

PIONEER FARMS GAZETTE.

THE VOICE OF LIVING HISTORY AND PRESERVATION IN THE CAPITAL OF TEXAS, FOUNDED IN 1839.

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AUSTIN, TEXAS, JULY 2011

SPRINKLE CORNER EDITION

NEW FACE FOR THE NORTH SIDE OF OUR SPRINKLE CORNER TOWN SQUARE.



John Mayfield Architects/Pioneer Farms

The conceptual plan for the north side of our town square, incorporating our new Sue and Aubrey Smith Visitors Center and the new exhibits hall is shown at left, with the east face of the new building shown at right. That side will face the Jarmon House, and is designed to look like small village house on a side street off the square.

NEW FACE ON BLOCK.

GROUP OF SMALL SHOPS WITH AN HISTORIC APPEARANCE.

EXHIBITS HALL, VISITORS CENTER NEAR A SUMMER COMPLETION.

Special to the Gazette.

Construction is moving ahead to complete our new Sue and Aubrey Smith Visitors Center and a new exhibits hall on the north side of our town square.

A late-summer completion date is hoped for, just in time for the start of our new program season in September.

While the turreted visitors center is a circa-1895 building that is being restored to a period condition, the exhibits hall is a newer structure that is being adapted to match the scale and period of our Sprinkle Corner entrance village.

The concept is to have a facade that will replicate what would have appeared in a small town in Texas during the 1890s, with a smaller storefront that will match that of our Jackson & Giles General Store.

The east side of the building will feature two segments, the turret as a commercial building and an addition that will appear more like a house — which would have been appropriate just off a town square in a small town, across the street from the historic Jarmon House.

The project is among several now underway to build out Sprinkle Corner.

A FEW SPOTS STILL OPEN IN SUMMER 'CAMP PIONEER.'

HALF-DAY CAMPS LETTING YOUTHS STEP BACK IN TIME TO THE 1800s IN TEXAS.

Special to the Gazette.

Exciting new history-based summer camps for children at Pioneer Farms have just a few spots left open this month.

In a partnership with Pioneer Farms, Kidventure are holding Camp Pioneer — half-day camps that will provide an incredible opportunity for children to step back in time to Texas during the 1800s.

Two different camps are offered: Explorers, for boys and girls ages 6-8 (entering first grade in fall 2011), and Adventurers, for children ages 9-13.

The camps are unique in the Austin area.

There is a different historical theme for each week of the camps: June 27-July 1, Wild Life and Wild Times, and July 11-15, The Farming Life.

Enroll now at Kidventure.com.



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Pioneer Farms is a property of the Heritage Society of Austin.



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Costumed militia members march into Sprinkle Corner.



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Militia members stand at ease as the ceremonies begin.



Michael Ward

Militia officers accept a flag as they prepare to leave.



Pioneer Farms

Ladies in 1861 dresses wave to the Texas militiamen.

'DAY IN 1861' BIG SUCCESS; MORE EVENTS PLANNED.

VISITORS HAD A FIRST-PERSON VIEW OF TEXAS' ENTRY INTO CIVIL WAR.

Special to the Gazette.

A special first-person reenactment event demonstrating how Texans formed militias to go off and fight for the Confederacy 150 years ago was a great success on Saturday and Sunday, May 21-22.

"Into the Fray, 1861" featured a depiction of what was occurring across the Lone Star State after Texas seceded, as the Civil War was just beginning, with people dressed in period costumes portraying period roles such as town doctor, lawyer, businessman and farmers.

The re-enactors came from across Texas, and stayed at Pioneer Farms for the weekend in a period-appropriate camp. They also set up an 1861 saloon in one side of our Tate House.

On Saturday, there were speeches about the War of Northern Aggression, and militia commanders began forming men up into companies to go fight the war.

On Sunday, there was a march and flag ceremony at Sprinkle Corner plus a show about a Confederate spy.

Susanna Gonzales, who brought her three children and relatives to watch, summed up the sentiment of visitors:

"It was just like we were there in 1861. It's so much different to see history in person, more than just reading about it in a book."

The reenactment group has agreed to come back and do more first-person shows.



Biscuit Brothers

The Biscuit Brothers new "Magical Farm" CD.

BISCUIT BROTHERS DEBUT NEW COMPACT DISC SHOT AT FARMS.

Special to the Gazette.

The Emmy Award-winning Biscuit Brothers children's music duo, who film their hit PBS television show at Pioneer Farms, are debuting a new CD in July.

The release party for "Magical Farm" will be Sunday, July 10, at Central Market at 4001 N. Lamar Blvd. in Austin.

SPECIAL ADMISSION DEALS FOR JULY.

See Page 2

INDEPENDENCE.



AmericanArchives.com

Uncle Sam is a 19th Century patriotic character.

HISTORIC FLAG DISPLAY, WAGON RIDES, MUSIC SET FOR JULY FEST.

STAR-SPANGLED ACTIVITIES PROVIDE OLD-FASHIONED FAMILY FUN AT JULY 2 SPRINKLE EVENT.

Special to the Gazette.

During the 1800s, Independence Day was a time for fun and patriotism. The same will be true on Saturday, July 2, at our star-spangled, old-fashioned Fourth of July celebration.

The fun-packed event has an all-day schedule: 10 a.m. to 5 p.m.

The event will feature live music from Lohman's Crossing and the Seikers, a display of historical independence flags, red-white-and-blue historical reenactments at our historical sites, including jam and jelly making, and more.

A horse-drawn wagon will take visitors around the museum grounds from 10-3, just like in the 1800s. And there will be farm animals for kids to see.

At our Sprinkle Corner village, independence flags will be on display. In addition, there will be old-fashioned games for the kids and food. A reading of the Declaration of Independence will entertain.

Admission is \$8 for adults and \$6 for all kids over age 2 — an old-fashioned bargain.

For more details, see PioneerFarms.org.

A NEW LONGHORN EXHIBIT DEBUTS AT SPRINKLE.

RESTORED NATIVE TALLGRASS PASTURE TO BE FOCAL POINT OF LIVING DISPLAY.

Special to the Gazette.

Longhorn cattle are returning to a section of the historic Blackland Prairie in a new exhibit at Pioneer Farms, free to roam just like they did 130 years ago.

Thanks to the efforts of Eagle Scout candidate Justin Couture of Austin's Boy Scout Troop 3, our longhorn herd is moving just south of Sprinkle Corner.

Pioneer Farms is located on one route that the famous Chisholm Trail took in the early 1870s, between the San Antonio area and railheads in Kansas.

The cows have been on display at our 1880s Cotton Planter's Farm awaiting completion of the new exhibit site that will enhance our learning programs for schools and other visitors.

A Hearty Pioneer Thanks Goes Out to Stella Behrens

Proud sponsor of this month's Pioneer Farms Gazette.

If you'd like to sponsor a month for \$200, please call 837.1215.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR.

CIVIL WAR SHOW GREAT.

The Civil War Show you presented (May 20-21) was amazing. It made us feel it was really in 1861, and we were watching the Texas soldiers marching off to fight the North.

— James Casey
Austin

BACK TO 1861.

The “Into the Fray” reenactment about the Civil War on May 20 was an amazing show. Please do more of these programs.

— Jaycee and Thomas Hite
Austin

YOU ROCK.

We thoroughly enjoyed our visit, and wanted to tell you how much we thought of your museum and the volunteers. You have created a magical place. Keep up the good work.

— Charmaine Bellacosa
Bee Cave

BLACKSMITH KUDOS.

Your Blacksmith Shop was a great stop on our recent tour. The blacksmiths that were working that day were friendly and most helpful in allowing us to understand the history of this trade.

— Will Peterson
Pflugerville

TOWN MUCH BETTER.

Sprinkle Corner is coming right along, much improved. Congratulations on all the fine work you’re doing.

— Bill Brewster
Austin

GREAT JOB.

You are doing a great job at preserving Texas history. You’ve come a long way in eight years. Keep up the good work.

— Tara Sanguenetti
Austin

ABOUT PIONEER FARMS.

Texas Ranger Lt. James O. Rice, an original Austin settler, laid claim to 1,280 acres at the northward crossing of Walnut Creek in the fall of 1844 — including the site of Pioneer Farms. Eight years later, in 1852, Frederick and Harriet B. Jourdan settled on the site with eight children, and eventually amassed a 2,000-acre farm. In 1956, the Jourdan grandchildren, Laura and Eugene Giles, donated the core of their grandparents’ property to the Heritage Society of Austin for a park to honor early-day settlers. Staffed solely by volunteers, our living history museum is managed by a Board of Governors that oversees operations.

Pioneer Farms is a registered Austin Landmark, a designated Austin Heritage Tourism Site, an official Heritage Travel Destination of the National Trust for Historic Preservation and a Texas Historical Commission Hill Country Heritage Site.



Follow us at keywords: Pioneer Farms and @pioneerfarms.

CONTACT US

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PIONEER FARMS GAZETTE.

The Pioneer Farms Gazette is published monthly as the official newsletter of the Jourdan-Bachman Pioneer Farms. Deadlines are two weeks before the first of each month, for inclusion in the next issue. All correspondence, changes of address and news items should be sent to: Pioneer Farms Gazette, 10621 Pioneer Farms Drive, Austin TX 78754 or PioneerFarmsAustin@gmail.com.

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Pioneer Farms

New Longhorn exhibit will be open in July.

5 GREAT WAYS TO GET DISCOUNT FAMILY GATE ADMISSIONS.

WORSHIPERS, MILITARY FAMILIES, BIRTHDAY VISITORS, CONVENTIONEERS GET DEALS.

Special to the Gazette.

During July, you’ll be able to get into Pioneer Farms on Sundays for \$5 apiece — if you bring your worship bulletin or program from a religious service.

Or, if you’re active duty military and show your ID.

Or if you’re in town for a convention, and show your convention badge.

We want to encourage present-day families to do the same thing as their ancestors on the Blackland Prairie did during the 1800s — spend a leisurely afternoon together.

GIFTS FUND NEW RESEARCH LIBRARY FOR JANET LONG FISH COLLECTION.

Special to the Gazette.

To assist with our ongoing project to preserve and display the amazing Janet Long Fish Collection of wagons, carriages and buggies, we have received funding for part of a new conservation and research library on horse-drawn vehicles and 1800s transport.

Many thanks to Jim Brentwood of San Marcos and Tina Barton of Austin for being the initial donors for this new library.

The reference books and conservation guides will be used in the development of this important new historical exhibit that is expected to open later this summer.

NEW EXHIBIT SPACES SET TO OPEN; LIKE TO HELP US SET THEM UP?

Special to the Gazette.

New exhibit spaces are to open soon in the Tate House and the Visitors Center, and we’re looking for volunteers willing to help us set up the display.

The work will take about four hours, and you can help preserve Texas history.

If you’re interested, please send us an e-mail at farminfo@pioneerfarms.org.



Pioneer Farms

1880s Hansen wagon has been popular at events.

HORSES A HIT, SPONSORS SOUGHT.

Special to the Gazette.

Visitors to our Valentine’s Day event thought it was great to see horses pulling wagons at Pioneer Farms, just like in the 1800s.

If we can find sponsors willing to cover the cost, we could have a horse-drawn transportation at other events this year. If you’d like to sponsor wagon, call Gene at 963.5623.

Demonstrations of working horses have been one of the most requested programs.

EGGS

NATURAL, FREE RANGE, UNGRADED.
\$3.00 A DOZEN
ON SALE NOW!

JACKSON & GILES
GENERAL STORE
PIONEER FARMS

Open Fridays, Saturdays & Sundays 10-5.

DOCENTS FOR GUIDED TOURS AMONG NEW VOLUNTEERING OPTIONS TO SIGN UP FOR.

HELP WITH OUR GROWING PROGRAMS.

Special to the Gazette.

Thanks to growing demand for our programs, several new volunteer openings are available.

Included are docents to take visitors on guided tours, and apprentices in our blacksmith and woodworking shops.

See something on the following list you’re interested in doing or learning more about? E-mail us at farminfo@pioneerfarms.org.

We have flexible assignments to fit your schedule, and we have a program that awards volunteers with gift cards based on hours worked.

Alternate Fridays 10-5

General Store Sales Clerk
Bell House Interpreter
Blacksmith Apprentice
Wood Shop Carpenter Apprentice
Tonkawa Site Interpreter

Alternate Saturdays 10-5

General Store Sales Clerk
Bell House Interpreter
Kruger Cabin Interpreter
Tonkawa Site Interpreter
Guided Tour Docent

Alternate Sundays 10-5

Bell House Interpreter
Jourdan House Interpreter
Scarborough Barn Interpreter
Tonkawa Site Guide
Guided Tour Docent

Occasional General Help

Office Assistant, Pickup Phone Messages
Stuff and Mail Envelopes
Scout Program Instructor
Pioneer School Registrar
Marketing & Visitor Services Assistant

PIONEER SCHOOL CLASSES IN JULY NOW ENROLLING



Blacksmithing

(Basic and Advanced Classes)
July 2-3, (2 sessions, 10-3 each day), \$100

Knifemaking

July 16-17, (2 sessions, 10-3 each day), \$150

Hand-Tool Woodworking

July 10 (1-5), \$50

Shaving Horses

July 10, (1-5), \$40

Knitting: The Basics

July 10 (1-5), \$40

Cheesemaking

July 9 (10-3), \$40

Sharpening & Honing

July 25 (1-5), \$40

FULL CLASS SCHEDULE

At PioneerFarms.org

Sessions are held at times shown above.
Enrollment required at least one week before class.

Some classes receive course credits at Austin Community College. To receive course credit, you must enroll through ACC at AustinCC.edu

Enroll at PioneerFarms.org
Or AustinCC.edu

Call 837.1215 for a printed class schedule via U.S. Mail.

WALNUT CREEK CHRONICLES.

QUICK UPDATES ABOUT GOINGS-ON.

CUTE ARRIVAL: A baby donkey was both May 28 at out 1870s Texian Farm, a surprise to everyone except mom. Mother and baby are doing fine. The baby has been adopted by volunteer Shelley Hanley. . .



Paul Walker

Our newest arrival, a baby donkey, stands with mom.

WELCOME NEW FOLKS: Three new volunteers have joined Pioneer Farms in the past month. Help us welcome one and all: Fran Pharr, a General Store clerk; Dina Califerno, our new administrative intern, and Mark Schoenike, a costumed interpreter. . .

ELLE FEATURE: International fashion magazine Elle plans to feature Pioneer Farms in an upcoming issue, the latest national publicity for Central Texas’ premier living history museum. . .

WISDOM CIRCLE: A special panel of advisors called the Wisdom Circle reviewed our operations in late April and suggested how to optimize future opportunities. Many thanks to Ray Brimble, CEO of Lynxs Group; Greg Weaver, president of Catellus Real Estate Development Corp.; Mike Blair, owner, WholeLife Films; Clayton Johnson, president, Tribe Consulting; Alicia Kriese, President, Perspectives; Armando Rayo, president, Cultural Strategies; Paul Saper, president, Amplify Capital; Mark Shilling, Shilling Public Affairs; Luis Uranga, former Minister of Tourism, Mexico, and David Wieland, president, DAW Capital. . .

MODERN PRIVVIES: Long-awaited restrooms in our Sprinkle Corner entrance village are now open for business. The toilets are located behind the General Store. . .

CONDOLENCES: Donna Cunningham’s mother-in-law, Nelin Smith, passed away unexpectedly earlier this month. Donna is lead interpreter at our 1880s Cotton Planter’s Farm. . . Albert Anthony Pinelli Sr., father of Joe Pinelli, former president of the Heritage Society of Austin and a longtime supporter of Pioneer Farms, died in May. Our thoughts and prayers are with both families. . .

EAGLE HELP NEEDED: We have several Eagle Scout projects lined up and ready to go, but the Boy Scouts need help with funding them. Opportunities range from \$100 to \$500. If you’d like to help, please call Celeste at 658.8961. . .

Star-Spangled Specials!

SUMMER GRILLING SPECIALS



GRILL DAD SPECTACULAR CHICKEN OR STEAK USING OUR J.R. WATKINS & CO. NATURAL SPICES, SAUCES.
Get \$1 off any purchase over \$10,
\$2 off any purchase over \$20.
Offer good through July 30.

JACKSON & GILES
GENERAL STORE
PIONEER FARMS
Open Fridays, Saturdays & Sundays 10-5.