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Strawn, Texas

The Strawn Advocate

The Community's Local News Source

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VOL. 1. ISSUE 10

SEPTEMBER 2013

Strawn Chamber Celebrates Successful First Year

On August 23, 2012, just over a year ago, approximately 20 people gathered at City Hall to discuss the formation of the Strawn Chamber of Commerce. And what a year it's been! Just in case you missed what all has transpired with the Chamber over the last year, here is the "year in review":

- August 2012 - Chamber Organized; Contact made with other area Chambers
- September 2012 - Interim Board selected; Initial Member Drive launched and survey sent; Assisted City with new website development
- October 2012 - Hosted Congressman
- November 2012 - developed Event Committee organized
- December 2012 - Assisted in Vial of Life distribution; Worked with City to purchase/install downtown holiday lights; sponsored Christmas parade (25 floats/400 attendees) and Chili Supper (150 attendees/ raised \$1,100); First edition of The Strawn Advocate is published (paying for itself with 13 advertisers)
- February 2013 - Chamber Office is renovated
- April 2013 - Sponsored downtown clean-up; Worked with DCOS and City to purchase new planters/landscaping and facilitated volunteer group to install planters, clean streets, sidewalks and windows;

STRAWN

Gateway to the
North Texas Hill Country

CHAMBER OF COMMERCE

www.strawnchamber.org

(continued on page 7)

THC Documenting History of Bankhead Highway

The Texas Historical Commission (THC) is conducting a two-year study to document the history of the Bankhead Highway since the 100th anniversary of the highway will be celebrated in 2016. Individuals and organizations are encouraged to share information and visual items (photos, postcards, maps) related to the Bankhead Highway for use in this project. On October 1, the THC will host an informational meeting from 5:30-7:30 p.m. at the Mineral Wells Woman's Club, 201 N.E. Second Street (the old Post Office behind the Baker). Please bring any Bankhead-related items to this meeting, especially photos or articles related to the bricks being laid through Strawn, downtown scenes, or old photos of businesses along the highway. With your consent, THC staff will scan or photograph materials which they may be able to use. If you are unable to attend the meeting, you can take your photos to City Hall or Strawn Museum; copies will be made and re-

(continued on page 6)

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to accomodate mailing info

W. H. HINKSON
RANCH

Proud of the Strawn
Chamber of Commerce

1st We Support
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of Albany/Breckenridge

CRAWFORD
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Proud to be Strawn
Chamber of Commerce
Supporters!

SUPPORT
STRAWN'S FUTURE

Join the Chamber
Next Meeting in the Fall
All are Welcome

City of Strawn News Briefs

Two Alderman Vacancies Filled

Two new Aldermen have been appointed to fill vacant seats on the Strawn City Council. In April, Jeff Greenwood was appointed to fill the seat vacated by Scott Parsons. Parsons took a position with the City that required him to resign. Greenwood and his fiancé Courtney Allen moved to Strawn in 2012, and he is employed with Union Pacific. On August 27, Esequiel Rodriguez was sworn in to fill the Alderman seat previously held by Benny Brock. The Council voted at the August 12 meeting to select Rodriguez, who is a long-time

Strawn resident and works for Butler Memorials.

Bid Accepted for New Water Line

(MicroplexNews.com) The Strawn City Council reviewed bids received from four companies for construction of a new water line that will run on the east side of the City. The City has previously received a \$275,000 grant for the new 8-inch water line. Board members unanimously accepted the low bid from Roberts Construction for \$227,855. Commissioner Tye Jackson recused himself from voting because of a possible conflict of interest. Jackson stated that he had priced materials for three of the com-

panies bidding on this project.

Strawn Listed As One of "Coolest Small Towns" In Texas Highways

In the September issue of *Texas Highways Magazine*, Strawn made the exclusive list of "Coolest Small Towns" along with Wimberley, Fredericksburg, Llano, Port Aransas, Calvert and several other small cities. Here is the excerpt. "Strawn (pop 647): Great shops and restaurant, Mary's Cafe. Best chicken fry in Texas!" Christine Tandy Perkins.

Don't Miss: Join the town-folk on Friday night to see the Strawn High six-man football team plan for glory

at Greyhound Stadium. To see the stadium at its most frenzied, be sure to attend when the arch-rival Gordon Longhorns come to town. "Copies of the article will be available at the Chamber Office next week, and we'll place a few copies around town for everyone to see!"

City Passes 2012 Fiscal Audit

(MicroplexNews.com) At the August 12 combined City Council/DCOS Meeting, Cam Gulley, CPA, presented audits for fiscal year 2012 for the Development

(continued on page 5)

C of C Celebrates Successful First Year (continued from page 1)

City, DCOS & Chamber co-sponsored the installation of landscaping at the end of Main Street; Partnered with the Palo Pinto County Historical Tour and hosted the 1st annual "Bash on the Bricks" festival with 500+ people attending the Historical Tour, Car Show and Lunch.

- May 2013 – 2nd Membership Drive launched, targeting Strawn alumni with 40+ new members joining; Assisted Booster Club with Clay Shoot contacts; Clay Shoot Sponsor; CARE 5/10K Sponsor
- September 2013–

1st Chamber Board Elections; sponsor of LaMancha Benefit (CARE)

We hope that EVERYONE—Chamber members, local residents, former residents, and fans of Strawn—has enjoyed and appreciated all of the improvements, the events and, of course, the Chamber newsletter, The Strawn Advocate.

Unlike most other Chambers, the Strawn Chamber doesn't receive any hotel/motel tax revenue, so we must rely on Our Members to support these efforts and achievements. If you have yet to join and would like to

see the Chamber continue to improve both the quality of life in Strawn, as well as our local business environment, we ask you to join TODAY! We have included a Membership Form in this edition.

Chamber Board Elections Scheduled for September

The Chamber will be holding Board elections in late September 2013. Ballots will be mailed to all Chamber Members with voting instructions and timelines. To be eligible to vote, you must be a current Chamber member in good standing (current on

dues) as of September 25, 2013. We encourage anyone interested in joining and participating in the election to do so prior to September 25.

Meet the CofC's New Director

We are excited to announce that Georgia Stephen Braun has accepted the position of Chamber Executive Director. Starting Friday, September 6, the Chamber office will be open from 10 am - 3 pm. If you are interested in volunteering for Chamber events, please email us at strawn-chamber@att.net or call 254-595-0197.

STEWART TANK COMPANY & OILFIELD SUPPLY, INC.



402 W Walnut St. – P O Box 158
Strawn, Texas 76475
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Ricky & Lou Jones, Owners

The Strawn Advocate

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News Stories and Info:

Contact Diana Hinkson at 254-672-5281
Email: dianahinkson476@msn.com

Advertising:

Contact Kim Garland at 940-328-5451
Email: kimila77@hotmail.com

Chamber Info:

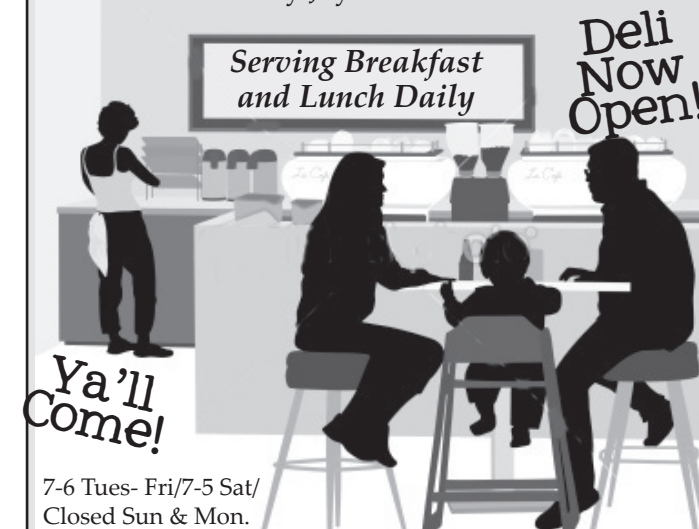
Contact Jeanine Caraway: 254-672-5347
Email: jeaninecaraway@aol.com

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2013 Greyhound Varsity Football Schedule

Sept. 13	Bryson	There	7:30
Sept. 20	Leuders-Avoca	Home	7:30
Sept. 27	Gordon	Home	7:30
Oct. 4	Newcastle	There	7:30
Oct. 11	Brooksmith	Home	7:30
Oct. 19	Marfa	Garden City	2:00
Oct. 25	*Rising Star	There	7:30
Nov. 1	*#Sidney	Home	7:30
Nov. 8	*Moran	There	7:30

* District Games # Homecoming



Greyhound Pac-A-Sac

202 S. Front St. • Strawn, Texas

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

254-672-5986

Week Day Lunch Specials
Grill Open 5 am - 8 pm Daily
Hunting-Fishing Licenses
Deer Corn • Gas • Groceries

Area Ranch In Spotlight

Jackson Hereford Ranch, a founding member of the Strawn Chamber, was featured in the August 2013 edition of The Cattleman magazine, a publication of Texas and Southwestern Cattle Raisers Association (based in Fort Worth). The article focuses on the tragic effects of the 2008 wildfires that swept through Stephens and Palo Pinto Counties and the ongoing recovery of the Jackson's ranchland and herd.

Jackson Hereford Ranch is owned by The Jackson Family Limited Partnership, consisting of Robert Joe and Dena Jackson, Smokey and Shirley Epler, Tye Jackson, Jacob Jackson and Shelby Jackson. Jacob and Tye are both residents of Strawn, where Tye serves on the City Council. To access the article, go to: <http://thecattlemanmagazine.com/archives/2013/august/jackson-8-13.html> or pick up a copy of the article at the Chamber Office.

Bankhead... (continued from page 1)

turned to you. through our town and is significant to our history. Please pull out your old family photos and see if there is a hidden gem we can share with the world!

The Chamber and Historical Association would like Strawn to be well represented in this project since the Bankhead Highway went

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Email: kimila77@hotmail.com

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BBQ Cook-off at LaMancha Slated to Benefit C.A.R.E.

The 6th annual LaMancha Barbeque Cook-Off will be held October 18 and 19 at Lamancha Lake Ranch, Lake Leon-Eastland, Texas. Proceeds from the event benefit local animal shelters and C.A.R.E. animal rescue, which serves parts of Palo Pinto, Stephens, Eastland and Erath Counties.

In the past, funds from the Cook-Off have helped C.A.R.E. pay vet bills, sponsor low cost spay/neuter clinics, and provide pet food, supplies, and new equipment for C.A.R.E.'s facility in Mingus. C.A.R.E. volunteer Terry Lee said, "It is much needed income for us! We are very appreciative to be

part of this event. None of this would be possible without local businesses and individuals who provide support from Strawn, Mingus, Gordon, Lake Palo Pinto and Mineral Wells, and we greatly appreciate them."

This year, two events will lead up to the Cook-Off. On September 28 at 1 p.m., Lakeside Golf Course of Eastland is sponsoring a four-person golf tournament scramble. Cash prizes will be given. Entry fee is \$100-Four person team/\$25-Individual. To enter, contact Ken at 254-631-7400. Proceeds from the scramble will help fund the LaMancha Cook-Off.

On Saturday, October 5, LaMancha and C.A.R.E. will have a booth at the Old Rip Fest in Eastland and will be selling baked items, breakfast burritos, raffle baskets, LaMancha barbeque dinner tickets and items for your pet.

The LaMancha Barbeque Cook-Off will begin on Friday, October 18, with registration of Cooking Teams from 6 to 8 p.m. Open to the public on Friday night is a Fajita Dinner, \$10 per person, and a Texas Holdem Tournament with a \$25 buy in; prizes will be awarded. Also, a silent auction runs from 6 p.m. Friday to 4 p.m. on Saturday. Spur 490 will provide live music.

On Saturday, October 19, in addition to the BBQ Cook-off and judging, there will be a CARE pet parade and a CARE Walk/Run with your pets; karaoke on the patio all afternoon; and presentation of awards about 6 p.m. To enter the Cook-Off, please call 254-647-3651.

How can you help? Be a SPONSOR with a donation of cash, services or merchandise. Several sponsorship levels are available and with each level, C.A.R.E. will include the name of your business on the LaMancha t-shirts and banner. To become a sponsor or assist with any of these events, call Terry Lee at 254-672-5501.

Grandmaster Roy Kurban



- 8th Dan Black Belt
- Taekwondo

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Strawn Wellness Center
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Area Happenings

Bee Hives & Honey: Beekeeping in TX

Sunday, September 8, at 2 p.m.,
W. K. Gordon Center – Thurber
Local Beekeepers from the Dino-Bee Club will discuss:
The History of Beekeeping; Starting your own colony;
Cost of getting started; Advantages of pollinators; and
much more!!
Phone: 254-968-1886
E-mail: giffin@tarleton.edu

Boater Safety Course

September 14, 8:30 a.m. to 5 p.m.
PK - BRA Office, 301 Observation Point Road,
East side off South FM 2353
\$10 per person;
Children under 17
must be accompanied by an adult.

TRIFECTA Triathlon
at Possum Kingdom Lake-East Side
Sunday, September 15,
YMCA Camp Grady Spruce

The Sprint & Olympic Distance Triathlon event will feature
a swim, bike, and run on the picturesque Possum Kingdom
Lake and Palo Pinto County. Athletes from throughout
the state of Texas and rest of the country will take part in
the event. Proceeds of TRIFECTA go to the YMCA-Camp
Grady Spruce.

Palo Pinto County Farm Bureau Annual
Convention & Dinner

Monday, September 23, 6 PM,
Mineral Wells High School Cafeteria
For more information, call (940) 325-9412

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.



Roaring Ranger Days

Saturday, September 21.
“The Roaring Ranger Run” begins at 8:30 a.m. in front
of the First Financial Bank, 106 W. Main St. Regis-
tration starts at 7:30 a.m., or you can register online
through September 19. Early registration by Septem-
ber 9 is \$20 or \$25 for registration after that date or on
race day. Festival will include vendors, games and rides
for the kids, great music; unique entertainers includ-
ing a youth dance group performance and a wild west
reenactment group. A Wild West Parade, sponsored
by Ranger Historical Preservation Society, begins at 10
a.m. downtown.

Workforce Solutions Mobil Unit
Mineral Wells

September 4, 11, 18 and 25 (every Wednesday at the
Boyce Ditto Public Library)
Computer stations to search for jobs, work on resumes
and receive training.

Palo Pinto General Hospital Auxiliary
Fashion Show & Dinner

Monday, September 16, 6:30 p.m., at Mineral Wells
High School Cafeteria
For reserved tables of 8, call Sheila - 940-452-0993
or Eloise - 817-521-6766
\$1,000.00 door prize courtesy of First Financial Bank
(must be present to win)
Admission: \$30 per person
(benefits PPGH Auxiliary)

Cowboy Capital of the World PRCA Rodeo
(Lone Star Arena, Stephenville)

Parade – Saturday, September 21, 5 PM
Rodeo Performances: Friday 9/27 & Saturday 9/28
both @ 7 PM, Sunday, 9/29 Matinee 2 PM
Tickets: Adults \$8 in advance, \$10 at door, Kids \$5
Enjoy LIVE MUSIC: Dancing in the Dirt Texas Music
Concert featuring Will Hobbs & The Crop Dusters
following the rodeo performances Friday & Saturday

Council News Briefs (continued from page 2)

Corporation of Strawn
(DCOS) and the City
of Strawn. Gulley said
that the cash controls
for Strawn were excel-
lent. He stated that
the only issue was that
the budget needed to
be amended anytime a
category exceeded 10
percent. This happened
only once in 2012 dur-
ing the clean-up in May,
which wasn’t included
in the City’s original
budget. The Council
voted to accept the au-
dits as presented.

Temporary Space
for Old Depot

At the August 12 Council
meeting, the Strawn His-
torical Museum Association
submitted a request asking
for permission to temporar-
ily house the old Strawn De-
pot on city-owned property
while it is being renovated.
The City agreed to write a
letter giving permission to
set the old Depot on a city-
owned lot.

Donate Bottled
Water to VFD

Strawn Volunteer Fire De-
partment is seeking do-

nations of bottled water. at the fire hall on Tuesdays
They have almost exhaust- at 7 p.m. or at City Hall at
ed their supply left over any time. Thank you for
from the 2011 fires. Dona- your support of our fire
tions may be dropped off department.



SEPTEMBER CALENDAR OF EVENTS

Date	Event	Time	Location
Sept. 9	Palo Pinto County Commissioners Court	9 AM	Palo Pinto County Courthouse
Sept. 9	Development Corporation of Strawn	6 PM	Strawn City Hall
Sept. 9	Strawn City Council Meeting	7 PM	Strawn City Hall
Sept. 10	Strawn Lions Club Meeting	Noon	Mary’s Cafe
Sept. 10	Historical Museum Meeting	7 PM	Strawn City Hall
Sept. 10	Strawn Booster Club Meeting	6 PM	Strawn ISD Cafeteria
Sept. 12	Junior High Football vs Bryson	5:30 PM	Greyhound Stadium
Sept. 12	JV Football vs. Bryson	7:30 PM	Greyhound Stadium
Sept. 13	Varsity Football vs. Bryson	7:30 PM	Greyhound Stadium
Sept. 16	Strawn ISD Board Meeting	7:00 PM	Strawn ISD Administration Bldg.
Sept. 17	Strawn Lions Club Meeting	Noon	Mary’s Cafe
Sept. 19	Junior High Football vs Lueders-Avoca	5:30 PM	Lueders-Avoca
Sept. 20	Varsity Football vs. Lueders-Avoca	7:30PM	Greyhound Stadium
Sept. 23	Palo Pinto County Commissioners Court	9 AM	Palo Pinto County Courthouse
Sept. 24	Strawn Lions Club Meeting	Noon	Mary’s Cafe
Sept. 26	Junior High Football vs Gordon	5:30 PM	Gordon
Sept. 26	JV Football vs. Gordon	7:30PM	Gordon
Sept. 27	Booster Club BBQ Tailgate	6:30 PM	Greyhound Stadium
Sept. 27	Varsity Football vs. Gordon	7:30 PM	Greyhound Stadium

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