

Sheri Zoch, Editor  
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# JAILHOUSE NEWS



**Texas Proud Festival May 29 and 30.** This year, it's all happening on the south side of the river, with a focus on the courthouse square and the Red Top. A chili cookoff will occur at Grenwelge park. The Brazos Bottom Cow'ographers will set up their town on the river by the jail. Check out their schedule below. The Celtaire String Band will play their 1800's music in front of the jail on Saturday from 10:00-4:00. Of course, we will have jail tours from 10:00-4:00 on Saturday and 12:00-2:00 on Sunday. A stagecoach will also run from Berry Street to the jail.

The Cow'ographers are being sponsored by the Llano Chamber of Commerce. *The Celtaires performance is made possible in part by a grant from Humanities Texas, the state affiliate of the National Endowment for the Humanities.* Gene Hall is graciously housing the Celtaires at her lodge. Thanks, Gene. The Celtaires will also play at Llano Elementary School to all of the children in two performances on May 28. Kids especially love their dancing wooden dolls (limberjacks) and relate to the old-timey, porch-stomping music.



## **Brazos Bottom Cow'ographers Performances:**

**Saturday:**

**Skits** at 10:00, 1:00 and 3:00

**Breakout of Johnny Ringo** at 12:45 and 2:45  
Shootout between the Carter and Coggins clans on Berry St. at 5:00.

**Sunday:**

**Skits** at 12:00 and 3:00

**Breakout of Johnny Ringo** at 2:30.

If you have never seen the jail breakout, be prepared for some loud noises and superb acting. The Brazos Bottom Cow'ographers have also graciously agreed to be ambassadors for the Llano Red Top Jail and promote our jail at all of their performances throughout the state. They have also agreed to design and manage a new website for us FOR FREE. We are indebted to them for this show of goodwill. At the Texas Proud Kickoff media event on May 15, they performed the Carter/Coggins feud shootout on the courthouse square. This festival is going to be great!

Please dress up in period costume for this event and/or volunteer to help. We need help with tours, signing people in, set-up of the Celtaires, etc. Plan on having some fun!

**Adopt-A-Pier Campaign.** Through hard work from volunteers running LanTex Theater shows, the garage sale, the quilt raffle and lots of jail tours and T-shirt sales, in addition to individual donors (the Zochs, McPhersons, Mike Heaston and "Pier Support" groups), we now have ¼ of the piers financed. Another 8 piers and we have matched the upcoming THC grant! *Get on board and donate \$1200 for a pier.* It's tax deductible and you'll be acknowledged on a permanent plaque.

**Strategic Planning for the Friends.** The Board of Directors, Sarah Franklin and Mike Reagor met with the LCRA for a free strategic planning session. Over yummy Cooper's BarBQ and drinks, we came up with a new mission statement, went over our strengths, weaknesses, opportunities and threats (SWOT), and set some goals for a 5 year plan. Sarah Page and Alysia Cook from the LCRA pretty much reached to the back depths of our brains to pull out information and ideas for our restoration efforts and dreams for the future of the jail. They will produce a report in the next few weeks that will summarize their assessment and our goals. It was an exhausting experience, but very useful for our future success in fundraising, marketing, etc.

As you may know, we will need approximately \$2 million to restore the jail to its 1895 glory and turn it into a major tourist attraction. We plan to do this in phases, outlined by our architectural master plan. However, we will need help in fundraising and marketing, as well as a lot of other things. Next month, we will begin interviewing professional fundraising consultants to help us learn how to go about this. Of course, I will continue to peck away at grants, but we need some contributors and commitments from more sponsors. I will be forming a fundraising committee soon to do this. Think about it and call me if you are interested. This could be one of the greatest, most satisfying things that you do. I've always said, "You don't ask, you don't get!" It's also been said that, "it doesn't hurt to ask." Either way, we need to ask!

***Our New Mission Statement:*** *The mission of the Friends of the Llano Red Top Jail is to restore, preserve and promote the jail and its historical significance.*

How about that? Short and sweet.

### **Thanks to the local media!**

I haven't had a chance to thank the Llano News and the Llano County Journal, as well as the Picayune, for their coverage of our events at the Red Top. Their coverage of our numerous events and fundraising efforts has been exceptional. The result is that I get asked by people I don't even know, "what's going on with the Red Top?" It seems that the community support of our efforts is pretty much unanimous. Our local media is a major part of the dissemination of our mission. Specifically, Dale Fry, John Hallowell and Michael Freeman are to be commended for their outstanding articles on Red Top history, events and coverage of the many things that the Friends do. It's nice to be recognized for our efforts. Thank you.

### **Oral History Project with LHS.**

Monday, May 24: David Morris and his brother will talk about their family, the first, second and third jailors of the Red Top.

Wednesday, May 26: Ken Rhoades, last co-jailor with Janie Prew and son of Betty Graham. Also "Rabbit" Hare will talk about the jail escapee who made it to his house. Rabbit fed the guy and allowed him to shower, then testified against him at his trial!

If you would like to get in on these interviews, show up at Deidre Henderson's class at 8:40 (go to the front desk first). The students will write up these oral histories for credit. They have already interviewed Gene Hall and Janie Prew.

### **THANKS FOR ALL YOUR SUPPORT FROM THE "FRIENDS OF THE LLANO RED TOP JAIL" BOARD OF DIRECTORS:**

**President:** *Sheri Zoch 325-248-0284*

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