

# Special Events Around East Texas

## Cherokee Civic

### Theater

Rusk, Texas  
2007-2008 Season Opens

October 12, 13, 19 & 20 at 7:30PM  
October 14 & 21 At 2:00pm  
with live performance

### Seussical

Ticket Window opens 10-2:00pm M-F  
or call to reserve your tickets at  
(903) 683-2131

Begins September 27, 2007  
Grapeland, Texas **The Peanut Festival: A Family Affair**  
Not only is the Peanut Festival like an old friend... one could go further and say it's like a member of the family.

Looking at the list of past queens, it is obvious that winning the queen's crown runs in some families. Among the former winners there are four sets of mother daughters, three sets of sisters and numerous cousins.

Frankie Lois Richardson Pennington was the first queen and the first former queen to see her daughter win the crown. Charm Pennington, now Mrs. Mark Pierce of Tyler, was queen of the 28th Peanut Festival in 1974. Linda Jones Skidmore of Grapeland, 1956 queen, saw her daughter, Marsha Skidmore Cook, win the title in 1978.

## HISTORIC US 80 HI-WAY SALES AND FALL ROAD CRUISE BACK FOR THE 6TH YEAR BY POPULAR DEMAND

3rd Weekend  
in OCTOBER!  
OCT. 19, 20, 21, 2007

The Historic US 80 Hi-Way Sale will begin at 8 a.m. daily on Oct. 19, 20, and 21, 2007 and should draw crowds from far and wide looking for a bargain. For more info, contact ETTA at office@etta.com. The event will be held in conjunction with fall auto cruises, with motorists encouraged to hit the highway in their vintage and not-so-vintage vehicles. ETTA's Tucker Conley is in charge of the cruises, and can be reached at tucker@etta.com. The first sale, stretching more than 200 miles, was basically a free-for-all. Previous sales, despite rain, have drawn large crowds of shoppers and vendors, and auto rallies. Calls have been coming in from a wide area asking about this year's sale. Chambers of Commerce along the route are again encouraged to recruit vendors for crafts, household items, antiques, candy, water, and anything else-up to and including the kitchen sink-to set up booths along Highway 80. The interest is in-

or information or visit <http://www.us80.com/> to get a local contact number.

The event is part of ETTA's 15-year effort to draw attention to the byways of its region. Each city along the U. S. 80 route will be responsible for its part in each upcoming Hi-Way Sale.

U.S. 80 was designated in 1926 and was the nation's first transcontinental highway in the Southern states. It ran more than 2,700 miles from the Atlantic Ocean in Georgia to the Pacific Ocean in California. Just like Route 66, ETTA wants to increase the awareness and appreciation of Highway 80, coast to coast. They want people to cruise it, and write stories and songs about our own 'mother road'.

What ETTA is trying to do is push forward the preservation of this highway - its roadside architecture, the old 'mom and pop' motels and service stations and all the things that relate to the 30s and 40s and 50s, as well as little remaining sections of the original road. We're trying to jog people's memories. It really is a national treasure that's been overlooked and gradually forgotten since the interstate was created.

News of the sale is spreading among antique car, motorcycle, RV clubs and flea market enthusiasts. While shoppers will be searching for great deals, cities along the route hope they find the highway's more permanent treasures, such as bed and breakfasts, motels, restaurants, and historical sites. The traffic on Interstate 20 is almost 40,000 vehicles per day. Along US 80, it's just about 3 to 4,000 per day. And there are no historic markers on interstate highways. ETTA's goal in promoting tourism is to get more people off the interstate, slow down, and spend more time and money in East Texas.

## Thomas The Tank Engine Is Scheduled to Arrive In Rusk

Thomas the Tank Engine, popular children's character, is scheduled to be at the Rusk Train Depot October 19th, 20th, 21st and October 26th, 27th and 28th bringing with it an estimated 20,000 people. Those interested in purchasing tickets for the event should call the Rusk Chamber of Commerce at (903) 683-4242.

## Rusk Chamber Needs Volunteers for Thomas the Tank runs

The Rusk Chamber is recruiting volunteers from Rusk and the surrounding for the last two weekends in October. A total of 90 volunteers are needed for each weekend. Those who help with the Thomas The Tank event will receive one free ticket for every four hours volunteered.

Volunteers will be responsible for helping riders board the train, lineup for different events and just keep safe. Contact Connie Brown to volunteer or purchase tickets at (903) 683-4242 or [www.thomasandfriends.com](http://www.thomasandfriends.com).



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