

# Paw Print Press

Proudly Serving Itasca "The Big Little Town" since 1997

Itasca, Texas 76055

Vol. 2010 Issue #2

January 8, 2010

## IHS Makes *U.S. News*' America's Best High Schools List for 3<sup>rd</sup> Consecutive Year



Three years ago, *U.S. News* began ranking high schools across the country. According to the *U.S. News*, they "use a three-step process that analyzes first how schools are educating all of their students, then their minority and

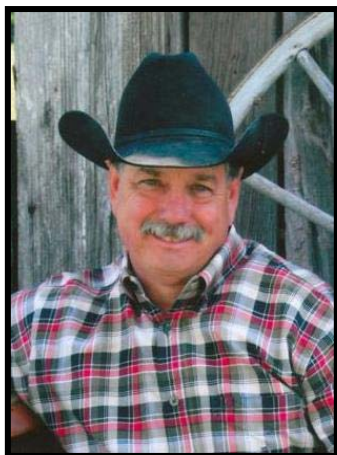
disadvantaged students and finally their college bound students based on student scores on statewide tests, Advanced Placement tests and International Baccalaureate tests."

Itasca High has earned a Bronze Medal each of the three years for its outstanding educational practices. IHS has very high scores in overall student performance and disadvantaged student performance but misses being ranked with a Gold or Silver Medal because Advanced Placement courses are not offered and the ranking does not take into consideration the 21+ college hours IHS students can earn.

U.S. News analyzed 21,786 public high schools and only about 8% received recognition. Texas had 50 schools honored with three of those in Hill County, Abbott HS, Bynum HS and Itasca High.

## Rodney Adams Files for Precinct 2, Justice of the Peace Position

Press Release



Rodney Adams, of Itasca announced his candidacy for the office of Justice of the Peace, Precinct 2, in the upcoming Republican primary. He is a life long resident of Hill County, an Itasca High School graduate and a 1975 Graduate of Tarleton State University. He and his wife, Evonne reside in Itasca as do three of their six children.

He is an active members of the Trail to the Cross Cowboy Church in Hillsboro. Continued on page 3.

## City Hall Administrators Do Double Duty as Santa's Elves

This year City Administrator Mark Gropp, Mayor Matt Fehnel and Chief of Police John Griscavage began the Itasca City Hall "Help Santa" program a month earlier than last year. When violators of certain



offenses were cited they were given slips that stated that if they would buy at least \$20.00 worth of canned goods, toys, or gift cards; their citations would be dismissed. Many of those cited gave much more, which allowed City Hall to provide not only toys and stockings; but new shoes, socks, underwear, pants, jackets and a brand new bike for each of the eight Itasca children.

The goodies were delivered on Thursday night, December 17, by the three city department heads with the help of two elves, Daniel and Chris.

A special thanks from the community to these public servants and a big thanks from the city workers to everyone who made this possible.



## Churches of Itasca

<u>Bethlehem Missionary Baptist</u>	W. Spurgeon 687-2800
<u>Central Baptist Church</u>	401 E. Monroe 687-2343
<u>Church of Christ</u>	200 N. Aquilla 687-2774
<u>First Baptist Church</u>	107 S. Lamar 687-2783
<u>First Presbyterian Church</u>	106 N. Lamar 687-2243
<u>First United Methodist</u>	Main & King St. 687-2475
<u>Loveview Baptist Church</u>	FM 2959 East of I-35
<u>Second Baptist Church</u>	120 W. Marrion 687-9134
<u>Shiloh Community Church</u>	254-582-0487
<u>St. John Missionary Baptist</u>	506 S. Weaver 687-2821
<u>3<sup>rd</sup> Day Worship Center</u>	107 E. Adams 214 564-2185
<u>Itasca Nursing Home</u>	Sunday - 10:00 a.m.
Everyone Welcome	Monday Evening 6:00 p.m.

### Central Baptist Church

Sunday School 9:45 Worship 10:50 a.m.

R.A.'s & G.A.'s (1st-6th) - Youth (7th-12th) 5:00 p.m.

Sunday Evening Worship 6:00-7:00 p.m.

Tuesday - Ladies' Bible Study 10:45-12:15 p.m.

Wednesday Supper 6:00 p.m. (\$2.00 ea. w/\$10.00 max/family)

Adult Bible Study and Prayer 7:00 p.m. - Youth (7th-12th)

7:00 Kids' Choir 7:00 p.m. website - itascacbc.org

### First United Methodist Church

Guaranteed no-nap Preaching, or double your doubt back. *Where Worship Is Joyous*

*Experience the energy of God's promise in a beautiful, historic sanctuary.*

Sunday School 9:45 a.m. Worship 10:50 a.m.

### Itasca Church of Christ - 200 N. Aquilla St.

Are we taking a test without reading the book?

That is exactly what many are doing when it comes to the Bible. They go by what they feel, think, or what others have told them, but have never read for themselves the complete book. This is the most important test you will ever take! Join us at the Itasca Church of Christ?

Sunday mornings - 9:45 a.m. - Bible classes-

10:45 a.m. - Worship - 5:00 p.m. - worship

Wednesday - 7 p.m. - Bible study All are welcome.

### First Presbyterian Church

106 N. Lamar Itasca 254-687-2243

[itascapc@sbcglobal.net](mailto:itascapc@sbcglobal.net) [www.fpcitasca.org](http://www.fpcitasca.org)

"In mission to and with the Presbyterian Childrens Home to spread the gospel of Jesus Christ."

Sundays - 9:30-10:00 Fellowship in Barton Hall

10:00 - 10:45 Sunday School for All Ages

11:00 - Worship Service

6:00 - Praise and Worship in Sanctuary

6:30 - KFC and Hour of Power

Tuesday and Thursday - 10:00 Exercise Class in Barton Hall

Wednesday - 6:30 Vespers Service at PCH Chapel

7:15 Choir practice

ANGEL FOOD SITE

### Itasca Ministerial Alliance

February 6 - St. John's Baptist Church - 9:00 p.m.

### Itasca Zoning Committee Meeting

2<sup>nd</sup> Monday of Month 6:00 p.m. - 136 N. Hill St.

### Itasca City Council Meeting

Tuesday, January 19, 2009 - 6:00 p.m.

### Itasca ISD School Board Meeting

January 11 7:00 p.m.

### Chamber of Commerce Meeting

Awards Banquet January 25 6:30 p.m.

### Volunteer Fire Department Meetings

2<sup>nd</sup> Monday of Month Business Meeting - 7:00 p.m.

3<sup>rd</sup> Monday of Month Fire Training - 7:00 p.m.

## Public Notice

The City of Itasca Building Standards Commission is holding a Public Hearing for the Following Properties;

Property located Files & Chiles Blk 4 Lt 5-6; Judy Underwood; Hill County Appraisal Dist; and Hill County Tax Office and all other parties having interest in this property are requested to attend this public hearing dicussing possible substandard buildings. This hearing is being held Monday January 11, 2010 at 7:00 pm at the Itasca Council Chamber 136 N. Hill St.

## Democrats of Hill County January Meeting

Democrats of Hill County hold monthly meetings on the 2nd Monday of each month. The next meeting will be held Monday, January 11, 2010 at the Texas Heritage Museum Theater at Hill College at 6 pm. Contact Lanore Dixon for more information at [lanore@dixonpen.com](mailto:lanore@dixonpen.com) or call 254-221-0511.

## Defensive Driving Course Offered

A Defensive Driving course is scheduled for January 16 at 125 W Elm in Hillsboro.

Class starts at 8:00 a.m. and walks in welcome. This course will many times garner an insurance discount and/or a ticket dismissal.

For more information call 254-582-5111.

## ALLTRADES HARDWARE & SERVICE

Winter hours: Monday-Friday - 8 am to 4 pm

Saturday—8 am to 12 noon

Sunday- as needed for emergency

Household Heater Hoses & Fittings Available

687-9751 or 254-221-3023 cell

Downtown Itasca (Next to City Hall & Police Station)

## Mr. & Mrs. Emilio Saldierna Honored at Reception

Reporter & Photographer  
Brittany Reid



Family and friends gathered to celebrate the marriage of Emilio and Kara Saldierna on Saturday, December 26 at the Curry Building in Itasca. Emilio, son of Emilio and Carmen Saldierna and a 1999 graduate of Itasca High School and Kara Guzzo, daughter of Michael and Kathy Guzzo, originally from Illinois, were married on August 28, 2009 in Omaha, Nebraska where they reside.

Emilio is a police officer and Kara is an education

administrator in Omaha.

"We have already started a family," Kara said with a smile. "We have two dogs, Chuy for the Mexican side of the family and Vinny for the Italian side."

## Adams Files For Precinct #2 JP

Continued from page 1.

He has served as Mayor of Itasca, on the Hill County Fire Prevention board, Hill County Sheriffs Posse and currently he serves on the board of the Hill County Fair.

For many years he worked as the Service Manager for Lloyd Ford in Itasca and more recently as the manager of Itasca Co-op and Grain. He is currently employed at Lonestar Ranch and Outdoors in Cleburne. His wife is employed at Citizens State Bank in Itasca.

"If elected, I pledge to have an open door policy for this office," Adams said. "I will be available to the county officials, local law enforcement officials and the citizens of Hill County as the need arises. Since this is the only court that the average citizen encounters, I will do my best to see that everyone is treated fairly and with the respect due each person in a timely manner."

"In addition to the County Sheriff, the Justice of the Peace is one of the most historically traditional officers for maintaining law and order in Texas and I pledge, with your support, to uphold this tradition with integrity. It will be an honor to serve as your Justice of the Peace in Precinct 2. Your support in the upcoming Republican Primary will be warmly accepted and appreciated," Adams concluded.

## Wilkins to Seek Second Term in Office

Press Release



Hill County Treasurer Becky Wilkins has announced her candidacy in the March Republican Primary. Wilkins was appointed to the position on December 15, 2006 and is currently serving her first full term in office.

The treasurer has a degree in political science from the University of Texas at Arlington. The Whitney native came home to Hill County after spending a number of years in the Dallas area, where she worked in county government with Dallas County.

During her three years in office, Wilkins has guided the investment decisions for the county, helped select a new bank depository with more favorable interest rates and transitioned to a bi-weekly pay period. She has also brought direct deposit to county employees and continues to strive to use technology to improve processes in her office.

While in office, Wilkins earned her certified investment officer designation and has been elected as Region 6 director of the County Treasurers' Association of Texas. She also serves as chair of the Hill County Child Protective Services (CPS) Board of Directors, Inc., a non-profit organization providing support for Hill County foster children.

"It is an honor and privilege to serve the taxpayers of Hill County as your treasurer, and I look forward to four more years," stated the candidate.

## Our School

Kudos to Mrs. Felicia Coleman for her dedication to the Wampus Cats BB team. She was on hand all during the Leonard Tournament to keep score and support the team.

The district is grateful for Mr. Glenn Pittman's direction and leadership as we enter 2010.

Thanks also goes to all the Itasca fans who braved the weather and left the couches during the holidays to cheer on the various Itasca teams.

Happy Birthday to Ms. Pam Willman (January 5) and Ms. Julie Slotvig (January 9).





## Senior Spotlight - Amanda Jones

Reporter Aren Barton  
Caricaturist Michelle Ignacz



Amanda Rashard Jones is the daughter of Dana Jones and Shadrick Green. She has one sister and one brother. Her sister, Shelby, is a junior at Itasca High, and her brother, Justin, has graduated.

"My mom is my hero," Amanda said. "She provided for me and my brother and sister by herself."

While in high school, Amanda has participated in basketball and softball up until this year. As a senior, she is taking it easy and enjoying her last year at IHS.

Before coming to Itasca in the 2<sup>nd</sup> grade, Amanda attended Mexia Elementary. After graduation, Amanda plans to attend Tyler Junior College.

Currently, Amanda is very busy working two jobs. She works at Bass in the Outlet Mall in Hillsboro and at Braums in Hillsboro. She has been working at Bass for the past eight months and Braums for the past five.

"Working at Bass is fun because I get a good discount on all the clothes and shoes, and I like working at Braums because I've made some really good friends there," Amanda said.

When not at school or working, Amanda likes to shop, go to the movies, and hang out with her sister. She also enjoys listening to her favorite genre, R&B, and listening particularly to her favorite R&B artist, Monica. Amanda enjoys driving around in her black '02 Galant. Her list of favorites include the color baby blue, guacamole and her all time favorite movie "Love and Basketball."

To underclassmen, Amanda leaves the advice "to study hard."



## Chamber Banquet Date Set

The Itasca Chamber of Commerce will hold its 25<sup>th</sup> Annual Chamber of Commerce Banquet on Monday, January 25, 2010 in the Itasca ISD cafeteria. The silent auction and refreshments will begin at 5:30 p.m. with dinner being served at 6:30 p.m. Tickets are \$10.00 (\$12.00 at the door) each and can be bought from any Chamber director or at Citizens State Bank (Cory Cole), HILCO (Bob Wilson), Itasca Floral & Gift (Clay Dean Hamilton), or at the high school (Barbara Petrash).

## Harley Davis - Elementary P.E.

Reporter Aren Barton



Walking into the physical education room in the elementary school, you see lots of hula hoops, dodge balls, and jump ropes, making the room look fun and child friendly. This room belongs to new elementary P.E. Coach Harley Davis.

Davis's roots to Itasca run deep. Not only did Davis grow up and graduate here, but his family has owned a farm here for the past 100 years.

"It's good to come back home," Davis said.

Davis has taught at several schools before coming back to his home town. He taught in Malone, Covington, Penelope, Sterling City and Hillsboro. He has been in education for 14 years.

Davis is married to wife of thirteen and a half years, Sherry. Together, they have two children, Nolen and Joseph. Nolen is in the third grade and Joseph is in Pre-K. In his spare time, he enjoys working with muscle cars.

## Deborah Preissinger Special Education Paraprofessional

Reporter Brittany Bourland



For Mrs. Deborah Preissinger her first year of working with students at Itasca High School has been a blast.

"I really like Itasca," Preissinger said. "It's fun, and my students and the staff are very friendly. It's certainly a big

change from my last job."

Before coming to Itasca, Mrs. Preissinger was an office manager for Habitat for Humanity in the construction area.

"Teaching is very rewarding. Watching the students' eyes light up when they understand something is amazing."

Outside of IHS Preissinger earned her Bachelor of Arts degree from Ashford University in December and is currently working on her Masters in Psychology. She has been married to her husband, Denny, for 16 years. They have five God-children, three cats and one dog.

## Wampus Cat Basketball

Sports Editor Ashley Durham  
Sports Reporters Ashley Spain/Shelby Ledwig



The Lady Cats have a 13-5 record coming out of the holidays. They defeated Riesel on Friday, December 18. Other action during the Christmas break was the Meridian Tournament where the Lady Cats brought home the 2<sup>nd</sup> place trophy, losing to the Lady Jackets in the championship game.

The Lady Wampus Cats defeated the West Lady Trojans 33-28 last Saturday

in a close game. Although their winning percentage is down a little from last year, they are playing heads up ball and have high spirits going into district play. They start district Friday night at home against the Italy Lady Gladiators. The games began at 4:30 p.m.

The Wampus Cats were also active over the holidays, playing Meridian, Keene, West and entering the Leonard Tournament. The Cats brought home the 1<sup>st</sup> place trophy from the Leonard Tournament. They played a very tough game against the West Trojans on Saturday, January 2 in front of an excited home crowd. The Cats won in the final seconds 48-46, but the game was a big one for the Cats, spotlighting some strengths, (3-pointers from BJ and Shakeal, blocks from Tevin and driving to the basket by Desmond) and exposing some weaknesses (lack of rebounding, getting off of the floor and accuracy in the shooting area).

Wampus Cat district games will start next Friday, January 15 here at home against Grand Prairie Advantage. This Friday the Cats are away at Wortham and they play Waco Reicher at home Tuesday.



## Lady Wampus Cats Basketball

Won - 14 Loss - 5

### January

5	Axtell	Home	JV, V	5:00
8	*Italy	Home	JV, V	4:30
12	*Gateway Acad	Away	JV, V	4:00
15	*Grand Prairie	Home		
	V	6:00		
19	*Faith Family	Away		
	V	6:00		
19	Italy	Home		
	JV	6:00		
22	*Waxachie Adv	Home		
V		6:00		
26	*Italy	Away	JV, V	4:00
29	*Gateway Acad	Home	JV, V	4:00



### February

2	*Grand Prairie	Away	V	6:00
5	*Faith Family	Home	V	4:00
5	Italy	Away	JV	4:00
9	*Waxachie Adv	Away	V	6:00

## Wampus Cat Basketball-

Won - 10 Loss - 6

### January

5	Red Oak Life	Home	JV, V	5:00
8	Wortham	Away	JV, V	5:00
14/16	Peaster Tournament		JV	TBA
15	*Grand Prairie Adv	Home	JV, V	5:00
19	*Faith Family	Away	JV, V	5:00
22	*Waxachie Adv	Home	JV, V	5:00
26	*Italy	Away	JV, V	5:00
29	*Gateway Acad	Home	JV, V	5:00

### February

2	*Grand Prairie	Home	JV, V	5:00
5	*Faith Family	Home	JV, V	5:00
9	*Waxachie Adv	Home	JV, V	5:00
12	*Italy	Home	JV, V	5:00
16	*Gateway Acad	Away	JV, V	5:00

## Junior High Basketball

### January

7	Keene	Girls Home	CD, BA	5:00
7	Keene	Boys Away	All	
9	Wortham Tournament	Girls	A, B	TBA
9	Godley Tournament	Boys	8 & 7 A	TBA
14	Maypearl	Girls Away	All	5:00
14	Maypearl	Boys Home	All	
21	Godley	Girls Home	All	
21	Godley	Boys Away	All	
23	Itasca Tournament	Girls	A & B	TBA
28	Rio Vista	Girls Away	All	5:00
28	Rio Vista	Boys Home	All	5:00

## Tanner Seeking Second Term as Clerk

Press Release



Hill County Clerk Nicole Tanner has served as county clerk since 2005. Familiar to the clerk's office, Nicole has served in the office in various capacities since 1994, which has afforded her the knowledge and experience to move the office into the 21st century.

Upon taking office, Mrs. Tanner immediately began a search for an automation system, selecting TSG's Eagle Records Management Software

in 2006. The official public records of the county clerk's office are now automated from 1993 to the present. The goal is to have all the official records from sovereignty to the present available electronically in the future.

The clerk's office is now the official vital-statistics registrar for the county, having acquired the birth and death records' responsibilities from the City of Hillsboro and the four county justices of peace.

"This streamlines the system of birth and death recording in our county and affords the office access to the Texas Department of Vital Statistics."

The clerk's office officially went 'online' with the state agency in November.

"Hill County residents can now purchase a Texas birth certificate, even if they were born in another Texas county," Mrs. Tanner pointed out.

The county clerk's office, under the leadership of Mrs. Tanner, has embraced technological change with enthusiasm.

"The office works efficiently," said Clerk Tanner, "Our goal is to provide exceptional customer service, and the changes we have made over the last three years have allowed us to meet our goal."

The candidate is a native Texan, having made her home in Hill County since 1991. She is a 1992 graduate of Whitney High School and attended Jacksonville Baptist College for two years. Mrs. Tanner and her husband, Michael, have two boys and make their home in Whitney.

The candidate said that she is grateful to serve as county clerk, remarking, "My first love is working with people. We have a unique snapshot of the history of our county here in the clerk's office. I am honored to play a role in recording our history, and it would be a privilege to continue to serve."

## Court-At-Law Judge to Seek Second Term

Press Release



Hill County Court-At-Law Judge Lee Harris has announced his candidacy for the position in the March Republican Primary. Harris is seeking his second full term in office after first being appointed in July of 2005 by Hill County Commissioners' Court.

The judge graduated cum laude from Stephen F. Austin University in Nacogdoches before earning his law degree from Baylor University School of Law in 1993.

Judge Harris practiced law in Clifton, Hillsboro and Whitney and also assisted District Attorney Dan V. Dent as a district attorney pro tem before taking the bench.

"It is an honor to serve the people of Hill County as court-at-law judge, and I look forward to continuing to serve should the voters see fit to return me to the position," the candidate said.

Since taking office, the judge said that he has worked hard to assure his court was progressively working to reduce the backlog of cases on the docket and to provide a speedier justice process for residents of the county.

Under the judge's leadership, the county received an Indigent-Defense Fund Grant to provide video conferencing for the courtrooms in the courthouse. The video-conferencing system has become a state model, and it recently saved the county several thousand dollars in transport and housing costs when it was used to allow two inmates to enter pleas on local charges while being held in a federal penitentiary.

The jurist was recently selected to judge the regional finals of the National Law School Moot Court Competition and helped train the national-winning mock trial team from Baylor University School of Law in the spring.

Judge Harris and his wife, Holly, have two daughters, Liz, who is enrolled in the physical-therapy doctoral program at Texas Woman's University, and Sarah, who is a junior at Hillsboro High School. The family resides on a cattle ranch west, northwest of Aquilla.

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**Main Place Dry Cleaners**  
104 N. Hill St.

**Drop off/Pick up at Justice of Peace Office**  
**Monday – Friday 8:00 a.m. – 5:00 p.m.**  
**Closed 12:00 – 1:00 p.m. for lunch**



## Hill County Genealogical Society January Meeting

Press Release

The Hill County Genealogical Society will now meet on the second Monday of each month during 2010. The next meeting will be at 6:30 pm Monday, January 11, in the Hill County Courthouse Annex at 126 South Covington Street. Election of officers will take place. It is important that every member attend to voice their vote at this meeting.

"Internet Research For Family History" will be the subject of discussion. Members and guests are invited to send their questions to cleoydavis@yahoo.com or you may call 254-582-3603 and leave a message for Cleo Davis, Program Chairman. Suggestions for future programs are always welcome. Refreshments will follow the meeting. Guests are always welcome.

There are a few copies unsold with the publisher of the Heritage of Hill County, Texas, Volume I. A book may be ordered direct from the publisher by calling Heritage Book Company Consultants, Inc., at 1-800-568-1611 in Kentucky. The final entries for Volume II will be picked up by the publishers on January 13th. If you have any questions, please call Richard Greenhill at 254-582-8912 or Bill or Mollie Stinson at 254-582-3242.

May 2010 bring you the information you need to find that lost ancestor and to help you complete your family tree.

### For Sale

"76 Dodge Sportsman Camper

Runs Good, Needs TLC Great for Deer Lease

318 Engine Well insulated

Coleman heater, stove, microwave, Coffee maker, Shower,

Toilet, Water Tank

\$1200 - OBO 817-706-9309

### Germer's Smokehouse

140 W. Main St.

For to go orders 687-9300

Monday - Saturday - 11 a.m. - 8 p.m.

Sunday - 12 noon - 2 p.m.

### Take the Bubba Belly Bustin' Bar-B-Que Platter Challenge

By the pound & by the plate - Great Food at a Great price.

### Valentine's Day

Just Around the Corner

Itasca Floral & Gifts

131 W. Main St. 254-687-2811

Serving Itasca for 23 Years



Send Your Loved One a Special  
Valentine from *Flowers by Karen*  
138 W. Main St. 254-687-2100

Unbelievable prices - Can't be beat!

## 2010 Complete Count Committee Meeting

Press Release

The 2010 Complete-Count Committee will meet at the Hill County Courthouse Annex, 126 South Covington Street, Hillsboro, at 2 p.m. Monday, January 11. Anyone interested in volunteering to assist with contacting citizens of Hill County to explain the importance of a complete person count in 2010 is invited to participate. You are needed!

Why is it important to have every living person in Hill County counted? In Texas in 2000 only 60% of the census forms were returned. In Hill County that number dropped below 60%. Census numbers are used to divide up approximately \$400 billion in federal funds annually. The numbers are key factors in redistricting for Congressional and State House and Senate seats. The number of people counted will determine how many representatives will be allowed to serve in Congress over the next 10 years. The amount of federal money Hill County will receive depends on the number of people (including children) who live within the county.

Census forms are sent to addresses and not individuals and are available in 59 languages. The forms will become available by March. There are 10 questions but 5 of the questions need to be answered regarding each member of the household (including all children). Because children are not always counted an extra effort is being made to educate the children to remind their parents to count them.

We need volunteers from the entire county to help get the word out by speaking to clubs, social groups, churches, businesses, etc. We meet on the 2<sup>nd</sup> Monday of the month in the meeting room behind the Texas Ag Extension Office at 126 S. Covington Street in the Hill County Courthouse Annex. We ask that you enter the door to the South of the Ag office and walk down the hall to the back room so we will not disturb the Ag workers. Your presence is needed.

For further information you may contact Cleo Young Davis, Chairman, by calling 254-582-3603 and leaving a message. She will return your call after 6 pm during the week. As stated this is a volunteer job. For the paid Census jobs call the Texas Workforce Office who may provide you with the Census number to call.

## Recent Death



**Salazar, Felisita H.** –Felisita Salazar of Itasca passed away Saturday, December 12, 2009. Funeral services were held December 14, 2009, at Our Lady of Mercy Catholic Church in Hillsboro. Burial was at Itasca Cemetery. She was preceded in death by husband, Fernando Salazar; parents, Anastacio and Adela Hipolito; one brother, Ben Hipolito; and three sisters, Ascencion Salinas, Teresa Charles and Juana Alonso.

Survivors include: one son, Ricky R. Salazar Sr. and wife, Theresa, of Itasca; two daughters, Lydia Gallegos and husband, Gilbert, of Albuquerque, New Mexico and Delia Calderon of Houston; six grandchildren, Vincent Gallegos and wife, Sandra, Steve Gallegos, Loran Cunningham and husband, Mike, Ann Juneau, Ricky R. Salazar Jr. and Marcus Salazar and wife, Jeanna; and 12 great-grandchildren.

**Coffey, Edna Lucille** - Lucille Coffey passed away Tuesday, December 29, 2009 in Arlington, TX. She was born April 14, 1917 in Hall, Texas to Homer Edward Brown and Maudie May (Gamblin). She married Murray B. Coffey and they celebrated 57 years of marriage. He preceded her in death in 1996. Lucille was a member of the Itasca First United Methodist Church since 1946. She retired from Rural Electrical Association (presently HILCO) where she worked for many years as an administrative assistant.

Services were held December 31, 2009, at the First Methodist Church of Itasca. Burial followed at the Itasca Cemetery. A gathering of family and friends was held prior to the service at the Clayton Kay Vaughan Funeral Home Chapel. She was preceded in death by her husband, Murray B. Coffey; parents, Homer Edward Brown and Maudie Mae Gamblin; son, Larry John Coffey; son-in-law, William R. Margraf Sr. and baby sister, Birdie Brown.

Survivors include: daughter, Carolyn C. Margraf; grandchildren, William R. Margraf Jr. and wife Susan and son Ricardo, Mark B. Margraf and Lisa K. Margraf; great-grandchildren, Jason Margraf, Erin Margraf and great-great grandchild Gregory Margraf. Memorials: Contributions can be made to First Methodist Church of Itasca, 254-687-2650.

## Paw Pals Reaches Milestone with Purchase of Property to Build Animal Shelter

Hill County Paw Pals achieved a major breakthrough on the last day of 2009. Paw Pals purchased a three acre property at 1500 Abbott Avenue in Hillsboro. This property includes a 6,000 square foot warehouse that will be renovated to become a pet adoption shelter. Paw Pals appreciates all who never lost the faith that the vision for a shelter would become reality.

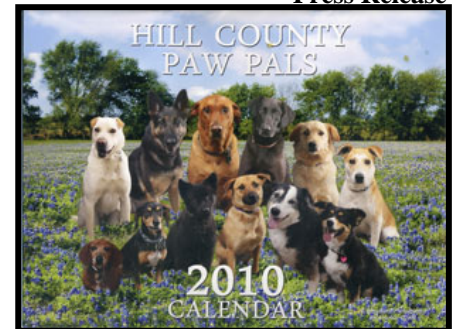
In January of 2004, a grassroots movement originated with a group of concerned citizens determined to correct the worsening pet overpopulation issue in Hill County. They proudly identify themselves as Hill County Paw Pals and have not waived from these goals: 1) Facilitate installation of a county animal control program and promote and contribute to building a county animal shelter; and 2) Organize to challenge the overpopulation of unwanted companion animals (dog and cats) with four programs working simultaneously—Education, Legislation, Spay/Neuter, and Adoption (Project ELSA).

This facility will be solely under the ownership of Hill County Paw Pals when the doors open and initially there will be no city or county involvement with either funding or management of the facility. It must be clearly understood that Paw Pals is not “animal control”. Although this facility may grow to the capacity to support a county animal control program, it will initially be operated as a pet adoption shelter with volunteers. In the mean time, Paw Pals, with the help of all voting county citizens, will continue to work towards our stated goals of establishing county animal control.

A public meeting is scheduled 6:30 pm Thursday, February 4, at our Pet Adoption Shelter. For more information about Paw Pals, please contact us at (254) 580-0679; email [hcpawpals@yahoo.com](mailto:hcpawpals@yahoo.com); or visit our website [www.hcpawpals.org](http://www.hcpawpals.org).

2010 Paw Pals calendar (pictured) is available online at [www.hcpawpals.org](http://www.hcpawpals.org) for only \$10. The purchase price goes to help Hill County Paw Pals.

Press Release







## “The Weather in 2009 and a Look Back

Columnist and Weather Cooperator with National Weather Service Carl Sweeney  
Typist/Editor Brittany Reid (With help from her friends)

While compiling last year's weather data it occurred to me that the *Paw Print* readers might be interested in some of our past weather happenings. But first our 2009 weather.

Our weather for the past year has more or less been normal except for a few records. We didn't have extremely cold weather during the winter. In January, we did have some ice and tree damage on January 27 and 28. February was rather uneventful. No severe cold, ice or snow. We did have one day with an 80° temperature. March was cold overall, with a low of 21° on March 28 and on March 29 there was a freezing fog, which is a little unusual. The trees looked like crystals.

April was a colder than normal month. There was some damage to fruit trees and vegetables that had been planted. May was a mild month, except for one morning. It was cold and raining on Easter morning, and we had to cancel the Easter Sunrise Service in the park. Then June came in mild but on June 21, we experienced our first 100° day. We had no severe storms that usually come with the spring season.

Before the summer was over we had 42 days when the temperature reached 100° or more. Our normal number is sixteen in a summer. The last one came on September 4. September brought us a record of almost 14 inches of rainfall. It was also a very hot month.

October proved to be our coolest October on record. It also broke a precipitation record with 14.43 inches recorded. November was a blah month! It was a nice calm one and since we usually experience our first frost in November, it was different because it did not happen this year. In the past few years, we have had colder weather in November than in December. Our normal first frost date is around November 20, but in 2009 December took the honors with the first frost coming on December 5. December was colder than normal with lots of lows in the 20s and 30s. The lowest temperature being on December 9 with 22°. It snowed Christmas Eve, and we awoke Christmas morning with 1 ¾ inches on the ground. Our first white Christmas in a while. It had been 70° the day before the front came in, so most of our snow did not accumulate. The precipitation record for 2009:

Jan. 1.65	Feb. 0.90	Mar. 6.02	Apr. 4.67	May 2.68	June 1.15
July 2.98	Aug. 1.53	Sept. 13.81	Oct. 14.43	Nov. 2.40	Dec. 1.59

Total for 2009: 53.81". Our normal year is about 36".

I started keeping weather records in 1956, and the following are some of the facts and figures from then until the present. The prior record rainfall in September was 8.01" in 1990. The high for October was 10.08" in 1991.

The 1970's was a decade of cooler weather, and more snow. In addition, there were no 100° days in the summer of 1973. In the winter of 1962 I recorded 8" of snow on one occurrence. Our hottest summer was 1980; we had 60 days with 100° or more. On June 25 and June 28 of that year, we recorded 113°.

The winter of 1947-48 was a bad one with lots of snow, ice, and sleet. Roads were almost impassible between Itasca and Fort Worth. The low temperature that winter was -2°, which is the coldest we have recorded.

I guess the coldest spell we have suffered through was in 1983 when we had 16 days when they temperature did not get above freezing. It was 5° on two mornings. Fruit and citrus trees in the Rio Grande Valley were destroyed. There was another spell like that in 1989, but it was not quite as severe. Most of the trees did have to be replanted.

Our driest year was 1963. I recorded only 18.95" of precipitation that year. Our wettest year was 2004, with 55.82" recorded. On September 12, 1961, the remnants of hurricane Carla came over Itasca and produced 2" of rain and a barometric pressure of 28.98.

I remember the worst snow storm Itasca and a wide area experienced it. It was in December and early January of 1929 and 1930. I have no record of the temperature, but lots of plumbing was damaged. The Presbyterian Children's Home had to come to Itasca in a wagon to get enough water to get by on.

There is an interesting personal story related to the weather I would like to tell. In 1948 when we experienced the minus 2° reading, Frank Martin and I decided to go duck hunting. We went to Chambers Creek between Files Valley and Maypearl. Frank fell through the ice into the creek. There happened to be a lot of tall dried blood weed stalks there. I made a fire and thawed him out. It was a half mile to the car and we were afraid he would not make it. It was about then we decided that the duck hunt was a bad idea.



***Paw Print Press***  
**123 N. College**  
**Itasca, Texas 76055**

## Wampus Cat of the Week

### Another of Santa's Helper

Reporter Megan Goff

Santa Claus was well-represented this year in Itasca. He lent his suit to IISD elementary crossing guard Laura Griscavage as she helped students cross the street in front of the elementary on the last day of school before the holiday break. The suit did the trick as all the students listened to her and were very appreciative of the goodies she passed out.



Santa was also in the Itasca Christmas Parade and sighted at several other functions in Itasca this Christmas. Thank you Santa, for spreading holiday cheer to the children and adults of "The Big Little Town."

### Special of the Week



Parents, Time to start thinking about your senior going to college. This would make a great graduation gift.

**2009 Focuses**

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