

Paw Print Press

Proudly Serving Itasca "The Big Little Town" since 1997

Itasca, Texas 76055

Vol. 2010 Issue #8

February 19, 2010

Chamber Honors PPP Staffers with "Youth of Year" Awards



This year the Chamber of Commerce presented "Youth of the Year" award to 5 young people who had worked diligently to provide the citizens of Itasca with a newspaper for the last four years.

Honored were seniors (left to right) Megan Goff, Devin Corbitt, Ashley Durham, Mary Maddox and Eva Mayberry (missing from the picture).

The young ladies are in the top 10 of their class and are involved in many activities in school and the community. Continued on page 9.

Congressman Chet Edwards to Keynote Democratic Dinner



Press Release

The Democrats of Hill County have scheduled a Jefferson-Jackson BBQ Dinner on Monday, February 22 at Hill College in Hillsboro. United States Congressman Chet Edwards of the 17th District will be the keynote speaker. Congressman

Edwards has represented Texas in Congress for almost 20 years. Continued on page 3.

Lady Cats advance to Area with 50-39 Win Over Axtell



The Lady Cats were all smiles as they clutched the hard-earned Bi-District Championship trophy Monday night in West. Itasca, Co-District Champs, had opted for the runner up position in the playoffs and met District 16-A third place finisher, the Lady Horns of Axtell.

From the opening whistle tip off and #13 Mary Maddox's 3-point shot seconds later, the game was exciting but also nerve racking as it went back and forth game until Point Guard Jasmine Guy stepped up the pace in the fourth quarter to break open the game giving the Lady Cats a 50-39 victory. Continued on page 5

IISD Forced to Explore more Expansion

By Editor & Publisher Barbara Petrash

At the February IISD Board of Trustees Meeting, district Superintendent Pittman explained the urgent need for expansion in all campuses but especially the elementary and high school.

In the last six years, the elementary has grown from two classrooms at each grade level to three in all grades except 3rd grade, which has four classrooms, and kindergarten that has two.

This year's Pre-K program is filled to capacity and it will equate to at least three kindergarten classrooms next year if not four. There are no available rooms in the building for more classrooms.

Continued on page 9.

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>3rd 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 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

March 2 - First United Methodist Church - 9:00 p.m.

Itasca Zoning Committee Meeting

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

Itasca City Council Meeting

Monday, March 15, 2009 - 6:00 p.m.

Itasca ISD School Board Meeting

March 8 7:00 p.m.

Playground Equipment Needed

The Itasca First United Methodist Youth Group is looking for any used outdoor playground equipment. If you have any to sell or donate, that is in good condition, please contact Susan at 817-240-3553 or email at sbasonmkay@sbcglobal.net FUMC Youth

Youth Baseball/Softball Sign-Ups

Community youth baseball/softball signups are held every Tuesday and Thursday from 6 - 8 p.m. through February 23 at the IISD old gym. There will be only one Saturday signup and that will be on February 20 from 10 a.m. - 1 p.m. Signup forms will be sent home with children through the elementary school and they must be turned in by February 23. No late applications will be accepted.

For more information or if you have questions contact Jason or LeAnn Kirkpatrick at 817-219-6134 or e-mail at leannkirkpatrick@sbcglobal.net.

Itasca Depot Heritage and Education Center Spring Schedule



February 27 - 10 a.m. - 12 noon

March 27 - open 10 a.m. - 12 noon

April 24 - open 10 a.m. - 12 noon

Income Tax Preparation

\$65 for most returns Add \$15 to e-file

For more information call Oscar Salinas

682-225-7442 or e-mail oas4562@gmail.com

FOR SALE

1.4 acre country home sites located off FM-67
Gated, underground utilities, deed restricted, great
Itasca schools

Owner/Broker. 817-366-1106 anytime

Junior High Dance Sat., February 20

Grades 5-8 7:00 p.m. - 10 p.m.

Sponsored by the United Methodist Church Youth

Fundraiser for summer camp

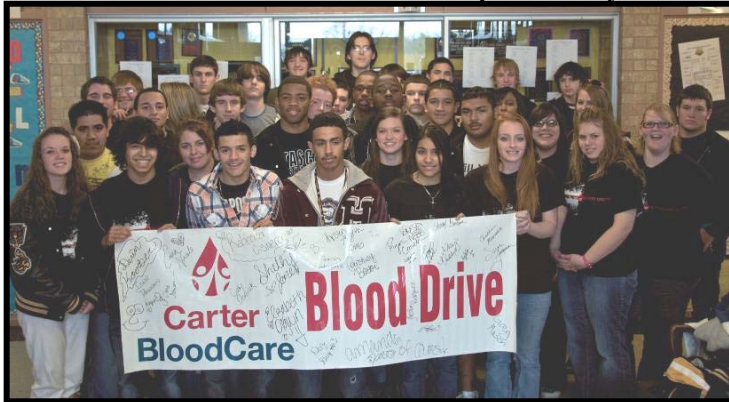
Held at the church - admission is \$2.

NO in & out privileges.

For more information, contact Susan at 817-240-3553.

Students Give Gift from the Heart

Reporter Mary Maddox



Throughout the years, Itasca High school has sponsored many blood drives for the various blood care companies. Early this year Carter BloodCare visited the school to inform students and teachers about how critical it is for those who are able and eligible to donate blood. The speaker informed the students about the requirements that had to be met in order for one to donate.

All donors must be 17 years or older, (16 year olds could donate with parental permission), must eat a healthy and filling breakfast and drink plenty of water the day of donation. Student Council Sponsor Sally Crouch was very impressed with the presentation and invited them to conduct a blood drive on campus. Continued on page 9.

Order Your Copy of *The Heritage of Hill County* Vol. II Limited Number

Press Release

Volume II of The Heritage of Hill County, Texas has been sent to the publisher. Copies that are to be picked up in Hillsboro may be ordered at the pre-publication price of \$50. Books to be shipped cost an additional \$5.00.

The books should be ready for distribution sometime this summer. People who have ordered books will receive a letter notifying them when the books will be shipped or available in Hillsboro. At that time, the price to order a book will be \$60 picked up in Hillsboro. Books to be mailed cost an additional \$5.00.

To order a book, send a check or money order to Hill County HBC Vol. II, P.O. Box 555, Hillsboro, TX 76645. Please include your name, street address, and city and zip code as well as telephone number. For information on ordering by credit card, contact Richard Greenhill, 254 582-8912.

"Severe Weather Awareness Week" Announced

Public Service Announcement

Severe Weather Awareness Week in Texas has been set for February 21-27, 2010.

This is an opportunity for residents to prepare to deal with the extreme weather events that come to Texas. Now is the time to update your emergency plans, check the emergency supply kits and get prepared for tornadoes, floods, hail, straight-line windstorms and other hazardous events.

Severe Weather Awareness Week materials for 2010 can be found on the web at www.txdps.state.tx.us/dem.

Congressman Chet Edwards at Democratic Dinner

Continued from page 1

In addition to serving on several committees, Edwards is co-chair of the House Army Caucus and Chairman of the Military Construction and Veterans Affairs Appropriations Subcommittee.

The Jefferson-Jackson Dinner will be held on President George Washington's birthday, Monday, February 22, at the Vara Martin Daniel Performing Arts Center on the campus of Hill College in Hillsboro. Presidents Thomas Jefferson and Andrew Jackson are considered the founders of the Democratic Party. The BBQ dinner is catered by Tom's Smokehouse and serving will begin at 6:30 pm in the Performing Arts Center South with the program to follow in the Vara Martin Daniel Auditorium.

Special recognition will be given former Hillsboro Mayor Will Lowrance who recently retired as Chair of the Hill County Democratic Party. Lowrance and his wife Betty have long been active in the Democratic Party in Texas, and in January he retired and has been succeeded by Ernest Brister as chair of the Hill County Democratic Party.

The event is open to all Democrats and Independents in Hill County and Central Texas. Those who care about responsible government are urged to attend.

The cost for the dinner will be \$15 in advance or \$20 at the door. Deadline for early reservations is Tuesday, February 16, 2010. Make checks to Democrats of Hill County and mail to Will & Betty Lowrance, P.O. Box 563, Hillsboro, TX 76645, or call 254.582.7255 for additional information.

Senior Spotlight Chantel Courtnier

Reporter Megan Goff
Caricaturist Michelle Ignacz



The chairs outside of Mr. Harris' office are not only for troubled students, but also for senior office aides like Chantel Renea Courtnier.

"I love having Chantel as my aide," High School Secretary, Diana Johnson said. "She is a joy to work with."

Fellow aide, Katelyn Seaman agreed.

Chantel is well known by teachers and students. Her friendly and sports-minded style is stitched into her "superstar" letterman jacket, often worn by underclassmen.

Chantel is the daughter of Cheryl Courtnier. She started school in Itasca in 2002. Chantel is a starting guard for the Lady Wampus Cats and is concluding her 6th year of basketball. Chantel was named 2nd team all-district her sophomore year and 1st team all-district her junior year.

"Basketball has taught me the importance of teamwork and family," Chantel said. "The girls on the team are my family."

Besides being a star player on the court, Chantel also loves texting.

"I take my phone everywhere I go," Chantel said.

When not busy with weekend tournaments or late night games, Chantel likes to relax and watch movies. She turned 18 on December 11, her favorite food is pepperoni pizza, (or anything that does not move), and her favorite color is blue.

Chantel is still exploring her options for her future. Currently, she would like to attend TSTC to become a dental hygienist.

Chantel's advice to her many fans is, "Keep your head up during the hard times," and "You have to work to get what you want."



Senior Spotlight Eddie Coronado

Reporter Megan Goff
Caricaturist Martin Martinez



Eddie Coronado walks with patience. He does not stumble or trip in the halls. His visible toughness is graced by his quiet, intelligent aura. He is respected by everyone, especially the underclassmen.

"My cousin is the best because he's always there for me when I need somebody," sophomore Jael Gutierrez said.

Eddie is the son of Leoncio Sr. and Elizabeth Coronado. His older brother Isai is a 2008 IHS graduate, and his other brother Leo, was featured recently as a senior. Sister Karen is an 8th grader and little brother Danny is in 4th grade. The Coronado family moved to Itasca from Hillsboro when Eddie was in 4th grade to be closer to his grandmother, Mercedes Cruz.

Eddie participated in varsity football his sophomore and junior year as an offensive and defensive linebacker. He played baseball as an outfielder his freshman through junior year.

Eddie, a tuba player in the band, is one of the "famous band members" who performed at Carnegie Hall in New York. For the last two years, Eddie has served as a drill sergeant in his favorite class, band.

"Going to State this year was a major accomplishment for us," Eddie said. "I learned leadership, the ability to follow rules, dedication and teamwork from being in band. San Antonio was a great experience. I've never gone to State in anything. I've wanted that since 6th grade."

After high school, Eddie plans to attend the Latin American Bible Institute in San Antonio. After two years of basics, he would then like to transfer to South Western Assembly of God University in Waxahachie. With a Bachelors in Business, this young entrepreneur hopes to open another "Karen's Burritos" and help his older brother, Isai.

"Karen's Burritos was named after my sister," Eddie said. "I love her, even though she's spoiled."



Lady Cats to Meet Meridian in Area Playoff

Continued from page 1.

Guy lead the Lady Cats in all stats, but more important she lead them on the court and kept the momentum up as the Lady Cats played a "never say die" game. On the boards, she put up six 2-point shots, two 3 pointers and hit 7 points from the free throw line giving Itasca its cushion in the 4th quarter.

Defense played an important role in the game and all of the players contributed greatly, making steals and causing the Lady Horns to turn over the ball at critical times during the game.

The Lady Cats will meet the Lady Jackets of Meridian in the Area matchup Friday night in Whitney at 7:30 p.m. Wampus Cat fans need to come out and support their team as they take on this tough State-ranked team.

Wampus Cats to Meet ? in Bi-District Matchup

With a second place finish in District 15-A the Wampus Cats will meet the third place finisher in District 16-A for the Bi-District Championship. That opponent will not be decided until Saturday afternoon when Chilton and Mart play a heads up game to determine who enters the playoff race.

The Cats will play in a playoff preview game in Royce City on Saturday. The opponent and time had not been set at press time.

Head Coach Jimmie Lott indicated that he expected the Bi-District game to be played on Tuesday night but until an opponent is determine time and place are not available.

Wampus Cats 2010 Track

February 27	Bulldog Relays	JV-V	Rice HS
March 6	Alvarado Invitational	JV-V	Alvarado HS
March 12	Pirate Relays	JV-V	Granbury HS
March 19	Pirate Relays	JV-V	La Vega HS
March 26	Bluebonnet Relays	JV-V	Ennis HS
April 1	Bulldog Relays	JV-V	McGregor HS
April 2-3	Texas Relays	V*	UT Austin
April 7-8	19-A District Meet	JV-V	Hubbard HS
April 23	Regional Qualifiers	V*	Lancaster HS
May 3-4	Regional Meet	V*	Palestine HS
May 14-15	State Meet	V*	UT Austin

*Only qualifying varsity athletes will attend these meets.

Head Coach Trey Bates Assistant Jose Rodriguez

Students Celebrate 100 Days with Penny Donation

Reporter Aren Barton



Itasca Elementary School celebrated the 100th day of school Friday, February 5. The celebration lasted all week long and culminated on Friday. Students and teachers participated in several different activities all having to do with the number 100. For example, students did 100 jumping jacks, drew 100 lines of symmetry, drew pictures of what they think that they might look like when they are 100 years old, made necklaces with 100 fruit loops, and glued 100 paw prints on a poster, which was displayed in the hall.

"I think that it was really good that the children learned to count to 100," Mrs. Covington, 3rd grade teacher, said, "and I think that counting up to the 100th day helped them understand how long 100 days really is."

Two of the most important events of the week were the 100 pennies that each child was asked to bring and donate to the Susan G. Komen Foundation and the 100 balloons that the students released on Friday, the actual 100th day of school. Pre-k through fourth grade gathered on the parking lot at 2:00 p.m. and released the 100 helium-filled balloons that had been donated by Clay Dean Hamilton of Itasca Gift & Floral.

"I was really proud that the students responded so positively," Mrs. Abbott, 4th grade teacher, said, "they were very eager to bring and donate their pennies to such a worthy cause."

Our School

A special thanks to Mr. Nickel and Mrs. Watson for the extra hours and effort that they spent helping our youth get ready for the Hill County Fair. Itasca was well represented and brought back numerous ribbons and awards because of their dedication and inspiration.

Happy Birthday wishes to Steve Shaffer (February 12), Brenda Swilley (February 14), Sandra Arellano (February 15) and Rickie Harris (February 21).

Elementary News

Reporter Devin Corbitt

The Solar System



Mrs. Covington's third grade class recently learned about the solar system. To help them remember the planets, each student made a model of the solar system. Most students made theirs from Styrofoam and paint. One student made hers with foil and tissue paper.

"I really liked making the planets," Kristen said. "My mom got on the internet to find out the sizes of all the planets. We used a ruler to make them all the right size for my model."

Another student used silver stars on wire to decorate his model.

"I liked learning how to put the planets in order," Dean said,

"but I hurt my fingers on the wires when we put the stars on."

All of Mrs. Covington's students learned a lot from this project. Kristen and Dean both learned how to put the planets in order from the sun.

"I learned that the earth is tilted, not straight," Jordan said. "I also learned that Mars is called the "Red Planet." I knew that Mars was red, but I didn't know people called it that."

"Did you know that Pluto isn't a planet anymore?" Sabrina said. "I just learned that."

Elementary District UIL

Earlier in the year, the elementary participated in district UIL competition. Students in grades 2nd – 5th competed in numerous events. The school placed 3rd in the district.

2nd Grade: Dakota Price - 2nd - Creative Writing, Clay Pittman - 4th – Storytelling and Patrick Runyon - 6th - Storytelling

3rd Grade: JaMesa Long - 1st – Storytelling, Chasity Roberson - 5th – Storytelling, Alan Freeman - 6th - Spelling, 2nd - Music Memory, Nolan Davis - 3rd - Music Memory, Austin Karr - 2nd - Spelling, 5th - Music Memory and Katy Sherber - 6th - Ready Writing

****Spelling Team - 1st (Alan Freeman, Austin Karr, Chasity Roberson)**

****Music Memory Team – 2nd (Alan Freeman, Austin Karr, JaMesa Long, Kenzie Boyd, Nolan Davis)**

4th Grade: Halie Ramos - 2nd - Music Memory, Tito Savala – 5th – Spelling, Halie Sarli – 5th - Ready Writing, 6th – Spelling, Emili Sarli – 4th – Writing, Jocelyn Ali - 5th – Art, Danny Coronado - 4th - Number Sense and Zachery Barnes - 6th - Number Sense

***Music Memory Team - 3rd (Halie Ramos, Brayden Hennig, Melissa Maya, Tito Savala, Alessandra Diaz)**

***Spelling Team – 2nd (Emili Sarlie, Halie Sarli, Tito Savala)**

***Art Team-2nd (Jocelyn Ali, Alessandra Diaz, Chloe Dumas, Brenna Durham, Chalo Cavazos)**

***Number Sense Team-2nd (Danny Coronado, Zachery Barnes, Kyra Henderson)**

5th Maps, Graphs and Charts—6th place, Callie Pittman

5th Grade: Ready Writing - 1st place - Callie Pittman, Dictionary Skills - 4th place - Lainey Cavazos, Listening Skills - 2nd place - Callie Pittman, Number Sense - 4th place - Callie Pittman and 6th place - Aliegha Rodriguez

***Art - 3rd place team, (Lainey Cavazos, Chandley Sargent, Jacob Schronk, Isabella Botello, Robert Kirkpatrick)**

***Number Sense - 2nd place team, (Miranda Valeriano, Aliegha Rodriguez, Callie Pittman)**

Germer's Smokehouse

"All You Can Eat"

Hand Breaded Catfish Filet Dinner

Friday Night 5:00 – 8:00 p.m. \$10.00

includes French fries, beans, cole slaw & hush puppies

140 W. Main St.

254-687-9300

Your Independent Representative for Digital Video Phone in Itasca



Germer's Smokehouse

140 W. Main St.

254-687-9300

Information how you can become
an independent representative
and make money.

Boy Scout Corner

Press Release

It's Pancake Breakfast Time!

Hey Itasca – your Boy Scout Troop # 366 is having its annual Pancake Breakfast fundraiser Saturday morning February 20 from 7:00 to 10:00.

We are moving to a new location this year. The breakfast will be in the School Cafeteria. Tickets are \$6.00 at the door for all you can eat pancakes, sausage and drinks.

The Troop appreciates the Itasca Rotary Club letting us use their meeting room in the past, but we need more room! It's a great problem to have.

The fundraiser is used to help defray the cost of the Summer Camp. This year we are returning to Buffalo Trails in the Davis Mountains. Some of the boys will be taking exciting merit badge classes like rock climbing, life saving and riflery, while other scouts will be taking part of the high adventure programs like "Cavalry." This is a program for older scouts and they get to spend the week living as US Cavalry did in the 1800s at nearby Fort Davis.



If you have a boy who is 11 years old or older and would be interested in joining the troop and going with us to summer camp, please stop by the breakfast. We will have a slide show of last year's summer camp at the breakfast. – See You There!

Misty Needs Foster Home

Misty is a 2-year old sheppard/lab mix that entered Paw Pals foster network with her 6 puppies (all male). The puppies have been accepted by Aspen Animal Shelter but Misty is heartworm positive and will have to be treated. We are most fortunate to have Mona & Johnnie Ovig and Maureen Werr donate \$100 and \$300 respectively towards Misty's HW treatment. We are looking for a foster home while Misty is treated. Misty is very gentle and obedient and is house trained.



If you can foster Misty, please contact Lana (lanarcrow@sbcglobal.net), 582-8902 or 582-8632.

Thank you, PawPal Mike

Itasca Weather

Carl Sweeney in Cooperate with the National Weather Service

Our last weather report was for the year 2009. 2010 has started off with more cold and rainy weather than we have had in several years. There was one short spell when we had a 60° reading around the first of February, but the rest of the winter has been cold and wet with temperatures in the teens, twenty's and low thirty's at night.

January 8 saw a low of 17°, January 9 it was 12° and on January 10 it was just 15°. There were several heavy frosts just after the first week in February. On February 11 the low was 33° and the high for that day was also 33°.

It started snowing about 10 a.m. on February 11 and continued until 1:30 a.m. on February 12. The total accumulation was 6 inches. We estimate with what melted before it accumulated it was about 8 inches total. Without going into statistics, it was our best snowfall since the 1970s.

Cards of Thanks

We would like to express sincere appreciation to everyone for making our Valentine's Day Basket Raffle a huge success. The winners were, Bill Lewis and June Gilstrap. I would like to thank Elizabeth Avila, Kristi Sargent, CinDee Garrett, Pam Willman and Samantha Willman for their donations of the prizes in the baskets.

Also a huge thank you to our loving church family and our amazing community members who braved Saturday mornings COLD weather to make our Bake Sale a great success as well. Both of these fundraisers will assist in sending our youth to summer camp. Thank you and God's blessings.

Susan Bason, Youth leaders and the youth
United Methodist Church, Itasca

Itasca Schools had an awesome kick off week to our Dating Violence and Bullying Awareness Month. I would like to thank the many people and organizations who made it all possible. Special thanks go to Kelly Tinklenberg and the NJHS for Theme Week in the Middle School, Bob Wilson and HILCO for donating Wal-Mart gift card prizes, Amy Karr for teaching bullying lessons all day in the Middle School and then conducting a Teen Dating Violence workshop in the evening, Joy Borjes for teaching a bullying workshop for parents, Carter BloodCare, Sally Crouch, Judy McClure, Bill Nickel, and our principals for all their support, and thanks to Susan Corbitt, Felicia Coleman, and Susan Crawford for everything "Library".

Finally, thanks to the best parents in the county for sharing your children with us. Awareness and having tools and skills to help our students keep Itasca Schools bully and violence free is our goal.

IISD Counselor Grace Hennig

Remember When . . . “The Party Line”

Columnist Sweeney



****Mr. Sweeney is still recuperating at the Itasca Nursing Home but he felt well enough this week to write two articles for the paper. We were all waiting anxiously for his return column.**

A person hasn't really lived if they haven't experienced the joys of an eight party phone system. My family never had a telephone until I came back from World War II and then it was a couple years after that when they got one.

When we married and moved to the country we had our first experience with the eight party systems. That means that there were eight phones on our line. There were four lines that we could not hear ring, but when they were called we could not use the line. The other four we could hear the ring and could hear the conversation, but we could not get the line.

Each phone had a different ring. For instance, ours was two long and one short ring. We learned the ring for each phone and we knew who was being called. We could also listen in on their conversation and some of the noisy ones did just that. I remember a certain number that was called around 2 a.m. some nights. I finally got curious and listened in. It was a couple lovers having quarrels on the phone. You can bet this was irritating at 2:00 in the morning.

Some of the ladies on the line such as Mrs. E.J. Roten called to “visit” each morning. They sometimes talked for an hour, and this was frustrating to those who needed the line. I remember sometimes Mr. Watson got so frustrated trying to get the line that he took his phone off the hook and went to town. Thus tying up all eight lines until his phone was placed in the cradle again.

I remember one time when our daughter was sick and the wife couldn't get the line. She yelled to Mr. Watson's house to get him to hang up so she could call the doctor. Of course that was in the day when doctors made house calls.



There was one plus to the system. When a family got a call and everyone knew the family was out of town, someone would answer and tell them. This was beneficial in many instances. There were no answering machines then, and this was a good substitute. There were a few people who liked the system and the interactions with neighbors on the line and they hated to see it go, but those were in the minority.

I remember one time when we had been begging for relief from the eight lines when a South Western Bell representative came by. I told him that one reason we could not get any action was because they had a monopoly. He didn't take kindly to that.

Later when they did reduce the number on the line, they dug a trench across our front yard and buried the line but they never came back to smooth it out. So we had to do it ourselves, just as well though, that way we could do it our way.

Nowadays we miss the old South Western Bell, Texas Power and Light and the Lone Star Gas Companies. They were more community friendly, with an office and a local representative in each town. They hired local people and it was a more personal service to the citizens and customers. Now we get repair crews out of Fort Worth or Waco for service, after we have called customer service and got someone in India or somewhere who didn't speak English and we could not understand them and they could not understand us. I think we will rue the day when we began outsourcing most of our operations overseas.

I knew of a few people who actually liked the multiple party systems, but they were in the minority. Now just look how we have progressed. We have three phones in the house plus a portable one we can take out in the yard, plus cell phones that do all sorts of things. Most homes also have iPods and a host of other electronic devices. Makes one wonder what the future holds for us.

****P.S. Note from Brittany – “Mr. Sweeney just recently got a cell phone. He is getting “up beat.” Next thing you know he will be wanting a laptop. You go Mr. Sweeney!”**



“Youth of the Year” Awards

Continued from page 1

Devin Corbitt, the daughter of Susan and Allen Corbitt, is a drum major for the 2010 State qualifying Wampus Cat Band. She has been a UIL Academic Regional qualifier for three years and went to State UIL competition in Editorial Writing in 2009 and earned a 2nd place medal. She has recently qualified to compete in Austin in Cross-X Debate for the third time. Devin is also an accomplished actress and has performed in the UIL One-Act Play for four years.

Megan Goff, the daughter of Sandy and Wally Goff, is a four-year varsity cheerleader and a 4-year varsity basketball player. She has advanced to Regional UIL Competition in Feature and News writing and helped take the Lady Cats to playoffs two years in a row.

Mary Maddox, the daughter of Shirley and Larry Maddox, is a third year cheerleader, fourth year varsity basketball player and advanced to Regional UIL competition in News Writing. She has also played an intricate part in helping the Lady Cats make the playoffs the last two years.

Ashley Durham, the daughter of Joanna and Barry Durham, has advanced to Regional in Headline and Editorial writing and has been the starting pitcher for the Lady Cats softball team for the last three years. She was the head photographer on the football field during the last two seasons. She has donated numerous after school hours to tutoring in the GCS Lab.

Eva Mayberry, daughter of Missy and Jeffery Mayberry, was a varsity cheerleader for two years and played on the varsity Lady Cats Basketball team for three years.

All of these outstanding young women take dual credit classes, all are members of the Nation Honor Society, most are blood donors, all have served on the IHS Student Council and are listed in the top 10 of their class. This year's Valedictorian and Salutatorian are in this group of outstanding young people.

Eva, Mary and Megan are going into the medical field. Devin is going into education and Ashley will pursue a career in veterinarian studies.

Chamber Director and *Paw Print Press* Editor and Publisher Barbara Petrash proudly presented each of the students an engraved plaque and heralded them as being outstanding reporters, students and future leaders of our state and country. She ended by saying that everyone brags about: “The brightest of the bright, but their brightest cannot hold a candle to her 5 Wonder Women.”

Blood Drive

Continued from page 3

On February 3, 2010 Carter BloodCare came in two large buses to Itasca ISD where over fifty students and some community citizens were signed up to donate blood. Due to some requirements that had to be met to keep the donor and recipient safe, (anemic, medications, etc.) some were asked to try another day.

By the end of the day 44 units of blood and 4 units of double red had been donated. The majority of the blood donated came from IHS students.

These blood donations assure that blood is available when it is needed. In return, the Carter BloodCare Life Plan assures blood donors that they will receive financial assistance toward uninsured blood product fees if they or their immediate family members require blood transfusions within 12 months of their donation.

This was the largest blood drive for the high school and the professionals from a Carter BloodCare get a great job of being on time, having the correct equipment and moving the process along without a hitch.

IISD Exploring Expansion

Continued from page 1

Rooms that were computer labs 4 or 5 years ago have been turned into classrooms and even one room from the old junior high area has been renovated and is used as a classroom this year.

The elementary is not the only building feeling the crunch. In the high school, every room is utilized every period and many are overflowing with students. The crunch is bad this year but next year it will be a real problem as the senior class of 43 students will be replaced by an 8th grade class of 75+ and that will be followed by a 7th grade class of 70+.

In October, the high school turned in a census number of 185 for UIL realignment, but by press time the high school was pushing 200 and with a 30+ guaranteed growth next year the number will fall between 225 – 240. The question for High School Principal Rickie Harris and Superintendent Glenn Pittman to solve is, “How do you fit 40 extra bodies in a facility that was already overcrowded?”

Beginning next year all students in the high school are on a 4 by 4 schedule, which means that they will all have to take 4 English classes, 4 math classes, 4 history classes and 4 science classes. The results of that is that you cannot pack 30 students in a classroom that only hold 20 desks and expect them to learn a core subject.

If Itasca ISD is to continue to excel in educating our young people (and we do that very well as indicated by all of the parents moving to the district for the education) we are going to have to invest in our school and thereby invest in our young people.

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Wampus Cats of the Week

Senior Wampus Cats #12 Desmond Guy, #23 Tevin Mayberry, #10 Isaac Perez

Reporter Megan Goff



The three senior boys leading the Varsity Wampus Cats to the playoffs are Desmond Guy, Tevin Mayberry and Isaac Perez.

#12 Desmond started varsity as a freshman and hasn't looked back. His overall skill allows him to handle the ball in a tough press, score as a post, and shoot

an outstanding outside shot. Desmond is usually the opponent's toughest obstacle.

#23: Tevin moved up to varsity as a sophomore, and as he grew, so did his talent. At 6'2", Tevin is the tallest member of the team but can do it all. Tevin is an outstanding ball handler and is quick on the drive.

#10: Isaac has seen a lot of court time compared to his junior year. Isaac usually scores as a quick dish under the basket. He fights for re-

bounds and is quick on defense.

These boys have dedicated lots of hard work and time to the boys' athletic program. Their efforts have been shown by their many victories and will be needed to go deep into the playoffs.



Special of the Week



The girls will meet Meridian in the Area playoffs while the boys are gearing up for bi-district competition.

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