

# Media Release

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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## **Family Fun Day Celebrates Lea County Centennial**

**Saturday, March 11 at the Western Heritage Museum & Lea County Cowboy Hall of Fame**

(Hobbs) The Western Heritage Museum and Lea County Cowboy Hall of Fame will help kickoff the Lea County Centennial Celebration with a free Family Fun Day, Saturday, March 11<sup>th</sup> from 10am – 5pm. Several events are scheduled for people of all ages.

Visitors are encouraged to bring their Lea County branding iron, to have it branded on a special wood wall that was constructed outside the museum. Board members from the Lea Cowboy Hall of Fame will be on hand from 10am - 3pm to heat the brand and burn them into the wood.

“We want all the brands from ranches over the last 100 years to be on the wall,” said Darrell Beauchamp, executive director of the museum and hall of fame. “It’s important to understand that ranching played an integral role in Lea County history. We want to showcase the various ranches through their brands, and hopefully learn more about the story of these ranches.”

The museum will also be collecting oral histories from 10 - 5pm. People can sit in front of a camera and talk about their family history in Lea County, to be saved in the museum’s archives.

Children’s crafts will be available from 10am - 2pm, including their own wooden brand, a tattoo brand, and creating clay dinosaurs. The exhibit “Dinosaur Discoveries” will be free for the day for families to explore. In addition, the museum will serve free hot dogs while they last. And a giant map of New Mexico will be in the theater for families to walk on, and learn about mapping.

At 4pm, the Pony Express will arrive from Eunice on its final journey into Hobbs. Lea County and City of Hobbs dignitaries will be on hand to welcome the cowboys as they arrive on horseback. The Pony Express started Thursday March 9<sup>th</sup> from the Texas state line to Jal; then continued Friday March 10<sup>th</sup> from Jal to Eunice. On March 11<sup>th</sup>, they are riding from Eunice to

Monument (where they will have lunch), then into Hobbs and the Western Heritage Museum, where a barbeque dinner awaits them.

“We are very proud to celebrate the 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary of Lea County at the museum,” states Beauchamp. “We hope everyone in the community comes out for this all-day free event.”

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