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VOL. 2. ISSUE 7

JUNE 2014

Strawn Recognized for Community Achievement by KTB

After competing for the first time in the Keep Texas Beautiful Governor's Community Achievement Awards, Strawn placed third and was recognized with an "Award of Excellence" for receiving a score of 90 or higher. The Strawn Chamber of Commerce applied for this prestigious statewide program due to all the clean-up and beautification projects undertaken in the past year. Competing in the Category 1 division (communities with populations up to 3,000), the first place winner was awarded a \$90,000 grant. Utopia won the 1st place award, Aubrey placed 2nd, and Strawn placed 3rd, finishing ahead of seven other communities. In applying for the award, Strawn was required to document

(continued on page 7)



Homecoming/Bash on the Bricks Events Schedule

Friday June 13 6:30 p.m. Poker Tournament at Mary's Café in the patio building; 1st-3rd prizes awarded 9:00 p.m. Exes dance at Roots; Texas Exposure	along with Cory Crenshaw & Friends will be playing; \$5.00 cover 9:00 p.m. Beer Pong Tournament at Roots in Strawn on the back patio; \$20/Team of 2. No cover charge if entered in Tournament.	Saturday June 14 9:45 a.m. Parade entry sign in 10:00 a.m. Parade; 1st-3rd prizes for float, horse, ATV/ bike. Call Terry Lee with any questions (254-672-5501)
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11:00 a.m. Antique Car Show; D&D Rocking Rods. For entries or information, call Donna at 817-581-8853 or 817-797-1197

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JOIN THE STRAWN CHAMBER OF COMMERCE
Next meeting: June 10th, 12 Noon at Strawn City Hall
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Tye Jackson Sworn in as Strawn's Newest City Mayor

(Microplexnews.com) On Monday, May 19, the Strawn City Council met to canvass votes and swear in new city council members.

Tye Jackson was sworn in as Mayor. Jeff Greenwood and Randy Johnson were sworn in as aldermen. A presentation was made

by Mayor Jackson to outgoing Mayor Carl Frazier in appreciation of his years of service to the city. Frazier served as alderman from June 2006 until May 2010 when he was elected Mayor. Frazier did not sign up to run for re-election this term.

Former alderman Benny Brock was also presented with a plaque in appreciation of his years of service. He was Alderman from April 1973 through April 1975 and from June 2005 until May 2013.



Former Strawn mayor Carl Frazier (right) swears in newly elected mayor Tye Jackson. Jeff Greenwood and Randy Johnson were also sworn in as new aldermen. (Photo courtesy of MicroplexNews.com)

Hopkins Elected as Newest Trustee on Strawn ISD Board

In the May 10 elections for Strawn ISD Board of Trustees, incumbents Jim Pollock and Mindy Hodg-

kins were reelected to their positions. Jeff Hopkins was elected as a new trustee for the school board.

REMINDER FROM CITY OF STRAWN:
Please keep conserving water! Stage 3 drought response is still in effect.

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Email: strawnchamber@att.net

Strawn Receives Achievement Award *(continued from page one)*

achievement in seven areas: Community Leadership and Coordination; Public Awareness; Education; Beautification and Community Improvement; Litter Prevention and Cleanup; Solid Waste Management; and Litter Law/Illegal Dumping Enforcement.

In addition to placing 3rd in the Category 1 division, Strawn was one of 26 communities in all 10 population categories to receive an "Award of Excellence" for scoring 90 or above. Strawn received a score of 95, and the panel of judges had the following comments:

"Way to set the standard, Strawn!"
~ comment from judge

"Good program. Strawn has a bright future; students are involved in environmental education efforts; way to set the standard, Strawn!"

"The residents of Strawn are dedicated to improving their community and making it a better place."

"Strawn is serious about improving their community."

"Great job, good numbers. The volunteer time for a small community is extraordinary." The Chamber would like to extend special thanks to the

City of Strawn, Development Corporation, and all the volunteers who have worked

together and supported the efforts to clean up and beautify the city. As an affiliate of the Keep Texas Beautiful program, Strawn will continue to make progress in improving the community's environment.

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Homecoming *(continued from page one)*

11:00 a.m. Carnival with wet slide/dry slide, dunking booth and games (bring the kids' bathing suits)

11:00-1:00 Bar-B-Q Lunch served at the Pavilion

1:00 p.m. Bingo in the Pavilion

1:00 p.m. Horseshoe tournament behind Pavilion

Vendors will be set up

around City Hall throughout the day selling clothes, jewelry, food, arts & crafts. For booth information, contact Terry Lee (254-672-5501).

Old movies will be playing in City Hall throughout the day.

8:00 p.m. Street dance downtown.

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Texas Forts Trails Co-Hosts Tour of New State Park

Margaret Hoogstra, Executive Director of the Texas Forts Trail, and John Ferguson, Palo Pinto Mountains State Park Superintendent, co-hosted 39 park visitors on Tuesday, May 13. The guests first met for breakfast at Mahachek's Bakery before touring the east side of Palo Pinto Mountains State Park and Lake Tucker. The group lunched at Mary's Café and resumed the tour by seeing the west end of the park, as well as the newly acquired acreage that has been purchased recently. The visitors came from across the state and included Chamber representatives from Possum Kingdom, Mineral Wells, Eastland, Ballinger, Wichita Falls, and Abilene. The Executive Directors from the other Texas Historic Trails also participated in the tour, as did representatives from organizations such as Texas Midwest Community Network, Erath County Historical Commission, Abilene State Park, and Buffalo Gap Historic Village. The Texas Forts Trail Region is comprised of 29 counties in Central West Texas, and Strawn is included on the Texas Forts Trail. It is one of the ten trails of the Texas Heritage Trails Program, which is the Texas Historical Commission's (THC) award-winning heritage tourism initiative. This economic development initiative encourages communities, heritage regions, and the state to partner with each other to promote Texas' historic and cultural resources. Local preservation efforts, combined with statewide marketing of heritage regions as tourism destinations, increase visitation to cultural and historic sites and bring more dollars to Texas communities. This in turn supports the THC's mission to protect and preserve the state's historic and prehistoric resources for the use, education, economic benefit, and enjoyment of present and future generations.

Tourism Makes An Impact on County
After touring Palo Pinto Mountains State Park, Hoogstra, Executive Director of the Texas Forts Trail, and Kathy Keane, Executive Director of Texas Midwest Community Network, presented to the Strawn Chamber at their May general meeting held at Guest Chapel on Tuesday, May 13. Ms. Hoogstra shared

(continued on page 4)

Historic Strawn Train Depot Comes Back Home

After being sold and moved from Strawn in the late 1970's, the historic Strawn train depot arrived home on May 17, 2014. The Strawn Historical Museum Board of Directors has worked for almost two years to relocate the depot from Oakdale (near Stephenville) to its present location at Memorial Park across from the railroad tracks. The depot was first moved to Thurber next to the Smokestack Restaurant, where it remained for several years. It was later bought and moved to Oakdale where the warehouse portion of the depot was used as part of the Oakdale Steakhouse, owned and operated by Todd Fanning. The office portion of the depot (with ticket windows and waiting rooms) was placed in a field next to the owner's house. After contacting the owner in the fall of 2012 and learning that he

was willing to donate the depot to Strawn, the Museum Board began raising money and planning its return. Much of Strawn's early history centers around the railroad. Stephen Bethel Strawn, for whom the city of Strawn was named, laid off his property for the new town in 1879 and other essential products, thus encouraging new business ventures. The railroad also brought in immigrants to work in the coal mines and thriving coal industry in the area, which further spurred the growth of Strawn. In May 1976, long-time railroad depot agent Jim Chesnut ended 27 years troop and supply trains. Chesnut also recalled the decline of passenger trains, noting that passenger service to Strawn ended sometime during the 1950s. Other former depot agents included Bud Tucker and David L. Lindsay (grandfather of resident Shirley Lindsay). Long-time Strawn residents fondly recall memories of the depot, such as riding the passenger trains to other cities, picking up freight deliveries, and riding bikes on the depot ramp. Becky Lenoir, whose father worked for the railroad for 44 years, commented that "the depot has come back home, where it belongs. The railroad and depot are a very important part of Strawn's history, and this is a project to be proud of."

~Strawn resident Becky Lenoir

1880. According to historical accounts, he gave every other block to the Texas and Pacific Railroad to encourage the company to bring their rails through the new settlement. After the Texas and Pacific Railway Company rolled into Strawn on July 4, 1880, the town began to develop. The coming of the railroad brought supplies of lumber, feed, and as the Strawn depot agent when Texas and Pacific Railroad decided to close the depot. Interviewed by the Strawn Reporter News in May 1976, Chesnut recalled the movement of men and materials on the Texas and Pacific line during World War II. He and other area depot agents would often work through the night to relay instructions to the 500-passenger

(continued on page 4)



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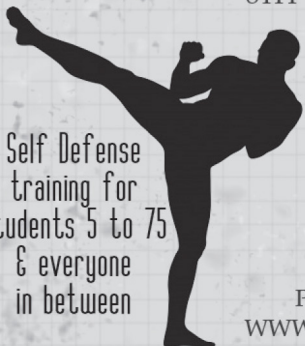
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Strawn Train Depot (continued from page 3)

are to repair the outside (clean, paint, replace broken windows and rotten/missing boards), with long-term plans to restore the inside of the depot and eventually display donated items pertaining to the Strawn railroad and depot. The Museum received a \$10,000 grant to help with the cost of moving the depot, along with donations from others. A special thank you goes out to everyone who sent donations or contributed to the donation jars that were placed around town to raise money for moving the depot. The Strawn Historical Museum Board is unsure of the exact date the depot was built and is seeking more information about its history. If anyone has pictures, articles, or information to share about the depot, please send to P. O. Box 179, Strawn, TX 76475; strawnmuseum@gmail.com; or bring to the Museum Thursday-Saturday from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. The Museum is also accepting donations to help with the cost of restoring the depot.

Texas Forts Trail (continued from page 6)


some impressive statistics relative to Palo Pinto County and the region. The information is derived from the 2012 Annual Report (the most recent, complete report) issued by the Governor's Office of Economic Development and Tourism.

- In 2012 alone, direct travel spending in Palo Pinto County totaled \$84,400,000. This includes dollars spent on lodging, dining, recreation, etc.
- In 2012, tourism created 641 jobs in Palo Pinto County.
- Local tax receipts totaled \$692,300. (This is the amount of tourism-related taxes collected locally in Palo Pinto County)
- State tax receipts totaled \$4,705,000. (This amount reflects taxes collected by the State of Texas as a result of tourism in Palo Pinto County)
- In comparison to the six counties surrounding it, Palo Pinto County was second only to Parker County in the amount of tourism revenue that was generated.

During the presentation, Ms. Hoogstra suggested that every community needs to have something that is authentic and contagious to promote tourism. She further noted that Strawn has a wonderful as-set with the state park.

Electric Rates are Simmering Public Notice & Friendly Reminder as Summer Heats Up!

With summer quickly approaching and temps getting hotter, it's an opportune time to check your electricity rates to make certain you're getting the best deal and cheapest rates available. Since the deregulation of electricity in Texas in 2002, Texans have had the choice to choose their electricity provider. To check the latest published rates and list of providers, go to www.powertochoose.org. You will be asked to enter your zip code (ex. 76475). You can further narrow your search by answering three questions concerning Usage, Types of Plans and duration. To make it easier, have your current electric bill and if possible, an electric bill from last summer available so that you can compare the kilowatt hours (kWh) used during peak usage and the rate you pay currently. In many electric plans, the rates will vary based on usage so read the plans carefully.



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JUNE CALENDAR OF EVENTS			
DATE	EVENT	TIME	PLACE
June 7	Frontier Days	10-4	PP County Old Jail Museum
June 9	Palo Pinto County Commissioners Court	9:00 am	Palo Pinto County Courthouse
June 10	Deadline for Spring Clean Fling Contest	4:00 pm	City Hall
June 10	Strawn Lions Club	Noon	Mary's Cafe
June 10	Strawn Chamber of Commerce Meeting	Noon	Strawn City Hall
June 10	Development Corp of Strawn Meeting	6:00 pm	Strawn City Hall
June 10	Strawn City Council Meeting	7:00 pm	Strawn City Hall
June 11	Medical office open for appointments	1-5:30 pm	Strawn Wellness Center
June 13	Strawn Homecoming	6:30 pm	See Homecoming Schedule
June 14	Strawn Homecoming	10:00 am	See Homecoming Schedule
June 16	Strawn ISD Board Meeting	7:00 pm	Strawn ISD Admin. Bldg.
June 17	Strawn Lions Club	12 noon	Mary's Cafe
June 18	Medical office open for appointments	1-5:30 pm	Strawn Wellness Center
June 23	Palo Pinto County Commissioners Court	9:00 am	Palo Pinto County Courthouse
June 24	Strawn Lions Club	Noon	Mary's Cafe
June 25	Medical office open for appointments	1-5:30 pm	Strawn Wellness Center

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




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