CTHM Launches $2.1 Million Capital Campaign

The board of directors of the Chisholm Trail Heritage Museum announced a $2.1 million capital campaign at the biennial Taste of the Trail fundraiser held on Saturday, April 21st. The campaign, in its silent phase since October 2011, is targeted primarily for completing the build-out of the museum’s exhibits on the 4,000 square-foot ground floor of Cuero’s historic Knights of Pythias Hall. The goal of the silent phase of the campaign was to raise between 25% – 30% of the $2.1 million by the April 21st fundraiser, but support for the project has far surpassed expectations and to date, approximately 65% of the $2.1 million target has been achieved.

Funding from the campaign also includes completion of green space and expanded parking (55 new parking spaces), which will be located behind the historic building and annex; build-out of approximately 800 square feet of permanent display area, which has exposure along the front sidewalk and Esplanade; and completion of the entry/gift shop area where visitors will enter the museum and multi-purpose community facility.

The Museum’s board of directors purchased the historic (c.1903), two-story Knights of Pythias Hall approximately ten years ago for the purpose of establishing a ranching and cowboy heritage museum. The purchase was followed by the hiring of preservation architect David Hoffman, who created a seven-phase restoration master plan. With Hoffman’s guidance during the planning process, the organization decided to convert the former ceremonial and recreational rooms, located on the second floor of the historic fraternal hall, into a multi-purpose community facility.

Later, in 2008, Lewis Fisher of Fisher-Heck Architects, San Antonio was hired to complete the restoration process begun by Hoffman, who resigned due to health issues. Extensive restoration to the upper floor was supported by Save America’s Treasures, a program of the National Trust for Historic Preservation and the U.S. Department of Interior; and several regional foundations, corporations and agencies, including H-E-B’s Tournament of Champions, Ed Rachal Foundation, Texas Historical Commission, J.E. & L.E. Mabee Foundation, M.G. & Lillie A. Johnson Foundation, Lower Colorado River Authority and the Cuero Development Corporation.

Handsomely realized dioramas and exhibit cases will define nine exhibit sections, each like chapters in a book. The displays will engage visitors with rich visuals and interactive media, to create a contemporary exhibit experience on par with nationally prominent history museums.
Also completed in early 2010 is a two-story, 4500 square-foot annex – built to accommodate the requirements of a modern structure, including an elevator, ADA-compliant restrooms, office, archival space, catering kitchen and mechanical room. Funding support in the amount of $1 million from the Economic Development Administration and U.S. Department of Commerce enabled the organization to complete the annex in a one-year period beginning in the spring 2009.

Since its opening in 2010, approximately 7,800 members of the general public have enjoyed the use of the Museum’s multi-purpose community rooms for lectures, receptions, seminars, workshops, small conferences, children’s programs, and a variety of other cultural, educational and recreational activities. To date, over $2.8 million has been invested in the restoration of one of Cuero’s most visible historic buildings and construction of the adjacent 4,500 square-foot annex.

**Lonn Taylor**, noted Texas scholar and retired Smithsonian historian, reflected on the Museum’s accomplishments, “The Chisholm Trail Heritage Museum, by preserving the Knights of Pythias Hall, is contributing to the preservation of a unique built small-town environment in Cuero. Texas and the United States have a lot of wonderful museums in big cities, but having a collection like the Chisholm Trail Heritage Museum collection in a town the size of Cuero means that people are able to go there and understand their own heritage without having to travel a long distance.” He added, “The (CTHM) collection itself far transcends the local experience of cattle ranching in the Guadalupe River Valley because the Edward Larocque Tinker Collection is a collection of horsemen and cowboy artifacts from all over the Americas. One can visit the Museum and understand that cattle ranching was not a local phenomena, but an experience that covered the entire New World.”

The campaign will fulfill over a decade of planning, fundraising and dreams of creating a destination attraction for Cuero and South Central Texas.

**Robert Oliver**, concluded the funding appeal, “With your help, the pioneer spirit that created our rich cultural heritage will be preserved for future generations.”

When first floor exhibit space is completed, the Museum will house the Horsemens of the Americas–Tinker Collection, a rare and exquisitely crafted collection of horse-related artifacts.

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**Volunteer News**

The CTHM is scouting for dedicated volunteers to help prepare the Tinker Collection for display. Here’s a brief outline of tasks involved:

- To help conduct an in-depth inventory of the CTHM collections and the Tinker – Horsemens of Americas Collection
- Skills needed are easily taught
- Will need to be able to measure items and record the measurements
- Will need to match inventory number to inventory list
- Items will need to be photographed (camera will be provided)
- Attention to detail is very important
- Simple forms will be provided with step by step instructions
- Will need to score the condition of the item and a grading score card will be provided

This is a volunteer position (no compensation). Please contact me to learn more!

*Beverly Hadley, Executive Director*

CTHM office (361) 277-2866

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*Museum as seen from Esplanade Street, above. The restored Knights of Pythias Hall and new annex now serve the community with beautifully appointed Community Center meeting spaces.*
New at the Museum: Recent Acquisitions

The CTHM recently purchased several items at auction from the famous Gish collection. Joe Gish was an established collector of one-of-a-kind Western memorabilia and artifacts. Above left: leather cuffs with silver conchos made by Dave Shelly, Cody, WY. Above center: Main & Winchester California style stock saddle, c. 1890. This is a slick fork saddle with two-piece cantle and three-quarter loop seat. Above right: Mexican made spurs.

Community Meeting Rooms

Completion of the second floor community meeting spaces in 2010 made our facility available to organizations, businesses and families. Well equipped to handle the AV requirements of business meetings, our meeting rooms are the perfect choice for social gatherings, too. The catering kitchen gives you more entertainment options. And, word’s getting around – the handsome, high-windowed rooms are quickly becoming a desirable venue for stylish weddings!

To make the CTHM a destination for your civic group, business meetings, wedding, or milestone celebration, please call (361) 277-2866.
This spring’s Taste of the Trail fundraiser brought community and friends together in enthusiastic support of the CTHM. Organizers and volunteers worked tirelessly months in advance to produce a truly memorable evening. Jam-packed auction excitement, fabulous food, and classic Texas dance hall tunes made this our best-ever Taste of the Trail, and a terrific kick-off to our new capital campaign.

Our capital campaign will raise funds for upcoming completion milestones – building our ground floor exhibit space, and completing the Museum gift shop.

The CTHM sends a special howdy and thank you to Charles and Jean Nagel for years of spirited support of Taste of the Trail and other Museum events.

Van Hargis & Lisa Martin
Nathan & Suzie Post
George Bishop, high bidder for the Henry Rifle

With thanks to Caterer Alimento

Back Row (right to left): Gene Carson, Charles Nagel, Wayne Wolf, Melvin Wolf, Byron Wolf, Jim Mann
Front Row: Joyce Carson, Jean Nagel, Sonja Wolf, Kathy Sager, Deanna Wolf, Marcia Mann

Silent auction items

Newest addition to Bellevue Ranch!
Janet Fenton, Mrs. Lem Duderstadt and Reverend Eric Fenton

Back Row (right to left): Gene Carson, Charles Nagel, Wayne Wolf, Melvin Wolf, Byron Wolf, Jim Mann

Front Row: Joyce Carson, Jean Nagel, Sonja Wolf, Kathy Sager, Deanna Wolf, Marcia Mann

Gary P. Nunn just wants to “Go Home with the Armadillo…”

Chairman of the Board of Directors, Robert Oliver and his great nephew, Kyle Oliver

Auctioneer Joe Adams (left) and Dewit County Sheriff Jodi Savesky

Bill & Diana Thibodeaux
Taste of the Trail 2012 Sponsors

**CATTLE BARON $10,000**
- GeoSouthern Energy Corporation
- RAMRO LLC
- RJ Cattle Co.

**TRAIL BOSS $5000**
- Mrs. Lem Duderstadt
- Spoetzl Brewery

**TRAIL SCOUT $2500**
- Franke & Bill Albrecht
- Back Door Catering Co. – John Pierce
- Bellevue Ranch – Robert Oliver
- Blackwell Ranches 1849 – Nancy and Bill Blackwell
- BHP Billiton
- Errol John and Shirley Dietze
- Eatwell Farms – Diana & David Burrow
- First Victoria National Bank
- Priar Thomas Ranches – Missi Thomas
- Guadalupe Valley Electric Cooperative
- Patricia and Judd Miller
- Alex H. Oliver and Family
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- Querencia Ranch and Bissett Ranch Partnership – Kay & Ron Walker, Morgan Dunn O’Connor
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- TETRA Technologies, Inc.
- Texas Country Realty – Lindy & Ricky Gohmert
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- Ann & Robert Watson

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- Amegy Bank of Texas – Juana Avery
- Frances & Ted Aven
- Tracy Post Cliburn
- Coastal Skin Care & Wellness Center – Dr. Gary & Mary Cox
- Cuero Rotary Club
- Franks Water Pumping
- Bea & David Smith
- Victoria Eye Center
- Dr. Autumn Lind
- Milton Weikel

**NIGHT RIDER $500**
- Basham Ranch – Peggy & Travis Basham
- Courtyard Gallery of Cuero – Robert & Kerry Rhotenberry
- Emily & John Davis
- Duncan-Williams, Inc.
- Dunn Services – Kathy & Blake Dunn
- East End Builders – Mary & Chip Dence
- Roxanne Elder
- Judy & Walter Fisher
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- HEB – Patsy & Bobby Goebel
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- Debbie & Billy White
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- Michael Zuber

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- Diana & David Burrow
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- Denise & Jeff McMahon
- Cindy & Paul Holcomb
- Karyn & Pat Elder
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- Grady Spears
- Judy & Walter Fisher
- John F. Pettit, Jr.
- Charles E. Cole
- Lyndon West Interiors – Charlotte McFadin
- Shelly & Cody Pennell
- Chisholm Trail Heritage Museum

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- Annabel McLeod
- Judy McAda
- Shanna Kurtz

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- CTHM – Sara Meyer & Board of Directors

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**PARKING**
- Bill Blackwell
- John Hildebrand
- Cuero High School Project Graduation 2012

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- CTHM – Board of Directors

**SOUND SYSTEM**
- David James

**EVENT PHOTOGRAPHER**
- Marsha Gibson
- 361-275-6583

**SPIRITS & LIBATIONS**
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- Rhonda & Jeff Hudson
- Gerard Gonzales

**SITE PREP AND SET-UP**
- Robert Oliver, CTHM – Board of Directors

**SPECIAL THANKS TO OUR BEHIND-THE-SCENE SUPPORTERS**
- Ilene B. Gohmert, CPA
- Cuero Community Hospital EMS
- DeWitt County Sheriff’s Office
- Cuero High School Project Graduation 2012
- James Teleco
- Expressions Floral & Gifts – Holly Weber
- Energy Waste
- Diana & David Burrow
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- Carol & John Hildebrand
- Eric Draper
- The Cart Shop – Ottie Gibbs
- Cinco Vodka – Kay Lum
- Rick Doak
- The Gathering Company
- Kings Party Rentals
- Alexander Tents
- Cuero Pecan House
- Melita Keith
- John Welder and Alimento Catering
- Innovative Interiors
2012 CHISHOLM TRAIL HERITAGE MUSEUM MEMBERSHIP

SCOUT | $1000
Dr. Heather J. Kopecky
Lester & Burdine Giese
Bill & Coylene Oliver
and Family – 746 Ranch

POINT MAN | $500
Bill & Franke Albrecht
Ted & Frances Aven
Buddy Billups – First Virginia Bank
Bill & Nancy Blackwell
Buddy & Mary Adele Blackwell – Cuero Livestock Commission
Mary Gayle Brindley – AmegyBank of Texas
David & Diana Burrow – Eatwell Farms
Paddy & Bettye Burwell – Las Colinas Ranch
Tracy Post Cliburn
Mrs. Lem Duderstadt –
Duderstadt Ranch
Stacy Gasch – Wells Fargo Bank
Ricky & Lindy Gohmert
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Paul & Cindy Holcomb – Partners Chevrolet-Buick-GMC
Barbara Kuck – Guadalupe Valley Electric Cooperative, Inc.
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Dr. Autumn Lind –
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Robert Oliver –
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Bill & Katherine Reilly
Duffy Shulden –
Franks Water Pumping
David & Bea Smith
Don & Mattye Lou Stiles, Sr.
Milt & Kathy McLeod
and Family – 746 Ranch

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Duffy Shulden –
Franks Water Pumping
David & Bea Smith
Don & Mattye Lou Stiles, Sr.
Milt & Kathy McLeod
and Family – 746 Ranch

SWING RIDER | $250
Travis & Peggy Basham –
The Basham Ranch
Joe Bland –
O’Connor & Hewitt Foundation
Richard & Chris Carbonara –
JHC Insurance
Paul & Cathy Celauro –
Cuero Creek Ranch
John & Emily Davis
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Bissett Ranch Partnership
Art & Nancy Olive
Dan & Harriet Peavy
Nathan & Suzie Post
Glenn & Linda Ruschhaupt –
Ruschhaupt Plumbing Co.
David Scott –
Duncan-Williams, Inc
Jerry & Judie Stevenson
Ron & Kay Walker – Quercenia Ranch
Billy & Debbie White
F. West “Smokey” Wilson – Wilson Ranch
Michael Zuber

DRAG RIDER | $100
Bill Braden
Frank & Margo Flack
Mary Alice Holcomb
Lewis & Charlotte McFadin, Jr.
Andria Rucker
Sue Sularz
Helen R. Walker
Ted & Sheryl Winslow

CROCKET CARDWELL | $100
Carol & Dr. Robert Beer
Roberta Blank –
Ryan’s on Main
Dot & Jerry Hoffman –
A Taste Above
Sue Prudhomme – Museum of the Coastal Bend

BUCKAROO | $25
Jenny & Billy Lawrence
Steve & Sarah Waldrop

Memorial Gifts

Charles Borcher, M.D.
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Lias J. Steen

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In honor of the CTHM
Kent B. Grier

Nathan & Suzi Post
Nancy & John Laneri
Mary Hamby

Grant & Lisa Braly
Robert Oliver

Ron & Kay Walker
David & Nancy Beck

Taste of the Trail Membership

Joyce Albrecht –
Albrecht Cattle Company
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Rancho Rancho - DeWitt Co.
Pat Hickey Barlow
David & Debra Baros
James & Bonnie Barton
West T. & Margie Bell
Jay & Cheryl Bramlette
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Sara Brown

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Erwin & Annette Rath –
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Ranch House Spirits & Gifts
Lee & Kay Tillman
Rick & Bonnie Wheeler
Barry & Sondra Wineinger
Darlene Wyatt
Louis & Kerry Yaeger –
Los Caballos

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Darlene Wyatt
Louis & Kerry Yaeger –
Los Caballos
The Chisholm Trail Heritage Museum
Box 866 | Cuero, Texas 77954

Mission Statement
The Chisholm Trail Heritage Museum’s mission is to preserve the ranching and Western culture of South Central Texas through interpretive exhibits, research, and educational programs.

The CTHM is a 501(c)(3) corporation.
ChisholmTrailMuseum.org

Membership Matters!
Keeping membership strong is the key to keeping our fundraising momentum. Won’t you help your community by joining now?
It’s easy, just call 361-277-2866 or visit our website.
ChisholmTrailMuseum.org

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To book the CTHM’s meeting facilities for your next fundraising event, business meeting, or festive celebration, please contact Beverly Hadley at (361) 277-2866.

How would you like to become a real cowboy for a week? Try your hand at roping, learn how to tool leather and tie knots the cowboy way; sample real chuckwagon cooking; see and touch artifacts from the trail drives of yesteryear, and meet real cowboys and hear their tales of adventure on the trail. And much more!

If you are age 8 to 12, just write in 150 words or more why you want to join the Chisholm Trail Heritage Museum’s 2012 Cowboy Camp, and it could happen!
The best 25 entries will win entry to the camp which runs from Aug. 6 to 10, Monday – Friday from 9:00 to 12:00 noon.
We meet at the Museum building.
Email or mail entries to CTHM by July 2. Include the following contact information with each essay: Your name and age; parent’s or guardian’s name, address, phone number and email address (if there is email).
Chisholm Trail Heritage Museum, 302 Esplanade, Cuero, Texas 77954 (361) 277-2866 or 275-6136 trailboss@chisholmtrailmuseum.org

Entry deadline extended - call today!