Commissioner Steve Radack and his staff wish you a Happy Valentine’s Day and a memorable Presidents’ Day. We invite you to visit the park and museums and learn more about the local history of the Cypress area.

The Red Hat Ladies visited Cypress Top this month, touring several of the buildings. This club is composed primarily of retired teachers and they seemed to enjoy every aspect of each building. They first visited the store and were keenly interested in the old antique jewelry case, where there is some early twentieth-century costume jewelry. They also enjoyed perusing the catalogue from which Mr. Juergen ordered his inventory.

They toured the Juergen House, the Little Blue Building, which once was the retirement apartment of a vaudevillian actor known as Blondie Kerr, and the 1956 Humble Service Station. The group concluded their tour in the Depot where Cypress Historical Society volunteers filled them in on local school history—a topic truly dear to their hearts.
The January **History Bus Trip** went to the Bell County Museum in Belton. Fascinating exhibits there included *Passport Through Time*, which explores Bell County history encompassing the cities of Belton and Temple, as well as *The Gault Site*, which examines archaeological work ongoing throughout the central Texas region. Humans have occupied the Gault site, on the southern edge of Bell County, for over 13,000 years, making it home to some of the earliest peoples of Texas.

The museum housed an excellent exhibit on Texas history and its outside exhibits included the Little River log cabin, which dates to the 1850s, and the Chisholm Trail Monument by sculptor Troy Kelley. *Up the Chisholm Trail* consists of 17 bronze panels, three longhorns, barbed wire, and a Texas star that represent various aspects of the history of the trail.
The museum offered a special traveling exhibit entitled *Dance Theatre of Harlem: 40 Years of Firsts*. This exhibit highlights the many accomplishments of African Americans and other minorities who dared to overcome social norms and prejudices to pursue their passion and pave the way for future generations of world-class dancers.

Participants enjoyed lunch at the old co-op gin, sited right alongside Nolan Creek. This historic structure, built in 1927, is one of only two gins built of brick in the entire state of Texas. The group dined on what had at one time been the bale press platform. After falling into disrepair in the early 2000s, the co-op gin complex is enjoying a new life as a restaurant and shopping complex.

**Signing Up for Senior History Bus Trips (Must be at least 50 years old to go on these trips)**

Future trips: There are now waitlist for the: **February 16** to the Danish Heritage Preservation Society Museum Complex in Danevang and **March 16** to the Texas Cotton Gin Museum in Burton and Chappell Hill Museum in Chappell Hill. You may now sign up for the **May 18** trip, destination to be determined. Sign up for future trips by emailing cypresstop@pct3.com or calling (281) 357-5324. You may only sign up yourself plus one friend/spouse. No multiple reservations. You will get a confirmation e-mail a week before the trip if you have a seat.
Cypress Top Historic Park is open seven days a week from dawn to dusk. The buildings are now open Tuesdays through Thursdays from 8 a.m. until 4 p.m. Formal tours of the museum complex led by CHS volunteers begin from Juergen’s Store at 10:30 a.m. and 1:30 p.m. each Tuesday. However, we are happy to have you visit the store anytime while we are there to give you an impromptu tour of any of the buildings. **Group (6 or more) tours may be booked Tuesdays through Saturdays between 9 a.m. and 4 p.m.** Group tours are subject to staff availability, so we recommend you make reservations at least one month in advance. The park and museum buildings are open to all and, as with all events offered at Cypress Top Historic Park, **admissions and tours are free.**

Juergen’s Hall is a community center. It offers many activities and classes for all ages. Please check the Precinct Three website at [www.pct3.com](http://www.pct3.com) for hours of operation and offerings of Juergen’s Hall Community Center.

Members of the Cypress Historical Society are in the Cypress Train Depot (bright yellow building) at Cypress Top Historic Park every Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. and also on the third Saturday of the month from noon to 3 p.m. They have a great deal of genealogy information on most early Cypress area families. Drop in and visit them when you are in the area.

The February and March calendars can be found on the Precinct 3 web site. [www.pct3.com](http://www.pct3.com) There is a link from the park web page as well.