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ONSTAGE

College to host dance performance
‘Empower Me’ explores struggle to end violence against women

STAFF REPORT

The Dignity Initiative will present “Empower Me: A Celebratory Performance” in conjunction with Collin College’s fine arts department, 7-8:30 p.m., March 24 at the Spring Creek Campus Living Legends Conference Center.

The show will include dance, poetry, prose and song, all centered around the challenges and triumphs in the initiative to end violence against women. The show will include performances by the Collin Dance Ensemble and vocalists from the pop group One-Sound.

Spring Creek Campus is located at 2800 E. Spring Creek Parkway in Plano.

MORE

The Dignity Initiative is a Collin College-based organization that works to raise awareness and inspire action on issues of violence against and oppression of women. For information visit collin.edu/community/dignity.

>> THIS WEEK

March 11

7-30 P.M.
Good Question Band
Grover’s Grill and Bar,
9305 Preston Road, Frisco. Free

9 P.M.
Jason Elmore
Rock 101 Grill, 2833 Eldorado
Parkway, Little Elm. Free

March 12

8-11 A.M.
Paddy Dash
Frisco Square, 8874 Coleman Blvd.,
Frisco. \$15-\$40

1-4 P.M.
24th Annual Easter Extravaganza
Toyota Soccer Center,
9200 World Cup Way, Frisco. Free

7-30 P.M.

OUT & ABOUT

DOGGONE GOOD FOOD

Frisco Crawfish Festival to benefit pet adoption

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Originally from New York, David Snell’s first encounters with crawfish involved catching them in a creek behind the house where he grew up in Plano.

He wouldn’t try eating them until 1988, when he went off to study aviation at Louisiana Tech University in Ruston, where residents spend the spring enjoying frequent crawfish boils.

“Being in a fraternity over there, that’s what you did,” he said.

Snell, now of Frisco, enjoyed those Louisiana boils so much that 18 years ago he started his own crawfish business, Cajun Crawfish Company, and is now preparing for his first Frisco Crawfish Festival.

The festival, scheduled for April 3 at Grover’s Grill & Bar, will celebrate the foods and music of Louisiana while raising money for an animal rescue organization.

Habitat 4 Paws takes dogs, and hopefully soon cats, from area shelters and puts them into foster homes to be trained and medically prepared for adoption.

Adoption fees – \$200 for year-old and older dogs, and \$250 for younger dogs – include spaying/neutering and microchipping but don’t cover all the medical expenses and other care some animals receive in preparation for their permanent homes.

“Events like what David is doing are just extremely beneficial and helpful to us to be able to afford the continuing care of these animals,” said Shelly Sullivan, Habitat 4 Paws vice president and adoption coordinator.

She added that volunteers work hard to match dogs to the right homes and will hold an adoption event during the crawfish festival.

Snell expects to boil up to 3,000 pounds of crawfish, depending on presales, and Grover’s celebrity chef Joey Allette, who grew up in Louisiana, is preparing a special menu for the occasion including jalapeno corn bread, red beans and rice and jambalaya.

A limited number of offerings such as chicken fingers and burgers will be available for children and others who may not want a taste of



PHOTOS COURTESY OF DAVID SNELL

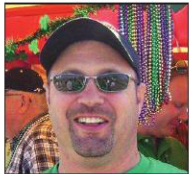
Cajun Crawfish Company will serve up boiled crawfish, corn and potatoes for the Frisco Crawfish Festival on April 3 at Grover’s Grill & Bar.



Customers line up for boiled crawfish from Cajun Crawfish Company during a recent event in Little Elm.

“I wanted to build a new event, build some hype and make it hopefully a long-lasting event.”

— DAVID SNELL, OWNER CAJUN CRAWFISH COMPANY



Louisiana, Grover’s General Manager Keith Kruse said. “Not everybody eats crawfish.”

Snell described Grover’s as the

ideal venue for the festival with its available stages, patio, large lawn and history of hosting charitable events, such as recent concerts

CLAWS FOR PAWS

What: The Frisco Crawfish Festival with food and music will benefit Habitat 4 Paws, an animal rescue organization serving Frisco and Little Elm.

When: 1 to 7 p.m. April 3

Where: Grover’s Grill & Bar, 9305 Preston Road in Frisco.

Details: Cajun Crawfish Company expects to boil about 3,000 pounds of crawfish, and Grover’s will offer a special Cajun menu. Weather permitting, the festival will include bounce houses and beads for the children.

Music: Matthew R. Bell and Sons of Rio, 1:30 to 4 p.m.; Zydeco Stingrays, 4:30 to 6:30 p.m.

Tickets: \$20 for 3 pounds of crawfish plus potatoes and corn; \$10 for kids’ plate, 1.5 pounds of crawfish with potatoes and corn. Visit friscocrawfishfestival.ticketleap.com.

benefiting tornado victims.

Weather permitting, expect bounce houses for the children as well as Mardi Gras beads on April 3.

Snell, who also has an airplane tour business, Starlight Flights, first began Cajun Crawfish Company as a weekend venture when he still was working as a corporate recruiter.

See CRAWFISH, Page 7A

Crawfish:

Snell graduated from first taste to boiling business

From PAGE SIX

A guy from Houma taught him to cook the crawfish using one pot for boiling and a second for soaking in the seasoning.

Business has grown so much, Snell has given up the recruiting job.

He boasts almost 6,000 connections through Facebook and Constant Contact and purchased 112,400 pounds of crawfish last year, grossing

\$575,000 during the six-month season.

From rented space at 1671 Riverview Drive in Lewisville, Snell spends the spring selling live crawfish and sending three trailers to help with boils across the area.

"I help all these people plan their events, many of them fundraisers and charities," he said, explaining he wanted to put that experience to work holding his own

festival in the city he moved to 10 years ago. "I wanted to build a new event, build some hype and make it hopefully a long-lasting event."

David Snell, of Frisco, estimates his Cajun Crawfish Company purchased 112,400 pounds of live crawfish last year for sale from a store in Lewisville as well as use in area boils the company provides with its three trailers.

PHOTO COURTESY OF DAVID SNELL



Ireland:

Dallas to continue largest St. Patrick's Day parade in Southwest

From PAGE SIX

Hour coven. Clearly not a fan of St. Patrick's Day, MacKenna asked these creatures to hunt men and deliver them to her so she can use them for her rituals. Only the brave will make it all the way through the house.

March 15

6:30 p.m.

Luck O' the Irish Cocktail Dinner

Urban Rio, 1000 14th St., Suite 100, Plano. \$34.90

Periodically, Executive Chef Salvatore Gisellu will prepare a themed, five-course meal. This time inspired by the flavors of Ireland and St. Patrick's Day imagery, he's created a unique dinner menu that will be paired with five handcrafted cocktails.

March 19

11 a.m.

St. Patrick's Parade and

festival

Greenville avenue at Blackwell street, Dallas. Free

Hailed as the largest St. Patrick's Day parade in the Southwest, the 37th Anniversary Dallas St. Patrick's Parade and Festival will take place on March 19. The parade runs 2 miles to end at Yale/SMU Boulevard at I-75/Central Expressway. There are more than 1,700 participants and over 100 floats scheduled for the parade. Anticipated attendance for this event reaches 125,000, so plan accordingly. Greenville Avenue and the offshoot streets from the parade will be closed. The best tip is to use DART and exit at the Park Lane or Lovers Lane stations.

Noon

**St. Patrick's Day Concert
Energy Square at the
Corner of Greenville avenue**



PHOTO COURTESY OF DALLAS ST. PATRICK'S PARADE AND FESTIVAL

The Dallas St. Patrick's Parade and Festival stretches 2 miles down Greenville Avenue.

and University boulevard, Dallas. \$15-\$25

Dance among the masses to Josh Abbott Band at the Energy Square parking lot.

Tickets are \$15 in advance or \$25 at the gate the day of the event. Food is available for purchase, and the general admission restaurants are The

Nodding Donkey, Grub Burger Bar and Yucatan Taco Stand. All guests must be 21 years of age or older and have valid identification. The event will

happen rain or shine.

1-5 p.m.

**Shamrock Shindig
Watters Creek at Montgomery Farms, 970 Garden Park Drive, Allen. Free**

Party near the soon-to-be-green Watters Creek. From 1 to 2 p.m., modern Celtic band Innisfall will be singing a few traditional songs. While guests listen, a few stylists from Toni & Guy will be providing hair chalking and root glittering for people of all ages. This will last the duration of the event. There will also be face painters and balloon artists from 2:15 to 2:45 p.m. For bagpiping, traditional dancing and more, don't miss Shamrock Shindig. In the event of inclement weather, the event will be cancelled or delayed. A determination of weather-altered plans will be made by noon on the day of the event.