

# Kimble County Chamber of Commerce

# Newsletter

**Tuesday, July 24, 2007**

WE GET LOTS OF INTERESTING AND INFORMATIVE E-MAILS HERE AT THE CHAMBER EACH AND EVERY DAY – Two really made me stop and think this week. As we are all aware, the Good Lord has blessed us these past weeks with lots of wonderful, much needed, rain. Thankfully, we haven't had the flooding experienced in other parts of Texas, and we want to remember to keep those folks in our prayers daily. But, we have had enough rain that water gaps have been washed away, the river has been up several feet on several occasions, and the banks have been left with an unusual amount of broken tree limbs and debris. Our own July 4<sup>th</sup> plans were cancelled because the riverbank was too icky and the river just too muddy to spend the day in the water like in years past. But, this past weekend travelers began renting kayaks and canoes and braving the river once again! Monday morning we received an email from one such traveler, asking our help. She and her family and friends had been kayaking this past weekend and noticed the abundance of uprooted trees and debris along their route, and she suggested that we might want to ask our local Parks and Wildlife Department's help in cleaning up our river and its banks. We contacted Wayne Haley out at the South Llano River State Park, and he told us that they do make every effort to keep the two mile stretch of river that borders the park clean. He reminded us it falls to the private property owners to keep their sections of the river clean. The other email that really caught my eye was one from David Teel of the Texas Travel Industry Association. He reminded us that the temporary flooding in and around some areas of Texas have resulted in losses to property, forced some closures of businesses, and in some cases even resulted in loss of life. But he also informed us of a press release sent out by the Governor's Tourism Office, distributed nationally. This was done in an effort to remind travelers that "Texas is open for tourism business this summer. Many of the communities and businesses impacted by flooding are open, operational, and welcoming summer travelers. It's important that we get this positive message out." He encourages us all to help in this effort by spreading a positive message to all with whom we come in contact. In his words, "Let's get the word out that Texas is open for business and has many summer travel opportunities available!" So, readers what I am asking is that you do the following... Have you ever had company stay in your guest room, and only after they left discovered that the ceiling fan in there was broken, or the heater in the guest bath didn't work? Well, I have. We just don't stay in our own guest rooms as a matter of course, and things can be at work that can impact the pleasure and comfort of our company of which we are totally unaware. That is, unless we make it a practice to stay in there ourselves, at least one night in each season of the year. Well, the same goes for our river or other tourism related properties. Why not take a kayak or canoe trip down the river yourselves, check for trash, extra debris, or anything that could deter from the pleasure and safety of those travelers that we are working so hard to bring to our area. Motels and cabins, take an extra peek at your facility through "a traveler's eye"...Are the rooms as clean and comfy as possible? Are your grounds neat and tidy? I know I am constantly picking up my porch at the Chamber to undo the mess that our windy days and nights bring about. Anyway, let's all "check our spare bedrooms" so to speak, and do our part to make our little corner of these travelers' worlds really sparkle...inviting return trips. And, always remember, it's best to err on the side of saying something positive, rather than letting any negativity creep into our conversations with others! And thanks, Rose Mary, for bringing this concern to our attention! See you back on the river in Junction in August!

**CHAMBER CRUISE 2008** – Nick Bukis, of Trips by Nick, came by to tell us of a couple of changes concerning the Cruise in 2008. First, thanks to a huge backlog of passport applications waiting to be processed, the government has lifted that requirement for trips to Mexico and the Caribbean. So, cruisers joining the Chamber Cruise 2008 will only need to bring their birth certificates (certified copies) and a photo ID to enter and leave Panama, Costa Rica, and Belize. But, you might want to get busy and make application for your passport anyway...Who knows, you might wake up one morning and want to “go abroad”! Also, Carnival Cruise Line has arranged our group transportation to fly out of the Austin airport instead of San Antonio. Nick is working on getting us a block of rooms at a motel convenient to the airport and we might be able to leave our cars parked there while we are gone. I said “might”, ok? More details later. There is still time to sign up for our cruise, so give either Nick or the Chamber a call! Call Nick at 325/446-3949 or email [nbukis@cebridge.net](mailto:nbukis@cebridge.net).

**LONDON DANCE HALL** – “Blend” will be performing at London Dance Hall in London TX this Saturday, July 28<sup>th</sup> from 9 PM till 1 AM. Saloon opens Friday at 5 PM to 12 AM and Saturday at 5PM to 1AM. For info call Billie at 325/475-2921 or 2296. [www.londondancehall.com](http://www.londondancehall.com)

**BACKSTREET PLAYERS** – “CABIN FEVER: A TEXAS TRAGICOMEDY” – Opening to an enthusiastic crowd this past Thursday, at the Red Barn Theater was “Cabin Fever” and it was a huge hit! Director Nancy Jacoby invites one and all to see this play! This is a terrific play, the set is beautiful, and the hard work of the actors and crew has really paid off with a quality performance! Three performances are left, Thursday, Friday, and Saturday nights, July 26<sup>th</sup>, 27<sup>th</sup> and 28<sup>th</sup>. Tickets are \$12 each and there are no reserved seats. Make time for something fun in your busy schedules! Let’s support our community theater! Tickets available at the Chamber of Commerce, 402 Main from 9 AM till 4 PM, Monday through Friday. If we are out, leave me a note or a voice mail (phone 325/446-3190), and I will get back to you!

**BLOOD DRIVE FOR DR. STUART MCGINNEY** – Everyone was thrilled to hear that Stuart received his heart transplant and is doing great. As the flyer states, “They say love’s the best medicine, but he needs something more.” Angela Ervin is taking appointments for the Blood Drive for Stuart Tuesday, July 31<sup>st</sup> from 10 AM to 6 PM at the First Presbyterian Church (201 S. 11<sup>th</sup> St.) here in Junction. Appointments are preferred, but walk-ins are welcome. Angela can be reached either at home 325/446-4939 or on her cell phone 325/446-6124. Keep those prayers coming and make plans to help as a donor next Tuesday!

**FRIDAY & SATURDAY, AUGUST 10<sup>TH</sup> & 11<sup>TH</sup> WILL HAVE COWBOYS, A PARADE, RODEOS, DANCES, AND CHANCES TO WIN A NEW GRILL –**

Calls are flooding the Chamber for information on the “homecoming weekend”- the second Friday and Saturday in August! There will be the Ranch Rodeo on Friday and Saturday nights, dances each night with Jake Hooker performing, a parade on Saturday morning at 10 AM, followed by the Junction Exes Luncheon at Noon (at the JISD Cafeteria), and the Cowboy Show out at the Coke Stevenson Center. Su Carlile and Trish Chenault are taking reservations for the Cowboy Show, something new this year, that promises to be a huge hit! They already have many interesting vendors signed up to display jewelry, spurs, guns, knives, and saddles! The Ranch Rodeo is guaranteed to be loads of fun, and Jake Hooker is just the guy to get those boots scootin’! Dances will be both Friday and Saturday nights after the rodeos. Saturday morning, grab your lawn chair and find a spot on Main Street for the Parade. It begins at 10 AM! Don’t forget to buy your raffle tickets for a chance to win a barbeque grill being raffled that evening at the rodeo. Proceeds benefit the Kimble County Meals on Wheels. Raffle tickets are \$1 each or 6 for \$5 and are available at the Senior Center, True Value, and other locations around town. Let’s party, Junction, Friday and Saturday, August 10<sup>th</sup> & 11<sup>th</sup>! Entry forms for the parade, luncheon, and Cowboy Show are all available on the Chamber website [www.junctiontexas.net](http://www.junctiontexas.net) . Rodeo & dance tickets will be on sale at the Chamber soon!

Send us your feedback at [junctiontx@cebridge.net](mailto:junctiontx@cebridge.net) to include something next week or just to say “Hi”. Your Chamber is promoting commerce and tourism and keeping you informed of events and happenings of Junction and Kimble County!

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