



City of Denison

NEWS RELEASE

For Immediate Release

April 24, 2023

City of Denison Hosts Annual Doc Holliday Saints and Sinners Festival

Denison, Texas (April 24th, 2023) – The City of Denison is excited to host our annual Doc Holliday Saints and Sinners Festival on Saturday, April 29th, 2023, from 9 a.m. - 5 p.m. in Downtown Denison. The 2nd annual Bandits, Bluegrass, and Barbecue event will kick-off the weekend Friday evening, and celebrations will continue Saturday with free fun for the entire family!

This year the festival will include a petting zoo and pony rides for five dollars each in the Katy Park in front of the Katy Depot. The city also encourages you to visit the Red River Railroad Museum at 124 W. Main (donations accepted). As you move up the street, patron the successful businesses Downtown Denison has to offer. You'll see some familiar faces and some new ones too!

At Heritage Park, the Heroes of the Old West are the most popular attraction with gunfights at 10:30 a.m., 1:30 p.m., and 4:30 p.m. They'll be there the rest of the day for photos and to visit with visitors. Burton Gilliam of Blazing Saddles will be joining them throughout the day.

A selection of live music will be on the main stage with Ann House, Tim Rogers, Rust and Lace, Salt Creek Bluegrass Band, Frontier Brigade Band, The Lindsey Family, Sweet Song String Band, and the Red River Valley Dulcimer Club. The Tribal Evolution Belly Dancers will perform their vaudeville steampunk show. A best dressed contest will be held at 1 p.m. before the beard and mustache contest.

In the 500 block of Main Street, you will be able to experience a variety of vendors and food. The Red River Valley Dulcimer Club will be playing throughout the day. The Denison Arts Council will have their 517 Gallery open with an art show and from 1-3 p.m. they will feature ghost stories, poetry, and music by Blue GrassFire. Across the street in the Senior Center, there will be artists, makers, and crafters with demonstrations and sales. Some of the demonstrations will include quilting, painting, woodcarving, ink making, fiber arts, ceramics, and a luthier. There will also be children's activities and genealogy research by the Preston Trail Chapter of the NSDAR.

Just up the street at the 700 block of Main Street, there will be an old west encampment with special guests Dale and his horse Penny and music by Rickey Pittman and Jeff Coleman. Kids activities will feature panning for gold, kid roping, and horseshoe throwing. Rev. Ron Weston Smith will have a camp meeting for all the saints and sinners at 3:30 p.m. The Downtown Denison Farmers Market will be there all day for their season opener.

A parade will be held at 2 p.m. and many of the characters throughout the day will appear in horse drawn carriages. The carriages and wagons will be shuttling people up and down Main Street for free the rest of the day (except for during the gunfights!)

Other activities will feature a car show in the morning on Fannin next to the event. The Studebaker Museum will be open all day. And St. Luke's Episcopal Church will be celebrating 150 years with an open house from 9 a.m. - 1 p.m. You are invited to tour the church with the original interior from Doc's days.

On Friday night, Bandits, Bluegrass, and BBQ festival will be held in Heritage Park from 6-9 p.m. You can enjoy live bluegrass bands, BBQ sales, and photo opportunities with old west reenactors. The event is a fundraiser for the Boys and Girls Club of Denison. We encourage you to come show your support! This event is free to the public. The live bluegrass music features: The Western Flyers and Hot Pickin 57's.

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Media Contact:

Emily Agans

903-465-2422 ext. 2030

eagans@cityofdenison.com