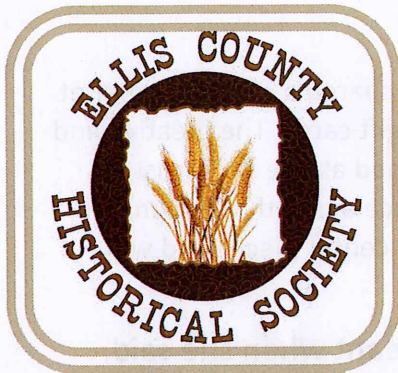


the Homesteader

Mission Statement (Adopted 2018): The Ellis County Historical Society Museum collects, preserves, and exhibits Ellis County History for the surrounding community and its visitors.



2023 ECHS BOARD

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Priscilla Hunt

Vice President

Alex Herman

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Donna Maskus

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Cheryl Stramel

County Liaison

OPEN

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Holly Unrein

Jerry Braun

Norman Clark

Braden Splichal

Greg Atkins

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Marco Macias

Brad Ricke

Linda Glassman

ECHS STAFF

Executive Director

Amanda Rupp

Curator

Adam Conkey

Administrative Assistant

Cynthia Stone

WE HAVE BEEN SO BUSY HOSTING EVENTS AND APPLYING FOR GRANTS THAT OUR WINTER NEWSLETTER IS RUNNING A LITTLE LATE, SHORT AND SWEET. SPRING NEWSLETTER WITH MORE INFO SHOULD BE ON THE PRESS IN THE NEXT COUPLE WEEKS.. STAY TUNED.

Baby it was cold outside! But our hearts were warmed to see those of you who braved the weather to attend our annual meeting on January 30. We felt very much at home in our newly renovated office space. One of the best moments of the meeting was being able to reveal a substantial gift given to us by a founding member who is supporting our efforts and plans. Don Bickle gifted ECHS \$50,000 to be used for capital at our Hays site. We are deeply grateful for his generosity and his confidence in our new direction. Thank you Don!

We distributed our first annual report which summarizes our strategic plan and highlights our many accomplishments in 2022. We pledge, through our strategic plan of action, to continue with our own dedication and best efforts what was brought into existence for us over fifty years ago. We follow the noble tradition of the many who have worked since 1971 for the good of the society. Our efforts are offered in their honor that we may continue to save our past's future.

2022 was a very strong year. We were able to employ two summer interns and one work study student. Through the leadership of Trustee Jerry Braun we have developed new volunteers who are always needed and appreciated. You've read about our work in facilities both in Hays and in Victoria. And all the elbow grease we have expended moving and organizing our treasured artifacts. We are committed to funding and completing ADA improvements which mean our museums will be accessible on all levels.

2023 BOARD OF TRUSTEES

(Back Row From Left)
 Jerry, Lyle, Norman, Braden, Greg, Brad, Marco, (Seated)
 Donna, Priscilla, Alex, Cheryl, Mary Kay



Our volunteer appreciation banquet is back!

We enjoyed time to just relax and visit with volunteers and board members. We shared a meal together at The Venue on February 18th and gave away a few door prizes and center pieces/gift cards. The creative and fun table center pieces were put together by "Jerry's Kids" with items they shopped at The Arc. Trustee Jerry Braun coordinates this group of high school students who come to ECHS once a month to volunteer doing a variety of tasks. We think they enjoyed using their creativity to make the center pieces and we doubt we will ever want center pieces that are not made in this way!

Our volunteers have shown they truly understand what Lily Tomlin meant when she said,

"I always wondered why somebody doesn't do something about that. Then I realized I was somebody."



...Continued from page 1

You will be seeing more of us around town and around the county in 2023 and we build temporary exhibits to display some of our collections. One of our goals includes finding ways to be active in the schools by partnering with teachers to engage students in historic topics and fuel their imaginations for the future.

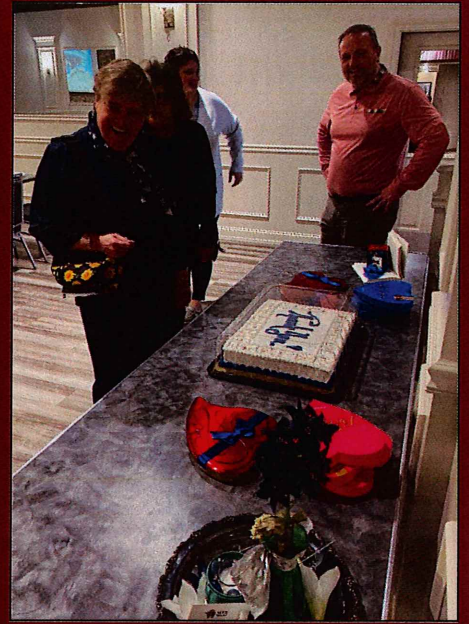
We have enjoyed our scheduled meetings with city and county commissioners to keep them up to date on all our work. Our Executive Director acts as an ambassador for the Chamber. We are meeting with local businesses and groups and growing our visibility and partnership in the community. We want to be more than a static history exhibit. We desire to be an active and vital part of our communities. For the good of all.

Our budgets improved in 2022 through new private donations, grants, and public funding. The grants we will apply for in early 2023 will exceed everything we have done to date. It is an exciting time! We may not always be successful in grant awards... but we pledge to push those funding plows and create opportunities to expand horizons and plant new ventures.

In 2022, you, our members, have shown us your heart for the work we do. We love to hear from you! And we look forward to an even better year in 2023. Please contact us if you would like to receive a copy of our annual report.



ECHS volunteers don't get paid... because you are priceless! We know you don't come for money, or fame, or even for personal gain. You come to lend a helping hand, with a true gift of self.



THANK YOU!



Trivia Night



“The Thinker”

Our traveling trophy will be engraved with the name of the Champions each year and be displayed at a location/business designated by the winners.



With thanks to our teams and volunteers, our first ever Trivia Night put the FUN in fundraiser! We are already planning for next year—bigger and better. We will announce the date soon. We are THANKFUL for all who came to spend the evening with us and made the night a success.

The 2023 WINNERS ARE:

Champions: Besser Wisser

Runners Up: Quizzards of Oz

Best Team Name: Quizzards of Oz

Best Team Spirit: J is for Genius

Winner of Pete Felten Art: Smartinis



Trustee Holly Unrein and her best helper, Amanda Unrein, put on a feast to fuel all of our participants.

THANK YOU EVENT SPONSORS



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STERNBERG MUSEUM
OF NATURAL HISTORY



Brian Ruder



Arthur's Pizza
CanCun
The Library
Chinese Food Express



Pampered Chef/Cecelia Everson -- Grater Whey -- Nextech



CHAMPIONS: Besser Wisser

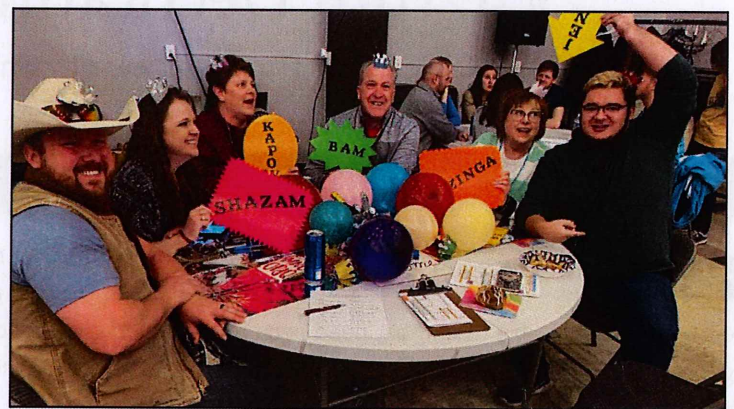
JOIN US
NEXT YEAR!



RUNNERS UP/BEST NAME: Quizzards of Oz



Smartinis



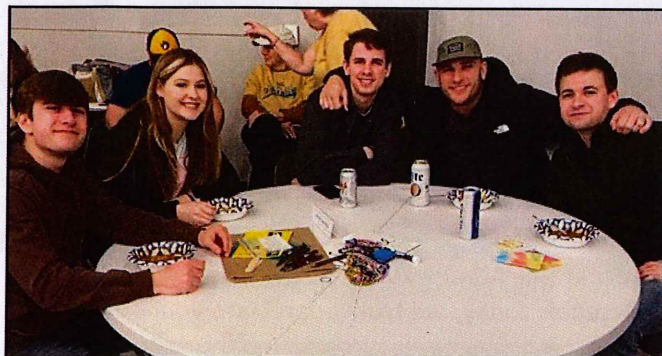
BEST TEAM SPIRIT: J is for Genius



Apple Bottom Geniuses



High Plains Historians

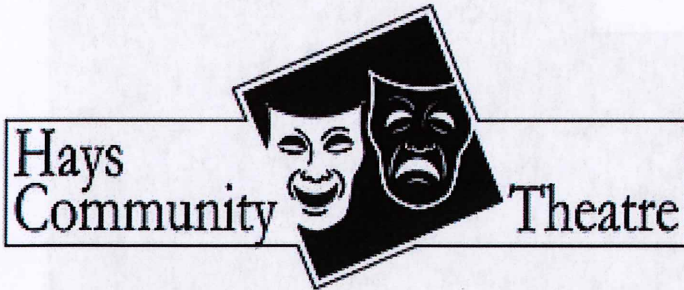


Hooded Dragons



IYKYK

WE ARE GRATEFUL



For hosting our TRIVIA NIGHT.

HAYS PUBLIC LIBRARY

For donating movable shelving units.

TRAVIS GRIZZEL for mowing Boot Hill property during the 2022 summer season.

Vitztum Decorating Center, Inc

For donating the basement office entry step flooring.

For all those who truly understand the value of history.

2023

Capital Donors

As our plans begin to be realized our need for funds increases in correspondence. ECHS is blessed to have growing support throughout the community. Although general operating funds are in most need currently, these capital funds set the timeline and pace for accomplishing our larger goals. Unlike membership and sponsorship dues, these gifts are sometimes a one time donation and the money donated goes directly towards capital improvements, it is not put into our general operating budget.

Robert & Susan Wolf

Ken & Diane Gottschalk

Stan & Joyce Newell

Harold G Family Trust

Robert Pfeifer

Dennis Bieker

Layton & Jerry Kaiser

Darrell & Barbara Werth

Insurance Planning

Cora M Schulte

Timothy & Linda Miller

ECHS Board of Trustees

Melanie Roth

James & Teresa Feyerherm

Jack & Nancey Curtis

Dan & Mary Kay Schippers

UPCOMING *SATURDAY APRIL 29th 10 am to 4 pm*
EVENTS: *Basement 100 w 7th Downtown Hays*

Our sincere condolences:

A long time sponsor and avid supporter of ECHS and his community at large, Stan "Bud" Dalton has passed since our last newsletter.

Would you be so kind and review your expiration date on the back of this issue. We know these are busy days and renewing may have slipped through the cracks. ---Please renew today, we truly appreciate your support.

For recent happenings or exciting news that did not make the newsletter...



THANK YOU — SPONSORS

Sponsorship dues go directly to operating expenses of the society. Staff, utilities, insurances etc. are all an important part of regular business even for a non-profit. ECHS depends on public funding for a large portion of operating expenses but those are subsidized with private donations like memberships. A sponsorship is a membership at a higher level of support.

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Neil and Carolyn Younger

Scout (\$75 to \$99)

Jean Stramel

Stephen & Joanne Tramel

** Big thank you to our recently joined/renewed at higher level sponsors.*

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- BENEFACTOR (\$1,000- \$1499)
- AMBASSADOR (\$1500+)

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 of history.***

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