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The Strawn Advocate

The Community's Local News Source

TAKE ONE
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VOL. 2. ISSUE 1

DECEMBER 2013

You'd Better Watch Out. You'd Better Be Good!

2nd Annual "Merry Hometown Christmas" Parade, Concert, Chili Supper and Santa!

The 2nd annual Chamber "Merry Hometown Christmas" event will take place on Friday, December 20, at Memorial Park & Pavilion downtown (weather permitting). This year, the event will also feature a Christmas concert by the Tarleton State University Jazz Ensemble!

photos with Frosty & Rudolph from 5:00 to 6:00 at City Hall, followed by the Lighted Christmas Parade at 6:30, Chili Supper at 7:00, Photos with Santa following the parade, and Concert at 7:30.

The event kicks off with

at City Hall, followed by the Lighted Christmas Parade at 6:30, Chili Supper at 7:00, Photos with Santa following the parade, and Concert at 7:30.

All groups from Strawn or the surrounding area are invited to participate. Please contact the Chamber at 254-595-0197 or strawnchamber@att.net for more information or to volunteer.

Strawn Chamber Elects New Board Members

The Strawn Chamber of Commerce Board elections took place in October, with the new Board of Directors being seated at the November 12 Chamber meeting. The new Board replaces the interim Board that was created in 2012. The interim Board oversaw the Chamber's founding and its first year of development and growth.

A special thanks goes out to Greg Crawford, John Sizemore, Narciso Martinez and Trey Hodgkins, who were interim Board Members last year but chose to step down and allow other individuals to serve. An extra special thank you goes out to Jeanine Caraway for serving as Executive Director for the Chamber's first year.

The new Board Members include the following: Lou Jones, Roy Kurban,

(continued on page 7)

Local Scout Troop Plants the Possibility of a Beautiful Spring

On Saturday, November 30, Strawn Girl Scouts Troop #8431, along with members of the Texas Native Plant Society and Strawn Chamber of Commerce, sowed several patches of blue-bonnet seeds along the greenbelt that runs between N. Front Street and the railroad tracks. This joint effort was organized by the Chamber to help educate young people about the importance of native plants, wildflowers, and beautification. Jane Fambrough Burdick with the Native Plant Society of Texas was on hand to oversee the project. She also provided the Girl Scouts with folders full of educational material about wildflowers.

(continued on page 2)

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SUPPORT
STRAWN'S FUTURE
Join the Chamber
Next Meeting Dec. 16, 5:30 pm
All are Welcome

Local Scout Troop Planting A Beautiful Future *(continued from pg. 1)*

A special thanks goes for tilling the patches, helping with the plant-out to Mark Hinkson Joy and Alton Harris for ing, and Jane Fambrough

Burdick for giving us insight on how and when to plant. With a little rain and a little luck, we'll be seeing bluebonnets next spring!

Spotlight on Local Business to Shine in Your Mailbox

The Strawn Chamber has developed a new marketing flier that will be mailed to all of southwest Palo Pinto County in early December. It has some great information and good deals included from area businesses, so watch for it in your mailbox soon.



Strawn Girl Scouts and friends are looking forward to a beautiful spring after planting wildflower seeds in the community in late November

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254-595-0197

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Strawn Chamber Applies for Community Achievement Award

The Strawn Chamber, the City of Strawn, and the Development Corporation of Strawn, along with numerous volunteers (both young and old), have done a tremendous job over the last year in cleaning up and beautifying the city. As a result, we think we all deserve a good pat on the back, and TXDOT is seeking to give out "pats" in the form of grant money!

The Chamber is busy applying for the Keep Texas Beautiful/Governor's Community

Achievement Award Grant, which is worth \$90,000! For more than two decades, Keep Texas Beautiful, in partnership with the Texas Department of Transportation (TxDOT), has awarded the prestigious Governor's Community Achievement Awards (GCAA) to ten Texas communities with the best grassroots environmental programs in the state each year. The awards recognize achievement in seven areas: Community Leadership and Coordination; Public Aware-

ness; Education; Beautification and Community Improvement; Litter Prevention and Cleanup; Solid Waste Management; Litter Law and Illegal Dumping Enforcement.

The competition distributes \$2 million in funding from TxDOT among the ten winning communities, with the amount based on population size. Strawn is competing in the smallest population category (a community with up to 3,000 residents). The funds are to be used for

landscaping projects along local rights-of-way (Hwy 16, Hwy 108 and FM 2372). Recent past winners include Graham, Muenster, San Saba, Munday, Throckmorton, Balmorhea, Breckenridge, Athens, Whitesboro, Collinsville, and Port Aransas.

How can you help? Contact the Chamber or the City of Strawn to learn more about what can be done to help us win a well-deserved "pat on the back" from the great State of Texas!

Strawn Volunteers Distribute Gift Bags at State Park Events

Shanah Coe headed up a group of Chamber Volunteers in putting together "welcome bags" for recent events at Palo Pinto Mountains State Park. The other volunteers were Teri Forsee, Terri Lee and Theresa Atkins.

Volunteers distributed approximately 150 bags to visitors attending the State Park Star Party on Saturday evening, November 2. The Cham-

ber distributed more of these gift bags to approximately 60 participants attending the State Park Equestrian Trail Ride on November 9.

The Chamber would like to thank the following businesses who donated items and information for the project: An Ancient Art Soap Company, Lake Country Sun Vacation Guide, WK Gordon Center, Strawn

Booster Club, Cakes & Country Dollar Store, Bakes, Cowgirl Flower Texas Café, and Guest Shack, Pac-a-Sac, Mary's, Ranch.

New Chamber Board *(cont. from pg. 1)*

Brandy Sizemore, Cory Crenshaw, Shanah Coe, Tina Thomas, Alan Alison, Tina Spakes, Jerry Edwards, Coppy Hodgkins, Alan Alison, Tye Jackson, and Bert Williams. Tye Jackson will serve as the Chairman Designee. Georgia Stephen Braun will continue

as Executive Director, and Jeff Hinkson will remain on the Executive Committee as immediate past Chair. If you see any of these folks, stop and thank them for giving of their time, energy and efforts for the betterment of Strawn and the Chamber.

Country Dollar Store

109 West Housley St.

Downtown Strawn Behind Bank

- Fresh Sliced Deli Meats & Cheeses
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- Healthy & Beauty Aids
- Greeting Cards, Party Items & Balloons
- Mosaics by Joy Harris



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Local Youth Ministry Helps Spruce Up Strawn Area

Members from the One G Youth Ministry of Strawn spent several hours on Saturday, November 16, cleaning up an illegal dump site west of Strawn on FM 2372 (where the old football field road meets the highway). They were able to clean

up about one-half of the huge pile of rubbish, debris, and discarded furniture/appliances that had accumulated over several decades.

This group has helped with previous Chamber/City beautification projects, and we are very

grateful to have such conscientious kids living in our town! The City of Strawn and the Chamber thanks everyone that spent their day performing this service project. Stay tuned for more to come in community clean up!



Members of the 1G Youth Ministry lent a helping hand recently, cleaning up an illegal dump site. Those helping (from back to front) were Anthony Garcia, Xavier Olivo, Becky Short, Riley Fesser, Harrison Nowak and Miguel Garcia.

Raffle Winners Announced

The drawing for the raffle benefitting United Way of Palo Pinto County was held at Machacek Bakery on November 23. Tina Thomas and Mary Crawford drew the two winning tickets for two \$100 Walmart gift cards. The winning names drawn

were Curtis Crudgington of Strawn and Ruth Hill of Dallas. The Strawn Home Delivered Meals program is a local agency receiving support from United Way of Palo Pinto County. A special thank you to all who purchased tickets.

A Few Facts About Christmas Perhaps You Didn't Know

We are all aware of the tried and true traditions that come into play during the Christmas season. But how did some of these traditions get started? Why, for instance, do we kiss under the mistletoe? Or pass out stockings filled with goodies? Just in case you're now curious, here are a few festive facts to get you even more in the mood for Christmas...

- US scientists have calculated that Santa must visit 822 homes a second to deliver all the world's presents on Christmas Eve, travelling at 650 miles a second. No won-

- der Santa needs eight reindeer and all those elves.
- Despite the tale of three wise men paying homage to baby Jesus, the Bible never gives a number. Matthew's Gospel refers to merely "wise men".
- Christmas carolling began as an old English custom called wassailing, its purpose to toast neighbours to a long life.
- Carols were not sung in churches until introduced by St Francis of Assisi in the 13th century.
- Hanging stockings out comes from the Dutch custom of leaving shoes

packed with food for St Nicholas's donkeys. He would leave small gifts in return.

- There is no reference to angels singing anywhere in the Bible.
- In Europe, nearly 60 million Christmas trees are grown each year. In the United States, another 46 million Christmas tree seedlings are planted annually.
- The word Noel is derived from the French expression "les bonnes nouvelles" or "the good news".
- The abbreviation Xmas is not as disrespectful as many think. The letter X

is actually a Greek abbreviation for Christ.

- The world's tallest Christmas tree was erected in a Washington shopping mall in 1950. It was 221 feet tall.
- James Pierpont's 1857 song *Jingle Bells* was first called *One Horse Open Sleigh* and was written for Thanksgiving.
- In 1999, residents of the state of Maine built the world's biggest ever snowman. He stood at 113 feet tall.
- Kissing under the mistletoe is thought to spring from Frigga, the Norse goddess of love, who was associated with the plant.



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Sun-Thurs 5:00 am - 10:00 pm
Fri & Sat 5:00 am - Midnight

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Area Happenings

7th Annual FRONTIER CHRISTMAS
at the Old Jail Museum Complex,
Palo Pinto

Thursday, December 12, 5:00 - 8:00 p.m.
Frontier fare tasting at 5:30 p.m. Musicians, caroling, story
telling, and surrey rides; unique 15 passenger stagecoach
display. Event is free and donations appreciated
For more details, contact Barbara Upham, 940-798-2665 or
Joe Maddux, 940-659-3573

What You Need to Know About
the Affordable Care Act

Friday, December 13, 8:00 - 9:00 a.m.
Holiday Hills Country Club,
4801 U.S. 180, Mineral Wells
The new era of health care is here. Next year, Texans
will see the impact of some of the biggest changes to
the health care system brought about by the Afford-
able Care Act. Featuring: John Parker of Blue Cross/
BlueShield of Texas

Register online or contact Susan Boyd at 940.325.2557
or susan@mineralwellstx.com to RSVP
Sponsored by TX Assoc. of Business
& MW Area Chamber of Commerce

Clark Gardens Holiday Festival
Saturdays: December 7, 14, and 21
5:00 - 9:00 p.m.

567 Maddux Road, Weatherford TX
The park will be decked out for the holidays, lit with
thousands of sparkling lights, and a 30-foot tree of
lights. Both children and adults enjoy the hayride, the
photo opportunity with Santa, a visit with Santa's rein-
deer, entertainment, the beauty of the Kaleidoscope
of Trees and a tour of the Clark Depot housing the
G-Scale Trains. \$10 adult / \$5 Children

GED Tutoring - MW Center of Life

Offering FREE GED tutoring sessions
Every Tuesday, 6:00 - 8:00 p.m. & Every Wednesday,
9:00 to 11:00 a.m.
206 NW 2nd Street, Mineral Wells
Call 940-327-8700 for more information or to con-
firm your attendance.

Gordon's Christmas Parade and
Santa in the Park

Saturday, December 14
Parade starts at 10:00 a.m. Free hotdogs afterwards
For information, call Judy Cathey at 940-452-6843

Cisco's Lighted Christmas Parade

Saturday, December 14,
Downtown Cisco 6:00 pm
For more information, call Cisco Chamber at (254)
442-2537

Jingle Bell Run (Eastland)

Saturday, December 14,
Siebert Elementary School
Registration 8 - 8:45; Race - 9:00 a.m.
For more info, contact Nicole Atcherson at nicole@
clintcoffee.com or 325-762-0310

Albany's Bethlehem Village

December 13, 14 & 15, 6 - 8:30 pm
Join us on an outdoor narrated, walking tour of Bethle-
hem as we revisit the first Christmas in Albany.
Sponsored by 1st Baptist Albany, 109 N. Main St.,
Albany, TX
Free hot chocolate and cookies
For more info call 325-762-2019

Gordon 1st United Methodist Choir
Christmas Concerts

Appalachian Winter, A Cantata For Christmas
• St. Barbara's Church - Thurber
Saturday, December 14 - 6:30 pm
• 1st Baptist Church - Gordon
Sunday, December 15 - 9:00 am
• 1st United Methodist Church - Gordon
Sunday, December 15 - 11:00 am
• 1st Baptist Church - Strawn
Sunday, December 15 - 6:00 pm

If you know in advance of an event tak-
ing place that you would like to see listed
in Area Happenings, please give us a call
at 254-672-5281. Thank you.



Strawn Chamber of Commerce to Sponsor 2013 Angel Tree

Christmas is the season of giving, and the Strawn Angel Tree needs your help and generosity. You can participate in either of the following ways:
1) Stop by and select an Angel to sponsor. The 2013 Angel Tree is located at An Ancient Art Soap Company, 108 Central Ave, Strawn, TX. Angels can be adopted through Dec. 19th.
2) Make a donation, which will go toward purchasing clothes and gifts for the Angel Tree children. An account has been set up at the Strawn Bank to accept donations, or they can be mailed to: Strawn Angel Tree C/O Strawn Chamber PO Box 278 Strawn, TX 76475
In 2012, the Strawn Angel Tree project helped provide gifts for 80 children, all from the Strawn/Mingus area. The Strawn Angel Tree project began in 2004 and since then has helped hundreds of local kids have a happier Christmas!



DECEMBER CALENDAR OF EVENTS

Date	Event	Time	Location
Dec. 12- 14	JV Girls Basketball Tournament	TBA	Zephyr
Dec. 12- 14	Varsity Boys Basketball Tournament	TBA	Gorman
Dec. 16	Jr. High Girls & Boys Basketball vs. Gorman	6:00 PM	Gorman
Dec. 16	Strawn ISD Board Meeting	7:00 PM	Strawn ISD Administration Bldg.
Dec. 16	Strawn Chamber of Commerce Meeting	5:30 PM	Guest Chapel
Dec. 16	The Development Corporation of Strawn	6:00 PM	Strawn City Hall
Dec. 16	Strawn City Council Meeting	7:00 PM	Strawn City Hall
Dec. 17	Strawn Lions Club Meeting	Noon	Mary's Cafe
Dec. 17	JV Girls,Varsity Girls & Boys B'ball vs. Ranger	5:00 PM	Strawn Gym
Dec. 20	Christmas Parade & Chili Supper	6:30 - 9:00 PM	Downtown Strawn
Dec. 23	Palo Pinto County Commissioners Court	9:00 AM	Palo Pinto County Courthouse
Dec. 23 -Jan 6	Strawn ISD Christmas Holidays		
Dec. 24	Strawn Lions Club Meeting	Noon	Mary's Cafe

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

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