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VOL. 3. ISSUE 1

DECEMBER 2014

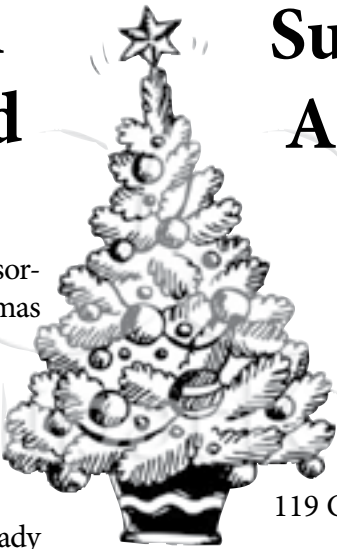
Merry Hometown Celebration Slated December 13th

The Strawn Chamber of Commerce is sponsoring the 3rd annual Merry Hometown Christmas on Saturday, December 13.

The festivities include a parade, chili supper, and concert, along with a visit from Santa.

The lighted Christmas parade begins at 6 p.m. Get your floats, cars, and pickups ready for the parade. Cash prizes

(continued on page 3)



Support the Strawn Angel Tree Project

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) Starting December 4, stop by and select an Angel to sponsor.

The 2014 Angel Tree is located at Strawn Wellness Center, 119 Central Ave, Strawn, TX. Make a donation, which will go toward purchasing clothes and gifts for the Angel Tree children.

(continued on page 3)

Merry Christmas

Strawn Advocate Begins Third Year of Publication

This issue of *The Strawn Advocate* is significant because it begins the third year of publication. Started in December 2012 by the newly formed Strawn Chamber of Commerce, the intent of the monthly

newsletter is to keep readers informed of what's happening within the community, the Chamber, and the future Palo Pinto Mountains State Park.

Distributed monthly around town to local busi-

nesses, the *Advocate* is also mailed to those living outside of Strawn who have joined the Chamber. For out-of-towners, Strawn alumni, and fans of Strawn, you can receive a monthly mailed edition

(and help out Strawn in the process) by joining the Chamber for the annual introductory rate of \$50. Contact the Chamber at 254-595-0197 or strawn-chamber@att.net for information about joining.

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Next Meeting December 17th at 3 pm.

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to accomodate mailing info



Harrison Nowak, state and national record breaker and first Mr. Texas Football Player of the Week from six-man school to hold the honor.

Strawn Quarterback Breaks State and National Records

Strawn quarterback Harrison Nowak broke six-man state and national records in the Greyhounds' November 7 game against Gustine by racking up 845 passing yards and 15 touchdown passes in a single game. The final score in the Greyhound victory was 109-66. As a result, Nowak was nominated for Dave Campbell's Texasfootball.com Mr. Texas Football Player of the Week.

This award is given to the most deserving high school football player in the state of Texas, and each week ten candidates are chosen based on the previous week's on-field performance. The winner is decided by online voting, and Nowak received enough votes to be named Mr. Texas Football Player of the Week. Congratulations, Harrison, for being the first player from a six-man school to hold this honor!

Mary's Cafe is featured in American Airlines magazine

Congratulations to Mary's Café, who was featured in the November edition of *American Way*, an American Airlines publication with a monthly readership of 2.7 million, given to all American Airlines passengers. Entitled "Magic at Mary's Café," the one-page article includes a picture of local owner Mary

Tretter serving plates of her famous chicken-fried steak. You can access the article at <http://hub.aa.com/en/aw/magic-at-mary%E2%80%99s-cafe>. Thank you, Mary, for bringing national attention to Strawn and congratulations on your continued success with Mary's Café!

PP Challenge Bake Sale

A bake sale to benefit Palo Pinto Challenge will be held Saturday, December 13, in front of the Greyhound Pac-A-Sac. Delicious homemade baked goods and candy will be available for sale beginning at 9 a.m. If anyone would like to donate a baked good, please call Jennifer at 254-672-5891.

Strawn ISD Tax Ratification Election Passes by 2-1

(*mineralwellsindex.com*) With 189 ballots cast in the district's four precincts, Strawn ISD saw its tax ratification election pass by a 2-1 vote margin in the November 4 election. The successful proposition allows Strawn ISD to assess a \$1.17 per \$100 property valuation tax levy, up from \$1.04, to pay for general maintenance and operational costs. Superintendent Brent Dawson said while the district has no capital improvement plans, there are facility maintenance needs and issues to address. He said the TRE will bring the district around \$120,000 in additional annual revenue. "It allows us to not further cut programs or positions," Dawson said. "It will also allow us to strengthen our fund balance and protect the integrity of the fund balance. It will help us accomplish our long-range facility plans."

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at Strawn First National Bank. Help support our youth.

The Strawn Advocate

Published Monthly by the
Strawn Chamber of Commerce
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Chamber Info:
Contact Georgia Braun at
254-595-0197



Pictured above are Lou Jones, Georgia Braun, Jeff Hinkson, Danny Miller, Tina Spakes, and Richard Mitchell, who attended the 21st annual Texas Midwest Conference on October 29 at the Abilene Civic Center. Texas Midwest Communities Network (TMCN) offers seminars and networking opportunities at its annual conference, along with acknowledging the accomplishments of outstanding communities. In previous years, Eastland and Cisco have received community achievement awards. (photo courtesy of MicroplexNews.com)

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Pictured above are Strawn Martial Arts Academy Brown Belts Carl Frazier (L) and Larry Spraggins (R) with Grandmaster Roy Kurban. Frazier recently placed 3rd and Spraggins placed 1st at the Texas Karate League in Arlington. Mr. Spraggins earned top Brown Belt Men's Sparring Division Champion of 2014, thereby earning the prestigious Eagle Award for that division. He is the very first Eagle Award winner for Strawn Martial Arts Academy! SMAA is very proud of all their school competitors. Hard work pays off!

Merry Christmas *(Cont. from page one)*

will be awarded for the top three parade entries, with \$100 for 1st, \$75 for 2nd, and \$50 for 3rd place.

Frosty the Snowman will be walking around, so everyone is invited to bring cameras for photos of their kids with Frosty.

A Chili Supper at the City Pavilion will follow the pa-

rade, with entertainment by the Tarleton State University Jazz Ensemble. Santa will be located in Memorial Park.

New this year, the Chamber is sponsoring a contest for best decorated home. Judging will take place December 10th through the 12th.

Angel Tree *(Continued from page one)*

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. Donations and gifts will be accepted through December 18th at 7 pm.

In 2013, the Strawn Angel Tree project helped provide gifts for 40 children from 13 families, 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!

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Hounds Score Big at Area Basketball Tournaments

Congratulations to the Hounds won the Coleman Tournament on November 15, and the boys won the Moran Tournament on November 22. See the December Calendar of Events for a list of scheduled basketball games for the junior high boys and girls, junior varsity and varsity girls, and varsity boys teams. Go Hounds!



(Below) Members of C.A.R.E. participated in the November 1 City-Wide Clean-up by picking up litter along their 2- mile designated stretch of Hwy 108. The group picked up over 12 large bags of litter. Thank you to C.A.R.E. for continuing to support Keep Strawn Beautiful initiatives!



(Above) Thank you to the ladies of the 1st National Bank-Strawn Branch, who participated in the November 1 City Wide Clean-up. They spent the day clearing eight bags of brush and trash from the neighborhood south of the Football Field Rd. as well as along Palo Pinto St. (Death Valley Rd.). They were joined by Jessica Mallory's daughter, Jocelyn, who helped as part of her "community contribution" as Jr. High cheerleader.



Area Happenings

Root's – December Entertainment
610 S. Hwy 16, Strawn – (254) 672-5300 -
Check us out on Facebook

Saturday, 12/6 - Stagecoach
Saturday, 12/13 - Damn Skippy
Saturday, 12/31 - Chris Burns, Aaron Phillips & Friends

"Feliz Navidad" Holiday Festival
at the Gordon Center - Sat, 12/6 - 6:30 pm
The WK Gordon Center is excited to welcome Ernesto's Mariachi Band for an evening of musical fun! Come warm up at the museum for a lively evening of food and music! Call 254-968-1886 for more info.

8th Annual FRONTIER CHRISTMAS
at the Old Jail Museum Complex
Thursday, 12/11 – 5:00 pm to 8:00 pm
Downtown Palo Pinto - Frontier fare tasting at 5:30pm, Musicians, carolling, storytelling, and surrey rides, 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

Gordon's Christmas Parade & Santa in the Park
Saturday, 12/13
Parade starts at 2:00 p.m. Free Hotdogs afterwards. Sponsored by Gordon VFD.

Strawn's 3rd Annual Merry Hometown Christmas Parade & Chili Supper
Saturday, 12/13

6:00 p.m. Lighted Parade - Prizes for 1st, 2nd, & 3rd Place Entries/ Winner of Holiday Decorating Contest TBA;
6:30 p.m. Chili Supper & Music - Adults-\$7/Kids-\$5;
6:30 - Music by Tarleton Jazz Ensemble. Visit with Santa and.... Frosty will be here too! Parade Entries – call Terry Lee @ 254-413-3466 Questions/Volunteers

Call Strawn Chamber @ 254-595-0197
or strawnchamber@att.net

Gordon 1st United Methodist Choir Christmas Cantata

- St. Barbara's Church – Thurber - Sat, 12/13 – 6:30 pm
- 1st Baptist Church – Gordon - Sun, 12/15 – 9:00 am
- 1st United Methodist Church – Gordon - Sun, 12/15 – 11:00 am
- 1st Baptist Church – Strawn - Sun, 12/15 – 6:00 pm



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 &
MERRY CHRISTMAS!

Jim McLennan - Realtor



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