

Paw Print Press

Proudly Serving Itasca "The Big Little Town" since 1997

Itasca, Texas 76055

Vol. 2010 Issue #9

February 26, 2010

HILCO's Operation Round Up® Grants Funding to Local Organizations

Press Release



Three groups under the Itasca Booster Club umbrella received grants from HILCO's Operation Round Up® during the January awards.

Operation Round Up® is a voluntary program in which residential members of HILCO Electric Cooperative, Inc. sign up to have their electric bills rounded upward to the next dollar. Every month, the additional pennies, nickels and dimes are added to a special fund. The Operation Round Up® Trust Board, comprised of representatives of the HILCO districts, meets once a quarter to review applications and to decide how the funds are to be allocated.

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Jefferson-Jackson Dinner to be Rescheduled

Press Release

Democrats of Hill County announced that Congressman Chet Edwards cannot be in Hillsboro on Monday, February 22 since the House of Representatives will be in session. Edwards felt his priority was to be in the House representing the people of the 17th District, but he expressed regret and indicated he would be looking forward to coming to Hill County in the fall. The Jefferson-Jackson Dinner will be rescheduled, and all reservations made for the event will be honored. Details for the rescheduled event will be announced later. For additional information, please contact Kendall Milton at 254.498.9554.

Texas A&M University Wind Symphony Closes Out Hill College Performing Arts Series



Press Release

The Hill College Performing Arts Series has brought a wide variety of talent to the Central Texas area this academic year, from a world class brass quintet to singing senior citizens and the storytelling of life-size puppets and a NASA astronaut. The series will end in grand style on Thursday, February 25, 2010 at 7:30 pm with the Texas A&M University Wind Symphony.

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Elementary Organize "Paws for the Cause" to Benefit Susan G. Komen

Reporter Devin Corbitt

The Itasca Elementary School staff has decided to help raise funds for the Susan G. Komen Breast Cancer Organization. The team, "Paws for the Cause", will participate in a 5K walk benefiting the organization on April 24 in Waco.

The elementary staff decided to make this team in honor of those who have survived or are currently battling cancer in Itasca, especially our current and retired teachers. Until the walk, each team member will raise money. Proceeds go to financially help those who have cancer and to fund research help find a cure for cancer. The group's goal is \$500, but they hope to raise much more.

Donations may be made in the elementary office. Please make checks out to the Susan G. Komen Breast Cancer Organization.

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
itascapfc@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

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

Bake Sale Sponsored by

Paws for a Cause

(Elementary School Personnel)

Saturday, February 27

9:00 a.m. - until sold out

Citizens State Bank

All proceeds go to the Susan G Komen Foundation
 Twenty-three (23) *Paws for the Cause* participates from the Itasca Elementary will be in the Waco Race on April 24.
 Your help raising money for this worthwhile endeavor will be greatly appreciated.

For Sale

1 year old laying hens and roosters
 mostly Araucanas
 Prolific layers of large pastel colored eggs
 \$10 each call 687-9220

Hill College Performing Arts Series

Continued from page 1.

This stellar ensemble is part of a band program serving approximately 800 students per academic semester. Under the leadership of Dr. Timothy Rhea, today's instrumental music program at Texas A&M University includes the Wind Symphony, Symphonic Winds, Symphonic Band, Concert Band, the nationally famous "Fightin' Texas Aggie Band", a jazz ensemble program, the Aggieland Dance Orchestra, the Dukes of Aggieland Combo and the University Orchestra.

By the attraction of players of extremely high quality, the bands strive to program the best in both traditional and contemporary wind band literature. In recent years, the TAMU Wind Symphony has performed concerts for the memberships of the Texas Music Educators Association, the College Band Directors National Association, and the American Bandmasters Association. The ensemble regularly tours during the spring semester and continues to release its compact disc recording series with Mark Records. Past Texas performances have included the Morton H. Meyerson Symphony Center in Dallas, and both the Wortham Center and Music Hall in Houston. The Wind Symphony toured Europe in 1999, 2001, 2004, and 2007 with concert performances in England, Ireland, Germany, Austria, and the Czech Republic. The crowning achievement of their stellar touring schedule was their Carnegie Hall debut in February of 2008.

Dr. Rhea grew up in the music programs of the Texas public schools. He earned the Bachelor of Music Education with honors from the University of Arkansas, the Master of Music in Wind Conducting from Texas Tech University and the Doctor of Musical Arts in Wind Conducting and Composition from the University of Houston.

He was named conductor of the TAMU Wind Symphony in 1995. In July of 1999, he was awarded the Outstanding Young Bandmaster of the Year for the state of Texas from Phi Beta Mu. In December of 2000, Dr. Ray Bowen, former President of Texas A&M University, presented Dr. Rhea with the President's Meritorious Service Award to Texas A&M University.

In addition to conducting, Rhea has enjoyed a successful career as an arranger and composer with an output of compositions and arrangements numbering over 300. He maintains a nationally active schedule as conductor, clinician, and adjudicator and is a member of several regional and national bandmasters associations as well as ASCAP.

As with all Performing Arts Series events, this program will be presented in the Governor Bill Daniel Auditorium located in the Vara Martin Daniel Performing Arts Center and is free and open to the public. The steering committee appreciates the North Texas Airstream Community Women's Club hosting a reception immediately following the performance. Thanks as well to area Aggie alumni who are providing a BBQ sandwich dinner for the performers beforehand. For senior citizen transportation information, please call 582-5851.

Hillsboro Professional Fire Fighters Presents Paw Pals with \$500 Gift

Press Release



During Hill County Paw Pals' public meeting on February 2, Hillsboro Professional Fire Fighters Association presented a \$500 gift. Pictured are Mike Hendricks and Lana Crow (Paw Pals President and Vice President respectively), Deputy Chief Greg Markwardt, Fire Fighter Michael Applegate, Captain Bill Stawn, Fire Fighter Adrian Smith, Lieutenant Clay Davis, and Fire Fighter Cory Hudson.

The gesture of this professional organization reverberates the quality of community support that Paw Pals continues to receive while working towards their goals to facilitate the installation of a county animal control program and promote and contribute to building a county animal shelter and to stop the overpopulation of unwanted companion animals (dog and cats) with four programs working simultaneously: Education, Legislation, Spay/Neuter, and Adoption (Project ELSA).

With the recent purchase of property at 1500 South Abbott Avenue in Hillsboro building plans are underway to develop a state-of-the-art animal shelter facility that will include 48 kennels, cattery, and a rabies quarantine area. Initially, the facility will be operated as a limited pet adoption center totally relying on donated funds until perpetuating operating expenses are established for a county animal control program.

Our community must clearly understand that Paw Pals is not animal control but dedicated volunteers that have been working for the past six years towards the mentioned goals. If you would like to become involved with Paw Pals, please call (254) 580-0679; email hcpawpals@yahoo.com; or visit www.hcpawpals.org. The next public meeting is scheduled for March 4.

Senior Spotlight - Katelyn Seaman

Reporter Aren Barton
Caricaturist Michelle Ignacz



Katelyn Seaman is a much loved and respected student of the IHS student body. Peers see her as a ray of sunshine on a cloudy day because of her always smiling face and cheerful disposition.

Katelyn McCall Seaman is the youngest daughter of Tanya Seaman and Mike Seaman. She has one brother, Jesse-27, and one sister, Taylor-24. Both her brother and sister graduated from Itasca.

Katelyn said that one of the most unique thing about her that few people know is that she has a very pretty fish, named Bella, which means beautiful in Italian that she talks to every night. She enjoys playing her guitar, which she has had since she was eleven years old, being involved in her church band, driving her white Pontiac GTG5, and listening to all genres of music except country.

"My favorite singer of all time is definitely Michael Jackson," Katelyn said with a grin. "He is amazing! He was an excellent singer and a superb dancer."

The summer before her eighth grade year, Katelyn spent some time in Italy with her older sister, Taylor.

"I loved the food, especially the ice cream," Katelyn said. "While I was there I didn't learn that much Italian but I understood it enough to know what the neighbors were saying."

Katelyn has been involved in several extracurricular activities while in high school. From sixth grade until her freshman year, she played the clarinet in the high school marching band, but discovering that band wasn't something that she wanted to pursue throughout high school. She became involved in sports and wore #13 on the JV basketball team for three years and #11 on the Lady Cats softball team. Katelyn also ran cross country and throws the discus in track. But Katelyn's favorite sport is cheerleading.

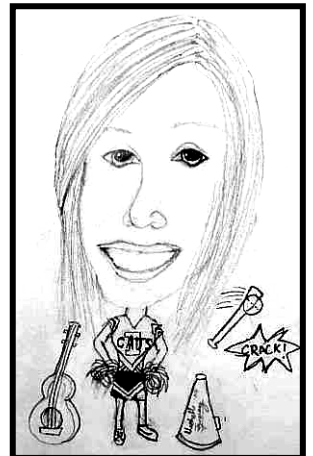
"Cheerleading has been one of my favorite things about high school. It's like I lived for Friday nights."

Other than being talented in sports, Katelyn is also very bright. She is enrolled in all of the dual credit classes offered to seniors. Her College Algebra/Statistics, Government and English Comp. classes have kept her busy but she knows that these classes will help her as she enters her college years and chooses a career path.

"I've applied to UTA, but I'm not sure if that's where I'm going yet," Katelyn said. "I want to finish up some more of my basics and talk to some career counselors to get more ideas on career opportunities. Until I decide for sure what career I will pursue I will take business courses."

Katelyn has attended Itasca ISD since pre-k, so it is no surprise that she will miss the school and "The Big Little Town."

"I will definitely miss roaming these same four halls and running into the same people I've been used to for all of these years."



Itasca Nursing Home Super Bowl Pep Rally

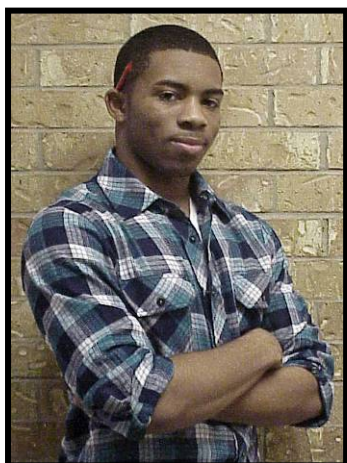
Reporter & Photographer Ashley Durham



The 2009-2010 IHS Varsity cheerleaders hosted a Super Bowl XLIV pep rally at the Itasca Nursing Home. Several of the nursing home residents attended to cheer on the team of their choice. There was lots of cheering for both the Saints and the Colts. After introducing themselves to the attendees, the cheerleaders led five spirit-filled cheers for each of the super bowl teams. The residents were more than happy to cheer or boo for the teams. After the pep rally the residents and cheerleaders enjoyed refreshment of super bowl punch and cookies that either had an S for the Saints or C for the Colts.

Senior Spotlight – Desmond Akeem Guy

Reporter Megan Goff
Caricaturist Michelle Ignacz



Intelligent and cool. Smart and savvy. Desmond Guy is a notable senior who shows talent and expertise in all he does on both the athletic and intellectual sides. He is the son of Tracy and Felicia Guy and older brother to junior Jasmine, and third grader, Malacia. Desmond has attended Itasca ISD since the tender age of 4.

“I look up to my dad the most because he’s the boss, and he has shown me how to be a man,” Desmond said.

Desmond has earned a very impressive record of awards from his three main sports: football, basketball and track. In football, Desmond wears #3. His freshman year he made the 2nd team all-district as a running back and 1st team all-district as a defensive back. His sophomore year he was named to the 1st team all-district as a running back and defensive back. Last year Desmond was the district MVP and was named an all-state running back. This year he was once again on the 1st team all-district.

In basketball, Desmond wears #12 and he has totaled an equal if not more impressive list of honors. His freshman year he was named Newcomer of the Year. In his sophomore season he made 1st team all-district and shone brightly his junior year earning the District MVP honor and a spot on the All-State roster. This year’s awards are still in the making as he is currently helping to lead the team in the basketball playoffs.

Desmond runs most of the relays in spring track. He advanced to Regional competition his freshman year and all the way to the State Track Meet his sophomore and junior years. After high school, Desmond would like to play college football for whoever would accept this great talent.

“I think I’m better at football, even though I prefer to play basketball,” Desmond said.

Desmond’s favorite food is pizza, his favorite color is yellow and his favorite class in Physics. Desmond is currently ranked 13th in the very competitive senior class and has taken all of the offered honor and dual credit classes since his junior year. Desmond also has a life outside of athletics and his class work. Desmond attends Bethlehem Missionary Baptist Church and enjoys spending time with the family and friends.

“I like to hang out with my friends, Stanley and Tevin,” Desmond said. “We mostly joke around and listen to Lil’ Wayne.”

Desmond was voted the 2009 Cheerleader Beau by the Varsity Cheerleaders and he also helped raised money for the Science Club as a Powder Puff King Nominee. Desmond’s good grades have kept him in the National Honor Society since he was a sophomore. Desmond is one of the seniors that is raising funds and participating in the Science Club educational Florida trip.

“I’m very excited about going to Florida with my favorite teacher, Mrs. Swilley,” Desmond said.

Desmond’s Three Steps-To-Success are: 1. Keep God first 2. Respect your parents and 3. Work hard—it pays off.



Our School

KUDOS to Rochelle Grisham Elementary PK Paraprofessional for volunteering her time to be a Little Dribblers Coach.

WAY TO GO to Kaleigh Lightsey, Chelsea Faries, and Nick Castillo, Middle School students, for being Little Dribblers Coaches also. We are proud of our students for being role models for younger students and volunteering in the community.

Special thanks to Ms. Grace Henning for all of the time and hard work she put in to make the informative workshops on Bullying and Sexting a success.

Happy Birthday wishes go to Mr. Jeffery Mayberry (March 3).

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

HILCO

Continued from page 1

At their January meeting, HILCO Electric's Trust Board voted to disburse \$8,395 to fourteen organizations in the HILCO service area. These funds were donated during the fourth quarter of 2009.

Grant checks were presentation on Thursday, February 11 at the Itasca HILCO office. On hand to help with the presentations were Board Officers George Thies and Margaret Hill.

The following organizations were recipients of the fourth quarter funds disbursements:

****Aquila Scholarship Foundation, Inc. - \$500 - Funds for college scholarships**

****Campfire Creek Therapeutic Riding Center (Waxahachie) - \$500 - Safety stirrups and scholarship**

****Common Ground Ministries (Waxahachie) - \$500 - Snacks for children's program/Friday meals**

****Covington ISD 21st CCLC - \$500 - Snacks for children's after-school program**

****Gingerbread House (Waxahachie) - \$600 - Internet service for one year**

****Grandview Zebra Strings - \$500 - Meals for trip to perform in Branson, MO**

****Hospice of the Heart, Inc. (Waco) - \$580.00 - Two gel mattresses**

****Isaiah's Place, Inc. (Whitney) - \$475.00 - ASL DVD's and materials**

****Itasca Booster Club - Elementary Campus - \$590 - Safety equipment and education**

****Itasca Booster Club - 8th Grade - \$500 - 8th grade Washington, D.C. trip**

****Itasca Booster Club - High School - \$500 - Science National Honor Society Florida trip**

****J. A. Vitovsky Elementary School (Midlothian) - \$500 - Meals for 5th grade students' Austin trip**

****Salvation Army (Waxahachie) - \$400 - Literacy Center Workbooks and supplies**

****Waxahachie Preparatory Academy - \$1,750 - E-Beam projector/mounting hardware**

Since the Operation Round Up® program began in 2001, over \$420,662 has been returned to communities within the HILCO service area. This has been made possible from the generosity of residential members who have opted to participate monthly in the program. Members may have their names added to or removed from the program by calling HILCO at 254-687-2331 or 800-338-6425.

The next deadline for Operation Round Up® is March 31, 2010. Applications are available online at www.hilco.coop, or can be picked up at one of the three HILCO offices located at 115 E. Main in Itasca, 4581 FM 933 in Whitney or 300A Silken Crossing in Midlothian. Organizations can contact Jill Huggins, HILCO Executive Assistant, for more information at 254-687-2331 or 800-338-6425, extension 1142.

Lady Cats' Season Ends with 37-33 Lost to Meridian



Last Friday night's game against the Lady Jackets of Meridian was an action-thrilled game from start to finish. The Cats jumped out in front 10-3 during the 1st quarter but allowed Meridian to outscore them by 13 points in the 2nd quarter giving the Lady Jackets an edge the Lady Cats never overcame.

The final score of Meridian 37 and Itasca 33 sent the Lady Jackets on to play in the Regional Quarterfinal game. Jasmine Guy scored 15 for the Lady Cats and Megan Goff had 11 points.

The Lady Cats will miss their four graduating players, Megan Goff, Mary Maddox, Chantel Courtmier and Jesika Rodriguez next year as they enter a new, harder district.

Germer's Smokehouse

"All You Can Eat Catfish Dinner"

Friday Night 5:00 – 8:00 p.m. **\$10.00**

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.



Teen Dating Violence Awareness Month Observed

Reporter Devin Corbitt

February has been designated as Teen Dating Violence Awareness Month. Throughout the week of February 1-5, the junior high students had theme days to raise awareness of the problem. In conjunction with the other activities a blood drive was held by Carter BloodCare where IHS students donated 44 units of whole blood and 4 double red cell donations. The district under the direction of Counselor Grace Hennig held a meeting for students and parents to raise the awareness of dating violence and to learn about Sexting and Bullying. The speakers present wanted to make sure parents were aware of the signs of dating violence and to give them options for helping their children.

Amy Karr, BSW, spoke to 7-12 grade students and their parents about the signs of an abusive relationship and what to do once you have identified it. She also explained what a healthy relationship is supposed to be like.

Joy Borjes, LMSW addressed the parents of elementary age students on bullying and gave tips to help parents recognize when their student is being bullied or doing the bullying.

Mrs. Hennig held a workshop for pre-kindergarten through 6th graders. They watched the video, "Bullies are a Pain in the Brain," made a plan for standing up to bullies, learned what to do instead of bottling up their feelings, and wrote a poem to encourage them about themselves.

"One of the worksheets I gave them says, 'By having a plan, positive choices are easier to make and put into action.' I think this is very true, so it is important to me for these children to have a plan to prevent bullying."

For the meeting, students were able to enter a poster or a video to win prizes. Dima Nayda won first place with his poster and received \$40. Runners up were Cory Cervantes, Rebecca Durham and Raven Nickell. Each received \$20. The winners of the video contest (pictured right) were a team of Ellen Stuart, Colton Sullins, Stephanie Ignacz (missing from photo), and Kristen Worth. They received a \$25 Wal-Mart gift card donated by HILCO.

"We are hoping that through awareness and the warning signs, we will create a non-violent atmosphere at school," counselor Grace Hennig said. "I want to make sure everyone knows that I am proud of them and want to help them live better lives."

In a recent statement OSDFS Assistant Deputy Secretary Kevin Jennings acknowledged Teen Dating Violence Awareness Month and praised schools' efforts to inform students and parents.

"The U.S. Department of Education's Office of Safe and Drug-Free Schools is committed to raising awareness about teen dating violence and sending the message to every student that he/she is valuable and deserves to be treated with respect. We know that one in three teenagers experiences violence in a dating relationship and that this violence crosses all racial, economic, and social lines. We believe we can empower teenagers through education and outreach to identify warning signs, recognize they have choices, and choose healthy, caring relationships. We applaud Teen Dating Violence Awareness Month as an important effort to raise awareness around this issue and support everyone who is working to make sure that teen dating violence is brought to an end."



Recent Deaths



Rash, James Wayne – James Rash of Waco passed away February 4, 2010, in Waco. He was born February 24, 1948, in Stamford and grew up in Aspermont. He graduated from the University of Texas at Austin in 1970. He moved to Itasca in 1994, where he worked at the Presbyterian Children's Home for over 15 years. He was preceded in death by his father, J.V. Rash. Survivors include: his wife, Toni Rash; two daughters, Stacy and Sharla; mother, LaVerne Rash; two brothers, Malcolm and Anthony Rash; grandmother, Irene Rash; and two grandsons, Andrew and Logan.

Walters, Edna Lee Mauldin – Edna Lee Walters of Corpus Christi joined her loved ones in heaven February 4, 2010. She was born July 8, 1915, in Whitesboro to John Wesley Mauldin and Willie Amos Brackin. She grew up in Itasca, where she lived. She married James Edward (Shorty) Walters February 16, 1934. She moved to Corpus Christi in 1952 and was a lifetime member of the Presbyterian Church, having been a member of First Presbyterian Church of Itasca and Westminster Presbyterian Church and Grace Presbyterian Church, both of Corpus Christi. During her lifetime, she worked at Fedway Department Store and Corpus Christi Bank and Trust. She was involved as a choir director of the junior children's choirs of First Presbyterian Church of Itasca and Westminster Presbyterian Church of Corpus Christi. She was also active in the work of the Presbyterian Women, having recently been awarded the Presbyterian Women's Honorary Life Membership pin and certification in recognition of all her years of service to the Lord and her church home, Grace Presbyterian Church of Corpus Christi.

She was preceded in death by her husband of 65 years, James Edward (Shorty) Walters; parents; and four sisters, Mary Bell, Eva, Lena and Christine. The family wishes to thank the staff and residents of the Esplanade, where she has lived for the past eight years, and the staff and nurses of Vista Care for the love and care they gave to her. Survivors include: two sons, James Ronald (Averill) Walters of Corpus Christi and John Mark (Gloria) Walters of Spring; four grandsons (her greatest pride and joy), Mark Allan (Kelly) Walters of Arlington Heights, Illinois, Matthew Rees (Michelle) Walters of Dallas and Bryan Kevin Walters and Jeffery Scott Walters, both of Spring; and four great-grandchildren, Victoria Walters, Reese Walters, Evan Walters and Sophie Walters. A memorial service was held February 13, 2010, at Seaside Funeral Home Chapel in Corpus Christi. In lieu of flowers, donations may be made to Grace Presbyterian Church's Youth for Christ, 6301 Yorktown Boulevard, Corpus Christi, TX 78414. To view guestbook, share memories and leave condolences, visit www.seasidefuneral.com.

Ridlehuber, Eugene (Gene) Vaughn – Mr. Eugene (Gene) Ridlehuber, 87, of Lubbock died February 6, 2010, at Lubbock Hospitality House. Two funeral services were held. The first on February 9, 2010, at First Christian Church in Plainview and the second on February 11, 2010, at Clayton Kay-Vaughan Funeral Home Chapel in Itasca. Burial was at Itasca Cemetery.



Lara, Adela Cavazos – Adela Cavazos Lara, 79, of Itasca passed away February 15, 2010, at her residence. Rosary and visitation was February 17, 2010, at Clayton Kay-Vaughan Funeral Home Chapel in Itasca. Funeral services were February 18, 2010, at the funeral home. Burial was at Itasca Cemetery. She was born in Vanderbilt, TX to George and Manuela Cavazos. Adela was a longtime resident of Itasca and had been employed for many years by the Itasca Public School as a cafeteria worker. She was preceded in death by husband of 33 years, Henry Lara; her parents; four sisters and one brother.

Survivors include ten children; Adela Puente and husband Manuel, Henry Lara and wife Rita, Chris Olvera and husband David, Linda Lara, Angie Alcala and husband Marcos, Sammy Lara and wife Isabel, Paul Lara, Larry Lara and wife Linda, Bonnie Bell and husband Tony and Nellie Lara Phifer; brothers; sisters; 16 grandchildren; 15 great-grandchildren and a host of extended family and friends. Pallbearers were grandsons; Mike Martinez III, David Olvera, Brandon Bell, Max Lara, T.J. Phifer and Phillip Lara.

Remember When . . . “Columbus Johnson”

Columnist Carl Sweeney



Itasca has been blessed with many colorful characters over the years, not the least of which was Columbus Johnson.

Columbus was born February 14, 1876 in Columbia, Texas near Houston. His parents were Columbus Johnson, Sr. and Melinda. He came to Itasca in 1900 and lived here until his death. He was married three times. His last wife died in 1955.

Columbus was always young for his age, he worked on the farm most of his life. He said he had worked for Sam Slay, Jake Davis, Jim Bush, Charlie Rotten and others. He worked during the days of mules and horse and never learned to operate a tractor. They came along late in his life anyways. He said, “I quit just before the Farmall and John Deere.

When he had gotten on in years, he moved to town. He had been doing barbecuing for several years; and in town after he retired; he did much more. He had a small store next to his home on 307 E. Mar-
rion St. in Itasca. His stock was limited to a few groceries, cold drinks, bread and candy.

In time, Columbus became well known in the area for his fine barbecue. We could smell the delicious aroma all over town. His pit was filled with juicy steaks, ribs, briskets, sausage and chicken halves. He also had his own recipe for barbecue sauce, which was outstanding. With all that meat and the smell of hickory, oak and mesquite burning, it was irresistible. The aroma alone drew customers from all over town.

There was another Johnson that was famous for its restaurants and good barbecue. That was the Howard Johnson Chain, but they did not measure up to our Columbus Johnson’s culinary efforts. Columbus, with his soft southern drawl, gentle ways, philosophy about the “Old Timey Ways” and “Old Timey Attitudes” about life would captivate anyone who came in contact with him. He always had visitors on what he called “Barbecue Day” just to visit and listen to his views on things.

He always enjoyed Columbus Day on October 12 each year. He would tell his friends, “Well this is my day, Columbus Day.” Also being born on Valentine’s Day was great as he had fun with that also.

Columbus loved to fish and he often went to the Nolan River with Dr. Ritchey to “woim” fish as he called it. He also fished from the bank and was afraid to go out in the water in Dr. Ritchey’s homemade boat. It seems that Columbus went a couple of times with Itasca’s “Hickley” Fishing Club as a cook and also to fish.

I remember one time when we lived on the mountain, the Soil Conservation Service had built a lake on the place and Columbus wanted to come out and fish. I hated to tell him no, but they didn’t want fishing to get out of hand. I said, “Okay Columbus, you can come out and fish, but watch out for the alligators.”

“Alligators!” he exclaimed. “I don’t believe I want to go fishing there.”

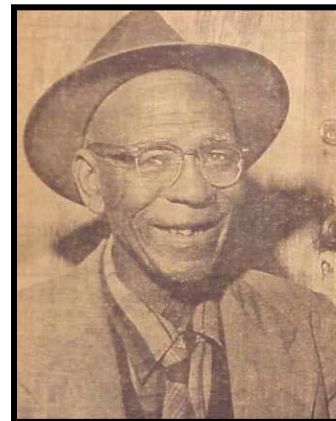
I have felt guilty ever since about telling the old gentleman that. However, we were not plagued with fisherman after that.

Columbus was a long time member of AME Methodist Church in Itasca. He served as Deacon for a long time. I remember the saying he use to say about his religious beliefs and about life in general.

“A man has got to do more than just act like he is following the rules,” he said. “*Iffen* he don’t believe, and he ain’t right in his heart, He ain’t likely to go to heaven.

Columbus had four children, Effie Kate, Columbus III, Ola Lee and Christian. Effie Kate lived in Fort Worth at one time and the others were in Oakland, California. Columbus visited them out there several times over the years.

Those of us who knew Columbus will remember his soft voice, down home Philosophy and gentle ways, but probably equally as well we will remember his wonderful barbecue.



TAKS Test Information

Notice from Itasca ISD

Anyone who needs to retake the Exit Level TAKS test, can do so at Itasca ISD which is a testing site for out-of-school testers.

These tests will be given the week of March 1 through March 5. Please contact Kristi Sargent at 254-687-2922, x. 139 for more information.

H1Ni Immunizations Available

Itasca ISD March 1 - 5

2:30 p.m. - 4:30 p.m. daily

Adults & Children (3 yrs & older)

Free – Nurse’s Office

**For more information call Vickie Macias RN
254-687-2922 Ext 127**

Paw Print Press
123 N. College
Itasca, Texas 76055

Wampus Cat of the Week

Ryan Crouch Receives 2010 Hill County Fair Queen's Scholarship

Reporter Ashley Durham

Photo used by permission from *Reporter Newspaper*



Senior Ryan Crouch was recently awarded \$1,000 from the Hill County Fair Queens Scholarship. Despite the name of the scholarship, the criteria of the scholarship did not require him to be in the fair itself. He was not required to be a participant of agricultural related activities such as FFA and 4-H, although being in these clubs most likely aided him while his application was being considered for the award.

Ryan was chosen to win the scholarship based on his academic accomplishments and as well as his participation in extracurricular and volunteer activities.

Special of the Week



Our Wampus Cats are talented in many areas. Ryan has shown numerous animal projects and participated in many areas of the fair while in school.

2009 Ford Focus SE Loaded, Automatic, Warranty



Great fuel economy!
\$11,985

Lloyd Ford – Proud Supporter of the Wampus Cats