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The Strawn Advocate

The Community's Local News Source

VOL. 1. ISSUE 11

OCTOBER 2013

TAKE ONE
IT'S FREE

Strawn VFD Acquires New Fire Truck

Strawn Volunteer Fire Department is proud of their new fire truck which recently arrived. It is a pumper truck that holds 1000 gallons of water and has a 1750 gallon-per-minute pump. The truck cost approximately \$305,000.00. Through careful budgeting and a generous grant of \$30,000 from the Buckets & Boots Foundation, Strawn VFD only had to finance \$105,000.00. This pumper truck will be primarily used inside the city limits of Strawn. It

(continued on page 7)



Members of the Strawn Volunteer Fire Department stand proudly in front of the newly acquired 1000-gallon pumper truck. It arrived on the last Friday of September in time to have it on display for local residents to see during the Friday night six-man football game against rival Gordon.

Public Star Gazing Party Slated for November 2nd

On Saturday, November 2, a star gazing party will be held at Palo Pinto Mountains State Park. This is one of many planned events open to the public to acquaint everyone with your new state park. The Texas Astronomical Society of Dallas and the Fort Worth Astronomical Society are sponsoring this free public function, which begins at 5 p.m. These two organizations are also working to have Palo Pinto Mountains State Park officially designated a Gold Tier Dark Sky site by the International Dark Sky Association. Such a designation will make Strawn and the park a most desirable destination for both amateur and professional astronomers. 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. Barbecue brisket sandwiches and drinks will be available for a donation. So come early, stay late, explore the heavens, and learn about nearby constellations in our beautiful night sky. TPWD is looking for 4-5 volunteers to help with traffic and parking. For more information or to volunteer call Park Superintendent John Ferguson at 254-210-3015.

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to accomodate mailing info

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Texas Cafe School Supply Drive Helps Local Students

Texas Café owners Kelly and Abby Scott spearheaded a school supply drive benefitting local area students. The Scotts reported that they received \$150 from individuals donating cash, in addition to a large box full of donated supplies that included pens, pencils, notebooks, erasers, glue, scissors, and other items. Approximately 30+ individuals donated supplies and/or cash that was used to purchase more school supplies. A few students received direct help from the Scotts, but the bulk of the items were presented to Strawn ISD Principal Jessica Mallory on the first day of the 2013 school year. The School Supply Drive was a big success, and a big thank you goes out to everyone for their generosity.

Locals Endeavoring to Frame Strawn And They Need Your Help!

In an effort to put Strawn's best face forward, members of the Strawn Historical Museum are asking past and present citizens of the area to either loan or donate old photos of Strawn's downtown area and the area around Tucker Lake. If you are interested in making a photographic contribution and thereby helping to frame Strawn in the best way possible, please feel free to drop photos off at the Strawn Historical Museum Thursday-Saturday from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. or email to strawnmuseum@gmail.com Your contributions will be greatly appreciated.

New State Park Is Featured in Fort Worth Star-Telegram

In case you missed it, there was a great write up about Palo Pinto Mountains State Park in the September 22nd edition of the Fort Worth Star-Telegram. You can access the article at <http://www.star-telegram.com/2013/09/21/5182118/bold-plans-in-works-for-state.html>

New Fire Truck for Strawn VFD Arrives *(continued from page 1)*

will also be used for mutual aid in the surrounding towns if they have a structure fire. Chief Jimmy Dixon stated that this truck should help improve the city's fire insurance rating by lowering insurance rates for homeowners. This is the third new fire truck acquired by Strawn VFD in the last five years. The fire department has been making a concerted effort to modernize. Before purchasing the last three, the next newest truck is a 1983 model. Strawn VFD will be providing concessions at the next Palo Pinto Mountains State Park Star Gaz- ing event on November 2 offset the monthly pay- to begin raising money to help pay for and outfit this new truck. You will see more fundraisers in the coming months and years by Strawn VFD to help new fire truck!

Oct. 7th is Voter Registraton Deadline

Voter Registration for the November 5th Election is Monday, October 7, 2013. The State of Texas now requires a photo ID when voting in person. Acceptable forms of ID are TX Drivers License, Election Identification Certificate or personal identification card, all issued by TX DPS. Military ID cards, citizenship certificates and U.S. Passports which include a photo of the voter are also accepted. *Note: the name on Drivers License or ID card must match Voter Registration Card. Persons may register to vote by going online to votetexas.gov. For more information, call or email Judith Evans, County Elections Administrator, at 940-659-1217 or email Judith.evans@co.palo-pinto.tx.us

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Local Grid-Iron Update: The Strawn-Gordon Rivalry Lives On

Dave Campbell's Texas Football selected the Strawn-Gordon game as its "Game of the Week." Posting on his Texas Six-Man Blog, sportswriter Ken Capps wrote about the rivalry in a post entitled Gordon, Strawn Revive Long Rivalry. "The new ball coach knows he's got a big challenge in his first outing against his biggest rival," Capps wrote, referring to new Gordon Coach Joe Kostiha. "But he takes heart in the loopy-ness of the long series. 'You never know how this game is going to turn out. And that's what makes it great.' "On the other side of the ball, Coach Dewaine Lee has faced

his #1 foe 11 times - including one time in the playoffs. (Strawn won that one) He's 6-5 against the Horns." "Both schools boast two state championships, Like any hard-nosed rivalry, the winning can be stressfully streaky. Gordon won seven in a row in the 90's. Strawn leads the all-time series by a slim 31-29-3. Last year, Gordon edged Strawn in a thriller 36-34. And right now the Longhorns have won two straight." "Coach K is right...anything can happen. Throw out the records and stats kids." "So, if you head to Strawn on Friday night," Capps continued, "you'll immediately notice

the legendary Texas Highway 16 will dip and dive into town either way you come in. Suddenly, you'll see the stadium lights gleaming in front of you. Black and red streamers everywhere." "It's a cool sight on a fall evening. 'Know you are about to witness a true Texas Six Man Friday Night Lights extravaganza.'" "If there was a fair nearby, you would think it's Texas-OU Weekend. And no, those Longhorns or Sooners don't eat pizza together after that game." If you would like to read the entire blog post, you may do so by accessing <http://www.texas-football.com/gordon-strawn-revive-long-rivalry>.

GRID IRON UPDATE Strawn Greyhound Football

Week 1 - Strawn 58, Bryson 14
Week 2 - Strawn 92, Lueders-Avoca 56
Week 3 - Strawn 75, Gordon 30



Gordon Longhorn Football

Week 1 - Gordon 24, Blanket 28
Week 2 - Bye
Week 3 - Gordon 30, Strawn 75

C.A.R.E. Cookoff at LaMancha Lake Ranch on Oct. 18-19

It's Cookoff time! This year's annual BBQ Cookoff benefitting C.A.R.E. and local animal shelters will be held at LaMancha Lake Ranch on October 18th-19th. Located on CR 567 in Eastland County, the ranch setting offers access to the lake, as well as walking trails and close up views of exotic wildlife. In addition to the cookoff, a Poker Run will be held beginning 10 am on Saturday, October 19th. The entry fee for the run is \$10 for adults and \$5 for children over 10. Prizes will be awarded to the top three best poker hands

and there will be eight tables set up for distributing cards in an endeavor to give contestants a chance at the best hands possible. The walk will be two miles long and on ranch property. If you would like to enter early you may do so by sending the entry fee along with your name and

contact phone number to C.A.R.E. at P.O. Box 12, Strawn, Texas 76475. You may also enter in person on the day of the races, but all entries must be in by 9:30 AM on the 19th to qualify. For more information regarding either the cookoff or the poker run, contact Terry Lee at 254-672-5501 or visit the C.A.R.E. website at www.care4rescue.com. C.A.R.E. also has a Facebook page and information regarding the events may also be found there. C.A.R.E was established in the Strawn/Mingus/Gordon area in July, 2007 as

a non-profit organization endeavoring to alleviate animal suffering through aiding abandoned, abused and neglected animals; reducing over-population and disease; and assisting responsible pet owners in meeting the needs of their own companion animals. One hundred percent of C.A.R.E. funds are used to maintain rescued animals and to assist low-income families whenever possible. For more information about C.A.R.E., or to become a member or volunteer, call 254-631-6937 or send an email to care.animalrescue@yahoo.com.



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Area Happenings

Eastland Rip Fest

Saturday, October 5

Courthouse Square, Downtown Eastland

A celebration of Eastland's famed horned toad, "Old Rip." Parade on Main Street, followed by entertainment on the Square; over 100 vendors of arts & crafts and a delicious variety of food, games and music. Close the day out with the Eastland Fire Department Fish Fry and Bull-Riding at the Leon River Cowboy Church.

PKCC Possum Fest &

Great Outdoors BBQ & Chili Cook-Off

Saturday, October 5, PK Chamber Building,

362 N. FM 2353, Graford. 940-779-2424

Shop the vendor booths, bid on silent and live auction items. Cook-off awards ceremony and benefit raffle prize drawing for a 2013 EZ-Go Golf Cart

Bocce Ball at By-Gone Days

at the Bosque

October 12, 10 a.m. to 4 p.m.

Stephenville Historical House Museum,

525 East Washington St. Stephenville, Texas

The W.K. Gordon Center will have bocce ball and croquet courts set up. This annual event features the museum exhibits and buildings as well as cowboy gunfights, Civil War demonstrations, live entertainment, arts & crafts vendors, concessions. <http://www.stephenvillmuseum.org/bygonedays.htm>

Crazy Water Festival -

October 11 & 12 in Mineral Wells

Music at the Amphitheatre—Friday, October 11,
5:30 PM - 8:00 PM, Old Mineral Wells High School

Car, Truck & Bike Show--Saturday, October 12,
8:30 AM - 3:00 PM (registration, 8:30 - 11:30 a.m.)

Awards, Raffles, Music, First 75 entries get T-Shirts and More. Free Lunch to all registered participants.

9 a.m., Saturday -- Main part of festival near the Famous Mineral Water Company (209 NW Sixth St). Admission \$3. Crazy 5K Run, live music, Beer Garden, children's activities, arts & crafts and food vendors.

Visit www.mineralwellstx.com for more information.

1st Annual Boots & Hoses

Cook Off & Concert

October 18 & 19

Benefitting the Hubbard Creek, Caddo, Eliasville and Loving Volunteer Fire Departments. Walking K Ranch in Ivan, TX (11 mi. N of Breckenridge, TX on Hwy 67, then 1.5 miles E on FM 1147). Concerts on Friday and Saturday; Pre-sell tickets: \$25 or 2 for \$40; Tickets at gate: \$20. Cook Off Entries: Chili; Ribs; Brisket; Chicken; Beans Entry fee: \$20 or \$80 for all 5.

Call 254-246-2288 or visit

<http://www.bootsandhoses.org>
for times and info

Cross Timbers

Landowner Workshop

October 18, 8:30 a.m.-3:30 p.m. White Rock Ranch, 2205 Clark Lake Rd, Weatherford. Workshop Topics: Wildlife Management & Tax Appraisals; Range Management; Conservation Easements; Understanding Tree Valuations. CEU's will be available for TDA licenses. Guest Speaker: Texas State Representative Phil King speaking about Eminent Domain issues. Admission: \$10 (lunch will be provided)

Vaquero: Genesis of the Texas Cowboy

October 1—29, Palo Pinto Old Jail Musuem

In the early 1970s, noted Texas historian Joe Frantz offered Bill Wittliff a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity—to visit a ranch in northern Mexico where the vaqueros still worked cattle in traditional ways. Wittliff photographed the vaqueros as they went about daily chores that had changed little since the first Mexican cow herders learned to work cattle from a horse's back. Wittliff captured a way of life that now exists only in memory and in the photographs included in this exhibition.

Workforce Solutions Mobile Unit

Mineral Wells

Dates: October 2, 9, 16, 23, 30 - every Wednesday at the Boyce Ditto Public Library. Computer stations to search for jobs, work on resumes and receive training.

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OCTOBER CALENDAR OF EVENTS

Date	Event	Time	Location
Oct. 1	Strawn Lions Club Meeting	Noon	Mary's Cafe
Oct. 1	Free Blood Pressure Screening <i>Every Tuesday</i>	3-5 PM	Strawn Wellness Center
Oct. 1	Tx. Historical Com. Mtg on Bankhead Hwy	5:30-7:30 PM	Mineral Wells Womens' Club
Oct. 3	Strawn Junior High Football vs. Newcastle	5:30 PM	Greyhound Stadium
Oct. 3	Strawn JV Football vs. Newcastle	7 PM	Greyhound Stadium
Oct. 4	Strawn Varsity Football vs. Newcastle	7:30 PM	Newcastle ISD Stadium
Oct. 8	Strawn Lions Club Meeting	Noon	Mary's Cafe
Oct. 8	Historical Museum Meeting	6:30 PM	Strawn City Hall
Oct. 10	Strawn Junior High Football vs Brooksmith	5:30 PM	Brooksmith ISD Stadium
Oct. 10	Strawn JV Football vs. Walnut Springs	7:00 PM	Walnut Springs ISD Stadium
Oct. 10	Booster Club Meeting	6:30 PM	Strawn ISD Cafeteria
Oct. 11	Strawn Varsity Football vs. Brooksmith	7:30 PM	Greyhound Stadium
Oct. 14	Palo Pinto County Commissioners Court	9:00 AM	Palo Pinto County Courthouse
Oct. 14	Development Corp. of Strawn Meeting	6:00 PM	Strawn City Hall
Oct. 14	Strawn City Council Meeting	7:00 PM	Strawn City Hall
Oct. 15	Strawn Lions Club Meeting	Noon	Mary's Cafe
Oct. 19	Strawn Varsity Football vs. Marfa	2:00 PM	Garden City
Oct. 21	Strawn ISD Board Meeting	7:00 PM	Strawn ISD Administration Bldg.
Oct. 22	Strawn Lions Club Meeting	Noon	Mary's Cafe
Oct. 24	Strawn Junior High Football vs. Rising Star	5:30 PM	Strawn Greyhound Stadium
Oct. 25	Strawn Varsity Football vs. Rising Star	7:30 PM	Rising Star Stadium
Oct. 26	Strawn Halloween Carnival	TBA	Old Strawn ISD Gym
Oct. 28	Palo Pinto County Commissioners Court	9:00 AM	Palo Pinto County Courthouse
Oct. 29	Strawn Lions Club Meeting	Noon	Mary's Cafe
Oct. 31	Strawn Junior High Football vs. Sidney	5:30 PM	Sidney Stadium

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

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