support the arts and music, and it is the only fund-raiser we have each year. Its success has enabled many young people to go to college and study the arts or music. And, we’ve also been able to fund many local organizations, including the Fredericksburg Chorale, the Fredericksburg Theater Company and the Harper High School band, enabling their initiatives.”

Debbie Farquhar-Garner has worked with volunteers to produce the charitable event since 1992. “Oktoberfest makes it possible for us to have 10 to 15 local students studying the arts each year. We provide scholarships to help pay

Garner said the event is also notable for how it comes together. “With 1,200 volunteers, we’re able to greet our visitors and provide an experience that is remarkable. Local residents blend with guests to create a welcoming and lively event for everyone.”



TOP 10 THINGS TO DO

1. Join in the Saturday morning chicken dance
2. Enjoy a bratwurst
3. Ring the bell at the High Striker (bring the kids to try the junior-size striker)
4. Dance polkas and waltzes
5. Listen to Ok-tuba-fest
6. Take the kids to KinderPark
7. Eat our legendary potato pancakes
8. Get in the 42 tournament Sunday afternoon
9. Shop the wares of over 40 artisans
10. Partake in of a wide variety of domestic, Texas and German beer

Photos: Festival and TPN's Gary E. McKee



Friday, October 2, 2015 6 PM-Midnight

| Adelsverein Halle | Main Street Tent | Kinder Halle | Strassen Zelt |
|------------------------|--------------------------|--------------------------|------------------------|
| 6:00 Oma & The Oompahs | 6:30 Eklectic Swing Trio | 6:00 Boerne Village Band | 6:00 Czech & Then Some |
| 8:00 Sound Connection | 8:30 TubaMeisters | 7:30 Chris Rybak | 9:00 Walburg Boys |
| 9:30 Red Ravens | | 9:00 Ennis Czech Boys | |

Strolling – Shirley Johnson

Saturday, October 3, 2015 10 AM-Midnight

| Adelsverein Halle | Main Street Tent | Kinder Halle | Strassen Zelt |
|-----------------------------|--------------------------------|------------------------------------|--|
| 10:00 Arion Maennerchor | 10:00 Rennie & Happy Travelers | 10:00 Havlak Batla Polka Time Band | 10:30 Schuhplattlers |
| 10:45 Comal Community Band | Noon Eklectic Swing Trio | Noon Hermann Sons Mixed Choir | Noon Off the Grid Band |
| 12:30 Red Ravens | 2:00 Oma & Oompahs | 12:30 Czech Melody Masters | 2:00 Yodel Blitz |
| 2:30 Band Aids Jaz Band | 4:00 TubaMeisters | 2:00 Cloverleaf Orchestra | 4:30 Schuhplattlers |
| 4:00 Jodie Mikula Orchestra | 6:00 Oma & Oompahs | 4:00 Czech & Then Some | 6:00 Beer & Hymns w/Pedernales Brewing Co. |
| 6:00 Red Ravens | 8:00 TubaMeisters | 6:00 Ennis Czech Boys | 7:00 Yodel Blitz |
| 7:30 Walburg Boys | | 8:00 Czech & Then Some | 9:00 Czechaholics |
| 9:30 Seven Dutchmen | | 9:30 Ennis Czech Boys | |

Strolling – Herschel Moody

Sunday, October 4, 2015 11 AM-6 PM

| Adelsverein Halle | Main Street Tent | Kinder Halle | Strassen Zelt |
|-------------------|----------------------------------|-------------------------------|---------------------|
| Noon Walburg Boys | 11:00 Eklectic Swing Trio | Noon Jodie Mikula Orchestra | Noon Schuhplattlers |
| 2:00 Red Ravens | 12:30 Fredericksburg Filharmonic | 2:00 TubaMeisters | 1:30 Yodel Blitz |
| 4:00 Polkamatics | 2:00 Chris Rybak | 4:00 Jerry Haisler & Melody 5 | 3:30 Oma & Oompahs |
| | 3:30 Swingin' Dutchmen | | 4:30 Yodel Blitz |

Strolling – Herschel Moody

Schedule may be subject to change.

Sprechen Sie Good Time?

55th Annual Wurstfest Opens November 6

Wurstfest is proud to be the great festival it is today. From humble beginnings, we've grown into an annual bash which draws thousands of visitors a day to the dedicated Wurstfest Festival Grounds. A story like ours is long, and the achievements are due in no small part to the visionaries, volunteers and community leaders who have helped us prosper over the years.

From the "Biting of the Sausage" that opens the event on November 6, serenaded by **Alex Meixner**, to the last polka played by **Jimmy Sturr** on November 15, it will be a non-stop action.



WURST FANS LOVE THE NEW STELZENPLATZ

Wurstfest's popularity seems to grow every year, and along with this fame comes increased ticket sales. For years, fans have been clamoring for an expansion to the grounds. Last year the opas and omas introduced the brand new Stelzenplatz, located

to Stelzenplatz from inside the Marktplatz, which will give shoppers there more elbow room to peruse food and merchandise.

CRAFT BEER GARDEN

This new bar boasts 30 craft beer and 5 domestic offerings. Small breweries from all over Texas and the rest of the country, including two from New Braunfels, supply the wares for this specialty bar. Come thirsty. Visit www.wurstfest.com/craft-beers/ to see the full lineup.

BIERGARTEN

Relax at a picnic table with friends

SPRECHEN SIE FUN?

WURSTFEST STARTS THE FIRST FRIDAY IN NOVEMBER AND RUNS FOR TEN FULL DAYS!

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TEXAS POLKA NEWS



Wurstfest music lovers at the new stage in Stelzenplatz./Theresa Parker photo

along the Comal River just below the Stelzenhaus Hall, which brought more food, beers, shopping, music and room to roam.

THE MARKET

A huge draw of this new site is the addition of 15-20 vendor booths selling all sorts of high-quality Bavarian merchandise, clothing, packaged food and other delights. A few vendors have also moved

while you enjoy a drink and music.

MUSIC STAGE

A fifth music stage is located in the bier garden, offering another venue at which to enjoy one of the 40+ national and international live music acts which make Wurstfest so great. Music truly is the heartbeat of the festival. Visit www.wurstfest.com/schedule/ to find your favorite band's days and times.

Bring on the Oktoberfests

By Alex Meixner

I'm continually amazed at how a wedding in Bavaria a few hundred years ago has turned into the biggest party internationally. Each year towns and cities with formal organizations and small gatherings of friends celebrate Oktoberfest in just about every corner of the world. In the last few years, I've had inquiries for performances with my band for everything from backyard parties in rural communities to a large scale festivals, military bases, dance clubs and concert halls.

Although the beer consumption is stereo typically a major part of Oktoberfest, I've played some that are for school or other dry events that celebrate the German culture without beer - and then I've also played some in which the beer is the focal point of the event. Oktoberfest is also combined with other celebrations in some places - considered a harvest festival in some areas, evolved into Rocktoberfest in others, and for a few years even combined with burlesque dancers for OktoBurlesk in NYC.

T FOR TEXAS

This year I'm happy to be making a trip to Galveston for the Galveston Island Oktoberfest on Oct. 23-24 sponsored by First Lutheran Church, and of course I will be returning for my 17th year at Wurstfest in New Braunfels, which although isn't an Oktoberfest continues the German party atmosphere into November - as no one could have too much fun! It's always a great pleasure to return to Texas fans, and the trips here are a highlight of my travel schedule each year.

USA ADVENTURES

For Texans looking to venture out of state there are some other wonderful

festivals throughout the USA. Some of the highlights include Labor Day weekend in Cleveland, Ohio (clevelandoktoberfest.com). With at least three stages of entertainment on the Cuyahoga County Fairgrounds, there is a great lineup of German, polka and rock bands in addition to numerous folk dance ensembles, including the champion German schuplattler verein Stv Bavaria. Stv Bavaria also presents the Glockenspiel shows each hour that are a highlight of the festival.



The Glockenspiel clock comes alive in Cleveland./Festival photo

Also in September is the annual Steuben Day Parade in NYC on Sept. 19, which leads into Oktoberfest in Central Park - an epic event that includes the national championship "Masskrugstemmen" (stein holding competition). Competitors come from at least a dozen states (including Texas) to hold their liter of bier and the last one standing gets a trip to the Oktoberfest in Munich. On Sept. 20,



Always looking to mix things up with polka, Alex Meixner (right) introduced Tejano Polka Stars Los Texmaniacs to Wurstfest crowds last year./Parker photo

many of the travelers to NYC head out to Long Island to the Platt Duestche Park where OomPah Fest attracts approximately 10,000 people with all kinds of entertainment and fun for all ages.

One of my favorite venues is the Reading Liederkrantz in Reading, Pennsylvania where their Oktoberfest goes from Oct. 1-4. Homemade food,

dancing and a great atmosphere for this club that has been in existence for 130 years and has one of the oldest Oktoberfests in the USA. My family's history goes back four generations with this

club, as my great-grandfather's orchestra performed for this club in the 1920s-30s.

Wherever you end up this Oktoberfest season, you definitely will need one of my new Why Die Thirsty t-shirts. Order online, through the mail or visit me at one of the fests.

Prost y'all!

ORDER YOUR "WHY DIE THIRSTY?" SHIRT NOW AND BE READY FOR THE UPCOMING ALEX MEIXNER BAND PERFORMANCES IN TEXAS!



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Men's Sizes: S, M, L, XL \$20.50
Men's Sizes: XXL, XXXL \$22.50

Catch The Alex Meixner Band in Texas!

Oct 22 Main Street Crossing - Tomball, TX
Oct 23-24 Oktoberfest - Galveston, TX
Nov 6-11 Wurstfest - New Braunfels, TX

Alex Meixner P.O. Box 1753 Palm City, FL 34991-6753

Tomball Hosts German Christmas Market & Festival

Weihnachtsmarkt Texas Style December 11-13

Herzlich Willkommen! It's a Texas German celebration on the old downtown streets of Tomball, Texas. You do not have to be German to enjoy this festival.

Come and enjoy the family-friendly ambience - Gemütlichkeit - of this unique music/street festival with four stages of live continuous music and an open-air market along with antique shops in the old town area.

Dance to the music of **Auf Geht's**, **Chris Rybak**, **Alpenmusikanten**, **EuroFest**, **Das Ist Lustig**,



TubaMeisters, **Valina**, and get into the festive spirit with the sounds of strolling Christmas carolers. It is a Texas German celebration at Christmas time on the old downtown streets of Tomball Texas.

UNIQUE CHRISTMAS SHOPPING

An estimated 175 unique and interesting street vendors will line Market and S. Walnut Streets, selling German Christmas items, arts and crafts, and much more. Visit the "Weihnachtshaus" inside the



Santa says Merry Christmas y'all./Julie Matus photo Enjoy the holiday shopping at the fest, like the doll collection shown in photo at left./Earline B. Okruhlik photo

Community Center at 221 Market Street at the corner of Cherry Street, which will be filled with German clothes and souvenirs for sale.

Three German tents and music stages will house biergartens decorated with German themes and Christmas lights. Tables and chairs

will allow you to relax with your Dunkles Bier (dark beer), or a warm cup of Glühwein.

Don't miss the traditional Dutch Santa, Elf, live Christmas tree, strolling entertainers and Santa Claus himself. These characters welcome free photo requests, so bring your camera.

TOMBALL GERMAN CHRISTMAS MARKET

WEIHNACHTSMARKT TEXAS STYLE

FREE ADMISSION, PARKING & SHUTTLE

FEATURED ENTERTAINERS

ALPENMUSIKANTEN
AUF GEHT'S
CHRIS RYBAK
DAS IST LUSTIG
DUJKA BROTHERS
YODEL BLITZ
ARMSTRONG FAMILY
BLUEGRASS BAND
EUROFEST
TUBAMEISTERS
MIKE STROUP TRIO



4 MUSIC STAGES
175 MERCHANTS
PARADE
GERMAN FOOD,
BEER & WINE
STREET PERFORMERS
FOLK DANCERS
CARNIVAL RIDES

DECEMBER 11-13

FRIDAY 6-10 P.M. SATURDAY 10 A.M.-10 P.M. SUNDAY 10 A.M.-6 P.M.

MARKET ST. DOWNTOWN TOMBALL, TX | TOMBALLGERMANFEST.ORG





The Chris Rybak Party Stage is always a popular hangout at the fest./Gary E. McKee photo

ENJOY THE RIDES & GREAT FOOD

The Kinderfest (kid's area) will provide entertainment and fun for the young visitors. It includes carnival rides, bungee-jump, rock wall, petting zoo, pony ride, walk on water and more. Enjoy the Christmas lights tour at the museum district.

Food vendors will include traditional German food and drink, Glühwein (mulled wine), beer, Christmas stollen and homemade breads, kaffee und kuchen (coffee and pastry), bratwurst, red cabbage,

sauerkraut, apple strudel, etc., and will, also, include festival foods like funnel cake, corn dogs, hot dogs, hamburgers, kettle korn and barbecue.

FREE ADMISSION, PARKING, SHUTTLE

The Festival is sponsored by the City of Tomball, Tomball Sister City, and German Heritage Festival and still offers free admission, parking and shuttle service.

ABOUT TOMBALL SISTER CITY ORGANIZATION

The Tomball Sister City Organization is a nonprofit corporation formed for the purpose of the establishment, sponsorship, promotion and support of cultural, business, educational, diplomatic and other exchanges with Tomball's sister city Telgte, Germany.

In addition to the German Christmas Market, the organization also sponsors the Tomball German Heritage Festival held each year in March.

For more information about the organization, contact Grady Martin, President, at 281-379-6844 or gradsand@yahoo.com.



Valina, the dancing Christmas tree./Matus





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14th Annual San Antonio Czech Gala
Benefiting the
Texas Czech Heritage & Cultural Center in La Grange
Friday, August 14, 2015 5:30-10:30 PM
Knowledge KC Hall, 6009 Burns Rd., San Antonio
Music by Chris Rybak
\$10 per person * Spots of 10 include * RSVP by August 10
czechgala.com

Get the weekend lineup of dances, latest polka news, weekly laughs & links to photos, videos & more delivered to your inbox each week.

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10th Annual Accordion Kings & Queens June 6

Celebrate with accord on stage in Vegas

Garrett Neumann's Polka Accordion King

No Fall Festival on the Texas and North Texas

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Great polka music

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Apparel - Polish Pottery

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Donnie Hens
The Church Piano Polka

Friday, July 10

Friday, July 10th @ The Broken Spoke, 9:30P

Check Out Our "Donnie Hens" @ THE POLKA ON! BLOG

Dance & Festival Schedules

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Weekend Lineup eNewsletter



Caldwell Kolache Festival Set

Be Czech for a Day on September 12

The Kolache Festival in Caldwell is an annual celebration of the revitalization of Czech heritage. Thirty-one years ago, Burleson County realized their precious identity as a Czech settlement was slipping away. New generations knew not the language, the music nor the art of their ancestors. Not only does the Kolache Festival grasp at the past, but we hurry to share the history to bring into today's focus the beauty, talent and delight of the Czech people.

Come to the Kolache Festival and learn the wonderful Czech philosophy. See the technique of quilting, woodcraft, carving and sculpting. Dance to the polka, and sing the songs of the musician. Taste the true



ethnic food and lend your soul to the fulfillment of the Czech cultural heritage. Always the second Saturday in September!

THIS YEAR'S LINEUP

FRIDAY - SEPT. 11

PRE-FESTIVAL PARTY

5:30-11 p.m. Sponsored by Burleson



County Czech Heritage Museum at the Burleson County Expo Center
5:30-8 p.m. - Meal
6-11 p.m. - Music & Dance by **The Moravians**

Photos: Left & below, McKee; top, festival



SATURDAY - SEPT. 12
KOLACHE FESTIVAL DAY
FREE ADMISSION

SOUTH STAGE

(Corner Buck & Echols)
9 a.m. VITAM (WELCOME)
Opening Prayer, Flag Ceremony, National Anthem, "Texas Our Texas" and "KDE DOMOV MUJ" (Czech National Anthem) Local, State and National Dignitaries
9:30 a.m. **Original Kolache Festival Band** and Parade of Costumes
10 a.m. Crowning of Miss Kolache Festival Burleson County and SPJST Youth Beseda Dancers

11 a.m. Kolache Eating Contest sponsored by Spirit of TX Bank
11:30 a.m. **Shiner Hobo Band** sponsored by Woodson Lumber
1:30 p.m. **Ennis Czech Boys** (until 4:30pm) sponsored by West Side Ranch
4:30 p.m. State Championship Kolache Bake Show Awards & Ceremony

NORTH STAGE

(Corner Main & Fox St.)
10 a.m.-2 p.m. sponsored by the Shiner Brewery
Chris Rybak

STREET ROD & CLASSIC CAR SHOW

Davidson Creek City Park
8 a.m.-2 p.m.
(Awards at 1:30 p.m. and Grand Exit Parade at 2 p.m.)

ANTIQUA MACHINERY & TRACTOR SHOW

Davidson Creek City Park
8 a.m.-3 p.m.

QUILT SHOW

Caldwell Civic Center
Fri., Sept. 11; 9 a.m.-6 p.m. and Sat., Sept. 12; 9 a.m.-4 p.m.

OFFICIAL POST-FESTIVAL PARTY

Sept. 12; 7-11 p.m.
BAND TBA
Downtown Caldwell

BURLESON COUNTY CHAMBER OF COMMERCE PRESENTS

ZODIAC ENTERPRISES LLC.
OFFICIAL KOLACHE FESTIVAL SPONSOR

31ST ANNUAL KOLACHE FESTIVAL **SEPT 12 2015**
Downtown Caldwell
BurlesonCountyTX.com/kolachefestival 'on the square'

La Grange Czech Center Presents Heritage Fest & Muziky

Bring the Family for Tours, Music, Demonstrations October 16-17

The Texas Czech Heritage and Cultural Center in La Grange will host the Heritage Festival & Muziky on October 16-17. The Fest begins at 4 p.m. on Friday afternoon with vendors and craft booths open. At 5:30 p.m., chicken and dumplings will be served while it lasts in the Hanslik Banquet Hall.

Oktoberfest on the Deck will begin at 6 p.m. with music by the **Dujka Brothers** till 9:30 p.m. Mark and John Dujka have been making music together for 27-plus years and have been very successful in bringing new songs written by themselves and other local Texas writers to the Czech music and polka scene.

On Saturday, visit the Czech Village, an early 1900s recreated village complete with residential houses, barns, tavern, sawmill and general store. Demonstrations of early life for



Gary E. McKee photos

the immigrants, along with farming and household demonstrations will take place throughout the grounds all day. An antique farm equipment and antique car show will spread through the village. At 10 a.m., the new sawmill in the village will be dedicated.

A Biergarten Tent will be in the center of the village with musical entertainment all day long. Music will begin at 11 a.m. till 6 p.m. by the **Shiner Hobo Band** and the **Enzian Buam Band** alternating.

Vendors and craft booths will be available for shopping pleasure on the main street of the village, Czech Trail. A country store will be open for some good buys, and you can also pick up some fresh stone ground corn meal for cooking. Plenty of food and cold beverages will be available as well.

In the air-conditioned TCHCC main center, the Czech Gift Shop will be open with a brand new stock of authentic Czech items, T-shirts, caps, crystal, periodicals, music CDs, and new Christmas decorations for 2014. Maggie Grmela of Maggie's Fabric Patch of West, Texas, will have Kroje apparel, shirts and other items for sale. There will be textile demonstrations of spinning and looming, crochet, and knitting to view.

In the Museum, a display of authentic Czech kroje and other items can be viewed. The spacious Melnar Library will offer help with genealogy research for those interested in finding out more about their family or Czech history. The Hanslik Hall will be the site of the Texas Czech Championship Taroky Tournament. The Texas Czech Music Museum featuring four genres of Czech music - classical, folk, polka and liturgical - is located in the Kalich House, and will be open for tours along with the Polka Lovers Club of Texas Museum



housed in the Hoelsher House.

The day will conclude with the annual performance of Muziky, Muziky at the Sanford Schmid Amphitheater on the complex grounds overlooking the scenic Colorado River Valley. This year's Muziky will feature the Legends of Texas Polka Music with the re-creation of the famous **Joe Patek Orchestra, Part II**. It will be an exciting and memorable performance as the sounds of the Pateks come to life. Many talented and well-known

Texas musicians have been assembled to recreate the historic sounds to perfection. New this year is a dance floor so you don't have to stay in your seat while the Patek Tribute band is playing!

The Master of Ceremonies for the show will be National Polka Hall of Fame inductee Alfred Vrazel. The performance will be 7-9:30 p.m. followed by a huge fireworks finale that will finish off the evening at 9:30 p.m. sponsored by HEB.



Heritage Fest & Muziky | October 16-17



Friday, Oct. 16 – Oktoberfest on the Deck
Music 6-9:30pm by: **The Dujka Brothers Band**
Chicken & Dumplings served.

Saturday, Oct. 17 – Biergarten - Music 11:30am - 6pm by:
The Shiner Hobo Band and **Enzian Buam Band**
Antique Farm Equip. Show • Antique Car Show • Craft Vendors
Heritage Demonstrations • Museum Tours • Village Tours • Food • Taroky Tournament
Amphitheater 7-9:30pm – Muziky, Muziky Performance:
The Legends Series, Part III: 'Back by Popular Demand'
The **Joe Patek Orchestra** recreated, Part II with Master of Ceremonies,
Nat'l Hall Of Fame Inductee, **Mr. Alfred Vrazel**
9:30pm: **Fireworks Finale** sponsored by H-E-B
New dancefloors in Biergarten and Amphitheater!



Texas Czech Heritage and Cultural Center
250 W Fairgrounds Rd La Grange | 888-785-4500 | CzechTexas.org

ADDISON OKTOBERFEST
ESTABLISHED 1987

Prost Y'all.

Biergartens
Arts & Crafts
Authentic German Food
Polka Performances
Schuhplatten
Music & Games

Presented by: PAULANER

September
17th - 20th

\$10 | **FREE** | **Addison Circle Park**
DAILY ADMISSION | ADMISSION ON SUNDAY

Visit AddisonOktoberfest.com
for hotel packages and more!

DANCES - FESTIVALS

SUMMER DANCEHALL SERIES HISTORIC PEARL STABLE SAN ANTONIO

Celebrating the music of classic South Texas Dance Halls

AUGUST 5 Terry Cavanagh & Alpine Express

AUGUST 12 Melissa Ludwig Band

AUGUST 19 Mark Halata & Texavia

AUGUST 26 Doc Watkins & His Orchestra

See ad, back page; story on page 23.

SEPTEMBER 4-6 38TH ANNUAL WESTFEST WEST, TEXAS

10 bands, Roger Creager, Cory Morrow Miss Westfest, Kolache eating contest, arts/crafts, dancing in 2 pavilions, authentic foods, taroky tournament, kolache baking demonstration, antique tractor pull, horseshoe and washer pitching, carnival. See ad, page 20
254-826-5058 / WestFest.com

SEPTEMBER 11-12 31ST ANNUAL KOLACHE FESTIVAL CALDWELL, TEXAS

5 bands, Miss Kolache Festival, arts/crafts/food vendors, state championship kolache bake show competition, kolache eating contest, Czech Kids Adventure Land, street rod & classic car show, antique machinery & show, museum tours, demonstrations, quilt show. See ad, page 10.

979-567-0000 / BurlsonCountyTX.com/kolachefestival

SEPTEMBER 17-20 28TH ADDISON OKTOBERFEST ADDISON, TEXAS

Polka performances, authentic German food, Schuhplatten, music, games, biergartens, arts/crafts. See ad, page 12.
AddisonOktoberfest.com

SEPTEMBER 19 OKTOBERFEST HOUSTON LIEDERKRANZ

Music by Mike Gest & Night Session
Enjoy German cuisine with a Texas twist by SauerKraut Food Wagon. See ad, page 23.

281-890-8232 / HoustonLiederkrantz.com

SEPTEMBER 24-26 OKTOBERFEST FORT WORTH, TEXAS

Live music from Brave Combo, Alpenmusikanten, Walburg Boys, more. Authentic German food, beer & music, stein lifting, dachshund races, keg rolls, biergartens. See ad, page 3.

817-698-0700 / OktoberfestFW.com

SEPTEMBER 26 21ST ANNUAL KOLACHE FEST HALLETTSVILLE, TEXAS

10 hours of music & dancing
Parade, kolache eating contest, kolache making demos, arts/crafts, quad jumper, BBQ cookoff, classic car & bike show, pony & train rides.

361-798-2662 / Hallettsville.com

SEPTEMBER 25-27 OKTOBERFEST MCKINNEY, TEXAS

Authentic German music, food and drink, traditional costumes, dancing, children's activities, much more in historic downtown square. See ad, page 18.

972-547-7500 / McKinneyOktoberfest.com

SEPTEMBER 25-27 OCTOBER 2-4 OKTOBERFEST SAN ANTONIO BIERGARTEN

Live music, authentic Bavarian fare & one of the largest selections of import & craft beer on the Riverwalk. See ad, page 19.

210-212-7299 / BiergartenRiverwalk.com



DANCES - FESTIVALS - EVENTS - LIVE MUSIC

OCTOBER 2-4 35TH ANNUAL OKTOBERFEST FREDERICKSBURG, TEXAS

Four lively stages with continuous music, German food booths, domestic, German & Texas beer, over 40 artisans with handmade works of wood, pottery, clothing, glass, jewelry & gifts, Kinderpark for kids, chicken dancing contest, Oktoberfest. See ad, page 4.
830-997-4810 / OktoberfestInFbg.com

OCTOBER 3 PINEY WOODS POLKA FEST CROCKETT, TEXAS

Brave Combo, dancing, beer garden, Czech food, family fun. See ad, page 23.
936-644-4276 / pwfaa.org

OCTOBER 23-25 CZHILISPIEL 43 FLATONIA, TEXAS

Concerts by Aaron Watson, Sam Riggs, Shiner Hobo Band, Gary P. Nunn, more. Street market, food vendors, biergarten, carnival, parade, czhili & barbecue cookoff, jackpot margarita contest, jalapeno eating contest, pie competition & auction, 5K run, car & truck show, children's games. See ad, page 22.
361-865-3920 / FlatoniaChamber.com

OCTOBER 9-11 3RD ANNUAL OKTOBERFEST KEMAH, TEXAS

Live music featuring Eddie Raven, Das Ist Lustig, Jarrod Sterrett, Enzian Buam, Breelan Angel, Hand-crafted beers, German food, music & dancers, kids activities. See ad, page 16.
GulfCoastFestivals.com/Oktoberfest

OCTOBER 10 15TH ANNUAL OKTOBERFEST BY THE BAY TEXAS CITY, TEXAS

Music by Alpenfest, German food, cold drinks, silent auction, raffle, arts/crafts,

food & sweets booth, cake spin, kids' games. See ad, page 23.
409-945-4052 / mlctc.org

OCTOBER 16-17 HERITAGE FEST & MUZIKY LA GRANGE, TEXAS

Texas Czech Heritage & Cultural Center presents live music, biergarten, dancing, antique car show, farm equipment show, museum & Czech Village tours, taroky tournament, heritage demos, more. Muziky Legends Series features Joe Patek Tribute Band, fireworks finale. See ad, page 11.
888-785-4500 / CzechTexas.org

OCTOBER 17 6TH ANNUAL KC BESTFEST FREDERICKSBURG

Music by Fritz Hodde/Fab Six, Dutch Treat, more! Unique sausage & beer tasting event includes polka music & all the sausage, sauerkraut and German potatoes you can eat, huge raffle includes 2015 Kawasaki 4x4 mule & guns.
KCBestFest.com

OCTOBER 17-18 OKTOBERFEST MUENSTER, TEXAS

940-759-2227 / MuensterOktoberfest.com

OCTOBER 23-24 34TH ANNUAL ISLAND OKTOBERFEST GALVESTON, TEXAS

Live entertainment on 2 stages, including Alex Meixner, Das Ist Lustig, more. Authentic German food, Texas Craft & German Beer, Quality arts/crafts & gift booths, exciting kids' activities, dancing & choir performances. See ad, page 7.
409-762-8477 / GalvestonOktoberfest.com

NOVEMBER 6-15 54TH ANNUAL WURSTFEST NEW BRAUNFELS, TEXAS

More than 40 national & international live music acts on 5 stages. Polka & waltz dancing contests, kids'

activities, shopping, German food & beer. See ad, page 6.
Wurstfest.com

DECEMBER 11-13 GERMAN CHRISTMAS MARKET TOMBALL, TEXAS

4 music stages, featuring Alpenmusikanten, Auf Geht's, Chris Rybak, Das Ist Lustig & more! 175 merchants, parade, German food, beer & win, street performers, folk dancers, carnival. See ad, page 8.
TomballGermanFest.org

Enjoy Oktoberfest by the Bay



15th Annual Texas City Event Will Make You Schmile!

Bring your lawn chairs to this casual event on Sat., Oct. 10, hosted by Memorial Lutheran Church. **Alpenfest** will be making people schmile from noon-5 p.m. Have a cold drink, feast on German food.

Take a chance at the cake spin or purchase something yummy from the sweets booth. Get a jump on Christmas shopping with the silent auction, and arts/crafts/gifts booths. Sounds like a great day all around!

Holy Kolache!

It's Time for the Hallettsville Fest



Gary E. McKee photo

The 10 hours of music and dancing will help you digest the kolaches and great good at the 21st Annual Kolache Fest on Sat., Sept. 26. Great music by the **Dujka Brothers, Jade Patek & Bryan Catalini, Curtis & the Nomads, Southern Express, Red Ravens, Czechaholics**, and, of course, **Los Kolaches**.

Bring the family for the parade, kolache eating contest, kolache making demos, arts/crafts, pony & train rides and quad jumper. There's a Friday night warm-up for the 42 Tournament on Saturday. Enter the BBQ Cookoff, and check out the classic car & bike show. All this takes place at the largest Knights of Columbus Hall in Texas and it's free admission!

SUBSCRIBE TO TEXAS POLKA NEWS

If you want to keep up with dance, festival and live music events every month, subscribe today to the *Texas Polka News*. For only \$25 a year, the monthly schedule of happenings will be delivered to your door, along with features on people and places that make Texas such a cool place to live and dance. See page 2 to sign up!

You can also keep up your music calendar online at **polkabeat.com**. Subscribe to the free, *Weekend Lineup*, delivered to your email inbox every Thursday and plan your dancing weekend.

Galveston Celebrates 34th Island Oktoberfest

Nationally Acclaimed Artist Alex Meixner to Headline Fest

Grammy-nominee Alex Meixner and the **Alex Meixner Band** - recognized nationwide as "the hardest working band in polka today" - will headline this year's expanded and diverse entertainment schedule during Galveston's premier fall event - the 34th Annual Island Oktoberfest.

Set to take place in historic downtown Galveston, the festival kicks off Friday evening, October 23 from 5-11 p.m. and continues Saturday, October 24 from 11 a.m.-11 p.m. This fun, family weekend will feature continuous live entertainment,



It's always a party with Alex Meixner./Mikie Farias photo Other photos: Robyn Bushong

authentic German food and libations, cake wheel, fine arts, crafts and gifts, an exciting auction and raffle, new car raffle, fun family activities presented by volunteers from the Speaker's Bureau of the Houston Livestock Show & Rodeo, children's games and

activities, and much more.

Oktoberfest will be held on the grounds of and streets adjacent to First Lutheran Church, at 24th Street and Winnie. Admission is free. German costumes encouraged.

Island Oktoberfest, hosted by First Evangelical Lutheran Church and co-sponsored by Del Papa Distributing Company, will feature three Bier Garten venues offering a variety of German and domestic brews and a variety of German-style wines from nearby Haak Vineyards.

The **Alex Meixner Band** is not only well known for its popular polka music performed at festivals throughout the United States, but for the group's unique musical mix that appeals to a wide cross-section of audiences everywhere - including jazz, classical, pop and a variety of ethnic folk music genres performed with some of the world's leading artists! This is one crowd-pleasing entertainer you won't want to miss! Meixner will be performing both Friday and Saturday evenings during the festival.

In addition to great music and dancing, there will be superb food and drink including smoked sausage, bratwurst, knockwurst, and "Wurstabendessen" - a sausage dinner comprised of German-style and Polish style Wurst with all the traditional German side dishes. This special German Dinner will be available both

Friday evening and on Saturday.

For a sweet finale, homemade Helmut's strudel (freshly baked on site), will be offered in addition to a variety of tempting homemade desserts - specially prepared by congregation members from recipes handed down from generation to generation. Handmade pretzels, freshly-popped popcorn, and a variety of soft drinks will also be sold at the festival.

The historic and beautifully-renovated (circa 1860) Lyceum will be open from 5-9 p.m. Friday evening and from 11 a.m.-7 p.m. on Saturday with vendors showcasing exceptional hand-crafted arts, crafts and gift items for those eager to get a head start on holiday shopping.



Because Oktoberfest continues to be one of the vendors' most enjoyable and popular venues, regular attendees can look forward to shopping with their long-time special vendors - each featuring Christmas and other special gift items. As well, shoppers always look forward to knowing that their favorite vendors have returned to showcase their best products.

All proceeds benefit programs and outreach for First Lutheran Church in Galveston.





34th Annual Galveston Island

OKTOBERFEST

HOSTED BY
FIRST LUTHERAN CHURCH
Galveston Island, Texas

October 23-24

Continuous live entertainment on two stages both days!

Friday, October 23 | 5pm - 11pm

Alex Meixner Band, Das Ist Lustig, Midlife Crisis, TubaMeisters, Kevin Anthony

Saturday, October 24 | 11am - 11pm

Alex Meixner Band, Auf Geht's, Das Ist Lustig with Valina Polka, Kevin Anthony, TubaMeisters, Deer Park Folk Dance Group, Fanfare! The Lutheran Music Academy, Rathcamp German Folk Dancers, Gemischter Chor Harmonie and More!

- Authentic German-Style Food
- Texas Craft & German Beers
- Quality Arts/Crafts & Gift Booths
- Exciting Kids' Activities, including Houston Livestock Show & Rodeo Volunteers

FREE ADMISSION!

24th St. & Winnie (In Historic Downtown Galveston)
409-762-8477 | GalvestonOktoberfest.com Co-sponsored by Del Papa Distributing Co.



You'll Find the Best Food & Music at BestFest

Unique Sausage & Beer Tasting Event in Fredericksburg

The Knights of Columbus, in the Hill Country town of Fredericksburg will host BestFest on Sat., Oct. 17. After enjoying the fall foliage drive, you will be able to enjoy all manners of German culture including games, raffles, food, beer and music.

The gates open at 11 a.m. and with the \$10 dollar admission fee, you can dance all day AND eat all the sausage, sauerkraut and German potatoes that you can handle.

What a deal! Eat, dance it off, eat some more, dance that off, eat even more, and keep on dancing, with maybe a few unique beers from Texas microbreweries to wash down the chow and lubricate the joints. Real Ale, St. Arnold's, Pedernales and Spoetzel Brewing companies will be selling their specialties. Beer tickets are only \$2 for an 8 oz. cup, and \$4 for a 16 oz. cup.



Opa's Smoked Meats from Fredricksburg, Slovacek Sausage from Snook and Kielbassa from San



Antonio, will be filling your tummies with their authentic meats and side dishes.

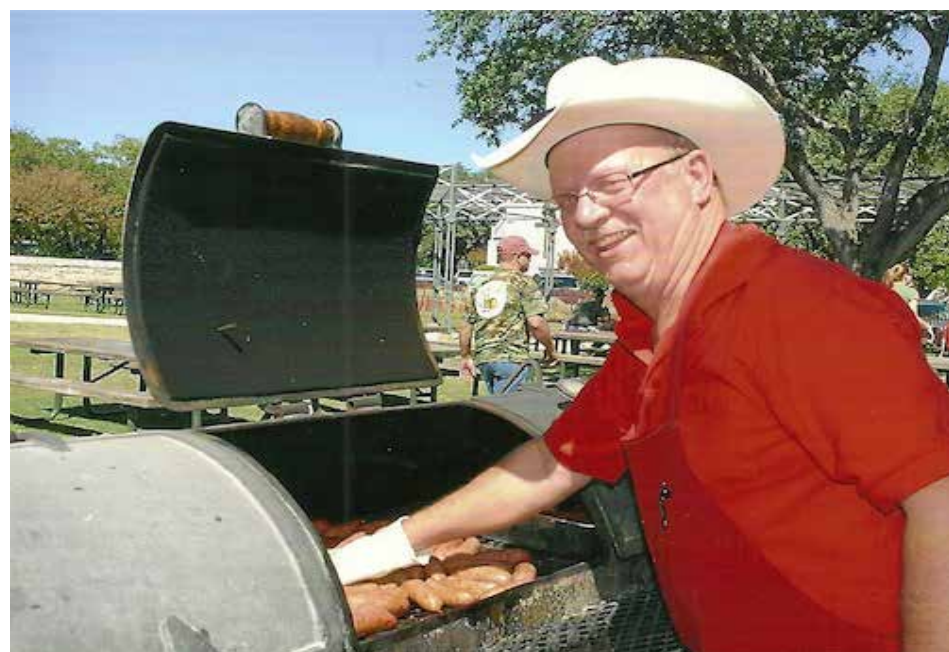
For working off dinner music, **Fritz Hodde and the Fabulous Six, Dutch Treat**, and other bands to be announced, will be playing all afternoon in the Adelsverein Halle, a



covered pavilion.

And be sure to enter the raffle. Great prizes include a 2015 Kawasaki 4x4 mule and a "21-gun salute," a prize package with 21 rifles and shotguns.

How can you go wrong when you go to Bestfest in Fredericksburg?





6th Annual KC BestFest
Saturday, October 17
11am - 11pm
Marktplatz
in Fredericksburg

Music by **Fritz Hodde/Fabulous Six, Dutch Treat** and more!
 Noon-10 p.m. for your listening & dancing pleasure at the Adelsverein Halle (covered pavilion)
 The KC BestFest is a celebration of German favorites – beer, sausage and polka music – with the twist of a unique sausage and beer tasting event!
Admission \$10 (Ages 14 and up), \$5 (Ages 5-13), under 5 free

- Includes polka music and all the sausage, sauerkraut and German potatoes you can eat!
- Featured sausage: Opa's Smoked Meats (Fredericksburg), Slovacek Sausage (Snook) and Kielbassa (San Antonio)
- Beer tickets are 8 oz. for \$2 / 16 oz. for \$4

- Includes offerings from brewing companies Real Ale, St. Arnold's, Pedernales and Spoetzel.
- Other beverages available.
- Big raffle. Great prizes include a 2015 Kawasaki 4x4 mule and a "21-gun salute" (21 rifles & shotguns).

Sponsored by Fredericksburg KC Council 9765
 Proceeds benefit charitable giving of the Knights of Columbus.
KCBestFest.com



Kemah Brings German To You

Enjoy Music, Food & Fun on Galveston Bay

The banks of Galveston Bay will be afloat with choruses of PROST!!! as the Kemah Oktoberfest offers

opportunities to toast friends and friends-to-be under a huge Biergarten tent on Oct. 9-11.

Das Ist Lustig opens the fest on Friday afternoon beginning at 3 p.m. as Valina and crew prepare the crowd for German-style fun for the weekend. That evening **Jarrold Sterrett** will bring his Texas-style music to the tent.

Saturday, traditional German musicians **Enzian Buam** will lead the crowd in drinking songs and dancing. Following them will be Baytown



Gulf Coast Festivals Presents



Kemah, Texas 2015

October 9, 10 & 11th
 Tickets: \$8/Adults - Kids 12 & under FREE

FRI 3pm-10pm, SAT 12pm-10pm, SUN 12pm-6pm
 Kemah City Parking Lot 6th St. & Harris Ave



We're bringing Germany to you with Beer, Food, Music & Fun!!

Live Music Featuring:
EDDIE RAVEN
Das Ist Lustig
Jarrold Sterrett
Enzian Buam
Breelan Angel



www.gulfcoastfestivals.com/oktoberfest

SPONSORS: BAYTOWN Ford FORD, ORIGINAL EZUP, CITY OF KEMAH, Polka On!, TEXAS FIRST BANK, kona printing, THE SCENE, United Rentals

native **Breelan Angel** serenading the crowd with her melodic country-style voice. The evening wraps up with country superstar **Eddy Raven** playing his hits for your dancing and listening pleasure.

Sunday at noon, **Das Ist Lustig** returns with their unique, energetic style of fun to entertain the crowds in the Biergarten as fall fills the air on the Gulf Coast of Texas.

So, head on out to that Oktoberfest on the bay, where it's only \$8 for adults to get a full day of German heritage.



ABOUT KEMAH

Kemah is named for the Indian word meaning "wind in my face." Located on Galveston Bay, a constant breeze and endless family entertainment abound.

This bayside community is only 25 minutes south of Houston and 25 minutes north of Galveston. Experience the sights and sounds of Kemah - the waterfront location that's home to fabulous restaurants, charming shops, seasonal festivals and a parade of boats through the

Kemah channel.

Gulf Coast Festivals, which produces the Oktoberfest, also coordinates the annual Crawfish Festival held in March. Check gulfcoastfestivals.com for the date of the 6th annual event in 2016.

This inviting atmosphere is the perfect location for you and your family and friends to come out and enjoy a sunny day near the bay. Come out and enjoy everything Kemah has to offer!

GREAT MUSIC LINEUP AT Kemah Oktoberfest



Friday, Oct. 9

3-6:30 Das Ist Lustig
7-10 Jarrod Sterrett

Saturday, Oct. 10

Noon-3 Enzian Buam
3:30-6:30 Breehan Angel
7-10 Eddy Raven

Sunday, Oct. 11

Noon-5:30 Das Ist Lustig



Czech Out TSG Warehouse at an Oktoberfest Near You

The Texas Slavic & German Warehouse, based in Bremond, Texas, is mucho busy this time of year. They hit the road and set up shop at Oktoberfests across the state.

While they cater to Polish, Czech

and German Texans, TSG also some great generic items. "Our top sellers include authentic German beer steins, drinking team jerseys and personalized home bar signs," says Owner Denise Gouge.

Other favorites include nesting dolls, Polish pottery, religious items, vintage tin signs and Oktoberfest-themed items.

Don't worry. If you miss seeing them on the road, czech them out online at tsgwarehouse.com!



THE General Store for Polish, Czech & German Texans!



210 South Main - Bremond, TX 76629
Wed - Fri 11:30am - 5:30pm, Sat 10am - 3pm
SHOP ONLINE 24/7!!!!

"CZECH" US OUT ON THE ROAD!!!

September 4th - 6th;

WestFest - West, TX

September 17th - 20th;

Addison Oktoberfest - Addison, TX

September 25th - 27th;

McKinney Oktoberfest - McKinney, TX

October 22nd - 25th;

Tulsa Oktoberfest - Tulsa, OK

December 11th - 13th;

Tomball German Christmas Market - Tomball, TX



Polish Pottery ★ Barware, Steins, Beer Growlers, Personalized Whiskey Barrels & Pub Signs ★ Nesting Dolls, Apparel



Shop online today!!! TSGwarehouse.com

Oktoberfest Brings Bavarian Fun to Downtown McKinney

Enjoy Brats, Beer Weenie Dog Races & Music

Downtown McKinney is ready to tap the keg for the annual Oktoberfest event. Enjoy ice cold German and Texas beer, authentic Bavarian fare like brats and pretzels, and live music on Friday, Sept. 25 from 4-11 p.m., Saturday, Sept. 27 from 10 a.m. to 11 p.m., and Sunday, Sept. 27 from noon to 5 p.m. The festival boasts attractions for all ages set in one of the largest historic downtowns in the state. Admission and parking is free.

On Friday evening, local dignitaries and friends of the festival

will lead the Oktoberfest March into the square. This parade is then followed by the first keg of Franconia beer, brewed in McKinney, being tapped by hammering the bronze spout into an over 200-year-old keg with a wooden mallet.

Live entertainment, including plenty of polka music and traditional



German dancing, will take place on two stages throughout the event. McKinney Oktoberfest isn't just for those ages 21 and up. There are plenty of activities for kids and families, including a petting zoo, face painting, Bier barrel races and Weenie Dog races. Some activities require a nominal fee.

In addition to German beer and wine, local restaurants Patina Green Home and Market and Local Yocal Farm to Market offer

an authentic taste of Bavaria with traditional Oktoberfest food.

For detailed information on McKinney Oktoberfest, please contact (972) 547-2660 or visit downtownmckinney.com. Event sponsors include the City of McKinney, Pat Lobb's Toyota of McKinney, Star Local Media, PepsiCo, Manufacturing Excellence Technical Services, PSA McKinney, Now 102.9, 102.1 The Edge, and Franconia Brewing.

City of McKinney's
Oktoberfest

Fri. Sept. 25-Sun. Sept. 27
HISTORIC DOWNTOWN MCKINNEY

PRESENTED BY

Pat Lobb
Toyota of McKinney
.com

MCKINNEY
TEXAS
Unique by nature.™

ESTABLISHED 1856
HISTORIC
Downtown
MCKINNEY, TX
SHOP • DINE • ENJOY

www.McKinneyOktoberfest.com



Taste of Bavaria on the River in San Antonio

*Celebrate
Oktoberfest
September 25-27 &
October 2-4*

Welcome to a taste of Bavaria and the historic Oktoberfest, right here in San Antonio!

The San Antonio Riverwalk is one of the top tourist attractions in the U.S. Ours is a multicultural city, which includes a strong German heritage. Now you can experience our rich German culture and hospitality at one of the Riverwalk's newest and most entertaining attractions – the San Antonio Biergarten.



Close to the Alamo, shaded by our native live oak trees, the Biergarten offers authentic Bavarian fare, including sausage, pretzels, kraut and ice cold beers (we have one of the largest selections of import and craft beer on the Riverwalk). Wine is also available, and while you might have a hard time finding margaritas in Germany, you can find them here—after all, this IS San Antonio!

Relax with friends and have a fun-filled Oktoberfest experience right here in the River City. Enjoy our beautiful outdoor setting with umbrellas, waterfalls, beautiful foliage and the babbling San Antonio river. Or if you prefer, come inside for air-conditioned comfort.

Our beautiful beer maidens will take care of you in a festive atmosphere, accompanied by German and local music on weekends, including Oktoberfest karaoke.

The music lineup for the special Oktoberfest weekends features **Off the Grid Band, Chris and Adam Cruz and Kimbo.**

Savor the Riverwalk experience! Have a sausage, raise a glass with friends, immerse yourself in the rich German heritage of our beautiful city. Biergarten awaits you! PROST!



OFF THE GRID IS, WELL, OFF THE GRID

You can hear this fun, entertaining band almost every Sunday at the Biergarten. During the venue's Oktoberfest, the band will truly be in its element. They know

all the fun, cool polka tunes, plus you never know when they might fit in some polka versions of songs by Dire Straits or the Rolling Stones. Their motto: May the Oktoberfest road go on forever and the Polka Party never end." /McKee photo

OKTOBERFEST

SEPT 25TH TO 27TH & OCT 2ND TO 4TH



ON THE RIVERWALK
126 LOSOYA ST, SAN ANTONIO, TX 78205
WWW.BIERGARTENRIVERWALK.COM (210) 212-7299



Fri, Sat & Sun Sept. 4-6 | West, TX

Held on the West Fair & Rodeo Grounds, one mile south of WEST on Main St.
The town of West is located 14 miles north of Waco.

FRIDAY NIGHT PREVIEW PARTY!

10:00 PM



CORY MORROW

8:00 PM



ROGER CREAGER

5:30 PM - 12:30 AM
Admission \$15
\$12 in Advance

**Miss Westfest
Crowning 7:00 PM**

Also performing Saturday & Sunday:

**Brave Combo, Czechaholics,
Dujka Brothers, Chris Rybak,
Jodie Mikula Orchestra,
Praha Brothers, Ennis Czech Boys
Jerry Haisler & Melody 5,
Czech & Then Some**

- Miss Westfest Contest & Preview Party Friday night
- Parade Sat 10am
- Kolache Eating contest Sunday 12:30 - 2pm
- Arts & Crafts, Dancing in two pavilions, authentic foods
- Polka Mass Sun 10:15am, Taroky Tournament, Kolache Baking, Antique Tractor Pull, Horseshoe/Washers, more.
- Carnival Ride Armband Packages Available Friday & Sunday Nights.

Call **254-826-5058** or **Westfest.com** for more details!

Sat & Sun 11 AM - 12:30 AM
Admission \$8 adults; \$6 children age 6-12;
Children < 6 free with adult.
All Parking \$5 per car. Exit 353.



Photo: Ben Ranzinger

The Town of West Celebrates All Things Czech

*Now in its 38th
Year, Enjoy Music,
Food & Fun
September 4-6*

This year's three-day Labor Day weekend extravaganza in the town of West kicks off Fri., Sept. 4, with the crowning of Miss Westfest at 7 p.m. chased by a double-barrel blast of Texas music with **Roger Creager** and **Cory Morrow**.

The following morning, a parade through downtown starts at 10 a.m. and at high noon, along with the roaring of tractors in the background, the **Dujka Brothers** and **Chris Rybak** begins the weekend of polka mania in the east and west pavilions. At 4 p.m., the **Jodie Mikula Orchestra** and the **Praha Brothers** pick up the polka baton for four hours. At 6 p.m. **Jerry Haisler and the Melody 5** start the evening dancing with Westfest favorites **Brave Combo** following at 8:30 p.m.

Thennnn, for those of you whose



Gary E. McKee photo

legs aren't too sore from almost 12 hours of polka can join others at 8 a.m. for the Kolache 5000 run through West Sunday morning. Don't worry about calories. After the race, runners will be gorging on CZECH STOP kolaches and Slovacek's sausage.

Polka Mass starts at 10:15 a.m. At the same time beer goes on sale, the Czechaholics will take the stage (coincidence?) to shake out the cobwebs for those who didn't make it to the race or Mass. And speaking of shaking, **James L. Wages** will channel Elvis, at 12:15 p.m., for those



Brave Combo celebrated 35 years last year. Westfest was one of their first gigs./Brave Combo photo



Photos: At left, from festival. Above, Czech & Then Some and below Julie & Wes Matus, McKee.

preferring a hunka hunka dancing pleasure.

Mid-afternoon (2:30), **Brave Combo** returns to the stage to help yesterday's dancers purge out some of the liquid refreshments imbibed. Local favorite **Czech and Then Some** bring its brass-driven polka and waltz music to the stage at 4 p.m. Just when you thought it was safe to give your feet a rest, **Brave Combo** once again returns to give the crowd the best chicken dancing, hokey-pokey music around. That evening the **Casey Kelly Band** will close the festival with its



Brian Klekar, Czechaholics/McKee photo

outlaw brand of music.

In between all that dancing, enjoy the Kolache Eating Contest on Sunday at 12:30 p.m., Taroky Tournament, Kolache Baking, Antique Tractor Pull, games of horseshoes and washers, carnival rides and more.

So please come and enjoy all the Czech culture and get that cholesterol



out of your veins. While you're traveling in the West area, don't forget to tune into polka radio on the AM and FM dial as there are a half-dozen stations in the area.

Polka On! Store
 polkabeat.com
 CDs, T-shirts, koozies, towels & more!

| Friday Night Preview Party | | | |
|---|----------------------|----------------|-----------------------------|
| 7 PM Miss Westfest Contest / 8 PM Roger Creager / 10 PM Cory Morrow | | | |
| Saturday, Sept. 5 | | | |
| TIME | EAST PAVILION | TIME | WEST PAVILION |
| Noon-4 PM | Dujka Brothers | Noon-4 PM | Chris Rybak |
| 4-8 PM | Jodie Mikula | 4-8 PM | Praha Brothers |
| 8:30 PM-12:15 AM | Brave Combo | 8 PM-12:15 AM | Jerry Haisler/Melody 5 |
| Sunday, Sept. 6 | | | |
| Noon-4 PM | Czechaholics | 12:15-2:15 PM | James Wages/Sincerely Elvis |
| 4-7:30 PM | Czech & Then Some | 2:30-6:30 PM | Brave Combo |
| 8-9:30 PM | Casey Kelley Band | 6:30-8 PM | Ennis Czech Boys |
| 10 PM-Midnight | TBA | 10 PM-Midnight | TBA |

Historic Pearl Stable Hosts Music Series

Celebrate Dance Hall Music Through August

And a bottle of Pearl, please. These were the words that **Adolf Hofner**

concluded his live broadcast radio show on KTSA as the leader of the **Pearl Wranglers**. The Pearl Brewing Company of San Antonio sponsored the Czech/Mex/Tex band for many years, setting a precedent that continues today of backing local music.

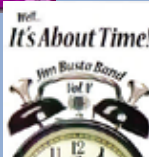
Though the San Antonio Brewery closed in 2001, the brewery grounds have been repurposed using the majestic brew building as a focal



Have you checked out **mollieb.com?**



Store features CDs, DVDs, T-shirts, Caps, Stein-Shaped Koozies, Polka Party Favors & More!



You'll also find
Mollie's Performance Schedule
Photos from Mollie B Polka Party Tapings
Contact info for bands featured on Polka Party
Nationwide list of 2015 festivals

Visit today and get a jump on your Christmas shopping! Gift certificates also available.

point. The "community" of Pearl has been constructed boasting 324 apartments, 15 restaurants, 13 retailers, and 18 resident businesses, as well as a twice-weekly Farmers Market. It's an exciting neighborhood on the upper San Antonio River just north of downtown.

One of the venues, the Pearl Stable, presents live regional music every Wednesday night in July and August. The month of August will kick off with Wurstfest favorites, **Terry Cavanagh and the Alpine Express** on the 5th, and Americana

singer **Melissa Ludwig** and her band will grace the stage on the 12th. On the 19th, Texczech accordionist extraordinaire, **Mark Halata** along with his crack band, **Texavia** will be performing polkas and waltzes for your dancing pleasure. The summer concert series concludes on the 26th with **Doc Watkins and His Orchestra** who will be swinging the joint with his big band sound.

All events are free so arrive early to stake out a seat to catch your breath from dancing in the air-conditioned venue.

Concerts Featuring
AARON WATSON
SAM RIGGS
SHINER HOBO BAND
GARY P. NUNN
& MORE!

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FOOD VENDORS
BIERGARTEN
CARNIVAL & PARADE

OCTOBER 23-25, 2015
CZHILI & BAR•B•Q COOK•OFF
★ FLATONIA, TEXAS ★

TICKETS & INFO AT
FLATONIACHAMBER.COM



Terry Cavanagh/Cavanagh photo



Mark Halata/McKee photo

What's New with Mollie B?

You can find out on her new website mollieb.com. It's the ultimate resource for Mollie B fans. The home page not only offers user friendly navigation to the rest of the site, but also includes a video of Mollie singing Ave Maria and a video segment of Mollie playing 12 instruments.

Check out where she'll be playing as Mollie B, and with the **Jim Busta Band**,

Squeezebox and **Karl & the Country Dutchmen**.

As for Oktoberfest, Mollie and Ted Lange will be performing as Squeezebox at the festival in Helen,

Georgia, in October.

The Polka Store offers lots of cool items like stein-shaped koozies. This is a must-have to keep your beer cool and prevent spillage at Oktoberfest parties. You'll also find a great assortment of CDs from several of Mollie's favorite bands, cute T-shirts and accessories for the polka lover on your gift list. Gift certificates are also available.

"I hope all my Texas fans will stop by the website and send me an email," Mollie says. Let me know what you think of the site. Until then, Polka On! y'all!"

Czhilispiel 43 Is Hot!

The 43rd rendition of this fun event in Flatonia is set for Oct. 23-25. Tons of activities to peak your interest - czhili and barbecue cook-offs, car and truck show, arts and crafts, egg toss, jalapeno eating contest (yikes), jackpot

margarita and bean contest (double yikes). Oh, and don't forget about the hairy legs and Daizy Duke contests.

The kids will love the Halloween contest and tricycle races and the back seat momma drivin' contest. The grand parade is on Sunday at noon. And the music lineup is awesome - Aaron Watson, Shiner Hobo Band, Sam Riggs, Gary P. Nunn and more!

Not bad for an event that started out as a fundraiser to help fund a local Flatonia student's medical school education. At the time, Flatonia needed a doctor, so the residents organized the Czech heritage festival and chili cook-off and called it Czhilispiel.

The student agreed to serve the community for at least five years after completing medical school, but ended up staying longer. Czhilispiel continues to use the proceeds from the event to benefit local needs, whether for students or community services.



Houston Liederkrantz
Saturday, September 19
5-11 pm

Music by
Mike Gest & Night Session
6-10 pm

\$7 Members / \$10 Guests
Kids 12 and under free
Reservations accepted for
8 or more prepaid.

Enjoy German cuisine with a
Texas twist by the
SauerKraut Food Wagon

Info/tickets: 281-890-8232

5100 Ella Blvd (2 miles north
of N. Loop 610)
houstonliederkrantz.com

Oktoberfest East Texas Style

The Piney Woods Fine Arts Association is dedicated to the promotion and awareness of performing and visual arts to enrich the lives of all the people in Houston County and surrounding area. That's why they're throwing the Piney Woods Polka Fest on Oct. 3. You can't get much more cultured than that! Brave Combo will provide the music for this newbie fest.



Piney Woods Polka Fest
Saturday, October 3

Houston County Airport in Crockett
Featuring **Brave Combo**

Show starts 7:30 p.m. Tickets: \$27
Dancing * Beer Garden * Czech Food * Family Fun
Sponsored by Piney Woods Fine Arts Association
936-644-4276 pwfaa.org

Texas City's 15th Annual
Oktoberfest by the Bay

Saturday, October 10
11 a.m.-6 p.m.

Music 12-5 p.m. by

Alpenfest

German Food * Cold Drinks * Silent Auction * Raffle * Arts
& Crafts * Food & Sweets Booths * Cake Spin * Kid Games

Dancing & eating in large covered pavilion. German attire encouraged.
Bring your lawn chairs.

Hosted by Memorial Lutheran Church
2021 29th St. N / 409-945-4052 (9a-2p M-Th) / mlctc.org

Free admission.
Free parking.

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 TERRY CAVANAGH & THE ALPINE EXPRESS

AUG 12
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AUG 19
 MARK HALATA & TEXAVIA

AUG 26
 DOC WATKINS & HIS ORCHESTRA

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 AT THE HISTORIC PEARL STABLE
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