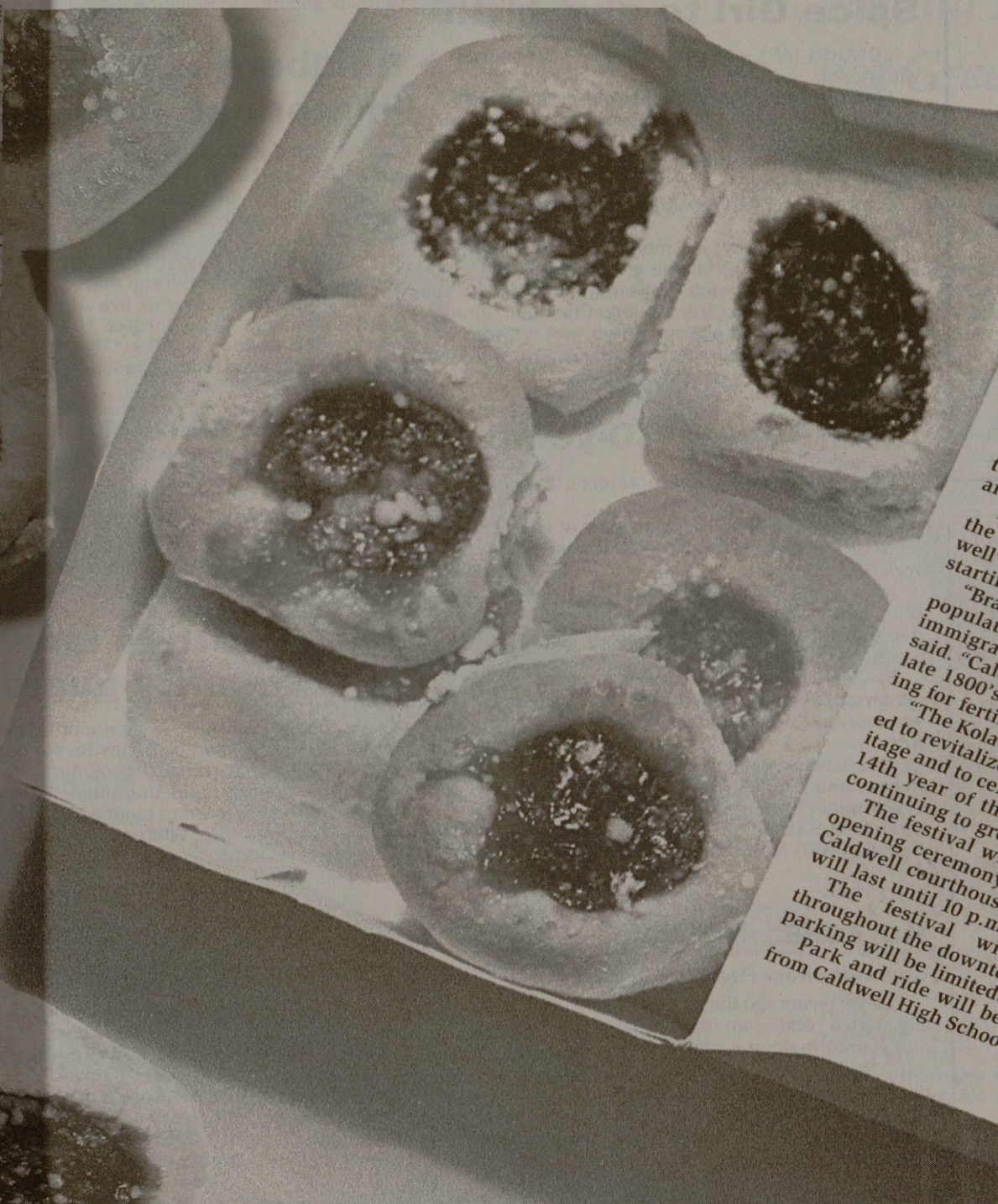


Aggielife

Czech it Out

History, culture of Caldwell
celebrated at 14th Annual Kolache Festival

BY BETH FOCHT
The Battalion



Twenty minutes south of Bryan-College Station on Highway 21 is the town of Caldwell. Caldwell is not just known for being a speed trap or a place to stop for gas on the way to Sixth Street—it is known for its great kolaches and Czech heritage. This Saturday Caldwell will host their 14th Annual Kolache Festival and celebrate the town's rich culture and history.

Honey Dowdy, representative of the Kolache Festival, said Caldwell's history was a driving force in starting the festival. "Brazos Valley has a large Czech population because of the heavy immigration to this area," Dowdy said. "Caldwell was founded in the late 1800's by Czech settlers looking for fertile land to live on."

"The Kolache Festival was created to revitalize our great Czech heritage and to celebrate it. This is the 14th year of the festival and it is continuing to grow."

The festival will begin with an opening ceremony in front of the Caldwell courthouse at 9 a.m. and will last until 10 p.m.

The festival will be held throughout the downtown area, so parking will be limited. Park and ride will be available from Caldwell High School onto the festival grounds. Admission is free to the public.

Dowdy said there is a little bit of something for everybody at the festival. "There are all kinds of activities and things to see at the festival," Dowdy said. "We will be selling over 6,000 kolaches along with a variety of other foods."

"Along with the great food, the festival offers an arts and crafts area with 250 vendors and an area for antique shopping."

The festival will feature continuous entertainment on five different stages.

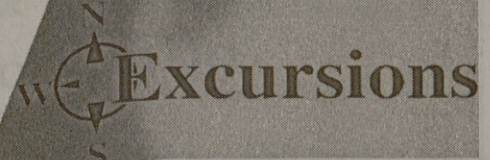
"Some of the performers include famous Czech dancers, singers, bands and Czech entertainers," Dowdy said.

Other activities at the festival include an antique car show, a hot rod street car show, a Czech children's world and a genealogy section for people interested in their family history.

"The favorite activity of the Aggies is the kolache-eating contest, which occurs at 11 a.m.," Dowdy said. "There really is something for everybody."

Mayor Bernard Rychlik, chairman of the Kolache Festival, said interest in the festival has grown in the past several years.

SEE KOLACHE ON PAGE 4.



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Tues. September 1	3:00 pm	502 Rudder
Thurs. September 3	4:00 pm	502 Rudder
Mon. September 7	3:30 pm	502 Rudder
Fri. September 11	2:00 pm	502 Rudder
Mon. September 14	1:30 pm	502 Rudder
Wed. September 16	5:30 pm	342 Zachry
Fri. September 18	3:00 pm	502 Rudder

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