

# TAPS throws Party at the Dome

## Event tribute to organizer Sue Farrell and singer Jimmy Buffett

Thursday, September 28, 2006

**BY VALARI HYATT**

OF THE JOURNAL STAR

**PEKIN** - Parrot heads and other animal lovers can eat cheeseburgers in paradise, sip margaritas, and sing along with a Jimmy Buffett tribute band at Tazewell Animal Protective Society's Party at the Dome.

The animal shelter benefit party will be Oct. 7 at the Dragon's Dome, 3401 Griffin Ave.

The party isn't just a fundrasier or a tribute to Jimmy Buffett. It's a tribute to Sue Farrell, who was a member of TAPS Board of Directors and had organized the dome party prior to being killed in a car accident in July.

"Sue Farrell had a heart of gold and worked tirelessly for TAPS. For years, she volunteered with her daughter walking dogs and supporting their fundraising events with time, support and funding. Her love for animals was surpassed by no one," said Sue Kyle, TAPS capital campaign chairwoman.

A self-professed parrot head, Farrell had dreamed of hosting one big beach party at the dome, complete with performances by the Boat Drunks, a well-known Buffett tribute band that she had seen and liked.

"Right before her death, she was already making plans for this fund-raising event. She had talked to them, booked them, had it all set up," Kyle said.

Local band Gypsy Road will open for the Boat Drunks, who will play Buffet's ballads and some of their own. According to the Boat Drunks manager, Todd Lindsey, Farrell worked with lead singer Jake Tatar to book the gig before her death.

"The Boat Drunks do several fundraisers throughout the year and are happy to help out TAPS in any way they can," Lindsey said.

Besides the bands, there will be 50/50 drawings, an auction of two gourmet cakes, and mechanical bull rides. There also will be limbo contests for adults and children.

Heavenly Delights will sell food. Margaritas, wine coolers, beer, water, and soft drinks will be sold as well.

Though the party will help support the shelter's daily expenses, it's also wrapping up a capital campaign to help fund a new facility.

"We have raised \$375,000 to date to build our new shelter and adoption center, and we're still receiving much needed donations as we speak," Kyle said. "Along with monetary support, we have been blessed with in-kind donations from tradesmen, individuals and businesses with help in the construction and finishing of the new building. We are truly very lucky."

The shelter is projected to be completed in a few weeks.

"We're close to completion, and we're planning an open house to introduce and show off our new facility in mid-October," Kyle said.

Valari Hyatt can be reached at 346-6188 or [valari.hyatt@insightbb.com](mailto:valari.hyatt@insightbb.com).

---

**Click here and receive 4 weekends of the Journal Star home delivered absolutely FREE!**