

Aggielife

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Continued

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Crockett Festival celebrates an, history behind local town

BY KYLE WHITACRE
The Battalion

though," Thompson said.

The World Championship Fiddlers Festival starts on Saturday and ends at 5 p.m. on Sunday. A long tradition in Texas history, fiddling was around in the old days of pioneers and biblical plagues.

The pioneer tunes were passed down from generation to generation as part of the legend of the old west. Some of them have changed little since the frontier days of old.

Many old tales and legends are remembered through ballads on the fiddle, since it was much easier to carry around than the piano.

The first fiddlers' festival in Crockett, held on the courthouse square in 1936, was founded by Barker Tunstall, a master fiddler. The first festival featured a band from the Eastham State Prison and gospel singing and dancing.

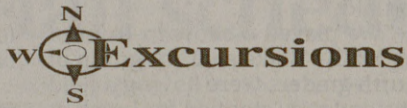
Other original founders of the festival included Raymond Cornelius, Terry Van Pelt, Bob Greene, Jesse Johnson and Harry Trube.

Different age classes of fiddlers will be competing for the top prize of \$500. The competition is open to all, and there is no entry fee.

Also appearing Saturday night will be Johnny Gimble & Texas Swing, performing from 6:30 to 9 p.m.. Johnny Gimble has won a Grammy as well as Fiddler of the Year honors eight times. He has appeared in the films *Honeysuckle Rose*, *Honkytonk Man*, *Song Writer*, and *Nashville*.



Honkytonk Man, Song Writer, and Nashville.



Pushmonkey delivers pure-rock sounds

BY KYLE WHITACRE
The Battalion



PHOTO COURTESY OF PUSHMONKEY

Pushmonkey, a rock band from Austin, is playing at Shadow Canyon Saturday night to promote its new CD.

This Austin quintet is finally hitting the big time.

"I love being in front of a crowd," Park said, the lead singer. "I love the connection between the audience and the band. I love being the voice of that, hearing that roar. I love that power—the way it builds and comes back stronger the more you put out, which rises up and blows the house down."

Park really gets the crowd involved during the show. During the bands last performance at Shadow Canyon, he threw Pushmonkey T-shirts into the packed audience.

Pushmonkey has seen success the past several years on the local scene, touring with KISS on the Texas leg of the tour and being named No. 1 Hard Rock Band at the Austin Music Awards during the SXSW Music Festival in both '97 and '98.

Pushmonkey's new, self-titled album is pure hard rock, sounding along the same lines as Eye Mother Earth and Stabbing Westward, but featuring more of the band's own unique style. The songs themselves vary from the fast paced "Lefty" to the more melodic "Handslide." The vocals add a choral effect to the melodies of the songs, reminiscent of the old Alice in Chains vocal harmonies, but much more driven.

A time of... reflection

u o i t c e l f e r



TRAVIS IRBY
The Battalion

Jewish faith celebrates passage into a new year and a new person

Rosh Hashana table.

Tarlow said the foods consumed during the holiday each have meaning.

"Apples and honey are used to insure a sweet year, while fish is considered brain food in Jewish tradition," Tarlow said. "Challah, a normally oblong shaped bread, is baked in a circle to signify the completion of the year."

Tarlow said the circle is common theme in Judaic culture.

"Shalom, comes from the root word meaning to make a full circle. It used to say 'hello' and 'goodbye,'" Tarlow said. "During Rosh Hashana, a special prayer book called the Maczor, is read to get you back where you started."

Tarlow said some problems arise due to the small Jewish population at Texas A&M.

"There are only about 1,000 Jewish students at A&M," Tarlow said. "Even though it is state law that students be allowed to observe their holidays, some people are not aware there is something going on."

Jewish students at A&M, must deal with burden of tests and classes during Rosh Hashana.

Debbie Edwards, a senior electrical engineering major, said balancing religious and academic duties can be rigorous.

"Teachers can be helpful during holidays, sometimes they are not," Edwards said. "I think most of the time they don't realize what is going on with the student."

"It can be very difficult to have to decide whether to go to class or observe your holiday, but those sacrifices have to be made."

The Jewish community at A&M is a small, but tight-knit group. The sense of togetherness is essential to the Jewish faith.

Tarlow said there are many similarities between Aggie traditions and Jewish culture.

"Texas A&M, like Judaism is steeped in tradition and honor," Tarlow said. "Both emphasize individual honor and responsibility."

Edwards said the both cultures have a similar sense of values.

"Both the Jewish and Aggie culture celebrate being a better person and forming a good community," Edwards said.

One of the responsibilities of Rosh Hashana is righting of wrongs done to others.

Gregory Meyer, a graduate student in biology, said this is an important part of the observance.

"There are two types of consequences in the Jewish faith: civil and ethical."

— Rabbi Peter Tarlow
Texas A&M Hillel Foundation

"In atonement, you not only need to make sins right with God, but with the entity you have wronged," Meyer said.

Tarlow said the culturally the holiday, is divided into two concepts.

"There are two types of consequences in the Jewish faith: civil and ethical," Tarlow said. "If you do something wrong it weighs on your conscience, but it also weighs on the people around you."

Rosh Hashana is a holiday rich in history and heritage.

Tarlow said although it is a Jewish holiday, it holds a message for everyone.

"The concept of repentance, of being sincerely sorry, is something all people can benefit from," Tarlow said.

Make your own path

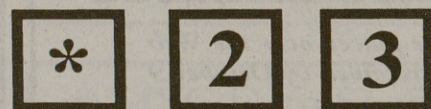
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