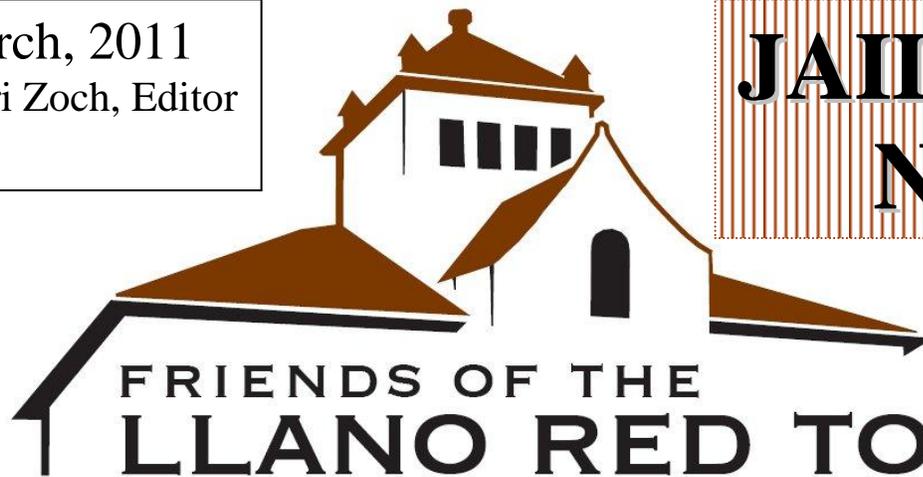


March, 2011
Sheri Zoch, Editor

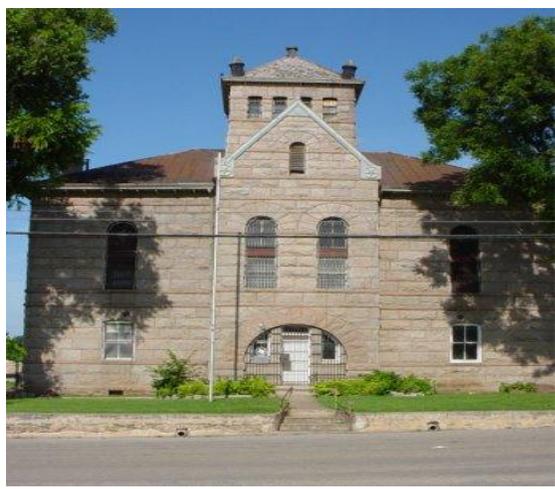
JAILHOUSE NEWS



Want some good news? WE GOT THE THC GRANT!! The town hall meeting was a success and we got approval from the City to go forward with the museum planning. Read on for details.

Texas Historical Commission Grants \$25,000. We were really sweating this one because the THC was on the budget chopping block. However, the movement at the jail that happened last month actually put us on the "Emergency Funding" list with the THC. Therefore, **WE WERE THE ONLY GRANT APPLICATION TO BE FUNDED THIS YEAR!** Those ghosts at the jail that caused the shifting actually helped us out!

You will see some changes at the jail soon: grading of the terrain to 6 inches below the crawlspace and construction of 32 piers. The City will entertain bids for the pier construction. The piers will actually be double concrete piers held together with steel rods. They will be external, as well as internal to the building.



Saturday Tours. We have begun to offer tours on Saturday at 11:00. Kim Webb, Derek Gibson, Gina Garcia, Mike Reagor and Sheri Zoch have been giving tours. The donation jar has been filling up! Thanks to everyone for their hard work. See next page for more info.

Movie at the LanTex. Our coffers were also increased by \$127 from the last movie that the Friends sponsored at the LanTex Theater. Thanks so much to those of you who volunteered. It's all gravy!

The Board of Directors approve \$14,000 for piers. The Friends BOD decided to allocate \$14,000 from our coffers as matching funds for the 32 piers. We don't know yet how much the project will cost, but we want to minimize the amount that the City has to pay. The City will do the grading for free. Ned Woodall will oversee the archeological aspect. I'll bet there is some cool stuff under the floors. Thanks to all who gave to the Adopt-A-Pier Campaign

Llano Historical Ghost Society Investigation. This group spent a night at the Red Top and had some very interesting experiences. They had some voice recordings that I heard. These folks think that the two little girls in the 1900 photo that was found on eBay were named "Pearl" and "Megan". I'm having the family of the first jailor (Barry Russell) do some geneology to look into this. The ghost hunters also heard from someone named "Buck Rogers". Several times the crew was told to "Get Out!" They caught a photo of the most realistic apparition that I've seen – a woman hovering over a jail cell. They left us a copy of the picture, so go check it out.

Update on Oral History Project. Deidre Henderson's Kaleidoscope class has purchased all of the electronic equipment necessary for the project. This includes a new Apple computer, large scanner, voice recorder, video camera and other stuff. They also bought voice activation software that automatically transcribes voice files. The class now publishes a website with student interviews. Go to www.hs.llanoisd.org and click on "Jacket Nation".

Sheri Zoch went to the class to be interviewed in a practice session. The President of the Llano Ghost Historical Society, Kenny Hare, was interviewed by the students. He actually "stayed at the Red Top" in his younger days for buying beer for a minor. Of course, the kids loved the voice recordings!

Upcoming interviews with the class include Glenn Smith, who was born at the jail, and Sandra Overstreet, who lived at the jail for a year when her husband was in the military. If you know of anyone who was either an inmate or related to a jailor, let me know.

We will try to schedule an evening at Fuel for the students to interview anyone who has memories about the jail. The students will scan photos and be able to immediately return them to the owners.

Town Hall Meeting a success. Anne Toxey and Patrick McMillan led the town hall meeting to explain their ideas about the future Red Top Jail Museum. Everyone was very enthusiastic about the concepts presented. The team presented three objectives that the museum needs to articulate:

1. Learning – interpretive
2. Emotional – how do we feel?
3. Behavioral – how are we affected?

The group also asked where the Red Top Jail wants to be in five years and what kinds of experiences visitors should come away with. The jail museum will be constructed around the 1890's and early 1900's. Emphasis will be on the concept that the jail and courthouse created a sense of stability and law and order in a time when Llano was a wild west boomtown. All senses will be tapped for this experience. We aim to make a first class, modern, interpretive museum that will draw tourists again and again.

WE NEED VOLUNTEER TOUR GUIDES.

Since we are now offering tours on Saturdays, we are in desperate need for tour guides weekly. Tours start at 11:00 and go for as long as you want to stay. The tours can be as simple or as complicated as you want to make them. I have a transcript of the tour that I give, which you can follow, or not! Our donation jar has swelled since this has started, so that's a good thing. Please call Kim Webb at 325-247-2233 or 713-494-3340, or at the Chamber of Commerce at 325-247-5354 to volunteer on a Saturday. We're all gonna burn out if we don't get some help.

The Adopt-A-Pier Campaign is still on. The total cost for the piers is likely to run around \$64,000. With the grant and money from the Friends, we have raised \$39,000. That means that the City of Llano will have to pay the rest. You still have time to donate a pier (\$1200) or belong to a "Pier Group". Call Sheri for more details.

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

President: *Sheri Zoch 325-248-0284*

Vice President: *Frank Rowell*

Secretary: *Sandy Shaw*

Treasurer: *Ovetra Hartman*

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Member: *Gene Hall*

APPLICATION FORM

FRIENDS OF THE LLANO RED TOP JAIL

The Friends of the Llano Red Top Jail is a nonprofit organization dedicated to the restoration and preservation of the Llano Red Top Jail and the Doolittle Chapel/School. Members are encouraged to assist in the restoration projects and attend an annual meeting to elect directors and discuss projects.

Name(s): _____

Email: _____

Address: _____

Phone numbers: _____

Could you help us with: (circle one or more)

Jail tours Work parties (cleaning/painting) Fundraising

Historical research Newsletter Events Marketing

Assisting with bids for contractors Woodworking

Other _____

MEMBERSHIP DUES: (Check one and enclose \$\$\$\$)

Personal: Individual (\$20) Family (\$35)

Business: (Includes your business name on donor sign)
Silver (\$100) Gold (\$500) Platinum (\$1000)

Adopt-A-Pier (\$1200) (Your name on a permanent plaque)

Please print out this form, enclose a check and return to Sandy Shaw, 295 CR 306, Llano, TX 78643. Call Sheri Zoch at 325-248-0284 for questions, comments or ideas. THANK YOU