

The Bandera PROPHEET

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Cowboy Mardi Gras event set for this weekend; state has yet to approve parade

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The Bandera Prophet

Plans are underway for a busy weekend in the City of Bandera as Cowboy Mardi Gras approaches. Activities include live music, an arts and crafts show, a gumbo cookoff, a rodeo, and maybe, a parade. Though the city Marshal's Office and other agencies are preparing for the Saturday parade to go on at noon, the state has yet to give its final approval. Marshal Will Dietrich said if the green light is not given by Friday, the parade will not take place.

Dietrich said city ordinance requires all parade applications to be turned in at least 45 days prior to the event. He said his office received the Cowboy Mardi Gras Feb. 6 parade application on Jan. 11.

"TxDOT (the Texas Department of Transportation) has to give the city permission to close the state highway," Dietrich said.

In addition to orchestrating the road closure, Dietrich said organizing a parade is a lengthy and time-consuming process. He said he has to have the promise of cooperation from county and state law enforcement to help coordinate and control traffic. In past years, the Mardi Gras parade has brought in more than 10,000 people, and this year may be no exception.

As of today, TxDOT has not responded to the city's permit request. Without an explicit yes, Dietrich said, the answer is no.

"We're preparing for the contingency that it's going to happen," Dietrich said, adding city officers, deputies with the Sheriff's Office and state troopers are all essentially on call until the 11th hour.

In the meantime, confirmed Mardi Gras events include the following:

Friday - Feb. 5

11th Street Cowboy Bar

6 p.m. - Chubby Carrier & The Bayou Swamp Band

9 p.m. - Jeff Woolsey & The Dance Hall Kings

Saturday - Feb. 6

11th Street

8 a.m. - World Championship Gumbo Cook Off

1 p.m. - Nathan & The Zydeco Cha Cha's

2:30 p.m. - Costume & Bling Boot Contest

3:30 p.m. - Nathan & The Zydeco Cha Cha's

5 p.m. - World Championship Gumbo Cook Off Awards

6 p.m. - Wayne Toups - CMA Award winning entertainer

9:30 p.m. - Kin Faux

Cowboy Mardi Gras Bull Riding/Mini Bull Riding

Mansfield Park

3 p.m. - Gates Open

5 p.m. - Bull Riding Begins