

Folk Festival serves buffet for the soul



By **Amaris Castillo**
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LOWELL — The Lowell Folk Festival is a massive takeover of downtown Lowell with its diverse smells, sounds, tastes, and festive mood. If you're going on Sunday (and you should), here's what to look forward to.

Brazilian “arroz con leche” (rice pudding): Don't be fooled by the simple plastic containers in which Fe-Alma (a Brazilian religious group based in North Chelmsford) stores its rice pudding — the dessert (made with rice, condensed milk, and a dash of cinnamon) is “a little taste of heaven,” according to Mariana Sousa.

The Branchettes: The North Carolina group has brought its soul-stirring gospel

music. Come to the Boarding House Park at noon Sunday to hear Lena Mae Perry's rich vocals. She delighted a large crowd Saturday with her performance, at times waving her hands in praise.

African “rice bread”: Stop by the Christ Jubilee International Ministries tent at the Dutton Street area for moist banana bread, also commonly called “rice bread.” The dessert, made of a cream of rice and banana, is moist and sweet — but not too sweet.

The New York Crimean Tatar Ensemble (Crimean Tatar): The elaborate attire of the New York Crimean Tatar Ensemble is enough to keep you glued to their performances. Watch the men and women of the “jewel of the

Please see **FOLK/10** United States' Crimean community” spin and move to live music at 2:15 p.m. Sunday at JFK Plaza

and at 4:15 p.m. at Saint Anne's Churchyard.

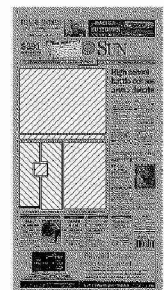
Colombian empanadas: Mike Sliger, of Billerica, chewed on a Colombian empanada stuffed with potato and ground beef on Saturday. “Delicious,” the 59-year-old said with a nod. The hearty empanadas are available at a Latin food tent near the Boarding House Park.

Life-size game: Tap into your inner child with a life-sized game of Connect Four in the Destination Lowell area. The community game is sponsored by Wicked Cornhole.

Los Texmaniacs: Get ready to dance to the conjunto (Spanish for “group”) tejano band's blended tunes at 3 p.m. Sunday at the Boarding House Park stage.

Plenty of children's fun: Parents and grandparents can take their young ones to Shattuck Street, where there are plenty of games (such as cornhole) and activities (such as face painting).

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Innov Gnawa performs Moroccan Gnawa at Boarding House Park on Saturday. From left, Said Bourhana, Nawfal Atiq, Amino Belyamani, Samir Lan-Gus and Hassan Ben Jafer. **See more photos on Pages 6 and 7, and video performances and slideshows at lowellsun.com.**

SUN/JULIA MALAKIE



Abby Paige, 6, of Westford, dances to Vishten Acadian music at JFK Plaza with her mother, Marj Paige.

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