

PANOLA COUNTY CHAMBER OF COMMERCE

NEWSLETTER FEBRUARY 2010

300 W. Panola St.
Carthage, TX 75633

903-693-6634
cvb@carthagetexas.com

JOHN RITTER TRIBUTE SHOWCASE

John Ritter Tribute Showcase Auditions Set for June 26th!

Live auditions will take place at the Texas Country Music Hall of Fame on Saturday, June 26th. Please mark your calendars for this event! Judges will choose around 30 contestants to compete at the John Ritter Tribute Showcase in August for a grand prize package. For application and rules, please visit our website www.carthagetexas.com. You may also call the Panola County Chamber of Commerce for more information at 903-693-6634.

Carthage Named One of America's Top-Rated Small Towns & Cities



Carthage received a rating of 4 stars from the 2010 Edition of *America's Top-Rated Small Towns & Cities*. This handbook, by Grey House Publishing, profiles and rates 8,908 places in America with populations between 3,000 and 25,000. Up to five stars are awarded to each place, using a proprietary bell curve formula. The process identifies places, by state, with the highest home value, highest educational attainment, most beauty, etc. Average places are right in the middle, with three stars. Four stars are above average, and five stars indicate cream of the crop.



Census Jobs
Hiring Workers NOW!
Call 1-866-861-2010
www.2010censusjobs.gov



64th Annual Chamber Banquet

The Panola County Chamber of Commerce will be celebrating its 64th year with a banquet to be held on Thursday, February 25th at the Texas Country Music Hall of Fame/Tex Ritter Museum. The evening will be highlighted by lots of good food, fellowship, and entertainment. The banquet will be a dinner theater setting and will feature this year's winner of the John Ritter Tribute Showcase, Kimberly Green from Whitehouse, TX. Special guest speaker will be Texas Agriculture Commissioner Todd Staples. Prior to his election as Agriculture Commissioner, he was a member of both houses of the Texas State Legislature and a member of the city council in Palestine, TX. Staples grew up in Palestine, the seat of Anderson County in East Texas. He graduated from Palestine High School where he was an active member of the Future Farmers of America. While in college, he served as state vice-president of the FFA from 1981-1982. He attended Texas A&M University and graduated magna cum laude with a Bachelor of Science in Agricultural Economics in 1984. Staples and his wife Janet have four grown children: Jared Staples, Elizabeth Staples, Brian Thorn, and Jonathan Thorn. He is a Southern Baptist and serves as a deacon in his local church.



Texas Agriculture Commissioner Todd Staples

The Chamber Banquet will honor the Ambassador of the Year, Chairman's Awards, Employee of the Year and Volunteer of the Year sponsored by KGAS Radio, and Citizen of the Year sponsored by the Panola Watchman.

Doors will open at 6:00p.m. and a meal will be served beginning at 6:30p.m. The program will begin at 7:00p.m.

Tickets are \$30.00 each and may be purchased at the Panola County Chamber of Commerce or by calling 903-693-6634 for reservations. Deadline for reservations is Monday, February 22nd. Tickets are limited and will not be sold at the door.

2010 Chamber Board Members

Christie Chandler	Stuart Lipsey
Frances Moore	Rodney Puryear
Brett Biggs	Bob Gober
Susannah Romero	Don Clinton
Doris Gibbs	Crystal Ogden
Lynn Vincent	Becky Eubank
Robby Tomboli	Patsy Meck
Jeretta Thompson	Jayne Browning
Steve Langford	Jean Thomas
Karen Parker	Gene Campbell
Sonya Hathorn	Carson Joines
Brenda Samford	Charles Thomas
Todd Greer	Devan Tate
Dr. Glenn Hambrick	Dr. Gregg Powell
Judge David Anderson	Debbie Pierce
Bill Holder	Jerry Hanszen

Chamber Executive Board

Chairman	Brett Biggs
1 st Vice President	Dr. Hambrick
2 nd Vice President	Sonya Hathorn
Treasurer	Lynn Vincent
Past Chairman	Steve Langford
Chamber President	Tommie Smith

Chamber Staff

President - Tommie Ritter Smith
Executive Vice Pres. – Barbara Moreland
Admin. Assistant – Courtney Brady
Receptionist – Rhonda Boykin
Gift Shop Clerk – Carolyn Moore

Ambassador Team Standings

Congratulations to our winning team!

1 st Place: Frances' Flyers – 350,650
2 nd Place: Sonya's Superstars – 331,850
3 rd Place: Gober's Goobers – 323,850
4 th Place: Jean's Champions – 249,400



New Members

Thank you for your investment!



Cowboy Custom Golf Carts, Center, TX

RE/MAX Homes Plus



Special "thank-you"
to our volunteers!

“I don't know what your destiny will be, but one thing I know: the only ones among you who will be really happy are those who have sought and found how to serve.

~Albert Schweitzer~

Calendar of Events cont.

KMHT Gospel Concert (Legacy Five) June 18
Where: Marshall Civic Center, Marshall, TX
Contact: Jerry Hanszen 903-693-6668

TCMHOF Showcase Auditions June 26
Where: Texas Country Music Hall of Fame,
Carthage, TX
Contact: Chamber 903-693-6634

**KGAS Gospel Concert
(Palmetto State & Tribute Quartet) July 17**
Where: Carthage Jr. High School, Carthage, TX
Contact: Jerry Hanszen 903-693-6668

TCMHOF Showcase August 20
What: Regional Talent Contest
Where: Carthage Jr. High Auditorium
Sponsored by: TCMHOF
Contact: Tommie Ritter Smith 903-693-6634

KGAS Tex Ritter Roundup August 21
What: Annual Country Music Festival
Where: Texas Country Music Hall of Fame,
Carthage, TX
Contact: Jerry Hanszen 903-693-6668

**Annual Texas Country Music Hall of Fame
Awards Show August 21**
What: Annual Awards Show
Where: Carthage Jr. High School Auditorium
Contact: Tommie Ritter Smith 903-693-6634
chamber@carthagetexas.com

**St. Williams Catholic Church Cajun Fest
October 16**
Where: St. Williams Catholic Church (202 W.
Loop 436), Carthage, TX
3rd Saturday in October
Contact: Church Office 903-693-3766

East Texas Oil & Gas Blast October 23
Where: Texas Country Music Hall of Fame,
Carthage, TX
Contact: Sandra Sirratt 903-297-4017
sirratts@bp.com

“All That Glitters” Gala Auction November 20
What: Over 200 items on silent & live auction
Entertainment & great food from local
restaurants
Where: Carthage High School Commons Area
Contact: 903-693-6634

Carthage Christmas Parade December 6
Where: Downtown Carthage, TX
Sponsored by: Panola County Chamber Of Commerce
Contact: 903-693-6634

Beckville Christmas Parade December 8
Where: Beckville, TX
Contact: City of Beckville 903-678-3661

Breakfast with Santa December 11
Where: Texas Country Music Hall of Fame,
Carthage, TX
Sponsored by: Main Street
Time: 9am – 11am
Contact: Patsy Meck 903-693-3461

Carthage Book Club Home Tour December 12
Where: Panola County Chamber of Commerce
Time: 1:30pm – 4pm
Contact: Sally Lipsey 903-693-7125