

RURAL TEXAS TOURISM LLC

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*Lickskillet Scheduled for Saturday October 15 thru Sunday October 16
Continues to Connect Rich Heritage, Traditions, and Cultures of
Hometown Fayetteville*



Taking a community with history that connects to so many resources and weaving the cultures and heritage into venues, events, and attractions is no easy feat but National Registry Fayetteville, Texas seems to manage this to perfection time and time again, including their 40th Annual Lickskillet Days celebration scheduled this year from Saturday, October 15 thru Sunday, October 16--right when the weather begins to cool.

Since 1976, this family fun package (yes, make it a weekend!) has paid tribute to the heritage of this incredible historic community. Sponsored by The Fayetteville Chamber of Commerce, this venue is "packaged in pride" with a big thanks to all of the hard-working volunteer-based locals making this event possible for all ages.

Kick off that walking or running goal with the Lickskillet 5K Color Run/Walk beginning and ending at the Fayetteville School on 618 N. Rusk. Registration fee is \$25.00 before October 1 and \$30.00 after. For additional information, e-mail runfayetteville@gmail.com

And in case that "revs" up your appetite, the SPJST's Bean & BBQ Cook-off (benefiting the ball field) will be held Saturday, October 15 at the SPJST Hall down the road from the square. As the annual "fierce" competition heats up with friends, family, and newcomers, the Sidewinders will be performing. Additional information may be obtained from Melinda Zajicek at 979-820-8793.

****And a quick Czech lesson and historic side note for those that have not heard of "SPJST". It stands for Slovanska Podporujici Jednota Statu Texaska, which was created by Czech pioneers and was the largest organization of its' kind in the United States. It was formed March 4, 1854, the first fraternal benefit society in the nation, and was formed to foster and preserve the Czech language in the "new" nation and preserve the moral, spiritual, and economic well being of the countrymen. The first base of operations for this incredible group of settlers was in Fayetteville, Texas--yet another historic "coup" for this amazing town. So when you go after that BBQ, remember you are on "hallowed" grounds!*

Time clearly isn't wasted back at the Fayetteville Square, as tunes by Jimmy Rhode DJ will be played during the day Saturday so drop the Nikes and put on the boots. And as evening falls, get ready for the hometown Texas Street Dance on the Square with Abigail Taylor from 6-8 pm followed by Black Cat Choir from 8:30-11:45 pm. Polish your boots, bring a lawn chair, enjoy their sounds while meeting your "old" friends and making new ones. Ice cold drinks will be sold so there is no need for ice-chests or coolers.

During activities Saturday and Sunday, refreshments and food will be sold throughout the day and there will be activities for all ages. For those that love to discover special shopping, this is the perfect time as arts and crafts vendors will be available (call 979-378-4021 for vendor space) and local businesses will be open to accommodate those special shopping needs. Showcasing the history never takes a backseat as courthouse, jail and heritage museum tours will be conducted in celebration of the array of culture and heritage to the area.

It's not a Lickskillet without a parade on Sunday, October 16, and everyone will be doing their best to win as the event commences at the Fayetteville school beginning at 10:30 am and arriving on the square around 11 am with Grand Marshalls Fayetteville's Lions Club and presenting the honorable 2016-2017 Lickskillet Queen and her court. Parade

participants should plan to arrive at the Fayetteville School, 618 North Rusk with check-in from 8 am-9:15 am and judging kicking off at 9:15 am (follow the signs). The annual Licksillet Days Parade has become a central part of the festivities with a tribute to the cultures of the area. Parade forms may be obtained by going to www.fayettevilletxchamber.org.

Sunday Licksillet lunch is clearly an event not to miss as fried chicken and sausage link is catered for dinner with sides and tea served by Garland Polasek on the Square at 11 am. Tickets may be pre-purchased earlier as they sell quickly. Kolaches, rolls, pies, and pastries will also be available. And another quick note on the history of this meal...As was the custom in the earlier days of settlers, when you came late to lunch, you got to "lick the skillet" because that's all that was left.

Music has always been a central focus of celebrations and Fayetteville is proud to showcase the "Fayette Czech Singers and Dancers" from 12-1 Sunday with Jimmy Rhode DJ gracing the audiences once again from 11:30 am - 4 pm. And if you'd like a chance at an original piece of Licksillet art by renowned local artist Pat Johnson or up to \$3000 in gift cards (VISA), raffle chances and meal tickets are available now at the Fayetteville Bank, Jerry's General Store, Joe's Place, and Orsak's Café before the event. During Licksillet, tickets will be available at the Chamber booth Saturday and Sunday. The raffle drawing and silent auction winner will be announced starting Sunday at 3 pm. Presence is not necessary for winning the raffle but is for the silent auction of Pat Johnson's artwork.

For lodging, go to www.StayInFayetteville.com and additional information including registration forms may be found at www.fayettevilletxchamber.org. "Restaurants, lodging, shopping, and businesses extend their hometown hospitality and a warm smile to welcome all visitors and locals that come to share these experiences." Fayetteville is located on Highway 159 a short distance from La Grange and zip code 78940 for GPS. "Country at its finest".

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Cathy Chaloupka--

Rural Texas Tourism, LLC