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The Strawn Advocate

The Community's Local News Source

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VOL. 2. ISSUE 2

JANUARY 2014

City Council Recognizes Efforts to Keep Strawn Beautiful

(MicroplexNews.com) of Appreciation to those Certificates were present- North Front Street; Strawn Development Corporation for their continuous support for many years to beautify Strawn; Mount Marion Cemetery Association for the on-going beautification of Mount Marion Cemetery, including adding new trees, building the rock entrance and replacing the fence along Hwy 16; Strawn Historical Association and Museum Board for ongoing efforts to preserve the heritage of Strawn, recent renovations to the museum and efforts to bring the historic train depot back to Strawn; Girl Scout Troop 8431 for showing civic pride while planting wildflowers along North Front Street;

At the December 16th city council meeting, the Strawn City Council handed out Certificates above and beyond to contribute to the welfare and beautification of Strawn. Native Plant Society of Texas for their help in the Wildflower Project along



Photo courtesy of MicroplexNews.com

Recipients of Certificates of Appreciation from the City of Strawn include (from left to right) Finis Butler (Development Corporation of Strawn), Sarah Ferguson (Girl Scouts), John Ferguson (Palo Pinto Mountains State Park) accompanied by his children, (l to r) Henry, Katy and William, Jane Fambrough Burdick (Native Plant Society of Texas), Diana Hinkson (Strawn Historical Museum), Terry Lee (C.A.R.E.), Tye Jackson (City Council), and Jeff Hinkson (Chamber of Commerce).

(continued on page 7)

Hometown Christmas Brings Floats and Musical Merriment

Strawn's 2013 Merry Hometown Christmas Event was a chilled success due to an unfortunate, sudden and dramatic drop in temperatures on December 20. The Chamber reported sixteen float entries in the parade, most all of them decked out in Christmas lights. Prizes were awarded to the top entries: 1st Place (\$100) - Praise & Worship float from Gorman; 2nd place (\$50) went to 1st National Bank - Strawn Branch; and 3rd Place (\$25) went to C.A.R.E. Approximately 100 folks braved the chilly night air to grab a warm bowl of (continued on page 7)

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Strawn Students Work Concessions at Three Bowl Games

Students from Strawn School ran the Official NCAA merchandise concessions at three bowl games--the Armed Forces Bowl in Fort Worth on December 30, The Advocare V100 Bowl in Shreveport, Louisiana on December 31, and the Heart of Dallas Bowl held at the Cotton Bowl on January 1. All games were televised on ESPN as part of their football bowl game coverage. This was the third year in a row that Strawn students have helped with the merchandise concessions at the stadiums during the bowl games. As a result of their performance, each year the students have been asked to add an additional game. All the students were up at 4 a.m. each day and endured the cramped car rides, cold weather, and large crowds. In return, "the students received about a year's worth of retail experience in three days," according to Alan Alison. They received the merchandise for their booth, set up and merchandised their station so it would look presentable and SOLD, SOLD, SOLD! Afterwards, they tore it all down, then inventoried and packed up whatever merchandise was left at the end of each day. Alison noted that "Last year students from Strawn moved about \$108,000 worth of merchandise in two days; I'm interested to see what the sales totals are for the three days this year."

TEAM RETAIL SOLUTIONS out of North Carolina utilized Strawn students instead of hiring temp help and college kids, and they will pay the Strawn Booster Club \$9,000 for their efforts. The following students and adults helped with the efforts this year: Owen and Ross Alison, Ariana Espinoza, Anna and Jacob Trujillo, Xaivier Olivio, Abram Jaramio, Chase Mackey, Shyanne Mangrum, Chelsea Atkins, Alex Halstead, K-lani Nava, Alyssa Little and Gavin Duncan. The students were led by Alan and Tamara Alison, Coach Lee and his brother-in-law and sister-in-law Aaron and Melinda. Coach Lee remarked, "the kids did a SUPER JOB getting up early and really worked hard and fast. I don't think they could have hired any other group that would have taken the interest or given the effort that our kids did." Mrs. Alison

(continued on page 3)

Efforts to Beautify Strawn Recognized (continued from page one)

Community Animal Rescue Effort (C.A.R.E.) for keeping animals in Strawn safe, for their many successful rescues of mistreated and unwanted animals, and for their support of the City of Strawn Animal Control Officer; John Ferguson, Palo Pinto Mountain State Park Superintendent, for his help with the landscaping projects along North Front Street; Strawn Chamber of Commerce for their many projects including the landscaping projects and the purchase of Christmas lights for downtown; 1G Youth Ministry Group for their help in clean up projects; Shawver and Katy Abbott for their help with many Strawn clean up projects; and Strawn Booster Club for their help with efforts in numerous clean-up and beautification projects."

Christmas Holiday Merriment (continued from page one)

chili made by hometown chef Linda Faubion and listen to the 10-piece Tarleton Jazz Ensemble perform Christmas songs. To hear a video clip of the musical performance and view pictures from the parade, visit <http://www.microplexnews.com/strawn-merry-hometown-christmas-photos/> The Chamber would like to thank everyone who volunteered to decorate, donated food items, cooked, served and coordinated. A huge thanks goes out to the event underwriters, who made the event possible. The event underwriters included the following: Trey's Construction, Stewart Tank Company, W.H. Hinkson Ranch, Crawford Brothers Ranch, 1st National Bank-Strawn Branch, Palo Pinto Mountains State Park, Rob-Joe Materials, Inc., Big Sunday Creek Ranch, Bert Williams, Edwards Funeral Home, Tri-City Laundry, Faithful Companions, Stephen Ranch Partnership, Greyhound Merchandising, An Ancient Art Soap Company, Jeff Hinkson and TD's Deer Processing.

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## Strawn Angel Tree Brings Christmas Joy to Area Children

Although the 2013 Angel Tree launched with a bumpy take off due to December's ice storm, the end result was a great success. In less than two weeks, Strawn area locals adopted and provided gifts for 40 children from 13 families who otherwise would have had a less joyful Christmas. Additionally, the Chamber also received several donations to the Angel Tree program which allowed them to provide a full Christmas dinner to each family which included ham, vegetables and pasta. The excess cornbread muffins and deserts that were left from the Chamber Chili Supper were also included with each dinner. Thank you to everyone who adopted an Angel, donated money, or volunteered to assist. A special thank you goes out to Shannah Coe and Terri Forsee with An Ancient Art Soap Company for hosting the Angel Tree and coordinating the program.



*In less than two weeks, Strawn area locals adopted and provided gifts for 40 children from 13 families.*

### Did You Know?

The Strawn Angel Tree Program began in 2000 when the editor of a local magazine (no longer published) saw a need in the community. It has been going continually ever since.

## Greyhound Pac-A-Sac

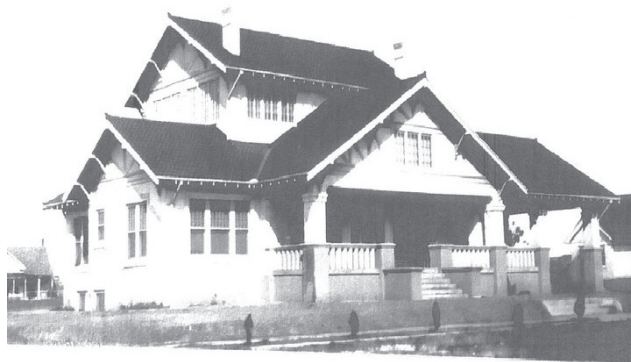
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## Strawn Students Work Concessions (continued from page two)

said it gave the kids “real world” sales experience and also helped boost their confidence. Several students were lucky enough to meet and have their pictures taken with Si from Duck Dynasty and “Mean Joe Green” of the Pittsburgh Steelers and University of North Texas Alum. Alyssa Little said that the trip was “really cold and a lot of work, but I learned a lot and can’t wait until next year.” All the students received bowl game merchandise that included hoodies, hats, and t-shirts that they were able to take home from each game.



*From left to right, Strawn High School Students Alyssa Little, Gavin Duncan, and K-Lani Nava are shown helping work the NCAA Concessions at recently held Bowl games. (See full story beginning on page 2.)*



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## A Look Back at 2013 in Palo Pinto Mountains State Park

2013 was an exciting and productive year at the newest state park in Texas, Palo Pinto Mountains State Park. Here are some of the events and accomplishments that occurred during the past year.

- Acquired over 600 additional acres of land for the park.
- Hosted two star gazing parties, in April and November, with a great turnout for each event.
- Had three trail work days in June, July, and August, clearing over 12 miles of trail in the park.
- Hosted two equestrian trail rides in June and November.
- Hosted one nature hike in the park in May.
- Working with the Fort

Worth Audubon Society, recorded over 100 species of birds in the park.

- Working with Texas Parks & Wildlife Department and contract botanists, recorded 436 species of plants in the park.
- Conducted archeological surveys of over 800 acres of park land. This is necessary to ensure that any prehistoric archeological sites are not disturbed by construction of park facilities.

During the year over 400 out of town visitors came to Strawn because of the park. These people either came to special events or participated in park work or planning sessions. Many of them spent at least one night in Strawn.

During the next year, park

staff and volunteers plan to have two star gazing parties with the next one being Saturday, April 26. There will also be two equestrian trail rides, with the first being on Sunday, June 1, which is also National Trails Day. There will also very likely be a park Easter Egg

Hunt in the spring, and a Pumpkin Festival in the fall. These will both be primarily children's events.

Planning is moving ahead for construction of camping loops, additional trails, and other facilities, but a date has not yet been set for actual construction to begin.

## Cans For C.A.R.E. Drop-Off

On December 27, 2013 two new bins were placed in Strawn for locals to donate their aluminum cans to benefit Community Animal Rescue Effort (C.A.R.E.). According to Danny Miller, Strawn City Secretary, "C.A.R.E. saves the City of Strawn and other area communities a tremendous amount of money and man hours by rescuing and spay/neutering stray and unwanted dogs and cats. Additionally, this program provides the Strawn area with a recycling program that not

only helps the environment by reducing solid waste but also provides funds for C.A.R.E.'s animal rescue efforts."

To help with this great program, we suggest three easy steps: 1) Keep an extra trash bin at your home; 2) Separate aluminum cans from other trash; and 3) Deposit the cans at one of two locations by Friday at 4 p.m. The cans will be picked up each week. The two trash bins are located between the Bank & the Dollar Store and at Roots (located on Hwy 16 South).

## Save The Date!

C.A.R.E. Spaghetti  
Supper and Bingo  
Fundraiser,  
Feb. 15



## Sixty-Year-Old Fencing Replaced at Mount Marion Cemetery

The Mount Marion Cemetery Association voted in November to make funds available to replace the aging, dilapidated cyclone fence that runs along the cemetery property next to Hwy 16. The cyclone fence was installed 60+ years ago

and had deteriorated to the point that it was too costly to repair.

Three bids were solicited, one for a rock fence similar to the one that surrounds the older section of the cemetery and two bids for an ornamental metal fence. Trey's Con-

struction, locally owned and based in Strawn, won the project and completed the metal fence in mid-December. The project also included a new ornamental metal gate (at the new rock entrance completed earlier in 2013) as well as a new 14-foot gate

between the cemetery and baseball field properties. The Cemetery Association would like to thank Shawver Abbott for removing the old fence and Trey Hodgkins for completing the project within budget and in less time than expected.

## Lady Hounds Bring Down the Big Dogs!

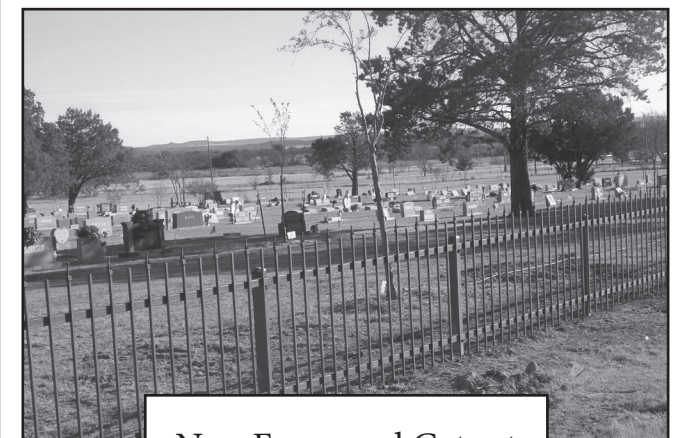
The Lady Hounds (12-7) defeated Class 3A Vernon, 55-54, to win the Breckenridge Basketball Tournament in the championship game on Saturday, December 28.

The Hounds lost to Merkel in the opening game but came back to defeat Graham 55-30, after winning

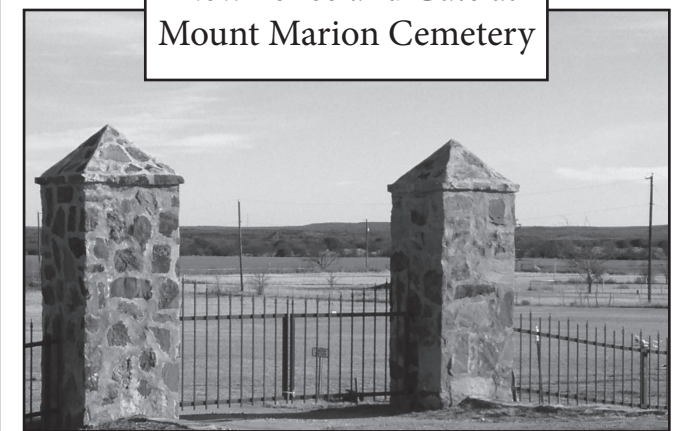
against the host team, Breckenridge, 45-41.

Shelly Abbott was named the tournament's Most Valuable Player, and Jacqueline Berumen and Tearany Atkins were both named to the All-Tournament team.

Congrats Ladies and job well done!



New Fence and Gate at  
Mount Marion Cemetery



## Reminder from City:

Because the city new water line project is still in progress, local officials want residents to know they should continue to expect periodic water service interruptions as new tie-ins are completed. Such disruptions are unavoidable, and the city regrets any difficulty the temporary interruptions of service may cause.

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