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The Strawn Advocate

The Community's Local News Source

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VOL. 2. ISSUE 4

MARCH 2014

Starry Skies Providing Extra Drawing Card for New Park

On Saturday, April 26, 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, beginning at 5:00 p.m. on April 26. 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 from Strawn 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. Hamburgers and hotdogs will be available. So come early, stay late, explore the heavens, and learn about nearby constellations in our beautiful night sky. For more information call Park Superintendent John Ferguson at 254-210-3015.

Lady Hounds Advance to Regional Finals



Congratulations to the Lady Hounds for winning the girls' Class A, Region III, Division II semifinals at the regional tournament in Tyler. Although defeated by Lipan in the regional final, the Lady Hounds were only one game away from advancing to the state tournament. They first defeated Coolidge 85-52 in the quarterfinals, then defeated Saltillo 55-40 in the semifinals game.

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*Join the Strawn Chamber of Commerce: Next general meeting will be held in April
Watch for Date and Time in Next Issue of the Advocate! All Are Welcome to Attend*

New Chapter of NPSOT to be Organized in Quad-County Area

The Native Plant Society of Texas (NPSOT) is proposing to organize a new local chapter in the quad counties of Palo Pinto, Erath, Eastland, and Stephens.

The purpose of the Native Plant Society of Texas is to promote research, conservation, and utilization of native plants and plant habitants of Texas through education, outreach, and example. It is a non-profit organization run by volunteers and supported by grants, donations, and member dues. Learn more at <http://www.npsot.org/>.

Meetings feature knowledgeable speakers on the benefits of growing and promoting native plants and offers opportunities to learn to identify native plants through field trips. If you are interested in learning more about native plants and joining a forum that promotes healthy habitat through native plant education for the whole community, please contact either Jane Burdick (email gourd-neckranch@hughes.net phone: 817-832-8383) or Georgia Braun (email strawnchamber@att.net

Palo Pinto Mountains State Park will hold its second horseback trail ride on Saturday and Sunday, March 29 and 30.

The Saturday morning trail ride begins at 9 a.m., followed by a barbeque lunch at 1 p.m. Another ride will begin on Saturday at 2 p.m., and a final ride takes place on Sunday at 9 a.m. Friday check-in will begin after 3 p.m. and Saturday check-in starts at 7:30 a.m. Cost for the event is \$20 for the trail ride, which includes the bar-

beque lunch, or \$10.00 for the lunch only for those who are not riding. Participants may camp in the park on Friday night and Saturday night. Space is available, but no water or electric hookups. A large corral is available for horses, or you may bring your own portable panels. Current Coggins papers are required for all animals. Please RSVP by emailing bmcknight3276@msn.com or calling 254-595-2119.

Palo Pinto Mountains State Park to Host Trail Ride on March 29-30

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**The
Strawn
Advocate**

Published Monthly by the
Strawn Chamber of Commerce

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Email: kimila77@hotmail.com

Chamber Info:
Contact Georgia Braun at 254-595-0197
Email: strawnchamber@att.net

First Methodist Church to Celebrate Sesquicentennial in 2015

Strawn's oldest religious institution is the First United Methodist Church, which will celebrate 150 years in 2015. It was first organized in 1865.

The church was originally established under the ministry of Reverend William Monk, who was one of the West's early day circuit riders. The church was in the pastoral charge known as Palo Pinto Mission which included Palo Pinto and Eastland Counties. Less than fifteen people constituted the charter membership.

Pioneer members first met in a school building northeast of the present town site. After Strawn became

a community on the newly completed Texas and Pacific Railway in 1880, the members of the Strawn Methodist Church met for worship in the building erected south of the railway by the Cumberland Presbyterian Church.

In 1892, a small white frame building was built under the leadership of the Reverend E. V. Cox. Members assembled in that building until 1920, when a three story brick church with a full basement was built. The beautiful stained glass windows depicted bible scenes, with donors' names or memorial names of family members or friends inscribed at the bottom of the

window.

The present red brick church was built under the leadership of Reverend Wayne Hunter. The first service was held in the new church on January 22, 1989. Many of the stained glass windows were used in the

new church. The church has continuously served the community and is under the present leadership of Reverend Margie Holmes.

Watch our church outdoor sign for announcements of celebratory events scheduled for 2015!

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Area Garden Enthusiasts Creating Butterfly Garden at State Park

Palo Pinto Mountains State Park recently received help from a number of area garden and plant enthusiasts. Members of the Cross Timbers Chapter of the Native Plant Society of Texas and the Big Country Master Naturalists, along with several local residents, recently held two workdays at the new park on January 4 and 25. The purpose of their efforts is to build a butterfly and hummingbird garden in the park. This will be used as an educational tool for future park visitors, and it will be nice for the birds and butterflies as well! Volunteers gathered rocks to outline various sections of the flower beds, and planted a number of native plants and seeds. The butterfly garden will also have a water basin with a small waterfall for the enjoyment of our flying friends. Future workdays will add to the size of the garden and increase the variety of plants available for the butterflies and birds.


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2014 Strawn ISD Elementary Academic UIL Winners Announced

Congratulations to the following students who placed in academic UIL contests. If you see these students, give them a pat on the back and let them know how proud we are of them. Strawn placed 3rd overall in the contests.

2nd Grade
Chess Puzzles - Aaron West, 2nd place; Alexis Lynn, 3rd place; 1st place team (Aaron West, Alexis Lynn, Jesse Corona)
Oral Reading - Jaycie Parsons, 4th place
Storytelling - Hayden Nowak, 5th place
3rd Grade
Chess Puzzles - Drake Garison, 3rd place
Storytelling - Kyler Tunnell, 4th place
Music Memory - Meagan Utsinger, 3rd place
4th Grade
Spelling - Ashley Figueroa, 6th place
Oral Reading - Bella Gallozzi, 3rd place
Chess Puzzles - Preston Sizemore, 2nd place; Justice Baker, 4th place; Bella Gallozzi, 5th place; 1st place team (Baker, Sizemore, Gallozzi)
5th Grade
Art - Bella Mahone, 1st place
Oral Reading - Trenton West, 2nd place
Number Sense - Trenton West, 1st place; Sara Ross, 6th place; 2nd place team (Trenton West, Sara Ross, Bella Mahone)
Social Studies - Rowdy Sparks, 4th place
Dictionary - Sara Ross, 6th place
Ready Writing - Karlee Mallory, 2nd place; Trenton West, 3rd place
Spelling - Trenton West, 2nd place; Karlee Mallory, 4th place; Sara Ross, 6th place; 1st place team (West, Mallory, Ross)
Chess Puzzles - Rowdy Sparks, 1st place; Trenton West, 4th place; 1st place team (Rowdy Sparks, Trenton West, Cesar Espinoza)



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Area Happenings

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Workforce Solutions Mobile Unit

Every Wednesday -- March 5, 12, 19 and 26
Boyce Ditto Public Library in Mineral Wells
Computer stations to search for jobs, work on resumes and receive training.
2300 SE Martin Luther King Jr. St.
Mineral Wells, TX 76067
(940) 328-7880

Palo Pinto Old Jail Museum

March 6, 2014 – March 30, 2014

Theodore Roosevelt, an exhibition produced by Humanities Texas and organized by the Lyndon Baines Johnson Presidential Library and Museum.
Theodore Roosevelt, our 26th President, was a bigger-than-life personality who brought many changes to our nation. The exhibit offers a fascinating glimpse into turn-of-the last century America with this dynamic man at the helm. For more information about viewing hours or to arrange group visits, contact Ann Reagan at 940-659-2555.

Museum is open Thursday through Saturday from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m.

Strawn City Council Meeting
State Park Contract Discussion

Monday, March 10 , 7 p.m. – City Hall
The Strawn City Council will be discussing the proposed contract with TPWD regarding Lake Tucker. Representatives from Texas Parks & Wildlife will be in attendance. The public is encouraged to attend.

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.

Clark Gardens Spring Festival
March 29 & 30

11:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.

The festival has food, fun and entertainment for all ages. It includes Texas art, cheese, wine, a Classic Car Show, a Motorcycle Show, plant sales, Model Train Show, a vendor area and more. Texas wineries will be offering great wines for tasting and purchase, and Texas artesian cheese makers will share their delicious cheese. Come out and enjoy the fun!
Admission is \$10 per adult,
\$7 for children 5-12,
no charge for children 4 and under
567 Maddux Road, Weatherford, TX
(940-682-4856 or publicevents@clarkgardens.com
<http://www.clarkgardens.org/events/spring-festival.html>

Don't Mess With Texas
Trash-Off

Saturday, April 5, 9 a.m.
Meet at Community Pavilion

Mark your calendars and join us for the *Don't mess with Texas® Trash-Off*, which encourages Texans across the state to join forces and clear Texas roadsides of trash. Millions of pieces of litter accumulate on our roadways each year, which means we need your help.

The *Don't mess with Texas Trash-Off* is the single largest one-day cleanup event in the state and serves as Texas's signature event for the Great American Cleanup, the nation's largest community improvement program.

Last year, Strawn volunteers not only cleared trash, dirt and debris from downtown lots, they also assisted in placing new planters throughout downtown. If you would like to learn more about the project or want to participate, please contact the Strawn Chamber of Commerce at 254-595-0197 or via email at strawnchamber@att.net.

Or... just show up and help Strawn become a better city!



MARCH CALENDAR OF EVENTS

DATE	EVENT	TIME	PLACE
March 3	Junior High Track Meet		Gordon ISD Track Field
March 4	Strawn Lions Club	12 Noon	Mary's Cafe
March 6	High School Track Meet		Bryson ISD Track Field
March 10-14	Strawn ISD Spring Break		
March 10	Palo Pinto County Commissioners Court	9:00 am	Palo Pinto County Courthouse
March 10	Chamber of Commerce Board Meeting	2:00 pm	Strawn City Hall
March 10	Development Corp of Strawn Meeting	6:00 pm	Strawn City Hall
March 10	Strawn City Council Meeting	7:00 pm	Strawn City Hall
March 11	Strawn Lions Club Meeting	12 Noon	Mary's Cafe
March 11	Strawn Historical Museum	6:30 pm	Strawn City Hall
March 17	Junior High Track Meet		Strawn ISD Track Field
March 17	Strawn ISD Board Meeting	7:00 pm	Strawn ISD Admin. Bldg
March 18	Strawn Lions Club Meeting	12 Noon	Mary's Cafe
March 21	High School Track Meet		Blanket ISD Track Field
March 24	Palo Pinto County Commissioner's Court	9:00 am	Palo Pinto County Courthouse
March 24	Junior High District Track Meet		Gordon ISD Track Field
March 25	Strawn Lion's Club Meeting	12 Noon	Mary's Cafe
March 27	High School Track Meet		Gordon ISD Track Field
March 29-30	Trail Ride		Palo Pinto Mtns. State Park

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

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