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The Strawn Advocate

The Community's Local News Source

VOL. 1. ISSUE 1

DECEMBER, 2012



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Jingle Bells Are Comin' To Town!

The Strawn Chamber of Commerce is sponsoring "A Hometown Christmas" event on Friday, December 7, 2012.

The festivities will begin at 6 p.m. with the lighting of the buildings in downtown Strawn followed by a Holiday Parade through downtown. The parade will end at Memorial Park where Santa will arrive for the lighting of the Christmas tree. Photo opportunities will be offered for a small fee.

Immediately following the parade and lighting of the Christmas tree, the Chamber will host a Chili Supper at the Community Pavilion next to City Hall. Ticket prices will be \$5.00 for ages 12 and under and \$7.00 for adults. The dinner will include chili and all the fixings, cornbread, drink and dessert. Home

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Dolly Kostiha in her ever-familiar spot at Lovera's Grocery where she greeted customers, answered the phone, and managed the daily operations of the business.

Welcome to the Advocate's Inaugural Edition!

The Strawn Chamber of Commerce proudly presents the first edition of the *Strawn Advocate*. It is our intention to publish the *Advocate* monthly to keep readers informed of what's happening within the community, the Chamber of Commerce, and the future Palo Pinto Mountains State Park.

The Chamber would like to dedicate this first edition of the *Strawn Advocate* to Dolly Kostiha. Sadly, Dolly passed away on September

10, 2012 but for 50+ years, Dolly and the ladies of Lovera's Grocery were the unofficial source of news in Strawn. If there was a birth or death, if someone was hospitalized or if there was someone in need, Lovera's was the place you would learn the news.

Dolly and the ladies of Lovera's were always there to coordinate food for the families who had lost a loved one. Dolly and her husband Walter were generous

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New Chamber Organized To Promote Strawn

Recognizing that the future Palo Pinto Mountains State Park is a huge opportunity for Strawn, a Chamber of Commerce has been officially established and organized.

A small group of townspeople first met in June to discuss starting some sort of antique/crafts festival, similar to Canton's First Monday Trade Days or Blanco's Market Days. After that first discussion, however, it quickly became apparent that to sustain an annual event, a non-City entity was needed to help organize, market, and promote the festival. When looking at small towns that had successful events, every town, without exception, had a strong Chamber of Commerce that not only developed and promoted events but interacted with the local businesses, the City Government and the Community to support existing businesses, attract new businesses, and improve the quality of life of their town.

continued on page 6

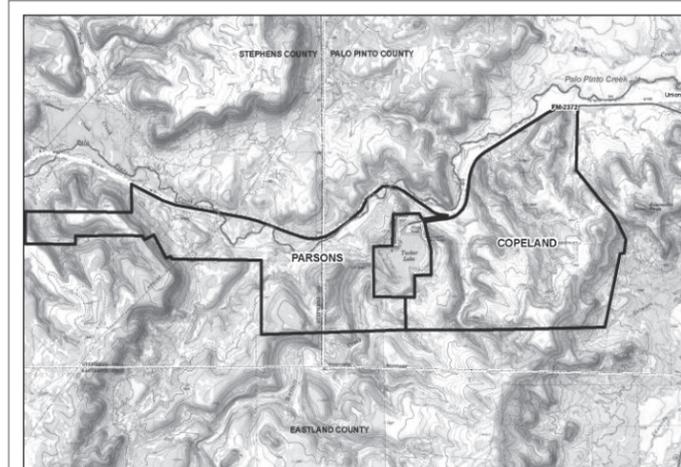
W. H. HINKSON
RANCH
Congratulations to the
new Strawn Chamber

1st We Support Strawn!
First National Bank
of Albany/Breckenridge
Strawn Branch

CRAWFORD RANCH
Congratulations to the
Strawn
Chamber of Commerce

Palo Pinto Mountain State Park Coming to Strawn

With the announcement late last year that Texas Parks & Wildlife Department had purchased land just west of Strawn for the future Palo Pinto Mountains State Park, it has become increasingly apparent that Strawn has won the elusive lottery ticket that most small towns only dream of. Once the park is fully functional (8 to 10 years), it will draw between 100,000 to 200,000 visitors to the area annually. What's unique about this State Park and in particular, Strawn, is that all of those tourists will need



Palo Pinto Mountain State Park consists of almost 4,000 acres of land in the southwest corner of Palo Pinto County and extending into the southeast corner of Stephens County. The nearest town to the park is the picturesque community of Strawn, which will serve as the gateway to the park.

to go through the city both coming and going.

While no definite opening date has yet been established, the Palo Pinto Mountains State Park is tentatively scheduled to open its gates to visitors in 2018. New Park Superintendent John Ferguson moved his family to Strawn in the spring and has become a familiar face around town. John and his wife Sarah are

the parents of three small children, Katy, William, and Henry, and the entire family is very happy to be in Strawn. This is a bit of a homecoming for John, who grew up just down the road in Cisco.

The park presently consists of almost 4,000 acres of ruggedly beautiful Western Cross Timbers terrain. "The scenic location, the sense of remoteness, and the proximity to Interstate 20 and the Metroplex will all combine to make this a premier tourist destination in Texas," said Superintendent Ferguson.

To learn more about the newest state park in Texas, access the link "Palo Pinto Mountains State Park" on the City of Strawn's website at www.strawntx.com. Park Superintendent John Ferguson's office is located in City Hall, and he can be contacted at 254-210-3015 or john.ferguson@tpwd.state.tx.us

Tri-City EMS Needs You! Now Offering Volunteer Training

Strawn is looking for volunteers to attend Emergency Medical Technician training courses. The Strawn Volunteer Fire Department will pay the cost of attending the training sessions for those who will volunteer with Tri-City.

Doug McCalie will offer the training in Strawn if at least 15 people from the Strawn-Mingus-Gordon area will sign up. This basic level of training does not require hospital rotations. Contact Mr. McCalie at 940-329-0701 for details.

DECEMBER CALENDAR OF EVENTS

DATE	EVENT	TIME	PLACE
Dec. 6	Chamber of Commerce Meeting	6:30 P.M	Guest Chapel
Dec. 6-8	Greyhounds Varsity B'ball Tournament	TBD	Albany High School Gym
Dec. 7	Hometown Christmas Event	6:00 pm	Downtown Strawn
Dec. 8	Greyhound Varsity Football Playoff	2.00 pm	Hico Football Field
Dec. 10	Greyhounds Junior High Basketball	6:00 pm	Lipan High School Gym
Dec. 10	Development Corp of Strawn Meeting	6:00 pm	Strawn City Hall
Dec. 10	Strawn City Council Meeting	7:00 pm	Strawn City Hall
Dec. 11	Strawn Lions' Club Meeting	12 Noon	Mary's Cafe
Dec. 14	C.A.R.E. Board Meeting	5:30 pm	Mingus C.A.R.E. Headquarters
Dec. 14	Greyhounds Varsity Basketball	6:30 pm	Strawn ISD Gym
Dec. 17	Greyhounds Junior High Basketball	6:00 pm	Strawn ISD Gym
Dec. 17	Strawn ISD School Board Meeting	7:00 pm	Strawn ISD Administration Bldg.
Dec. 18	Greyhounds Varsity Basketball	6:30 pm	Ranger High Gym
Dec 24 -Jan. 7	Strawn ISD Holiday Break		
Dec. 27-29	Varsity Girls' Basketball Tournament	TBD	Breckenridge High School Gym

*For more information, check out the following websites:

<http://www.strawntx.com>

<http://www.strawnschool.net>

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Quarterfinal Champions



Photo courtesy of Eric Nowak

Strawn Greyhound sophomore running back, Noel Martinez, making one of several successful carries during the battle for Quarterfinal Championship in Six-Man Division 2 against in the Newcastle Bobcats last Friday night. Greyhounds (12-1) defeated Newcastle 52-42 to claim the Quarterfinal trophy. The Greyhounds will now advance to face the Richland Springs Coyotes (13-0) on Saturday, December 8, at 2 p.m. in Hico, to determine which team will claim the Semifinal Championship. Way to go, Hounds!

New Chamber of Commerce....(continued from page One)

Strawn business owners, civic leaders and concerned citizens met in August and again in early October and voted to move forward with establishing a Chamber of Commerce.

The Chamber has selected an interim Board of Directors, an interim Executive Director, established four

standing committees and is in the process of obtaining its 501(c)(6), non-profit designation.

The interim Board of Directors include: Jeanine Caraway, Interim Executive Director; Jeff Hinkson, Chair; Tina Thomas, Vice Chair; Lou Jones, Secretary/Treasurer; Roy Kurbin; Trey

Hodgkins; Greg Crawford; John Sizemore; Shannah Coe; Narciso Martinez

A start-up chamber depends solely on volunteers to be successful. For more information or to join the Chamber, please send an email to contact@strawn-chamber.com or call Jeanine Caraway at 254-672-5347.

Go Greyhounds!

Jingle Bells...

(continued from page One) made chili is being prepared by Strawn's hometown chef, Linda Faubion, owner of Country Dollar Store.

Proceeds from the Chili Supper will be used to pay for the new holiday lights. A big thank you goes out to all the volunteers who are working hard to make this event a success.

To volunteer, please contact Jim Bell at 817-721-9561 or jbell@casham.com

Welcome...

(continued from page One)

to a fault, always supporting school programs and the mighty Strawn Greyhounds. If a family or individual were in need and couldn't pay their grocery bill, they found a way to make sure no one went hungry. We hope the Chamber will be as successful as Dolly in meeting the needs of the community and exhibiting an unselfish commitment to Strawn.

To advertise in future editions, contact Kim Garland at 940-328-5451 or kimila77@hotmail.com

For article submission, contact Diana Hinkson at 254-672-5281 or diana-hinkson476@msn.com

For questions about the Advocate or the Chamber, contact Jeanine Caraway at 254-672-5347 or jeaninecaraway@aol.com

Strawn Supports the Palo Pinto County Livestock Show

The Strawn Lions Club is spearheading efforts to raise funds in support of Strawn area participants in the Palo Pinto County Livestock Show.

An account has been created at First National Bank Albany/Breckenridge-Strawn Branch so that area ranches, businesses and residents can make contributions to the fund.

Contributions must be made by Friday, January 11, 2013.

The 2013 Palo Pinto

County Livestock Show & Fair runs from Wednesday, January 9th through Saturday, January 12th. The Premium Livestock Sale will begin at 10:00 am Saturday.

The event is held at the Palo Pinto County Livestock Association Expo Building & Fair Grounds, 800 FM 1821 North, Mineral Wells, TX 76067.

County Fair entries will be accepted from 2 p.m. to 8 p.m. Wednesday, January 9, at the Sheriff's Posse

Building in Mineral Wells. The fair is open to Palo Pinto County residents of all ages and features a variety of classes in Art; Photography; Needlework, Quilting, and Sewing; Hobbies and Crafts; Shop and Tack; Baked Goods and Candy; Canned Goods and the Kiddies Department.

For more info re the various classifications, please visit www.palopinto-tx.tamu.edu.

For more info about the Stock Show & Fair call

(940) 659-1228.

Please show your support for our youth and make a tax deductible contribution to the fund today!

For more information about contributing to the Strawn Lions Club fund, please contact Cory Crenshaw at 254-672-5211 or stop by the Bank.

The Lions' Club extends a heartfelt thanks to the contributors of last year's event and asks everyone to please consider supporting the upcoming 2013 event.

'Tis' the season for angels...

Christmas is the season of giving and the Strawn Angel Tree needs your help & generosity. You can participate in two ways... Either stop by and select an Angel to sponsor and/or make a donation and your dollars will go towards purchasing clothes & gifts for the Angel Tree children. Donations & gifts will be accepted through December 14th.

In 2011, the Strawn Angel Tree project raised over \$900 and helped 20 families provide gifts for 57 children... all from the Strawn/Mingus area. The 2012 Angel Tree is located in the Strawn Wellness Center. For more info contact:

Melissa Little
Project Coordinator
Ph 979-571-6094
mrlittle1228@att.net

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call Kim Garland at 940-328-5451**

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The First United Methodist Church of Strawn is a welcoming and inclusive community. Inspired to grow with and in God.

We are passionate, intellectually challenging and theologically active.

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Strawn Booster Club Kicks Off Membership Drive

Unveiling Plans for a Community Message Board and New Tennis Courts.

It has been said that communication leads to understanding, understanding leads to broader public support, and broader public support leads to progress. Strawn is a community in need of better communication, especially as we look ahead to the progress and positive growth that the new Palo Pinto Mountains State Park will bring.

The Strawn Booster Club has taken on the challenge of providing a clear and efficient means of communication to help establish the understanding and build the public support that our community and school

district need to move forward to a bright future. To achieve those goals, the Booster Club is soliciting funds to construct a digital video board downtown that will be wirelessly updated by the Strawn ISD and City Hall. (see photos, next page.)

The primary function of this message board will be to communicate school and community functions such as public-service announcements, school events, athletic schedules, church activities, and various other happenings around the city and county.

Along with the message

board, the Booster Club is also tackling the task of having the tennis courts resurfaced. Our tennis courts are a deteriorating asset that are in need of repair and a little T.L.C! This facility benefits both our student athletes and community members; very few nights go by without the courts being lit up and enjoyed by our public. Last year, 63% of the Strawn ISD student body participated in tennis with great success at the District level. We want to build on this success, provide our teams with quality facilities, and refurbish this asset to its former glory!

The Strawn Booster Club needs your help! These projects are not cheap, but they have been prioritized by our Booster Club because of the urgency of the need and the number of students and community members who will immediately benefit from the successful completion of these worthwhile community improvement projects. Join with us, please, in investing in the success of our students and our town!

Please contact Alan Alison at 940-654-0455 or alan.alison@pga.com for more information or to pledge your tax-deductible donation.

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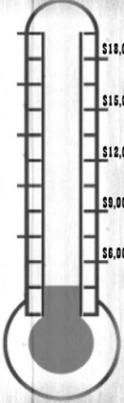
Community Projects... You can be a part of!

Strawn Community Message Board

HELP TURN THIS



Our Goal **\$18,000**



INTO THIS



Public Service Announcements - School Events - Athletic Events - Church Events - City & County Events

Communication leads to understanding. Understanding leads to broader public support. Broader public support leads to progress in education.

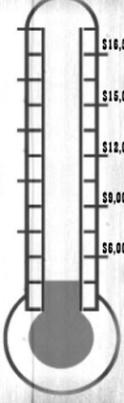
Please make your TAX Deductible Donation Payable to Strawn ISD: Earmarked Digital Sign

Tennis Court Resurfacing Project

HELP TURN THIS



Our Goal **\$16,500**



INTO THIS

LAST SEASON

33 Students Participated in Tennis - 43% of Enrollment

Junior High District Girls Singles Champion

Junior High District Boys Singles Champion

Junior High District Boys Doubles Champions

3rd place - Junior High District Doubles Boys

2nd place - Junior High District Girls Doubles

3rd place - Junior High District Girls Doubles

Junior Varsity District Girls Doubles Champions

Junior Varsity District Girls Singles 2nd place

Varsity District Girls Doubles 3rd place

2012 Regional Qualifiers in Girls Doubles



Community Pride - Centralized, Lighted Place For Kids to Hangout, Up & Coming Tennis Program

Please make your TAX Deductible Donation Payable to Strawn ISD: Earmarked Tennis Court Resurfacing