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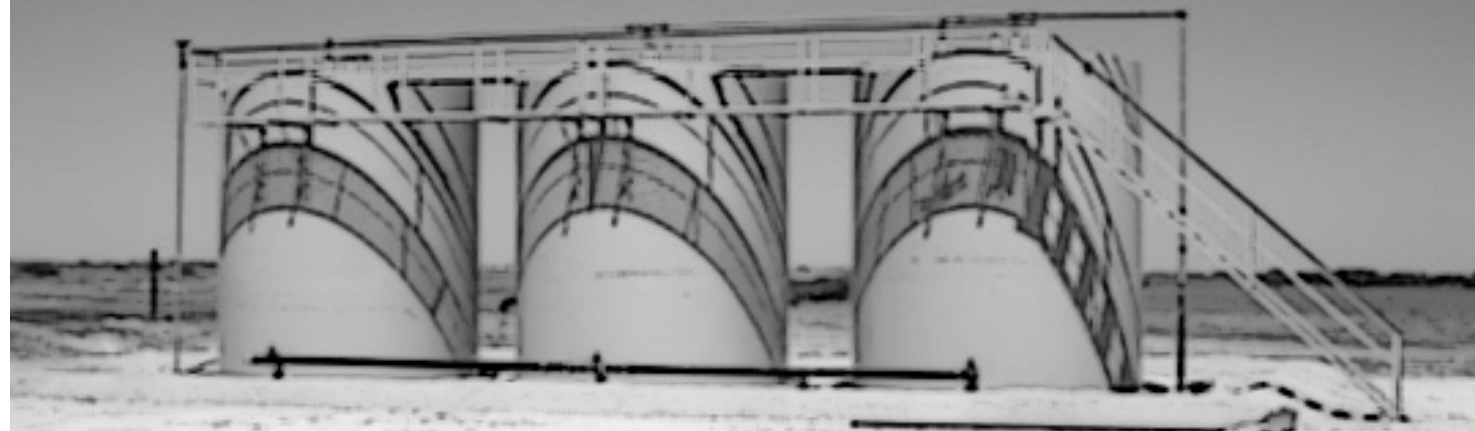
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# The Strawn Advocate

*The Community's Local News Source*

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VOL. 1. ISSUE 2

JANUARY, 2013

## The Old Strawn Depot May Be Coming Home

The Strawn Historical Museum is currently pursuing the opportunity to bring the Strawn Depot back home. After being bought and moved to Thurber and then Oakdale, the current owner wants Strawn to have its depot back.

Funds are needed to move and set up the depot so it can become part of the Historical Museum complex. Possible plans include restoring the depot to its original condition to showcase how an historic train depot looked in the early 20th century. The depot could also be used as extra space to display more of



The old Strawn Depot, absent for years but once an important part of the community and a grand reminder of Strawn's history, could soon be returning to the area.

the historical items that have been donated to the museum.

The depot is a big part of Strawn's history. Passenger

trains used to stop in Strawn, making it possible to ride from New York to San Francisco. Your donation will

help preserve our historic Strawn landmark.

Please mail donations to: Strawn Historical Museum, P.O. Box 179, Strawn, TX, 76475 and designate your donation for the depot project. Donations are also being accepted at the Museum.

The next meeting of the Strawn Historical Museum is Tuesday, January 8, at 6:30 p.m. in the City Council Chambers. New members are welcome to join. Pick up a membership form at the Museum, which is open Tuesday through Sunday.

## TPW To Meet With General Public To Discuss New Park's Future

Texas Parks and Wildlife representatives Brent Leisure, Rodney Franklin and John Ferguson met with the Strawn City Council on December 20, concerning the management of Lake Tucker and the surrounding property owned by the City of Strawn. TPW is

in the planning stages of Palo Pinto Mountains State Park and wanted to clarify how the lake could be used.

Mr. Leisure stated that TPW had an interest in using the lake as a key feature of the park, and access to the lake would add a variety of water

sports available to visitors including kayaking, canoeing, and fishing. After hearing Mr. Leisure's presentation, the Council requested that TPW officials give a presentation to the general public and host a question and answer session regarding their plans.

The public Texas Parks

& Wildlife meeting will be Thursday, January 31, at 6:00 p.m. in Guest Chapel. All interested parties are invited to attend. Be sure and check out the City of Strawn's website at <http://www.strawntx.com> for any last minute updates concerning the meeting.

W. H. HINKSON  
RANCH

Congratulations to the  
new Strawn Chamber

**1st** We Support  
Strawn!

First National Bank  
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Strawn Branch

CRAWFORD  
RANCH

Congratulations to the  
Strawn  
Chamber of Commerce

SUPPORT  
STRAWN'S FUTURE

Join the Chamber  
Next Meeting Jan. 10th  
All are Welcome

## Strawn Hometown Christmas Deemed a Success!

Strawn's revived and expanded "Merry Hometown Christmas" was a huge hit! The December 7th event, which was sponsored by the new Strawn Chamber of Commerce, consisted of a lighted Holiday Parade bringing Santa to Memorial Park, a Chili Supper, and the lighting of downtown buildings. Due to the Greyhounds playoff game, the event had to be moved at the last minute but despite the date change, everything ran smoothly and turnout was even better than expected. The parade attracted close to 400 spectators and had 26 entries. Strawn's First

Methodist Church won 1st place, Stewart Tank Company won 2nd place, and First National Bank Albany/Breckenridge—Strawn Branch won 3rd place. The Chamber served 160+ people at the Chili Supper and earned enough money to pay for the majority of new Christmas lights that outlined the downtown buildings. Entertainment during the Chili Supper was provided by the Spur 490 Band. A big, hardy "Thanks" goes out to the City of Strawn crew that worked diligently putting up all the new lights, to the Strawn VFD for bringing Santa to

Strawn loaded with lots of candy for the kids, to Peggy McQueary for organizing the parade, to Jim Bell for organizing the Chili Supper and to Linda Lloyd Faubion for making some outstanding chili. And last, but not least, to ALL the Chamber

Volunteers who donated condiments, desserts and drinks, who helped serve and clean-up, who decorated and directed, a big "Thank You"! A Chamber couldn't function without dedicated volunteers giving of their time and energy!

## New Entrances at Mt. Marion



*The Mount Marion Cemetery Association Board voted last June to fund repairs of the rock fence running along Hwy 16. The repairs to the rock fence, including the old rock entrance that faces Hwy 16, were completed in September. Additionally, a new rock entryway has been erected at the southern entrance to the Cemetery. The new entryway was designed to resemble the older entrances and is built with native sandstone. At a later date, iron gates, similar to those that exist at the other entrances, will be added to the new entryway. Benny Brock constructed and donated the hinges for the new gate.*

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## Taking Care of Business

### Strawn City Council

The Strawn City Council has monthly meetings on the second Monday of the month (unless there is an official holiday) at 7:00 pm in the Council Chambers of City Hall.

The City Council meeting is open to the general public. The agenda is posted at City Hall by 12 noon on the Thursday prior to the scheduled meeting. Anyone who would like to address the Council must notify Danny Miller,

Strawn City Secretary, at 254-672-5311, prior to the agenda being posted. The agenda can also be found on the City Website at [www.strawntx.com](http://www.strawntx.com) and is generally posted on the Microplex News website. City Aldermen include: Carl Frazier, Mayor Omar Mallory, Mayor Pro-Tem Benny Brock, Alderman Shirley Lindsay, Alderman Scott Parson, Alderman Tye Jackson, Alderman

### Development Corporation of Strawn

The Development Corporation of Strawn (DCOS) meets on the second Monday of each month at 6 p.m. (just prior to the City Council meeting) in the Council Chambers at Strawn City Hall. The meeting is open to the general public.

The DCOS agenda is posted at City Hall by 12 noon on the Thursday prior to the scheduled meeting. Anyone who would like to address the DCOS must notify Danny Miller,

Strawn City Secretary, at 254-672-5311, prior to the agenda being posted. The agenda can also be found on the City of Strawn website at [www.strawntx.com](http://www.strawntx.com)

The DCOS Board includes Jim Shur - President; Finis Butler - Secretary/Treasurer; Carl Frazier; Alan Alison; Mike Orsini; David Maggart; Danny Miller; David Day.

Check the city's website [www.strawntx.com](http://www.strawntx.com) for any changes to meeting dates.

VISIT [WWW.STRAWNTX.COM](http://WWW.STRAWNTX.COM)

### Strawn Independent School District

Members of the Strawn ISD Board of Trustees will meet on January 21, 2013 at 6 p.m. in the Strawn ISD Administration Building. The public is welcome.

To address the School Board, a written request must be submitted seven days prior to the scheduled meeting. Request should be submitted in writing to Melissa Williams at mel-

[will@strawnschool.net](mailto:will@strawnschool.net) or delivered in person to the Administration Office. The meeting Agendas are posted to the school website at [www.strawnschool.net](http://www.strawnschool.net).

Current Members include: Nancy Mallory, Pres. Mindy Hodgkins, V.P. Narciso Martinez, Sec Craig Abbott Amos Mallory Jim Pollock

### City Launches Brand New Website

The City of Strawn has recently unveiled a new website to provide useful information regarding our community. You will find links to city government, businesses/churches, Palo Pinto Mountains State Park, area attrac-

tions, news, events and photos, and contact information.

You can access the new website at <http://www.strawntx.com>. The City also encourages everyone to like us on Facebook at "City of Strawn Texas."

"Like" us and open  
a door to connect  
with  
others



Find us on  
**Facebook**

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.

We are compassionate, supportive, healing and actively involved in mission. Are you ready to question, be inspired, and create positive change in the world. Come join us in our collective journey. Services are held Sunday mornings at 11:30

**Our Hearts, Minds and Doors are Open!**

Open Hearts. Open Minds. Open Doors.  
The people of the First United Methodist Church of Strawn  
Central Avenue, Strawn, Texas 76475  
254-672-5395

## County Historical Commission Plans County-wide Tour

The Palo Pinto County Historical Commission (PPCHC) will sponsor a county-wide tour on April 27th. Proposed tour sites include Lover's Retreat, The Old Jail Museum Complex and the First Christian Church in Palo Pinto, Johnson League north of Gordon, The Stuart Estate, Guest Chapel and Strawn Museum in Strawn, Belding Ranch near Possum Kingdom and the Rio Roco Ranch Chapel overlooking the Brazos River. Don't miss out

on this opportunity to visit these historical places in our county as some of these are not open to the public.

There are several historical organizations in Palo Pinto County. Two of these have similar names and are often confused.

Palo Pinto County Historical Commission or PPCHC consists of members appointed by the Commissioners Court. Members serve two year terms. Each county in Texas has a historical commission dedicated

to the preservation of local history. Regular meetings are held on odd numbered months, the third Thursday at 2 PM in the county seat, Palo Pinto, at the 4H building. Every other year, the PPCHC sponsors a tour of the county highlighting several historic places to visit. The proceeds from this event are used to pay bills and other expenses and any remaining funds are usually distributed back to historical groups in our county.

Palo Pinto County Histor-

ical Association or PPCHA is open to anyone wanting to join. This organization is also dedicated to the preservation of local history, and they take care of the Jail Museum Complex and sponsor several events to raise money for the expenses associated with the upkeep of the jail museum complex.

For information about the tour contact Pamela McQueary at phinkson@sbc-global.net or Sandra Crawford at dons@ suddenlink.net.

## Area Groups Dispense Life-Saving Vials to Area Residents

On Saturday, November 17, the Strawn Student Council, supported by the Strawn Chamber of Commerce, the Strawn Lions Club and Texas Health/Harris Methodist Hospital, distributed to the citizens of Strawn "The Vial of Life."

The "Vial of Life" is a smart way to have your medical information readily available if you have an emergency. During an emergency it is difficult to

think quickly and logically, and emergency personnel cannot help you unless they have answers to basic questions like...what medications do you take... what illnesses do you have...who is your contact person...do you have insurance; if yes, what is the number of the policy...do you speak English and if you don't, what languages do you speak?

Whether you are young or old, able bodied or in-

firm, have special needs or are healthy, EVERYONE should have their own "Vial of Life." It will speak for you when you are unable to speak for yourself. The vials contain a medical information form and should be stored in your refrigerator. Two stickers come in the kit, one for your front door or window and one for the refrigerator door, which will guide emergency personnel to your medical information.

Gary Dixon, retired from the Fort Worth Fire Department and experienced in EMT calls, said "The Vial of Life could save between 10 and 15 minutes time in getting you or your loved one prepared and on the way to the hospital. It can definitely save a life!"

If you did not receive a "Vial of Life," they will be available at the Strawn Wellness Center or Country Dollar Store.

## Redistricting Brings New Congressman to Area

Mike Conaway (R-Midland), US Congressman of the 11th Congressional District of Texas, visited with Strawn citizens at An Ancient Art Soap Shop in Strawn, TX on October 4. This event was sponsored by the Strawn Chamber of

Commerce. About 50 Strawn citizens turned out to meet with the Congressman and used the opportunity to ask questions.

Due to the recent Congressional redistricting, Palo Pinto, Erath, Eastland

and Stephens counties were placed in Conaway's district. First elected to office in 2004, Conaway will be up for re-election in 2014.

Conaway was treated to a gift basket of items from the Soap Shop and Machacek's Bakery and Market.



Congressman Mike Conaway

## Dark Skies Over Park Location Make Future Look Bright

Members of the Texas Astronomy Society from Dallas, Fort Worth, and the McDonald Observatory visited Strawn recently, on December 15 and 16. After meeting at the Machacek Bakery for breakfast and a brief orientation, the group toured

Palo Pinto Mountains State Park looking for a suitable place from which to observe the heavens.

After looking at several sites in the park, the group returned to Strawn to enjoy the town and wait for the evening hours. After darkness fell, some of the

members drove around documenting major light sources in the area, while other members returned to the park to measure the darkness of the light skies. At five different locations in the park, the astronomy experts took darkness readings and photographed the horizon in a 360 degree arc to document the amount of light visible at night. The group was very pleased with the darkness of the night skies in the park, and is now working to have the location rated by the International Dark Sky Association. A Gold Tier designa-

tion would probably make Palo Pinto Mountains State Park the official observation point for the Texas Astronomical Societies of Dallas and Fort Worth.

The group that visited Strawn was so pleased and excited about the lack of light pollution and the quality of darkness of the night skies that they agreed to host a star gazing event in the park. Saturday, April 6, is the date of the first Star Party at Palo Pinto Mountains State Park. The public is invited to this event, so dust off your telescope and come on out!

### Palo Pinto Mountains State Park Expanding Its Boundaries Total Park Size Increased By Additional 500-Plus Acres

On Friday, December 21, the newest state park in Texas, Palo Pinto Mountains State Park, added to its sizable holdings with the addition of 552 acres. On the east side of the park, Texas Parks and Wildlife Department purchased 120 acres that lies along FM 2372 (Tucker Lake Road) from the Copeland family. On the far west end of the park, in Stephens County, TPWD bought 432 acres from the Nall family.

This expansion to the park adds some beautiful creek bottom property on the west, and provides a desirable place for the new park headquarters on the east. While it may be some time before the park is open to the public, Park Superintendent John Ferguson wants the people of Strawn to know groundwork is being laid and plans are being made to make this park a premier tourist destination for north-central Texas.

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# JANUARY CALENDAR OF EVENTS

DATE	EVENT	TIME	PLACE
January 8	Strawn Lions Club Meeting	12 Noon	Mary's Cafe
January 8	Strawn Historical Commission Meets	6:30 pm	Strawn City Hall
January 8	HS Basketball vs. Lingleville - VG	6:30 pm	Strawn ISD Gym
January 9-12	PP County Jr. Livestock Show & Fair	Varied	PP County Fairgrounds, MW
January 10	Chamber of Commerce Meeting	6:30 pm	Guest Chapel
January 11	C.A.R.E. Board Meeting	5:30 pm	Mingus C.A.R.E. Headquarters
January 11	HS Basketball vs. Huckabay - VG/VB	6:30 pm	Huckabay ISD Gym
January 14	PPC Commissioners Court Meeting	9:00 am	Palo Pinto County Courthouse
January 14	Development Corp Strawn Meeting	6:00 pm	Strawn City Hall
January 14	Junior High Basketball vs Huckabay	6:00 pm	Strawn ISD Gym
January 14	Strawn City Council Meeting	7:00 pm	Strawn City Hall
January 15	Strawn Lions Club Meeting	12 Noon	Mary's Cafe
January 15	HS Basketball vs. Lipan - VG/VB	6:30 pm	Strawn ISD Gym
January 17	JH Basketball Tournament (Jan 17-19)	TBD	Gordon ISD Gym
January 18	HS Basketball vs. Gorman - VG/VB	6:30 pm	Gorman ISD Gym
January 21	Strawn ISD Board Meeting	7:00 pm	Strawn ISD Administration Building
January 22	Strawn Lions Club Meeting	12 Noon	Mary's Cafe
January 22	HS Basketball vs. Gordon - VG/VB	6:30 pm	Strawn ISD Gym
January 24	Junior High Basketball vs. Lingleville	6:00 pm	Strawn ISD Gym
January 24	Greyhound Booster Club Meeting	6:00 pm	Strawn ISD Cafeteria
January 25	HS Basketball vs. Lingleville - VG/VB	6:30 pm	Lingleville ISD Gym
January 28	PPC Commissioners Court Meeting	9:00 am	Palo Pinto County Courthouse
January 28	JH Basketball vs. Gorman	6:00 pm	Strawn ISD Gym
January 29	Strawn Lions Club Meeting	12 Noon	Mary's Cafe
January 29	HS Basketball vs. Huckabay - VG/VB	6:30 pm	Strawn ISD Gym
January 31	Texas Parks & Wildlife / Public Presentation	6:00 pm	Guest Chapel
January 31	County Property Taxes Due at Tax Office		Must be postmarked or delivered to tax office by this date
February 1	HS Basketball vs. Lipan - VG/VB	6:30 pm	Lipan ISD Gym
February 4	JH Basketball vs. Bluff Dale	6:00 pm	Strawn ISD Gym

\*For more information, check out the following websites: <http://www.strawntx.com> or <http://www.strawnschool.net>

## SUPPORT LOCAL PARTICIPANTS OF THE PALO PINTO COUNTY LIVESTOCK SHOW

Donations will be accepted  
at Strawn Bank through Friday, January 11th



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