

Kimble County Chamber of Commerce

Newsletter

Tuesday, June 5, 2007

JUNCTIONITES BOTH YOUNG AND OLD ENJOYED THE SECOND ANNUAL CHAMBER PICNIC THIS PAST SATURDAY – Over 180 folks turned out in support of your Chamber, had a hamburger supper, watched the presentation of annual awards, and generally enjoyed this great place in which we live. Kids played catch in the grass and adults caught up on the news with neighbors not seen for a while. All in all, it was a wonderful evening! Thanks, Junction, for turning out to support your Chamber! And, thanks to everyone who helped pull this event together! This seems like a great time to “catch you up” on “what we have been up to” during the 1st quarter 2007. Your Chamber is required by our City-Chamber Contract to report to the City each quarter on our activities to benefit the City. The most obvious activity is our involvement in the community. We support just about every activity happening here in an effort to make them more successful, attract a larger crowd, and increase our visibility in TX and surrounding states. In the 1st quarter 2007, your Chamber did the following: Organization/promotion of a 7-day cruise to the Caribbean for locals and others from Texas and Oregon. This brought revenue to our local newspaper, restaurants, and stores, was a fund-raiser for the Chamber. We promoted Junction internationally in Jamaica, the Grand Cayman Islands, Mexico, and aboard ship. Our 56 cruisers wore “Junction, TX, “Land of Living Waters” pins and lime green lanyards. We bought these lanyards, handed them out to our group, then to passengers from elsewhere, along with business cards, pins, pens, and Texas Trails Maps. By mid-cruise, folks would say, “Oh, you are with that Junction TX group. I want to come there someday, it sounds really great!” Promotion of Junction and Kimble County at the Dallas Safari Club Annual Convention in Dallas, TX. Business cards, maps, pens, and other information were handed out to some of over 750 international exhibitors, and other folks in attendance at the convention to inquire about hunting or fishing locations. Exhibitors include hunting ranch operations such as the Y. O., Ranch, the Rio Bonito Ranch, and Whitetail Junction. We arranged for discounted blocks of rooms at local motels for a group coming to Junction to a Lions Club District Meeting. We met with Lynn Forman, Pres. Central Texas Hills & Rivers Region to help her plan their bike fun run, made donations of bottled water and peanut butter for riders, and help with the application for tourism funds made to City Council. We were responsible for permitting and placement of banners across Loop 481 announcing the BackStreet Players Performance, and sold tickets. We also promoted this play in a weekly column in the local newspaper, and sent flyers to other Chambers and others in person when out of town. The Executive Director went to a workshop in Brownwood, TX, to learn to be a better host of the Women in the Outdoors event in April, including promotion in other areas. Executive Director went to a work shop hosted by PEC in Dripping Springs, TX, about tourism. We represented Texas Fur Trappers & Fur Hunters Assoc. to City Council to secure tourism funds for this convention. The Chamber attended the convention welcoming them to Junction. We launched a weekly Newsletter, emailed to an ever growing distribution list, and delivered, personally to local businesses, including Roosevelt and Segovia. The Newsletter informs readers of Chamber happenings, upcoming events, and features a different business/Chamber Member/Event each week. We made flyers and distributed them for St. Jude’s Basketball Tournament, and donated a cake for auction. We organized, publicized, and helped to host a welcome rally for the Texas Vietnam Veteran’s Motorcycle Run on the Courthouse Lawn, with over 200 motorcyclists from Texas and other States participating. The Chamber distributed “support the troops” bracelets to the bikers along with Junction

pens and information. We were responsible for permitting and placement of U.S. Flags along Main St. approaching from the North, and around the Courthouse, to enhance the experience of the Motorcyclists and their impression of Junction We prepared 25 “goodie bags” to welcome the Ft. Worth Audubon Society to Junction for a field trip. They contained both donated and purchased items, to show what Junction and Kimble have to offer. This group wrote an article, complete with photos, for distribution to their membership via newsletter, about the huge success of this trip and the benefits of Junction and Kimble County as a birding destination. We have “Kicking Around Kimble County” on KMBL, weekly, announcing upcoming events in our county. We have a weekly spot on Lone Star 102 Radio in Mason, announcing upcoming events in our county. We helped publicize a Benefit Supper & Auction at Old Copperas School House and made a donation for their auction. We organized donations of lodging, kayaking, and meals for auction for Friona, TX, Chamber of Commerce, West Columbia Christian School by Houston, the Assn. of Texas Professional Educators in Austin, and a family who ask us for a donation to help raise funds for a child with cancer. All of expand the exposure of our community in different venues in other areas of Texas. We provided the public address system for the 700 Springs Ranch Tour and helped to publicize this event. We participated and helped to publicize, as well as made a donation for the raffle, to the NWTf Dos Llanos Longbeards Chapter Annual Banquet. Our Executive Director one of the initial contacts made to organize this Chapter, and was elected as Secretary/Treasurer of this Chapter at the first meeting. We made flyers for Fifth Saturday Flea Market to help our Meals on Wheels Program, and helped to publicize this event. We held ribbon cuttings and grand openings during these months, also, as well as routinely answer incoming e-mails and telephone calls, regarding local activities, lodging, dining, various services offered, and general information. We mailed visitor and relocation packets all over the United States. These include the Junction Eagle Visitor Guide, the Chamber Membership Guide, a telephone book, a Texas Trails Map, a pen, local brochures, occasionally seed packets from Native American Seed, and any other informational items gathered to represent our community. As you can tell from this report...WE ARE BUSY PROMOTING JUNCTION!!!

LONDON DANCE HALL – Barbwire will be performing at the London Dance Hall in London Texas this Saturday, June 9th from 9PM till 1 AM. Saloon opens Friday at 5 PM till 12 AM and Saturday from 5PM till 1 AM. For info call Billie at 325/475-2921 or 2296 or www.londondancehall.com.

TOUR de FORTS – Central Texas Hills and Rivers Region is hosting the 2nd Annual Tour de Forts bicycle fun run for Saturday, June 9th and Sunday June 10th, traveling the vast ranch roads of Kimble and Menard Counties. Bike riders register online www.cthrr.org Riders will pick up their packets at the Kimble County Courthouse on Friday, June 8th from 9 AM to 6 PM, and that is the starting point for the rides both Saturday and Sunday. For information, contact Lynn Foreman cavuforeman@ctesc.net or call 325/446-9133. This event will take place rain or shine! A pasta dinner will be Friday evening and a fajita dinner on Saturday evening, both at the Fairgrounds Dance Pavilion. This event is sure to be a huge success, loads of fun, and a wonderful tourism event for Junction and towns around us so don't miss out!

ANGEL CLASSIC SOFTBALL TOURNAMENT – Friday and Saturday, June 8th & 9th – Come out and join the fun at the co-ed softball tournament held to benefit the Andy Gonzales Memorial Scholarship Fund. Games start at 6 PM on Friday; 8AM on Saturday. Home Run Derby is 2 PM Saturday. Contact Amy Lovelace 325/446-2374 for information!

FSA Public Meeting – Monday, June 11th 3-5 PM at the Presbyterian Church – Everyone is invited to come express their thoughts about the proposal to close FSA county offices, including the Kimble County Office.

FEATURED BUSINESS – CENTRAL TEXAS HILLS & RIVERS REGION-

“CTHRR” is a non-profit organization and collaborative consortium organized to develop and encourage tourism in Concho, Kimble, Menard, McCulloch, and San Saba Counties through education, information, and promotion. Their members are individuals, businesses, governmental entities, and organizations within these counties. In addition to hosting events such as the up-coming Tour de Forts this weekend, CTHRR also offers its members

seminars on photography, nature tourism, and even hospitality training as was held in Junction a while back. They endeavor to educate our businesses and their employees to the importance of that “first impression” made on travelers, offer ideas for new ways to expand and capture more of our traveler/tourism dollars, and use the resources at their disposal to offer ways to improve the traveler’s experience in our communities, thus increasing our return traveler percentages. They retained a public relations firm in the past to coordinate a multi county, multi media marketing program, including three press tours. Journalists and photographers were hosted by area cabins and motels, “shown the sites” of these counties, fed in our restaurants, and “shopped” in our stores. They have kayaked, biked, watched birds, and in return will feature our area in magazines and newspapers around the United States in the months and years ahead. Lynn Forman, President of CTHRR, works tirelessly for our community. She organizes and promotes, to make this fine organization the true asset that it is to these counties. Whether it’s a bike ride or a press tour, CTHRR is there!

Send us your feedback at 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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