

## DIRK NOWITZKI'S HEROES CELEBRITY BASEBALL GAME

When you think of Dirk Nowitzki, the 7-foot-tall Mavericks star, your thoughts might not naturally turn to baseball. For one thing, baseball players are generally not that tall. But baseball is a summer sport, and in summer, even Nowitzki likes to participate in our national pastime. However, this is no ordinary game: Nowitzki gathers his famous friends and plays for charity. On the roster this year: two-time NBA MVP Steve Nash; fellow Mavs Tyson Chandler, Monta Ellis, Devin Harris and Charlie Villanueva; NBA Hall of Famer Charles Barkley; Dallas Cowboys wide receiver Dez Bryant; Texas Rangers great Michael Young; actors Geoff Stults (*The Odd Couple*, *Wedding Crashers*) and Josh Henderson (*Dallas*); and more. The game benefits the Dirk Nowitzki Foundation and the Heroes Foundation, which provide health and education services to children around the world as well as sports training and competition to kids and adults with physical and intellectual disabilities. The day begins at 3:30 p.m. outside Dr Pepper Ballpark with the CBS Radio DFW Fan Fest, featuring a bounce house, an inflatable football toss, games, giveaways and more. Before the big game, the first pitch of the Heroes Special Olympics All-Star Softball Game will be thrown at 4:45 p.m. During the main event, which begins at 6:30 p.m., stunts, interactive activities and other family-fun crowd-pleasers will take place between innings to keep the crowd entertained. Topping it all off is a post-game 10-minute fireworks finale.

■ June 27 at 6:30 p.m. (gates open at 4:30) at Dr Pepper Ballpark, 7300 Roughriders Trail, Frisco. \$8-\$19. \$10 parking in lots A, B and E. mavs.com.



2013 File Photo/Louis DeLuca

Dirk Nowitzki and friends will play in his Heroes Celebrity Baseball Game.



2013 File Photo

Jam sessions are just part of the fun at Bluegrass on Ballard in historic downtown Wylie.

## TEXICON

Gamers will be in hog heaven at this multigenre, nonelectronic gaming convention. Get your geek on with games including role-playing, miniature board games, *Flames of War*, *Lost Worlds* and *Warmachine*. Other attractions include a historical gaming hall, painting and sculpting contests, giveaways, seminars, tournaments and a flea market featuring used games and game supplies on June 27 from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m.

■ June 26 from noon to midnight, June 27 from 10 a.m. to midnight, June 28 from 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. at Grapevine Convention Center, 1209 S. Main St., Grapevine. \$50 for full convention, \$30 for single day; cash only. texicon.net.

## BLUEGRASS ON BALLARD

**FREE** Historic downtown Wylie will be filled with life at this celebration of freedom. The event features performances from world-class bluegrass bands as well as arts and crafts vendors in Olde City Park, a chili cook-off, pony rides, food and a car show with more than 150 automobiles on display. Musicians including Phil Ferguson & Texas True, In Achordance, Joe Mullins & the Radio Ramblers and Sgt. Pepper's Lonely Bluegrass Band will perform beginning at 3 p.m. Take your own instrument and jam with other bluegrass lovers throughout the day.

■ June 27 from 10 a.m. to 10 p.m. at Ballard Avenue and Olde City Park, 112 S. Ballard Ave., Wylie. Free admission. wylietexas.gov/events.

## VITRUVIAN SALSA FESTIVAL

**FREE** Salsa isn't just the best condiment in the world; it's a Latin dance that involves a lot of fancy footwork. Surprisingly, salsa dancing hasn't been around very long — it originated in New York in the 1970s, evolving from Cuban *son*, mambo, cha-cha and other dance forms with heavy influences coming from Puerto Rico and Cuba. Though salsa may appear complicated, certified instructor Luis Delgadillo will have you dancing in no time after a quick lesson at 6:30 p.m. The event kicks off with MC Ramiro Gonzalez and DJ Alex Santiago at 6 p.m.; food trucks, a weekly T-shirt raffle and more continue through the evening. The dancing happens Saturdays in June and July; on June 27, salsa band Carabali will perform.

■ June 27 from 6 to 10 p.m. at Vitruvian Park, 3966 Vitruvian Way, Addison. Free admission. thedancecouncil.org.

## NOCTURNA TANGO

Ah, the tango, a dance immortalized for millions of Americans by Morticia and Gomez in *The Addams Family* and by Jamie Lee Curtis and Arnold

Schwarzenegger in the movie *True Lies*. Let the music entrance you as you move around the dance floor at this tango lesson party. Beginner lessons will be given from 7:30 to 8:30 p.m. After the lessons, dance to a fusion of swing, country, salsa and disco. Don't have a partner? No worries — you'll find one at the dance. No jeans allowed. Some proceeds from the event will go to veteran charities.

■ June 28 from 7:30 to 10 p.m. at VFW Post 6796, 9179 Garland Road, Dallas. \$10 (cash only). 214-415-5876. nocturnatango.com.

## EVENING IN THE SHED AT DALLAS FARMERS MARKET

**FREE** Start your weekend a day early at the Dallas Farmers Market. Talk with the farmers who provide fresh foods to customers at the market — maybe discuss some pre-orders — and enjoy artisan food and drinks, including local beer and wine; arts and crafts vendors; live music; vendor demos; and more. The Evening in the Shed event is held every Thursday night through Oct. 15. Pro tips: Take cash in case a vendor doesn't accept credit cards, and a burlap or cloth bag for any purchases.

■ July 2 from 4 to 9 p.m. at the Dallas Farmers Market, 1010 S. Pearl Expressway, Dallas. Free admission. 214-644-9110. dallasfarmersmarket.org.