

Paw Print Press

Proudly Serving Itasca "The Big Little Town" since 1997

Itasca, Texas 76055

Vol. 2007 Issue #7

February 16, 2007

Alverson Honored with Chamber Hall of Fame Award



Country music songwriter and singer Tommy Alverson was presented with the first Itasca Chamber of Commerce "Hall of Fame" award at the 2007 annual banquet. Debbie Cole, chamber member, fan and friend of Alverson had the honor of presenting him the award.

Alverson was born in 1952 in Alabama, but his family relocated to Texas where he graduated from Itasca High School in 1970. He received his first guitar from his dad when he was only 6 years old and by the time he was 15 he was playing in a number of country music clubs in West, Texas.

Alverson has made a name for himself by writing and performing many popular country songs. He has broadened his popularity by sharing the stage with some country greats such as Willie Nelson, Johnny Bush, Gary P. Nunn, Jerry Jeff Walker, Ray Wylie Hubbard, Pat Green and Charlie Robison.

Continued on page 3.

Senior Named Chamber "2006 Youth of the Year"



Stephanie Campbell received the "Youth of the Year" award for her community involvement in the Itasca Volunteer Fire Department. She joined the fire department last year as a junior volunteer and is currently serving a second term as their secretary. Every time there is a work detail at the fire station, she is always there to pitch in. She brings water or food to the firefighters during a big fire or if they are on scene for a

long time. Whenever there is a fundraiser, she is there to help.

Throughout her time volunteering, she has maintained good grades in school. She is in the top 10% of her class and is taking numerous dual credit courses.

Stephanie was born in Austin, Texas. She moved to Itasca in 2000. Her parents are Becky Harvey and Michael Campbell. She has an older brother, Paul who is a deputy sheriff for Hill County Sheriff's office.

She is a senior in high school, plays softball and was in the marching band. She represented Itasca High School at Girls State in Austin last summer.

Continued on page 3 with more awards.

Salute Hospitalized Veterans This Valentines Day

Press Release from Chet Edwards

This Valentine's Day is a great opportunity for area residents to say 'thank you' to military veterans. Since 1978, the Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) has encouraged people to visit hospitalized veterans in VA medical centers, nursing homes and state veterans' homes during the week of Valentine's Day as part of a National Salute to Hospitalized Veterans. It is a way to express our appreciation and let these veterans know that their service has not been forgotten.

We have hundreds of veterans receiving care at the Waco VA hospital and thousands more visit our VA medical centers throughout our district every year. Many of them have families in the area, but some do not. All of them would be greatly cheered by a short visit from you or your family. It's a great opportunity for kids to talk with these hospitalized veterans and learn first hand about American history from people who participated in some of the most significant events of the last half-century. The VA staff at the hospital will furnish you with valentines and balloons to give to the veterans. If you can't make it in person to thank these veterans, please remember them in your prayers.

We must remember not only those who serve today, but those who served in yesterday's Army, Navy, Air Force and Marine Corps. America owes its military veterans an immeasurable debt of gratitude for their sacrifice for our country.

Continued on page 3.

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> | 20 W. Marrion | 687-2224 |
| <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. | |

First Baptist Church

The First Baptist Church invites you to get to know us through our new website: www.fbcitasca.org. The website contains basic information about our service times, sermon subjects, and upcoming studies. Also, we are making available some audio sermons for listening to at home. These sermons will be updated regularly, and are available for listening, downloading, or podcasting. This is an in-home point of contact, designed to encourage you to come and worship the Lord together with us.

Central Baptist Church

Sunday School 9:45 a.m. Worship 10:50 a.m.
 Sunday evening Bible Study 5:00-6:00 p.m.
 Wednesday evening Bible Study and Prayer 7:00 p.m.
 Ladies Bible Study Tuesday 8:00-10:00am
 Team Kids- for K-4th grade resumes Monday, January 29, 3:30-5:00 p.m. Must have signed permission slip if new member. More info, call 687-2620

First United Methodist Church

Come join us in our beautiful, historic sanctuary, where worship is a joyous celebration. Main at King St.
 Rev. Tom Wood, Pastor Worship 10:50 a.m.
 254-687-2475

What Sin Can You Not Forgive?

Matthew 6: 9 - 13 tells us that we must forgive those who trespass against us, or our heavenly Father will not forgive us.

Church of Christ 300 N. Aquilla
 Sunday: 9:45 & 10:45 a.m. & 5:00 p.m. Wed. 6 p.m.

First Presbyterian Church

Sunday Schedule

9:30 Fellowship - 10:00 Sunday School - 11:00 Worship
 Exercise Classes- Senior Citizens Tues.&Thurs. 10 a.m.
 Game Night -3rd Tuesday Night - 6:00 p.m.
 Angel Food Ministry Host Site - 687-2243

Itasca Ministerial Alliance Meeting

March 3 - 9:00 a.m. First Presbyterian Church

Itasca Zoning Committee Meeting

2nd Monday of Month 6 p.m.
 Municipal Court Building 136 N. Hill St.

Itasca City Council Meeting

Tuesday, February 20, 2007 6:00 p.m.
 Municipal Court Building 136 N. Hill St.

Itasca ISD School Board Meeting

2nd Monday of Month 7:00 p.m.
 IISD Administration Building - 123 N College St.

Chamber of Commerce Meeting

February 27, 2007 5:30 p.m.
 Farrow Room - HILCO E. Main St.

Volunteer Fire Department Meetings

2nd Monday of Month Business Meeting - 7:00 p.m.
 3rd Monday of Month Fire Training - 7:00 p.m.
 Fire Station Downtown Itasca

Community Calendar

February 16 - End of 4th Six-Weeks

February 17 - Itasca Basketball games - Ages Pre-K -6th grade - IISD old gym 8:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m. Admission free

February 19 - Presidents' Day - Government & School Facilities Closed

February 20 - City Council Meeting - 6:00 p.m. Municipal Court Building 136 N. Hill St.

February 20 - TAKS Test - Writing

February 21 - Hill County Day in Austin

February 24 - Itasca Basketball games - Ages Pre-K -6th grade - IISD old gym 8:00 a.m. - 6:00 p.m. Admission free

Fire Department 2006 Annual Report

| Fire Call | City | County |
|-----------------------------|---------------------------|--------|
| Assist EMS | 19 | 11 |
| Control Burn | | 5 |
| False Alarm | | 4 |
| Grass/Brush | 3 | 44 |
| Haz Mat | 6 | 2 |
| Industrial Fire | 1 | |
| LZ setup | 1 | 1 |
| Motor Vehicle Accident | 11 | 36 |
| Residence | 3 | 11 |
| Trash Fire | 2 | 8 |
| Utility | 5 | 1 |
| Vehicle Fire | 5 | 6 |
| Wash Down | 1 | |
| Other | 10 | 3 |
| Total | 67 | 132 |
| Total Man Hours | 872 hrs. 42 min. | |
| 6:00 a.m. - 6:00 p.m. - 105 | 6:00 p.m. - 6:00 a.m. -94 | |
| Total mileage 2358 | Total members 14-18 | |

Lifetime Achievement Awards Honor Service to the Community



The Chamber of Commerce presented a "Life-Time Achievement Award" posthumously to Harold Fehnel.

Fehnel past away last year after serving the Itasca community since 1968, when he moved here from Pennsylvania. He served on the Itasca ISD Board of Trustees, as Chairman of Deacons at Central Baptist, as an Itasca City Councilman and as a very active Rotarian.

Accepting the award from outgoing Chamber Vice-President Betty Sumner were (pictured left - l to r) daughter Mary Ann Hogue and husband Kyle, sons Mark Fehnel, Tim Fehnel,

Matt Fehnel and wife Tracy Fehnel. Harold's widow Beverly was out of town at the time of the presentation.

The second "Life-Time Achievement Award" went to Eunice Conger (pictured right), who has given over eighteen years of service to Itasca. Conger has served as Chairman of the Congregational Care Committee and an Elder in the First Presbyterian Church, as Director of the Senior Citizens Center and as a Director and Secretary of the Chamber of Commerce. Mrs. Conger was unable to attend the banquet.



Alverson – Hall of Fame

Continued from page 1.

Each year Alverson host a "family gathering" that has grown to over 4,500 in attendance. Along with nineteen other acts, he and his band were picked for the Miller Lite-True Texas campaign in 2000. They have also been featured on radio and TV commercials for Dairy Queen, Miller Lite and Texas Grill,

In 2000, Alverson was voted the Terry Award's Entertainer of the Year. He and his band stay busy but he has always remained loyal to his hometown and has done a number of charity dances for the local American Cancer Relay team and played at many special events of his long time friends in Itasca.

Campbell Youth Award

Continued from page 1.

Stephanie's plans after graduation are to attend UTA and become a registered nurse and paramedic or a physical therapist. It defiantly has to be something in the medical field.

Itasca Chamber Secretary and IHS teacher Barbara Petrash had the honor of presenting the award.

Visit Veterans on Valentines Day

Continued from page 1.

That's why I have always fought so hard as a Member of Congress to make sure that America honors that debt; that we keep our promises to those who have protected our country in times of war and peace.

At the end of the day, it is our actions that matter most. If you can spend part of your Valentine's Day at a VA hospital, you will walk away from this rewarding experience having lifted the spirits of veterans who will be reassured that America is a country that respects their service and cares about their future. Every time I visit our troops and veterans in hospitals, I come away humbled and inspired by their spirit and service to country.

In Washington, the Administration's budget recently submitted to Congress unfortunately includes a provision to double the co-payment charged to many veterans for prescription drugs and requires some veterans to pay a new enrollment fee of \$250 a year to enroll in the VA health care system, even if they don't receive any health care services.

Another proposal would increase health care premiums by up to \$1000 a year for military retirees, who have served in uniform for 20 years or more. Members of Congress and the President's Cabinet aren't being asked to pay \$1000 more for their health care premiums, so I find this double standard to be extremely unfair to those who have already sacrificed so much for country.

Doubling prescription drug co-payments, imposing new enrollment fees on veterans, and raising health care premiums on military retirees by up to \$1000 a year during a time of war breaks the promise to honor those who have protected America throughout our history. As a member of the Budget Committee and Chairman of the Subcommittee that funds the Department of Veterans Affairs, I intend to fight hard to see that these misguided proposals never see the light of day.

America's veterans have shown their commitment to us. Now it is our turn to affirm our commitment to them with our words and our deeds.

Senior Spotlight Gilberto Librado

Photographer & Reporter Sarah Evans
Caricature by Gabby Rivera



“One thing I will never forget about IHS,” 19 year old Gilberto Librado said “is all the teachers that helped me get my education.”

Gilberto is the son of Jose and Severiana Librado. He has three siblings- Hermelinda 21, Laura 17 and Raul 13. He also has a Pit bull named Nena.

Gilberto has attended Itasca High School since the 5th grade and said he is very ready to graduate.

“After I graduate” Gilberto said, “I plan to attend college at either Texas State Technical College (TSTC) or the University of Technology Institute (UTI) to study auto mechanics.”

In his spare time, Gilberto enjoys watching Tuzos del Pachuca, his favorite soccer team, playing soccer, listening to rap, hip-hop, Reggeton, and Mexican Cambia music, or working on his Honda Accord. That is, when he is not working at Wendy’s or doing his homework!

“I don’t have any advice to leave,” Gilberto said “but I would like to leave my favorite quote, ‘Don’t judge a book by its cover.’”



For Sale

2 lots 310 Mark St. Hillsboro
Call 254-659-7054 after 4 p.m.

Country Living at Its Best

Newly Remodeled Large 2 story home
3 bedrooms 2 baths

Large kitchen/new appliances
Washer/dryer connections - Sunny living area

1-Year Lease - Deposit \$800.00

\$800.00 per month + Utilities

5121 FM 67 3 miles East of Itasca

Contact: Oscar Castillo 817-781-3040 or
oscatillo@c-pts.com

Senior Spotlight Amanda Upchurch

Photographer & Reporter Devin Corbitt
Caricature by Gabby Rivera



“Fa sho!” If you walk down the halls of Itasca, you may just hear 18-year-old Amanda Kay Upchurch or Coonie to her family, saying this.

“I love telling people ‘fa sho.’ It’s my favorite thing to say. It actually means ‘for real.’”

Amanda was born on October 28 to proud parents Homer and Nita Upchurch. She was the first and last

baby born at Lake Whitney Memorial Hospital in Whitney, Texas. She has one older sister, Jessica Callaway, a graduate of 2003.

Amanda has played alto saxophone in the Itasca band since the sixth grade. She has been a drill sergeant for the past two years, bossing all the other band members around.

“Yell louder!” is one thing she was always having to yell during marching season.

Besides participating in band, Amanda has been the vice president of her class since her freshman year. Throughout high school, she has been involved in cross-country, basketball, National Honor Society, PAL, One Act Play, UIL spelling, tutoring a foreign exchange student, Cinco de Mayo and yearbook. This year, she is the co-editor of the Mowana, a homecoming princess, Band and Football Sweetheart, president of National Honor Society and on the cheerleading squad.

“I have attended school at Itasca since Kindergarten - so basically forever,” Amanda said.

Since Kindergarten, she has built up many memories, including those from the band’s trip to New York last year and going to National Competition with the cheerleading squad.

“One thing I remember most is Coach Dennis, Coach Alford and Coach Ferguson warning me about boys, and about how they are all bad news. They are smart men!”

Amanda’s favorite subjects in school are Desktop Publishing and Yearbook. Her favorite music is hip-hop, classic rock with some honky-tonk in the mix. Her favorite teachers are Ms. Gordon, Mrs. McClure, Mrs. Swilley, Mrs. Willman and Coach Dennis.

“One thing I love about myself,” Amanda said, “is that I’m the kind of person that realizes that we are all human and that we make mistakes. I try not to take too much stuff personally, and I attempt to get along with everyone.”

Continued on page 5.



Wampus Cats Head to the Bi-District Play-off

Reporter Ashley Durham & Tralyn Harden

Itasca met Dublin for the second time in district play on February 6. The Wampus Cats were able to run away with a 48-35 win. The game was a low scoring game, but 7 of the 8 Cats contributed to the score and as has been the case all season, all 8 contributed to the win.

The Cats started the game slow, but continued to pick up the pace as the game progressed. Although the Cats did not play the way they were capable of playing, they were able to come away with the win. The Lions fought hard but they were no match for the Mighty Wampus Cats.

Last Friday the Cats faced the Zebras at Grandview. The Cats started out strong at the opening buzzer and continued to press leaving Grandview in the dust. The Zebras trailed the entire game. At the end of the first half, the score was 38-26.

The Cats continued to pound the Zebras in the second half. The Zebras were no match for the Cats on either side of the ball. The Cats played together as a team and showed what they are capable of on the court. Clayton Wienecke played a superlative game on both sides of the ball, one of his best, ending up with 9 points and 4 blocks.

DeVeon Mayberry had 3 points, Dee Marshall 6, Mikey Marshall 14, Desmond Guy 12, Kendale Mayberry 15 and Tralyn Harden 18. The Cats won by a big margin with the score 78-49.

On Monday night, the Cats played the last game of the regular season. They met the Hico Tigers in the Special Events Center. The Cats came out slow but picked up the pace as the game progressed. The team used the game to continue to hone their skills and team playing. They beat the Tigers 89-44 giving the Wampus Cats a 19-5 overall record and 10-2 in district behind the Maypearl Panthers.

Scoring for the Cats were Harden 31, Guy 16, DeVeon Mayberry 12, K. Mayberry 11, M. Mayberry 10, Wienecke 7, and Marshal 2 points.

Tralyn Harden is second in scoring in the central Texas Area for 1A, 2A and 3A schools with an average of 22.7 points a game. Mikey Mayberry is 6th in rebounding with 9.1 grabs per game and Kendale Mayberry leads the area in assists with 8.8 per game.

The Wampus Cats will play the Santo Wildcats in a Play-off Preview game in Grandview on Saturday, February 17, at 4:00 p.m.

Cheerleaders Led Nursing Home Super Bowl Pep Rally



Once again, the Itasca Nursing Home was filled with cheers of the residents and the IHS Varsity Cheerleader Squad. The occasion was the annual Super Bowl Pep Rally.

The squad is made up of seniors Amanda Upchurch and Karla Ochoa; juniors Nicole Kelley, Rikki Mason and Lindsey Laird; sophomore Susie May and freshmen Eva Mayberry and Megan Goff. Senior Chelsea Minyard is the Wampus Cat.

The squad cheered for both the Colts and the Bears equally, but the residents were very vocal as to their favorite team.

Nursing Home Director Dianne Taylor voiced the residents and nursing home employees thanks to the squad of girls and their sponsors Kelly Tinklenberg and Brenda Swilley.



Senior Spotlight Upchurch

Continued from page 4.

Amanda loves quesadillas and Schlotzsky's Original® sandwiches. For fun, Amanda enjoys being with her friends, reading, eating and lounging in her room talking about nothing of particular importance. She also enjoys watching movies when she can.

"I love the movie Step Up. Channing Tatum is so gorgeous!"

Amanda is looking forward to the road trip she and her friends are taking after graduation. However, she is not ready to graduate.

"NO NO NO! I'm NOT ready to graduate!"

Amanda is not sure what she wants to do in life yet, but she does know she wants to be successful in whatever she chooses to do, and to remember where she came from in doing so. She hopes to one day be rich and married.

"Jesus Soto has made a huge difference in my life. He taught me to believe in myself, to not give up on my dreams, and most importantly, how to love another person."

Healthy Woman Program to Host Health Expo

Press Release

Healthy Woman is a new resource provided by Hill Regional Hospital. The Kick-Off event will begin at 5:00 on March 1 with a FREE Health Expo. From 5:00-6:30, the community is invited to visit the exhibitors at First United Methodist Church, 315 E. Elm, Hillsboro, and receive free health screenings, health information, and even shop a little. A dinner by reservation will begin at 6:30 followed by a nationally known speaker, Dr. Suzanne Metzger. The \$12 dinner tickets may be purchased by calling 580-8887 or by visiting the Healthy Woman office at Hill Regional Hospital. Reservations should be made by February 23.

The new program will provide women with information to maintain a healthy body, mind and spirit for themselves and loved ones. When it comes to healthcare, women make the choices that count. They spend two out of every three healthcare dollars, make the majority of physician visits, 90 percent of all household health decisions, and 80 percent of chain drugstore purchases, and influence a majority of auto, banking and other consumer decisions. American women are spending an estimated \$500 billion annually on healthcare for themselves and their families-and they are demanding more information to get the best value possible for those dollars.

Healthy Woman program was created by Hill Regional Hospital and guided by an Advisory Council of women in the community who meet to plan informative and helpful programs. The local Council members to date are Nelda Tidwell, JoAnn Gerik, Paula Childre, Barbara Aydllett, Barbara Petrash, Susan Crawford, Sharon Middlebrook, Jamie Siddons, Susan Beck, and Becky Jones.

For information about the Kick-Off Event, the exhibitor area availability, dinner reservations, or sponsorship opportunities, please call Becky Jones at 580-8887, Rosemary Smith at 582-8962 or Jackie Suomi at 580-8888, or come by the Healthy Woman/Senior Circle office.



For Sale
Golf Cart
 w/Cover
 Batteries only 1 year
 old with charger
 214-557-4082

“Hill County Day in Austin” Scheduled

Press Release from *The Reporter*

“Hill County Day in Austin” will be held at the state capitol Wednesday, February 21. The trip gives local residents an opportunity to see their legislators at work on the floors of the House of Representatives and Senate and in committee hearings.

Activities for the day include a group picture on the south steps of the capitol, attending the opening ceremonies for the House and Senate, a Dutch-treat luncheon and presentations by representatives from various state agencies. The Hillsboro Chamber of Commerce, along with chambers from Lake Whitney, Hubbard and Itasca, is hosting the event.

For the second straight session, two buses have been chartered for the trip. Serving as gold sponsor for the trip is HILCO. Other sponsors include AT&T, TXU, Hill County Farm Bureau and Wells Fargo Bank-Hillsboro and Hubbard.

State Representative Jim Pitts and State Senator Kip Averitt are scheduled to speak at the luncheon, which will be held at Spaghetti Warehouse. The old Court of Criminal Appeals’ chambers on the third floor of the capitol has been reserved for afternoon presentations.

Representatives with the Texas Department of Transportation, Texas Education Agency, Texas Parks and Wildlife Department, Texas Railroad Commission and economic-development officials from the governor’s office are scheduled to speak.

For those interested, special tours of the capitol complex have been scheduled for 2 p.m. and 2:15 p.m. They start near the south doors of the capitol. Buses will leave the Hillsboro Chamber of Commerce on North Covington Street at 6:45 a.m. and will return at approximately 6:30 p.m. Cost of the trip, including lunch and the bus, is \$25 per person. For individuals taking their own vehicles and wishing to attend the lunch, the cost is \$15.

Reservations can be made by contacting the Hillsboro Chamber of Commerce at 254-582-2481, Lake Whitney Chamber of Commerce at 254-694-2540, Eugene Fulton with the Hubbard Chamber of Commerce at 254-576-2050 or 254-576-2721 or Bob Wilson with the Itasca Chamber of Commerce at 254-687-2331. All reservations, (required by Wednesday, February 14, must be paid in advance.

Want to subscribe to *PPP*?

The Paw Print Press is a weekly publication that is currently in its 10th year. If you would like to subscribe send \$22 to *Paw Print Press*, 123 N. College, Itasca, TX 76055. We welcome articles and Letters to the Editor but reserve the right to shorten or refuse them if they are deemed inappropriate.

Itasca Garden Club

Press Release

The Itasca Garden Club hosted a brunch for the Grandview Garden Club on February 8, at the Central Baptist Church in Itasca.

Leeann Rosenthal, Master Gardener presented a slide show program on "Hummingbirds and Plants to Attract Them." Ms. Rosenthal explained the three things needed to attract hummingbirds are food, water and cover. She also explained how native plants are a healthier food source than hummingbird feeders. If using feeders it is very important that the sugar water be changed every 2-3 days due to the heat in our area. It is also very important for the bird's health that the feeders be cleaned well.

Each member and guest was given a decorative hanger that could be used to hang feeders or plants.

Relay for Life Meeting

Press Release

Relay For Life is a celebration of life for cancer survivors, a memorial for loved ones lost and a rallying point for the community to fight cancer. Teams from businesses, clubs, schools, churches, families, friends, and service organizations assist in raising money for the American Cancer Society programs.

The word cancer changes lives in an instant, and this year alone, more than two million people will be diagnosed with cancer. In Texas alone, approximately 85,500 Texans will hear it for themselves. However, there is hope....

Thanks to the dedication of our community, we are making progress! For the first time ever, in 2006, the number of cancer-related deaths have decreased and three out of five will beat it. Although progress has been made in the fight against cancer, so much more must be done. We are asking for your help

The 2007 Hill County Relay For Life event will be held on May 18-19. If you would like to find out more about how you can participate and make a difference right here in Hill County, please attend the first Team Captains' meeting on Thursday, February 15. The meeting will be held in the back room of the First National Bank of Central Texas, located at 300 E. Elm Street in Hillsboro. We will meet at 5:30 pm and the meeting should last about an hour.

If you would like to learn more about Relay For Life, but are unable to attend the meeting on February 15, please contact Event Chairperson, Lea Sanders, at 254-874-5517.

Relay For Life represents the hope that those lost to cancer will never be forgotten, that those who face cancer will be supported, and that one day, there will be a cure for cancer.

Itasca Basketball Schedule

Games are played in the IISD junior high gym.

Pre-K & K Boys & Girls

1. Roseann Yanez
2. Ricky Salazar Jr
3. Tom Farquhar
4. Willie Jackson
5. Eric Markwardt
6. Jason Abbott

1st & 2nd Boys & Girls

7. Ricky Salazar Jr.
8. Dru Lacy
9. Bubba Handy
10. Jason Kirkpatrick
11. Willie Jackson

3rd & 4th Girls

12. Magdalena Marsh
13. Katy Prescott

3rd & 4th Boys

14. Tom Farquhar
15. Chris Taylor

5th & 6th Girls

16. GiGi Morgan
17. Brian Payne
18. Katy Prescott

5th & 6th Boys

19. Ricky Salazar Jr.
20. Brian Kelley
21. Ricky Salazar

| <u>February 17</u> | | <u>February 24</u> | |
|--------------------|----------|--------------------|----------|
| 8:00 | 12 vs 13 | 8:00 | 14 vs 15 |
| 9:00 | 1 vs 3 | 9:00 | 19 vs 21 |
| 10:00 | 2 vs 5 | 10:00 | 16 vs 18 |
| 11:00 | 4 vs 6 | 11:00 | 20 vs 21 |
| 12:00 | 8 vs 9 | 12:00 | 8 vs 11 |
| 1:00 | 10 vs 11 | 1:00 | 7 vs 10 |
| 2:00 | 17 vs 18 | 2:00 | 9 vs 11 |
| 3:00 | 14 vs 15 | 3:00 | 12 vs 13 |
| 4:00 | 20 vs 21 | 4:00 | 3 vs 5 |
| | | 5:00 | 2 vs 6 |
| | | 6:00 | 1 vs 4 |

| <u>March 3</u> | | <u>March 10</u> | |
|----------------|----------|-----------------|----------|
| 8:00 | 8 vs 10 | 8:00 | 16 vs 17 |
| 9:00 | 7 vs 9 | 9:00 | 19 vs 20 |
| 10:00 | 2 vs 4 | 10:00 | 17 vs 18 |
| 11:00 | 1 vs 5 | 11:00 | 20 vs 21 |
| 12:00 | 3 vs 6 | 12:00 | 14 vs 15 |
| 1:00 | 12 vs 13 | 1:00 | 1 vs 6 |
| 2:00 | 19 vs 20 | 2:00 | 2 vs 3 |
| 3:00 | 17 vs 18 | 3:00 | 4 vs 5 |
| 4:00 | 14 vs 15 | 4:00 | 7 vs 11 |
| 5:00 | 16 vs 18 | 5:00 | 8 vs 9 |
| | | 6:00 | 7 vs 10 |
| | | 7:00 | 12 vs 13 |

Darcy's Country Cuts

916 South HCR 4114

Tuesday – Friday - 9 a.m. – 6 p.m.

Call for appointment -254-854-3087 (new number)

For Rent:

2 Bedroom 2 Bath mobile home in Files Valley \$475.per month/ Call 682-552-5483

Welcome New Arrival



Jeremy & Kellie Graig announces their new arrival! Kyeara Ann Graig-6lbs. 12ozs. born February 2, 2007. Granparents are Bob & Linda Broker of Whitney and Jim & Kim Graig of Itasca.

Missing Dog!



Please call if you have information. Little boy really misses his dog. Missing from the Files Valley Area.

Reward for safe return. No questions asked. (see attached picture) Please call 817-538-4986

Missing Dog

My name is "Jo Jo" and I was just recently adopted by a family in Itasca. I am a Chihuahua Dachshund mix neutered male with short red hair and weigh twenty pounds. I might still have my collar with rabies tags. If you see me, please call Lana at 582-8902, 337-0456, or 582-8632.

Free to a Good Home

2-year-old Blue-Russell. Free to a good home! I have owned this very small, fast, and energetic sweetie since he was 5 weeks old. He is great with children, adults, and other animals; however, he is very dominant towards other male dogs.

Serious inquiries only PLEASE, as I will be very selective. New home should have no other male dogs, plenty of room for running, or someone dedicated to taking long daily walks for exercise. Contact Cindy @ 254-582-7063

Lady Cats 2007 Softball Schedule

February

| | | | |
|----|-----------|-----------|--------------|
| 17 | Kopperl | Here (DH) | 11:00 & 1:00 |
| 20 | Avalon | There | 4:30 p.m. |
| 23 | Waco VG | Here | 4:00 p.m. |
| 27 | Covington | Here | 4:30 p.m. |

March

| | | | |
|------|--------------------|-------|-----------|
| 2-3 | Itasca Tournament | | |
| 5 | Maypearl | Here | 4:30 p.m. |
| 8-10 | Wortham Tournament | | |
| 20 | *Grandview | There | 4:30 p.m. |
| 23 | *Hico | Here | 4:30 p.m. |
| 27 | *Rio Vista | There | 4:30 p.m. |
| 30 | *Dublin | Here | 4:30 p.m. |

April

| | | | |
|----|------------|-------|-----------|
| 3 | *Maypearl | There | 4:30 p.m. |
| 5 | *Grandview | Here | 4:30 p.m. |
| 9 | *Hico | There | 4:30 p.m. |
| 13 | *Rio Vista | Here | 4:30 p.m. |
| 20 | *Dublin | There | 4:30 p.m. |

**District Games - Head Softball Coach: Larry Maddox - Assistant Softball Coach: Gerri Lawyer
254-687-2922 Ext. 124 email: lmaddox@itasca.k12.tx.us

Cinco de Mayo Booth Application

Name: _____
 Address: _____ City: _____ Zip: _____
 Phone # _____ Cell # _____
 We must have a good contact number.

All outside spaces are \$30.00 without electricity & \$40.00 with electricity (1 16 gauge cord) – Each additional cord will be \$10.00

of Spaces Needed _____
 _____ with electricity _____ without electricity

Type of merchandise _____
 (If you will be selling food please indicate what type of food, as we will have a food court again this year & we want our vendors to profit from this event.)

Spaces are 6 x 12
 Trailer Tent Concession Stand (2 tables max)
 Length _____ Width _____

If you will be staying for the street dance, there will be an additional charge of \$15.00. Two people per stand will be allowed, all others in your group must pay to stay for the dance, even if they are helping in your stand. Only two free tickets per stand will be given, even if you have 2 or more booth spaces. Booth stands for the dance are on a first come, first serve basis. You must pay for your booth entry by the deadline of April 30, 2007. No exceptions!

Daytime Booth only _____ Day & Night Booth _____
 Please return this application & fee to:

Booth Application, % Itasca Cinco de Mayo
 P O Box 345, Itasca, TX 76055
 Application & money must be received in full no later than April 30, 2007 to secure your place. No exceptions.

Do You Remember . . . ? – “St. Valentine’s Day”

Columnist Carl Sweeney



St. Valentine’s Day is an annual holiday having to do with lovers. It is celebrated on February 14 by the custom of sending greeting cards, candy and other gifts to express affection. The cards are called valentine cards and are almost invariably designed with hearts to symbolize love.



The St. Valentine’s Day celebration as we know it today was what could be termed ‘pagan’ in its inception. Some say the event started with the ancient Roman Feast of Lupercalia on February 15, also called the Lupercalia, an annual rite of fertility. The rite involved sacrificing goats and other activities that we prefer to not go into here.

Around the year, 496 a Roman Pope Gelasius changed Lupercalia to St Valentine’s Day on February 14. This indicated that Christianity came into dominance in Europe. February 14 was declared the Feast day of two Roman martyrs, both named Saint Valentine. Neither of these two seemed to have an obvious connection to courtship or lovers.

One St. Valentine was thought of as the patron saint or special guardian of lovers. Story has it that Emperor Claudius of Ancient Rome needed an army. He thought that unmarried men would be better soldiers, since they had no wife or children to be concerned about. He issued an order forbidding young men to marry. Any priest performing the ceremony would be put to death. According to legend a young priest, named Valentine disobeyed the Emperor and performed secret marriages. He was thrown into prison and beheaded for his crime. Some say that St. Valentine’s Day is celebrated for Valentine, a priest who believed in love.

Another story tells of a priest named Valentine who loved children and gave them flowers from his garden. The Emperor put him in prison because he refused to pray to the Roman Gods. The children threw him bouquets of flowers and love notes through the prison bars. Valentine spent a year in jail. He became fond of the jailer’s blind daughter who brought him messages and food and tried to make his stay in prison more comfortable. Valentine was commanded to appear before Claudius II. The emperor was impressed with the priest’s gentleness and dignity. Claudius offered to set him free if he would give up Christianity and worship the Roman gods. He refused and did a foolish thing; he tried to convert the Emperor to Christianity. Claudius enraged, and ordered Valentine put to death. During his last days, the priest prayed for a miracle and the jailer’s daughter regained her sight. He wrote her a farewell message and signed it “from your Valentine.” They said he was executed on February 14.

Sorting out St. Valentine’s Day facts from legend is sometimes controversial. The stories about the Christian Priests perhaps inspired our examples of friendship and love, and are the reasons we send affection messages to our friends and loved ones each year of February 14.

Valentine’s Day has been and still is celebrated in many countries, and each one has their methods. In the early 1600’s wealthy people often gave Valentine parties. One French princess names her palace “The Valentine,” and gave lavish parties on February 14. Valentine parties became more frequent in England and France. Verses were put in boxes. If a man gave his sweetheart a pair of gloves, he was in effect asking for her hand in marriage.

The custom of costly gifts ceased around 1760. The oldest paper valentine believed to exist is kept in The British museum. A French man, Charles, Duke of Orleans, wrote it in 1415. He wrote in French, but mentioned St. Valentine in English while he was in prison.

The first printed Valentines came into being around 1800. About that time most were hand made and could be quite fancy, with lace and other decorations. Cupids with bow and arrows, heart shapes, paper lace, birds and flowers all stood for St. Valentine’s Day just as holly and reindeer stand for Christmas and witches, spider, bats and pumpkins stand for Halloween.

During the War Between the States for a time, caustic cards were sent, and again around the 1940s. On February 8, 2007, the Waco paper dedicated a whole page to the ugly valentine card practice. We are glad this only occurs sporadically.

Among the many love tokens connected with Valentine’s Day was the love knot. It has no beginning and no end. It consists of graceful loops and endless love messages that are read by turning the drawing around.

Some other facts that may be of interest are; 15% of women say that they send flowers to themselves on Valentine’s Day; Americans spend 1.1 billion dollars for Valentine’s Day; each year one billion cards are given; teachers get the most gifts and children are second.

In Valentine, Texas, postmaster Maria Carrasco receives thousands of letters to be mailed with the Valentine, Texas postmark. Valentine, Nebraska post office has the same experience. The whole start of Valentine’s Day cannot begin to be told in a single column; however, there are books for those who would like to learn more.

Paw Print Press
123 N. College
Itasca, Texas 76055

Wampus Cats of the Week

Senior Basketball Boys

Photo by Don Painter



Only two seniors are on the roster of this year's winning Wampus Cat basketball team, but they are a very important part of that team.

Kendale Mayberry has led the team to a very impressive record with his ball

handling, assists and scoring. He has been a constant in each game. His experience is apparent as he knows when to take the shot, when to set it up and how and when to pass the ball off. Mayberry leads the area in assists with 8.8 per game and averages 11.1 points a game.

Senior Jesus Soto is a constant that can be relied upon to come off the bench and give 110% every game. He is quick under the basket, which makes him a valuable asset. He contributes to the team in all areas and can step in whenever needed. Many times a team is only as good as its bench is deep and Jesus ensures that the Cats are always on the prowl.

Special of the Week



"Load your friends up in this beauty and come out and support my Wampus Cats."

JUST ARRIVED!

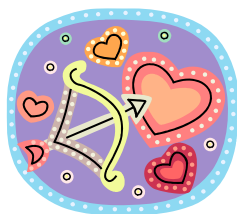
All-New 2008 Super Duties



Arriving daily Come See 'Em!!!

Lloyd Ford – Proud Supporter of the Wampus Cats

Happy Valentine's Day 2007



5th Grade

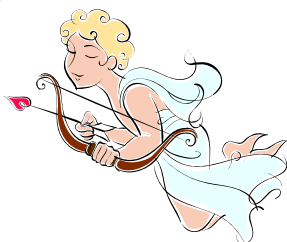
♥Katy Prescott, I hope it's a good Valentine's Day! – Tristan Prescott

♥My sisters, family, and friends, Kameron, Kierra, Destiny, Donisha, Dajae, Dayonce, Malacia, and Eric, I Love ya'll! – Brandy Webb

♥Cassidy Mangum, I know you're gonna get in trouble by your mom, but I just wanted to say that "I Love You!" – Ycidro Cervantez

6th Grade:

♥Christian Cruz, I always liked you more than a friend, but less than a boyfriend in a way. I always liked you A Lot though! – Michelle Ignacz



♥Becca, the best girl in the world, and my best friend. – Cole Coleman

♥Michael Macias, I didn't want you to feel left out! Happy Valentine's Day! – Jordan Sizemore

♥My Family, Happy Valentine's Day! Love ya'll! – Jordan Sizemore

♥Oscar Soto, There is nobody as special as you to me! Happy Valentine's Day! – Ashley Spain

♥Dillion Lascuito, Hi bestest friend! I just wanted to show you how much I love you. Happy Valentine's Day! – Emily Bayse

♥Nathaniel Portlock, Happy Valentine's Day little brother. Hope you get lots of chocolate so you can share it with me. – Your big sis' Chase

♥Cole Colman, I just wanted to say Happy Valentine's Day – Becca Durham

♥David Corbitt, To my boyfriend, David, thank you for being my boyfriend. I love you! Happy Valentine's Day. – Brittany Reid

♥Jordan Sizemore, Happy Valentine's Day Jordan! Thanks for being a wonderful friend and sticking by my side. Happy Valentine's Day! – Shaquana

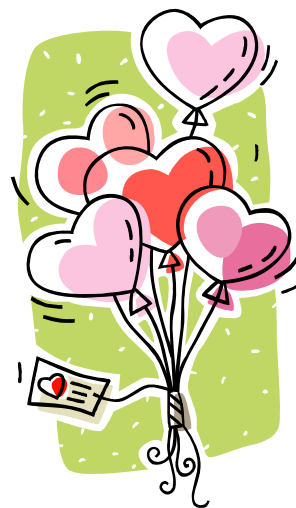
♥Jeremy Patterson, Happy Valentine's Day! – Chase Patterson

♥Ashley Spain, My life has been wonderful ever since we started going out! So I'm saying this from my heart.... "I LOVE YOU!" – Oscar Soto

♥Elizabeth Reid, My mom and my best friend, thank you for being my mom! I love you very much! Happy Valentine's Day! – Brittany Reid

♥Brittany Reid, These months have been my best, and I hope to have a lot more with you. I love you! – David Corbitt

♥Jacey Dominick, I just wanted to tell you that there is no one else in this BIG WORLD like you! I Love you Baby Gurl! Eric Garcia



8th Grade

♥Chelsea Rodriguez, You're the most beautiful and sweetest girl in the world. I don't know what I would do without you. – Chris Carlson

Freshmen

♥Kendale Mayberry, I love you so much! You are the greatest brother & you are my #1 Valentine!!! – Eva Mayberry

♥Megan Goff, You are the best! I love you more than a million Red Skittles! – Mary Maddox

♥Katelyn Seaman, You are so pretty. You make our hearts twittle. Merry Valentine's Day! – Megan Goff & Mary Maddox



Sophomores:

♥Destiny Jackson, Hey baby I just wanted to wish you a Happy Valentine's Day. I love you! – Angel Turrubiardez

♥Gabrielle Rivera, Hey baby, I just wanted to tell you Happy Valentines Day and that it has been the most wonderful two years. Thank you. I love you. – Zech O'Rarden

♥John Olivas, Valentines Day is here! I wish you a very good Valentine's Day, and may this best one to you and your family. – Rachel Love

Happy Valentine's Day 2007



♥Bernard Jackson (B.J.), Thanks for always being there for me, and I love you very much, and can't live without you! -(Your favorite sister) Courtney Phillips

♥Chris Carlson, They say you meet that special someone that comes into your life once in a lifetime,

and I'm so glad it was you! - Chelsea Rodriguez

♥Aaron Chavez- I really hope that we have a blast at the Valentines Dance and in One Act Play! Your awesome and cute so stay that way!! -Bianca Heath

♥Lauren Vincent- I love you Ivy! You're my best friend! We'll go ridin' around since ur my Valentine! Love ya! Harley -Bianca Heath

♥Andrea Ramos- I love you. Happy Valentines Day. Love-Shawn Cadena

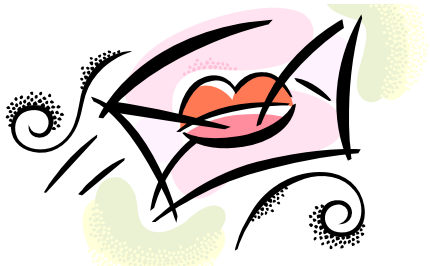
♥Angel Turrubiardez.- I hope you have a wonderful Valentines! You're my sweetheart I love you so much... -Destiny Jackson

♥My sisters and brothers- Thanks for being there for me. I don't know what I would do if ya'll weren't in my life. Love ya'll -Kendra Webb

♥Courtney Phillips- If it wasn't for you, I don't know what I would do. Love ya boy, Javier Medina

Juniors

♥Rikki, I hate your stinkin guts! You are scum between my toes! You make me vomit! But I love ya anyway, BFF! -Valerie Farquhar



♥My 08'ers! I love you guys vetty vetty much! I don't know what I would do without you silly little boys and girls! - Lindsey Laird

♥Mark Cummings, Roses are Red, Violets are Blue. When I first met you, I knew it was true!! - Sonia Sanchez

♥Adam Ramos, Roses are red violets are blue, I'll never love anyone as much as I love my boo. I love you baby!- Victoria Trejo

♥Eric Ortegon, Roses are red violets are blue you're retarded, but that's why I love you-Courtney Heath

♥Rikki Mason- Princess, you are a very pretty girl, have a wonderful smile and a beautiful voice - Konstantin Suspitsyn

♥Valerie, you make my toes twinkle, my heart smile. You are my best friend- Rikki Mason

♥My granny, she's the one who I can go to for anything. I love you very much. My girl Jessica L., because you're the one who has always had my back. My sister's Na-Na, Dasha, and Shamonica, I love y'all very



much! Hope y'all have a great valentine!-Gigi Morgan

♥Shawn Cadena, you are my everything, I can't stand to be without you at any part of the day, baby you are the best thing that has ever happened to me and cant wait to spend the rest of my life with you-Andrea Ramos

♥Elizabeth Soto, I love you so much! You're my number 1. We will be together forever there's no doubt about that. Stay pretty and GORGEOUS! I LOVE YOU!!- Edgar Soto

♥Huff #55- In the sunlight or the rain, brightest nights or darkest days, I'll always feel the same way. Whatever road you may be on know you're never too far gone. My love is there, wherever you may be; you'll always be my baby. - Jessi-Baby

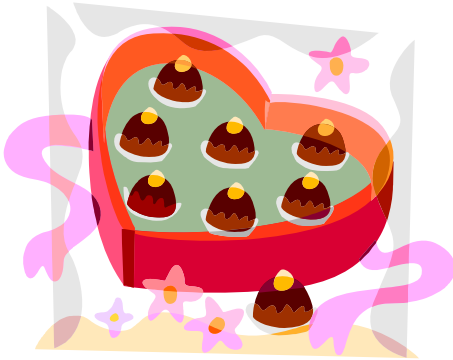
♥Sonia, Gigi, Colleen, Craig, Eva, I LOVE Y'ALL VERY MUCH - Jessica Laramore

♥To my valentine homie gurls: Gigi, Ebonie, Courtney, Cierra, Amber, Valerie, and Jessica Laramore. Have a great valentines day and I also want to shout out to my boy Javier Medina, and Mrs. Willman- Eva Wills



♥Tralyn and Dee- Ya'll are my special valentines this year. I don't know what I would do without ya'll. And a special shout out to my wonderful brother Stanley Johnson- Eva Wills

Happy Valentine's Day 2007



♥Sonia Sanchez- You are an incredible person. I enjoy every minute I'm with you and I hope there will be many more minutes. We've been together such a short time and it already seems like we have been through

so much. Like you a lot! -Mark Cumming

To my special Valentine Jessie Baby, Hey baby its Huff, I love you, just thought you should know that. - Huff #55

Seniors



♥Jesus, You are magnificent, and extremely special to me. Thanks for always sticking by my side. I love you and be good! -Amanda Upchurch

♥Jessica Laramore, We aren't perfect, we don't always agree. But after everything we've been through, BOYS, fights, BOYS, and

hard times, you know I love you heifer, and you're my best friend!! - Colleen O'Hearn

♥Aston McGill, I love you very much! I couldn't live without you! Thanks for being there for me, and I hope to be with you forever. - Kandis McVea

♥Journey, to my prom date, I love you! Stay sweet! - Ashley Swilley

♥Celeste Rodriguez, Lu' You are the bestest sister in the WHOLE WIDE WORLD!!! I love you oh so much! I'll miss you next year! Oh, and thanks for being someone I can really laugh with, talk to, and trust with ALL of my secrets! -your big sister, Gabby Rivera

♥Sal Cardenas, We've been through so much! We've fought A LOT! We've even laughed and cried together, but through it all, I just wanna say thanks for being the best brother ever! I am really lucky! Happy Valentine's Day! - Gabby Rivera



♥Gloria Rodriguez, You are the BEST MOM EVER!!! Thanks for being perfect! - Gabby Rivera

♥Zech O'Rarden, Roses are Red, Violets are Blue. Sugar is sweet, and so are YOU! Thank you for being not only my love, but my best friend. I love you babe! Happy Heart Day! - Gabby Rivera

♥Amanda, Gabby, Karla, Alecia, Rita, and Stephanie, You are all my bestest buds! Have a special Valentine's Day! - Chelsea Minyard

♥Jose Soto, I'm sorry we won't be together for Valentine's Day, but I just wanted to let you know that I am thinking of you and I miss you very much! Smooches, Karla Ochoa

♥07 seniors, Can I get a 07 Woot Woot! I want to give a special piece of my heart to Shelton, Johnny, Colleen, Clayton, Cameron, Jose, Jack and finally Jim - Mark Cummings

♥Mercedes Snyder- Thank you for always being there for me! Don't forget 2 make one big one! Love always - Sonia Sanchez

♥Mom and Dad (Lisa and Allen Heath)- Thank you so much for my new car!! I really appreciate it. Thanks for always having so much faith in me! I love ya'll! -Bianca Heath

♥ '07 Seniors- To a wonderful class that sticks together like glue. Graduation coming near! Can I get a Woot! Woot! -Bianca Heath

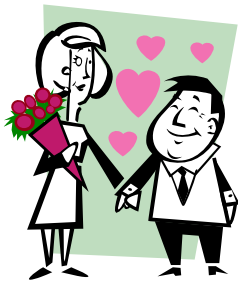
♥ '07 Seniors- Forget about them '08er Haters and give that '07 Woot! Woot! - Justin Shelton

♥Chris Zachman- I am sorry for what I did. I had things to think over. I have feelings for you and I wish that you could forgive me for what I did. Happy Valentines Day!! - Heather Jordan



Happy Valentine's Day 2007

Teachers



♥Fisher, Brayden & Sophie Anne, I love you all so much. Your smiles brighten my days, and your hugs warm my heart. I am so proud of each of my blonde babies.–
Your Mom Mrs. Hennig
♥Jeff Slotvig- I love you! -

Julie Slotvig

♥Bob-a-lou (Bob Slotvig)- We love you! -Mom and Dad

♥Alisha Slotvig- We love you! – Mom and Dad

♥ Brittany, Mackenzie & Haley & of course Daddy - You are the light of my life. I love you more than cheesecake. Love Grandma, Grammy & Momma

♥ To my journalism students, You rock! Thanks for all of your hard work. Love, Mrs. P

♥Mrs. Swilley- She is a wonderful teacher here at Itasca High School. I love her with all my heart. Hope you have a wonderful Valentines Day. –Kendale Mayberry



Valentines Can Do the Math

Valentines can do the math:
More than one is none.
Intimacy is intimate,
Else one must be alone.

One can be a Valentine
Only if one will
Take one for oneself, and then
Let the heart be still.

Valentines are all in one:
Parent, child, friend,
Pet and plaything, counselor,
Nurse, guide, journey's end.

Valentines are never perfect,
Though they patient prove.
What one can expect of them
Depends upon one's love.

Enter Cupid

Source Unknown



A mischievous, winged child, armed with darts or a quiver of arrows. His business? The piercing of hearts. Such is Cupid, god of love, and a favorite symbol for Valentine party decorations, candy boxes, or greetings.

Long before there was a Valentine's Day, Cupid played a central role in ancient Greek and Roman celebrations dedicated to love and lovers. Named Eros by the Greeks, the young god was the son and companion of Aphrodite, goddess of love and beauty. Among the Romans the same deity was known as Venus, and her son as Cupid, the name familiar to us today.

By either name, Cupid was a symbol of passionate, tender, or playful love. His arrows were invisible, his targets the hearts of mortals or gods alike. The victim would become aware of having been shot by falling hopelessly, and helplessly, in love.

From a Secret Admirer

A poem for secret lovers everywhere

From Poems for free Website

Whose gift this is you cannot know.
My heart is in your keeping though.
You will not mind my writing here
To tell you that I love you so.

I know that you must think it queer
For me to love and not come near
But linger by some frozen lake
This most romantic time of year.

I sometimes give my head a shake
And ask if there is some mistake.
It's lonely out here 'mid the sweep
Of bitter wind and icy flake.

My love for you is dark and deep,
But it's a promise I will keep
As from afar I watch and weep,
As from afar I watch and weep.