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The Strawn Advocate

The Community's Local News Source

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VOL. 1. ISSUE 5

APRIL 2013

Strawn Chamber Kicks Off Inaugural Bash on the Bricks Festival

The Strawn Chamber is launching the inaugural "Bash on the Bricks" festival that will coincide with the Palo Pinto County Historical Tour on April 27. The Strawn event will include a Lunch, Arts & Crafts Show and Vintage Car Show.

Lunch will be served starting at 11:00 a.m. at the City Pavilion (next to City Hall) with the Chamber cooking up hamburgers, hotdogs and sandwich wraps and all the extras. Cost is \$5.00, and all proceeds will go to the Chamber. If you're interested

in helping, please email contact@strawnchamber.org or call Linda Faubion at 254-672-5271.

The Arts & Crafts Show will kick off at the same time and will include local and regional vendors offering everything from desserts to jewelry to arts

& crafts items. If you're interested in helping, participating as a vendor, or know someone that would be interested in participating, please contact Terry Lee at 254-413-3466 or via email at lee-richard@att.net.

Continued on Page 3

Area Historical Commission Presenting County-Wide Driving Tour

The Palo Pinto County Historical Commission will present a "Historical and Wildflower Driving Tour" on Saturday, April 27, from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. Tickets are \$10 for adults and \$2 for children 6-15. Advance tickets are available at the Possum Kingdom Chamber of Commerce, Mineral Wells Chamber, or the Palo Pinto Jail Museum. Tickets

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Texas Trash-Off Slated for April 6th

Mark your calendars and join us for the Don't Mess with Texas Trash-Off annual event. This event encourages Texans across the state to join forces to clean up Texas roadsides.

The Don't Mess with Texas Trash-Off is the single largest one day cleanup event in the state and serves as Texas' signature event for the Great American Cleanup, the nation's largest community improvement program.

Needless to say, we have lots to do before the Historical Tour & The Bash on the Bricks event and ask that everyone come out Saturday morning, April 6th at 9:00 a.m. to assist the City in sprucing up downtown. If you have any questions or would like to Volunteer, please contact Danny Miller at 254-672-5311.

Additionally, the Strawn Chamber has partnered with the City of Strawn and the Development Corporation of Strawn in obtaining almost 30 new concrete planters for downtown. The folks at the Tarleton Horticultural Center have taken Strawn under their wing as a special project and will be selecting plants that will be heat/drought tolerant to place in the planters. The planters will be in place before the April 27th events.

Join us and be part of this great event. Your participation sends a message to Texans everywhere that the smallest efforts really do make the biggest difference. Take pride in the fact that you were part of making our great state & hometown, more beautiful! Join in on this event and help make a difference!



Community Animal Rescue Effort (C.A.R.E.)

Gordon • Lake Palo Pinto • Mingus • Strawn • Thurber



C.A.R.E. "Run 4 the Rescue"

5K/10K and One Mile Fun Run

April 13, 8:30 a.m.

Gordon ISD (start and finish)

Registration form and more information available at <http://www.care4rescue.com>

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SUPPORT STRAWN'S FUTURE
Join the Chamber
Next Meeting April 25th
All are Welcome

Palo Pinto Mountain State Park Still Going and Growing Strong

Palo Pinto Mountains State Park, located two miles west of Strawn on FM 2372, continues to grow in size. Texas Parks & Wildlife Department is in the process of finalizing the purchase of 250 acres on the far west

end of the park, in Stephens County. This new acquisition, known as the Ragsdale tract, is south of the Union Pacific Railroad in the area known as Wile's Canyon.

With the addition of this

new property, the current size of the state park is 4,129 acres. This recent purchase was made possible by money made available from the sale of a parcel of state park land adjacent to Palo Duro

Canyon near Amarillo. The money could only be used for the purchase of additional park property, and could not be used for any other purpose, such as development of Palo Pinto Mountains State Park.

Second Public Meeting to Discuss School Bond

Thursday, April 4

6:00 PM

Strawn School Cafeteria

Public is Encouraged to Attend

Overview of the 1st Meeting can be found on MicroplexNews at <http://www.microplexnews.com/strawn-voters-gain-information-about-bond-election>

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The Strawn Advocate

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Strawn Chamber of Commerce

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A Century of Faith... (continued from page 6)

(continued from page 6)
The first church was erected in 1905 and was named St. Peter and St. Paul but was destroyed by fire four years later. Construction of a new church (the present St. John's structure) began in 1911 and was completed in 1915. The new church was built of brick and was lavishly embellished by an artist brought

from Italy, who created a series of seraphic murals behind the altar and on the ceiling. The bell left from the old Strawn College was installed in the bell tower. The bell would be rung each Sunday morning starting 30 minutes prior to mass (as a signal to wake up), again at 15 minutes prior (get to church) and again 5 minutes prior to service (as a signal to get in the pew).

No one is exactly sure when the name was changed from St. Peter and Paul, but approximately 15-20 years after completion, the church became formally known as St. John Catholic Church.

The church rectory removed or covered over (home) to the church, was originally the rectory for St. Barbara's in Mingus but was moved to Strawn the late '50's and is still used for meetings and as a residence for priests. In the late 1960's the church was remodeled and the paintings were

removed or covered over and the church was given a more contemporary look. The church was again remodeled in the early 2000's with the tin ceiling being restored, old woodwork uncovered and restored and the pews refinished.

*Excerpted from *St. John's—A History, 1912-2012*

Join The Strawn Chamber of Commerce Today!

NEXT MEETING IS APRIL 25th at 6:30 PM
AT THE GUEST CHAPEL

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A Century of Faith Celebrated by Two Area Churches

In keeping with the theme of history for April due to the Palo Pinto County Tour, included in this issue are two stories about the history of area churches. Both St. John's Catholic Church in Strawn and St. Boniface Catholic Church in Dodson Prairie celebrated 100th anniversaries in 2012.

The Little Church on the Prairie

In a land of farm houses and fields lies a tiny little community called Dodson Prairie. Today, "The Prairie," as it is known, is home to only a handful of families. On June 9, 2012, the population grew by approximately 250 as the St. Boniface Catholic Church held its 100th anniversary celebration. Friends and family gathered for a day of praise, reunions, and fellowship.

In the early 1900s, Dodson Prairie was established by about a dozen German & Czech families (including the Holubs, Schlanders, Beyers, Nowaks, Teichmans, Poppo, Boyds, Ankenbauers, and others) who had immigrated in the 1850's and settled near Dubina & Schulenburg in south Texas. These industrious people began to get restless on their small farms and wanted more land to farm and raise their families and found their new homes in the

wide open lands of Dodson Prairie, in central Palo Pinto County.

The nearest Catholic church was in Thurber; therefore, when possible, Thurber's priest would come to give lessons of catechism at the Springer Gap school or under one of the many spreading live oak trees near the homes. As the community grew, the need for a church was essential. Frank Schlinder donated a plot of his land



St. Boniface

for the building of St. Boniface Catholic Church. Lumber and building supplies were purchased from Edwards Lumber Company in Strawn and brought in by horse- and mule-drawn wagons. Volunteers eagerly began the construction under the leadership of J.F. Berger, a carpenter by trade. The church would be named in honor of St. Boniface, the great 8th century missionary who Christianized the Germanic people.

After its completion in 1912, the new church was

furnished with cast off benches from the schoolhouse. In 1917 a bell, pulpit, and communion rail was acquired from St. Michaels in Weimar, Texas after a hurricane had destroyed that church (the bell still shows water marks from the storm that devastated Galveston in 1900). In later years, pews and stained glass windows came from a church in Weatherford, Texas. In May 1916, St. Boniface Church was officially dedicated and became a very significant part of the community.

On June 9, 2012, St. Boniface church, freshly painted, floors polished, and flowers on every window sill, opened its doors to its guests as the 100th anniversary celebration got underway with a special Mass. As music flowed from the balcony, friends and family filled the pews, lined the walls, and stood in the back and on the porch steps. Some came from across the pasture, while others traveled from distances as far as Houston, Arkansas, and Oklahoma. After Mass, a barbeque dinner was served at the old Dodson Prairie schoolhouse.

Today, the church is still used on Wednesday evenings for rosary and scripture readings. While only a dozen or so people show

up, the church is still filled with love. Occasionally, a wedding or funeral is held in the church. On its tiny knoll where the wind always blows, St. Boniface church sits patiently waiting for another day to shine.

**Contributed by Sandra Bearden*

St. John's Celebrates a Century
St. John's Catholic Church celebrated its 100th anniversary on September 1, 2012, with a barbeque lunch and special Mass celebrated by Bishop Kevin Vann of the Diocese of Ft. Worth and several former pastors who have served the Parish. Current and former parishioners as well as special guests attended the event.



St. John's

The history of St. John Catholic Church is as rich and colorful as the history of the land and the people around it. Built by the farmers, ranchers, and coal miners living in the area, many of whom had

(continued on next page)

History Tour... (continued from page 1)

may also be purchased at each tour location on tour day. You may start your tour at any of the eight locations and proceed as you wish.

Don't miss this great opportunity to visit the Palo Pinto Old Jail Museum and First Christian Church, Lovers Retreat, Belding Ranch, and John-

son League Ranch. This year's tour also includes four sites in Strawn—Presbyterian Church (Opal Guest Chapel), Stuart Estate, Strawn Historical Museum, and a preview of Palo Pinto Mountains State Park. For more information, visit www.palopintohistory.com

Bash on the Bricks... (cont. from page 1)

Additionally, the Chamber will be hosting a Vintage Car Show beginning at 1:00 PM. The Chamber has partnered with D&D RockinRods, who produce some of the preeminent Vintage Car Shows in North Texas. We are expecting to see upwards of 70+ of the finest vintage cars from the region! Entry fee is \$10 per car & all proceeds go to D&D Christmas for Kids. If you're interested

in participating or know someone who would be interested, contact Dale or Donna Wilson at DDRocks@msn.com or call 817-581-8853. Check out their website at www.ddrockinrods.com.

This will be a fun filled day and everyone is welcome! Come out, support the Chamber & the Historical Tour and help make this event a success!

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Area Happenings

The Way Things Were: Texas Settlers and Their Buildings 1860-1930

Palo Pinto County Old Jail Museum

April 1, 2013 – April 28, 2013

This is a photo exhibit by Humanities Texas, the state affiliate of the National Endowment for the Humanities. Open every Thursday, Friday and Saturday from 10:00 a.m. – 3:00 p.m.

For more information, visit <http://www.palopintohistory.com>

18th Annual Upland Bird Extravaganza

Wild Game Dinner and Auction, Friday, April 5, 6-9 p.m., at the City Limits in Stephenville. Shooting Events will be held Saturday, April 6 at 8 a.m., at Horton Ranch.

For more information, contact Will Haggard at 254-968-5200

Spring Gardening Workshop

Saturday, April 6, 9 a.m.–12 noon, Palo Pinto County Extension Service Office, 221 S. 5th Ave. Program covers what you can plant that will survive the heat and drought, what the deer won't eat, and how to save water to help your plants thrive. Everyone is invited to attend.

For more information, call 940-659-1228 or visit www.palopinto.agrilife.org

Who's Afraid of Virginia Wolf?

Tarleton presents "Who's Afraid of Virginia Wolf" April 9-13, 7:30 – 9:30 p.m., Clyde H. Wells Fine Arts Center, Tarleton State University. For more information, call Dayle Cox at 254-968-9291

Benefit Bocci Ball Tournament

Saturday, April 13, Thurber Historical Park (below New York Hill) Exit 367 off I-20

All ages are invited and everyone is welcome to play or watch. Registration begins at 9:00 a.m. Game Play begins at 9:30 a.m. Limit of four people per team; \$10 donation per person; double elimination. For more info or to pre-register, call (254) 672-5314 or (254) 672-5848. All proceeds to benefit St. Barbara's Church in Thurber.

Free Tax Help for Senior Citizens (Stephenville & Mineral Wells)

Stephenville Locations: S'ville Public Library, located at 174 N. Columbia St., Wednesday, 1 p.m. to 4 p.m. Senior Citizens Center, 164 E. College St., Tuesday, 8:30-11:30 a.m., Saturday 9 a.m. – 2 p.m. Wednesday, April 03, 2013, 1 p.m.

AARP Tax Aide is offering free tax help now through April 15. Please call 817-637-8995 to schedule an appointment for Saturday dates.

Mineral Wells Location: Mineral Wells Sr. Center, 106 NW 6th Ave. **April 4, 2013, 8:00 - 11:30 a.m.** IRS Certified volunteers providing free tax preparation.

"Act as if what you do makes a difference. It does."
—William James

New State Park Opens For First Star Gazing Party

On Saturday, April 6, a star gazing party will be held at Palo Pinto Mountains State Park. This is just the first of many events open to the public to acquaint everyone with your new state park. The Strawn Chamber of Commerce, working with the Texas Astronomical Society of Dallas, the Fort Worth Astronomical Society, and Palo Pinto Mountains State Park, is hosting this free public function, beginning at 5:00 p.m. on April 6. To get to the event, just go west on FM 2372 or the Tucker Lake Road, go two miles from town and look for the signs. You can bring your own telescope or use one provided by volunteers, who will be on hand to share expertise, knowledge, and lore. Mr. Frank Miller, well-known local barbecue baron, will be providing barbecue brisket sandwiches, and drinks will also be available. So come early, stay late, explore the heavens, and learn about nearby constellations in our beautiful night sky. For more information, call Park Superintendent John Ferguson at 254-210-3015.

APRIL CALENDAR OF EVENTS

Date	Event	Time	Location
April 4	Second Meeting to Discuss School Bond	6 PM	Strawn ISD Cafeteria
April 5	HS Track Meet	TBA	Zephyr ISD Track Field
April 6	Star Party in State Park	5 PM	PP Mountains State Park
April 8	PPC Commissioners Court Meeting	9 AM	Palo Pinto County Courthouse
April 8	Development Corp of Strawn Meeting	6 PM	Strawn City Hall
April 8	Strawn City Council Meeting	7 PM	Strawn City Hall
April 9	Strawn Lions Club Meeting	12 Noon	Mary's Cafe
April 9	Strawn Historical Museum Meeting	6:30 PM	Strawn City Hall
April 10	HS Varsity Tennis District Meet	TBA	Early
April 11	HS Area Track Meet	TBA	Strawn ISD Track Field
April 12	C.A.R.E. Board Meeting	5:30 PM	Mingus CARE Headquarters
April 12	Desdemona Seniors Dance	7 PM	Desdemona Community Center
April 13	C.A.R.E. 5k/10k "Run for the Rescue"	8:30 -11 AM	Gordon ISD
April 13	Benefit Bocci Ball Tournament	9AM	Thurber Historical Park
April 15	Strawn ISD Board Meeting	7 PM	Strawn ISD Administration Bldg.
April 16	Strawn Lions Club Meeting	Noon	Mary's Cafe
April 16	Strawn Booster Club Meeting	6 PM	Strawn ISD Cafeteria
April 16	Free Blood Pressure Screening	3-5 PM	Strawn Wellness Center
April 17-18	HS Varsity Regional Tennis Meet	TBA	Abilene
April 19	HS Regional Qualifier Track Meet	TBA	TBA
April 22	PPC Commissioners Court Meeting	9 AM	Palo Pinto County Courthouse
April 23	Strawn Lions Club Meeting	12 Noon	Mary's Cafe
April 25	Chamber of Commerce Meeting	6:30 PM	Guest Chapel
April 26-27	High School Regional Track Meet	TBA	Bullard
April 27	Palo Pinto County Historical Tour	9 AM-4PM	Sites on Tour (Four in Strawn)
April 27	Bash on the Bricks	10 M - 4 PM	Downtown Strawn
April 30	Strawn Lions Club Meeting	12 Noon	Mary's Cafe

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

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a door to connect
with others



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
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