

Paw Print Press

Proudly Serving Itasca "The Big Little Town" since 1997

Itasca, Texas 76055

Vol. 2007 Issue #50

December 14, 2007

Rotarians Receive Assistance with Polio-Free World Goal

Reporter Devin Corbitt
Information from Rotary International President

The Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation has awarded the Rotary Foundation a challenge grant of \$100 million. The Rotary will match this grant over three years, dollar by dollar. The \$200 million partnership will provide much-needed support to the goal of a polio-free world. The Rotary International Board of Directors and the Trustees of the Rotary Foundation have unanimously agreed to accept this challenge grant to ensure the success of the PolioPlus program.

The initial \$100 million will be distributed by the Rotary Foundation to the World Health Organization and UNICEF through grants. It will go to the direct support of polio immunization activities in 2008. It is the largest single grant to be given to a volunteer service organization.

In 1985, the Rotary Foundation promised every child a polio-free world, and we are almost there. The funding agreement between Rotary and the Gates Foundation is a huge step forward. Your participation and donations are crucial to making it a success.

66th District Court Praised by Attorney General

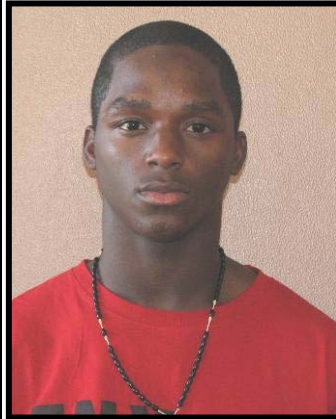
Judge F. B. (Bob) McGregor, Jr. and his court received a letter from the Attorney General of Texas thanking them for their continued joint effort in assisting families affected by non-payment of child support.

In the past year, the Hill County office has been successful in collecting \$2,769,305.56 in child support payments for cases through the Hill County court.

Child support cases are sometimes put on "the back burner" in the court system. That is not the case in Hill County and Judge McGregor and his staff keep the children in mind as they process these cases.

Marshall Earns Second All-District Superlative Honor

Wampus Cats Earn 8 All-District 1st Team Slots



Quarterback Mikey Marshall (left) was voted Offensive MVP for District 11-AA. He connected 57 times for 1128 yards and ran 29 times to add another 147 yards rushing. Last year Marshall received the district's Offensive Newcomer of the Year.

Eight Wampus Cats earned a place on the All-District 1st Team. Sophomore Desmond Guy (back row middle), (our selection for Newcomer of the Year Award – 167 carries for 1379 yards) was named as a running back on the Offensive Team and with 14 hard tackles as a defensive back on the Defensive Team.



Tralyn Harden (front center) earned three spots on the 11-AA 1st Team roster. With his 26 receptions for 713 yards, he received a wide receiver slot. On the defense, Tralyn was honored as a defensive back and a punter. Outside lineman, Cris Pacheco (back row left) was named to the Offensive team and fellow junior, Zech O'Rarden (back row right) earned a spot as a defensive end with 28 tackles and 2 sacks. Junior De'Veon Mayberry (front row right) with 43 tackles was named one of four inside linebackers to make the roster. The eighth Wampus Cat named to the 1st All-District Team was Junior Outside Linebacker Frank Sanchez (front row left). Frank had 44 tackles and 4 sacks.

Nine Wampus Cats were placed on the Second All-District Team. Continued on page 3 & All Academic Page 10.

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: Praise and Worship 9:00 a.m.

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.

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

Itasca Church of Christ

The emptiest, loneliest thing in the world is a Birth - Life - Death without ever hearing the gospel, and no one ever praying.

Won't you join us for worship at the Itasca Church of Christ, 200 N. Aquilla? We meet on Sunday mornings at 9:45 and 10:45 am, and 5:00 pm, and on Wednesday evenings at 6:00 p.m. Live the fullness of Life that GOD intended. Itasca Church of Christ 200 N. Aquilla

First Presbyterian Church

Sunday Schedule

9:00 Praise & Worship (Sanctuary) Cross Roads Band

9:15 - 9:45 Fellowship Time in Barton Hall

9:45 - 10:30 Sunday School all Ages (Nursery - Seniors)

10:50 - Praise and Worship - 11:00 - Worship Service

"Hour of Power" - 7th - 12th grades

Sunday evenings 6:30 - 7:30 p.m. - Barton Hall

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 Zoning Committee Meeting

2nd Monday of Month 6:00 p.m.

Municipal Court Building 136 N. Hill St.

Itasca Ministerial Alliance Meeting

Saturday, January 5 - 9:00 a.m.

Itasca City Council Meeting

Monday, December 17, 2007 6:00 p.m.

Municipal Court Building 136 N. Hill St.

Itasca ISD School Board Meeting

December 17, 2007 7:00 p.m.

IISD Administration Building - 123 N College St.

Chamber of Commerce Meeting

Monday, January 7, 2008 5:30 p.m.

HILCO Operations Building 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 Holiday Events

Chamber of Commerce Christmas

Decorating Contest - Judging 7:00 p.m.

Tuesday, December 18

***Complete an application to be eligible for judging (Available at business downtown)

Deadline for application is Thursday, December 13.

December 24-January 4

IISD Christmas Holiday - School resumes at 8:00 a.m. January 7, 2008.



*** Due to Christmas Eve and New Year's Eve falling on Monday, the Chamber of Commerce will hold its December meeting on January 7, 2008.

Water Fees, Fines Increase - 3rd

Council members passed a City Ordinance at the November meeting raising the late fine for a water bill to \$10.00 from the previous \$5.00 charge. This increase is effective with the bills mailed out on December 30, due January 10. Also included in the Ordinance were increases in deposits, reconnect fees and a special fee for reconnect after hours and on holidays.

Thank You Note

Thank you, everyone, so very much for everything you have done these past few weeks. No words can begin to express our gratitude and appreciation for all the prayers, cards, calls, visits, flowers, e-mails, food, and many other thoughtful actions and assistance during Bill's recent surgery and recovery at Town Hall Estates. It is during times like this we are reminded how valuable friends and family are to us.

Bill and Bettye Lewis

11-AA All-District Selection

Making the 2nd Team Offense (pictured right) were Running Back De'Veon Mayberry, Wide Receiver Edgar Soto, Tight end Jacob Boyd, Outside Lineman Chad Rutherford and Outside Lineman Jacob Pelham.

Cats on the 2nd Team Defense (pictured right) are Defensive Lineman Josh Huff, Defensive End Ryan Crouch, outside Linebacker Edgar Soto and defensive Back Terrey Brumbalow.

Named on the Honorable Mention roster (bottom right) are Defensive Lineman Jake Key, Defensive Lineman Zack Bassett and Defensive Back Jonathon Ponce. The Wampus Cats finished second in the district with a 9-1 record. Their only loss came from the district champion Grandview.

The 2007 Cats were coached by Head Coach Craig Horn, Assistant Coaches Ben Powell, Trey Bates, Fred Dakan, Jeff Mayberry and Micah Fletcher.

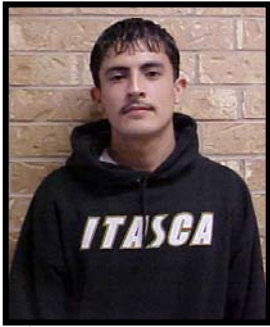


November Itasca Police Blotter

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| <p>11-12 – Verbal disturbance – 200 blk. S. Wesley St.
 11-12 – Report of reckless driver – I-35W mm 12
 11-12 – Anhydrous leak – 700 blk. S. Hill St.
 11-12 – Aggressive driver – I-35W northbound mm 9
 11-13 – Welfare concern – 200 blk. S. Aquilla S.
 11-13 – Complaint of speeders – 400 blk. E. Main St.
 11-14 – Stranded motorist – 1500 blk. E. Main St.
 11-14 – Aggravated assault w/deadly weapon (juvenile) – 100 blk. S. Aquilla St.
 11-14 – Verbal disturbance – 200 blk, E. Henderson St.
 11-14 – Welfare concern – 200 blk. N. Files St.
 11-14 – Stranded motorist (disabled vehicle) – I-35W
 11-14 – Checked public building – 800 blk. Wilkerson St.
 11-15 – Assisted CPS – 700 blk. E. Main St.
 11-15 – Civil matter – 3300 blk. S. Hwy. 81
 11-15 – Traffic stop (defective equipment) Warrant arrest (Bosque County) DWLI 2nd (white/male) – 100 blk. N. Hill St.
 11-15 – Traffic stop (reckless driving) – DWI arrest (white/male 42) – I-35W southbound mm 5
 11-15 – Animal complaint (dead dog) – 400 blk. Hill St.
 11-15 – Suspicious person – 400 blk. S. Lamar St.
 11-15 – Verbal domestic disturbance – 100 blk. W. Wilkerson St.
 11-15 – Assisted CPS – 700 blk. E. Main St.
 11-15 – Welfare concern – 600 blk. S. Files St.
 11-16 – Attempted traffic stop (failure to slow or change lanes for emergency vehicle) Vehicle fled through Johnson & Tarrant Counties. Vehicle spiked – Arrest (Asian/male 48) – I-35W
 11-17 – Report of fight in progress – 100 blk. N. Hill St.
 11-17 – Family disturbance – 100 blk. E. Marrion St.</p> | <p>11-17 – Stranded motorist – I-35W southbound mm 12
 11-18 – Report of possible drunk driver – I-35W mm 7
 11-18 – Animal complaint (loose dog) – 200 blk. Hill St.
 11-18 – 11-18 – Assisted DPS w/translating (major accident) – I-35E southbound mm 372
 11-18 – Burglary alarm call – 900 E. Main St.
 11-19 – Assisted other agency (HCSO) Found methamphetamine, marijuana, drug paraphernalia & stolen shotgun – Arrest (white/female 46) – 800 blk. Adams St.
 11-19 – Assisted other agency (HCSO) – HCR 4434
 11-19 – Assisted citizen – 100 blk. S. Aquilla St.
 11-20 – Disturbance in progress – 800 blk. E. Adams St.
 11-20 – Simple assault complaint – Class C citation issued (Hispanic/male 20) – 300 blk. Henderson St.
 11-20 – Animal complaint (2 dachshunds found) – 1200 blk. E. Main St.
 11-21 – Assisted other agency (HCSO) serve warrant – 100 blk. W. North St.
 11-21 – Residential alarm – 700 blk. S. Files St.
 11-21 – Assisted other agency (HCSO) – Warrant arrest (white/male 19) – 1500 blk. E. Main St.
 11-21 – Assisted DPS - Traffic stop – I-35W mm 3
 11-22 – Assisted IVFD – FM 67 & HCR 4407
 11-22 – Road debris (fence) 1000 blk. E. Main St.
 11-23 – Assisted Grandview PD - I-35W mm 15
 11-23 – Assisted IVFD - FM 67 & HCR 4419
 11-23 – Possible reckless driver – I-35W mm 7
 11-24 – Two vehicle accident – 400 blk. E. Adams St.
 11-24 – Family disturbance – 400 blk. S. Hill St.
 11-24 – Possible reckless driver – I-35W mm 8
 11-24 – Citation issued (white/male 45) Disorderly conduct (language) – 1200 blk. E. Main St.</p> |
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Senior Spotlight - Jonathan Ponce

Reporter Eva Mayberry – Cartoonist Zech O'Rarden



“Funny, rude, honest, and good looking” is how Jonathon Ponce, also known as J.P. or J. Ponce describes himself.

17-year-old Ponce is son to Anita Ponce. His one and only sister, Anita, graduated last year. Ponce enjoys playing football. He was running back and defensive back for the Itasca Wampus Cats.

“My favorite football team is the Patriots,” Ponce said. “Well, that’s because they are winning. When they start losing I’ll pick up the other team,” Ponce added.

Other than playing football, Ponce enjoys listening to his favorite rapper, Lil Wayne, and watching his favorite comedians, George Lopez and Chris Tucker. He also can be seen around town in his “Ponce mobile” (his two feet) going places.

“Lil Wayne goes hard,” Ponce said, meaning that he enjoys his music very much.

Ponce also enjoys spending time with his “Mexican homeboys” and his number one hitter in football, DeVeon Mayberry. Though all of his friends put a smile on his face, Frank has made much of a difference to his life. Ponce will never forget his time in high school and his friends.

Although he is very ready to graduate, he will always remember going to dances “to pick up girls,” and his favorite teacher, Mrs. Hennig.

“She has taught me a lot through high school. She has made me a better man,” Ponce said.



Senior Spotlight - Yesenia Lara

Reporter Ashley Durham – Cartoonist Zech O'Rarden



Her close friends call her Yesi, but the students at Itasca High know her as Yesenia Lara. “I would describe myself as jovial, loyal and caring,” Yesenia said.

17 year old Lara lives at the Presbyterian Children’s Home with her loving house mates, also known as her “sisters.” Her younger brother, Hector, also lives at PCH. Her hobbies are singing, playing Guitar Hero (a game), and spending time getting to know the people around her. She attends the First Presbyterian church in Itasca at

which she is a member of the Crossroads Band and youth group.

Yesenia serves as an athletic trainer and manager for both the girls and boys athletics. She enjoys watching football and basketball, but her all time favorite sport is hockey (especially the Dallas Stars).

Some other interesting facts about Yesenia are that she is double jointed in her arms, her role model is God, and her favorite movie star is Orlando Bloom.

Her most memorable moment at IHS is when she was hit in the eye with a softball and cried not because it hurt but because it was embarrassing.

“I am as much ready to graduate as the person in front and behind me. So yes, I am ready,” Yesenia Lara said, “and a note for the underclassmen; every minute you spend upset is another minute you will never get back.”



IHS – 2nd Six-Weeks - “A” Honor Roll

9th Grade – Nancy Reyes, Bob Slotvig, Phillip Thomas

10th Grade – Ryan Crouch, Ashley Durham, Megan Goff, DaDa McVea

11th Grade - Chelsea Rodriguez, Maria Worth

12th Grade - LB Mosely

IHS – 1st 6-Weeks - “A-B” Honor Roll

9th Grade – Chan-tira Diggs, Cody Dominick, Jasmine Guy, Bernard Jackson, Christina Manasco, Keyre Ortiz, Maria Ortiz, Jack Panting, Cody Read, Colton Sullins, Kristen Worth

10th Grade – Connally Baskett, Devin Corbitt, Zach Bassett, Eddie Coronado, Desmond Guy, Cherri Lloyd, Mary Maddox, Eva Mayberry, Chad Rutherford, Katelyn Seaman, Ashley Shah, Ciera Thompson

11th Grade - Pilar Baskett, Jennifer Bustin, Journey Douangsouphonh, Timothy Earhart Adam Handy, Courtney Heath, Lydia Milstead, Cristobal Pacheco, Bryan Pearson, Victoria Trejo, Caryn Willburn

12th Grade - Isai Coronado, Heather Jordon, Yesenia Lara, Jeremy Patterson, Jacob Pelham, Kristin Rivera, Marilla Smith

Note of Thanks

The Castillo family would like to thank everyone for the overwhelming support and prayers that were given during the passing of our beloved father, Oscar M. Castillo, Sr. We were very appreciative of the cards, food and flowers that were given to us. We are indebted to our community, churches and friends who came together for us so quickly during that time. You all were our crutch for the support we needed in letting dad go. He is and will be so dearly missed. Thank you again.

Oscar G. Castillo, Jr & family

Itasca Community Basketball Sign-Ups

Place: Itasca Middle School Gym
 Time: Thursday Dec 13 - Time 6:00 p.m. To 8:00 p.m.
 Saturday Dec. 15 Time 9:00 a.m. To 12:00 p.m.

Cost: \$25 per Child (Due at Signup)

Sign-Up Form

Child Name _____
 D.O.B. _____ Grade _____ M/F _____

Address _____
 Telephone _____ Work _____

Shirt Size: Youth: S M L Adult: S M L XL XXL
 Paid: Yes ___ No ___ Amt _____ Check# _____
 (A Fee of \$25 for Return Check)

**Itasca Youth Association Is Not Held Responsible
 For Any Injury to**

Participant _____ Date _____
 Consent of Medical Treatment (Minor)

As the parent or legal guardian of the above named player, I hereby give consent for emergency medical care prescribed by a duly licensed doctor of medicine or doctor of dentistry.

This care may be given under whatever conditions are necessary to preserve the life, limb, or well-being of my dependent.

Signature of Parent/Guardian _____

List any medical problem or prohibition player may have _____

Person to Notify In Emergency
 Name _____ Phone _____

Parental support: check areas in, which you are willing to help.

Coach ___ Help Coach ___ Score Clock ___

Referee ___ Clean Up ___

Please Do Not Return This Form to the School
 For Information Contact:

Jason or Leann Kirkpatrick at 254-687-9886.



Wampus Cat Basketball

Varsity Cats Season - 5-1

December

14	Dallas Life	Away	JV, V	4:00
18	* Maypearl	Home	JV, V	5:00
21	Godley	Home	JV, V	4:00
27/29	Godley Tournament		V	TBA
31	Bruceville Eddy Tournament		JV, V	1:00

Lady Wampus Cat Basketball

Lady Cats Varsity Season - 7-4

December

14	* Hico	Away	JV, V	4:00
18	* Maypearl	Home	JV, V	4:00
27-29	Need game or Tournament			

January

4	* Keene	Away	JV, V	4:00
8	* Rio Vista	Home	JV, V	4:00
11	* Dublin	Away	JV, V	4:00
15	* Grandview	Away	JV, V	4:00
18	* Hico	Home	JV, V	4:00
22	* Maypearl	Away	JV, V	4:00
25	* OPEN DATE			
29	* KEENE	Home	JV, V	4:00

February

1	* Rio Vista	Away	JV, V	4:00
5	(*) Dublin	Home	JV, V	4:00

* District Games () Parents Night

Junior High Basketball 2007-2008

January

10	Dublin	7B, 8B	Away	5:00
	Dublin	7G, 8G	Home	5:00
12	Godley Tournament	7B, 8B	Away	TBA
	Meridian Tournament	7G, 8G	away	TBA
17	Keene	7B, 8B	Away	5:00
	Keene	7G, 8G	Home	5:00
24	Rio Vista	7B, 8B	Home	5:00
	Rio Vista	7G, 8G	Away	5:00
31	Grandview	7B, 8B	Away	5:00
	Grandview	7G, 8G	Home	5:00

High School Exam Schedule

Wednesday, Dec.19:1-B, 2-B & 3rd regular classes
 Exams 4-B – 1:04-2:15 & 5th period – 2:19-3:30

Thursday, Dec. 20: Exams
 1-A – 8-9:25, 2-A – 9:29-10:54, 4-A – 11:04-12:30

Friday, Dec. 21: Exams
 1-B – 8-9:25, 2-B – 9:29-10:54, 3rd – 11:04-12:30

Lunch on both days will be 12:30-1:00; with dismissal at 1:00 p.m. Buses will run at 1:00 p.m. on Thursday and Friday.

Itascans Welcome the Christmas Season

Santa & Mrs. Clause Heard the Wishes over 160 Children at the Gazebo in Veterans Park
Special thanks to Mikey Marshall of Mrs. Crouch's Digital Graphics Class



Mikey

Chamber Parade Opens Christmas Season

Churches, Groups, Organizations Came Together for the Community Celebration

Special thanks to Eric Ortegon of Mrs. Crouch's Digital Graphics Class



Recent Deaths

Smelley, Jesse A. - Jesse A. Smelley, age 71, of Louise, died on November 8, 2007 in Houston. He was born on March 27, 1936 in Dallas to the late Claude and Mae Clare Spann Smelley. He served in the Army National Guard and was a retired teacher, coach, having taught at St. Philip Catholic School, and was a former principal at Louise High School.

He is survived by his wife, Linda Smelley of Louise; daughters, Jenny Livanec of Tucson, Ariz., and Julie Haydan of Knob Noster, Mo.; son, Justy Smelley of Mt. Pleasant, S.C.; and seven grandchildren. He was preceded in death by his parents and brother, Leo Smelley.

A memorial service was held November 15, 2007, at Triska Funeral Home. Honorary pallbearers were Christopher Smelley, Darian Livanec, Daylan Livanec, Demery Livanec, Caitlin Haydan, Logan Haydan and David Haydan. Memorials may be made to the Itasca Presbyterian Children's Home, ASPCA or to the donor's choice.

Irvin, Horance Paul - Horace Paul Irvin, 88, of Austin, passed away on November 26, 2007. Paul was born August 3, 1919 in Hill County, Texas to John Paul Irvin and Fannie Ruth Irvin. He is survived by his wife of 62 years, Geraldine Irvin, his daughter Linda Paulette Nall and husband Carl Than Nall of Austin; son Michael Paul Irvin and wife Sherry Chesshir Irvin of Houston; daughter Nancy Kathleen Irvin of Austin; sister Doris Burkhart of Lubbock, and niece Lori Ann Burkhart; sister Lois Truss of Fort Worth and nephews Bob Truss and Tom Truss; grandson Michael Blake Irvin and wife Lizette Irvin of Sugarland, and great grandchildren Madeline Irvin and Noelle Irvin.

Paul was raised near Itasca, Texas. He graduated from Itasca High School and attended Texas Tech. He enlisted in the U.S. Army in 1942 and served in the Pacific during World War II. While serving in the Signal Corps in New Guinea he met his bride to be Gerry Revere, a member of the Women's Army Corp. After the war, he returned to Ft. Worth, Texas where he raised his family, moving to Austin, Texas in 1972 where he resided until his passing.

Paul had a successful career as a salesman and, after retirement in 1985, enjoyed gardening and spending time working with his son and daughter-in-law on their farm in Shelby and working with his daughter and son-in-law on their property in Wimberley. He was a kind and generous person and truly dedicated to his family. He will be missed. Special thanks to Lee Thomas and Kim Edmondson for their loving care.

Funeral Service was held December 1 at Cook-Walden Chapel of the Hills. Burial followed at Capital Parks Cemetery. In lieu of flowers, memorial contributions may be made in his name to the charity of your choice.

Deadline Nears for Submissions

Press Release

Organizers have set December 31, 2007 as the deadline for submitting articles for Hill County, Texas Heritage Book, Volume II. Finish your family and/or topical story and send it in soon. Stories should be mailed to Hill County Heritage Book Committee Vol. II, P.O. Box 555, Hillsboro, TX 76645 and postmarked by the deadline, December 31, 2007.

A Military Service section is being included in Volume II. Any person with Hill County ties who has served in the military may be featured in a biographical article which includes his or her full name, birthday and where born, parents, dates of service, rank, name of war, branch of service and unit, schooling, marriage, overseas duty and one photo in uniform, if available. Persons who were in the military during peacetime may also be included. The article may be up to 500 words at no charge.

Guidelines for writing family and topical (historical) stories may be found on Hill County Genealogical Society website: <http://www.rootsweb.com/~txhcgs>. Click on Heritage of Hill County, Texas Volume II to find directions. Or contact Roy Bessire, 254-666-3283, e-mail rcbess@aol.com or Richard Greenhill at 254-582-8912 for a brochure or information about the book.

IISD Special Ed Notice

Press Release

Itasca ISD Special Education Department will hold a public meeting on December 19, 2007 at 4:00 p.m. in the Itasca ISD library. The purpose of the meeting is to gather public input in the effective operation and performance of the Itasca ISD special education program through a community focus group that will address predetermined questions. Your attendance and input would be much appreciated.

Notice of Public Meeting

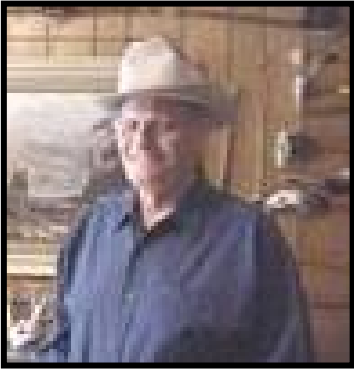
The Itasca Independent School District will hold a public meeting at 7:00 p.m., December 17, 2007 during the regular board meeting in the Administration office at 123 N College to present the Itasca Independent School District's 2006-07 AEIS (Academic Excellence Indicator System) report.

Notice of Public Meeting

The Itasca Independent School District will hold a public meeting at 7:00 p.m., December 17, 2007 during the regular board meeting in the Administration office at 123 N College on exemption for goods in transit.

Do You Remember...?—"The Pluto Community"

Columnist Carl Sweeney
Photo from Carl Sweeney



In the beginning, the Pluto Community was settled one family at a time. People started there in the 1840's in what was then Navarro County. In 1853, Navarro was divided up into three counties creating Ellis and Hill Counties. Hill County was named for G.W. Hill a Republic of Texas official. The division placed Pluto just east of the Hill County line in Ellis County. The Sevier Family was one of the first to settle in the area. The Pluto Community was what could be called a pastoral setting. There was a perpetual spring and creek that ran through the community. There were huge pecan trees everywhere, and some of them exist today over a hundred years old.

The settlers obtained their water from the spring or surface wells. I remember as a five-year-old going to the spring with my mother to get water. The people had no running water in their houses except Mr. Chester Cretcher. He was the more affluent one in Pluto. He owned the Cretcher Motor Company in Itasca; this was during the Model "T" days. I guess you could say the community came into being in 1894 when a post office was established. It operated until 1905. Mr. Will Massey and later his son Will Massey II served by delivering the mail. In 1989, mail was delivered from Milford.

In its heyday, Pluto was a busy little place. There were about 200 people there. They boasted a general store and a cotton gin operated by E.B. Machen and Will Suchares. There was a blacksmith, a gristmill and a syrup mill. There was a honey-making business owned by J.F. Crow and sons, Ocie and Tommy. It was affiliated with The Burlison Honey Company. There was a school called Berry's Chapel and a Methodist church. There were two cemeteries, the Pluto Cemetery and The Whitfield Cemetery. There were no doctors that lived there, but there were three of them who served the community. They were Dr. Campbell, Dr. Killian, who also operated a hospital in Waxahachie where we went for that service, and Dr. Speer, who delivered my sister and me.

The general store was owned by Mr. and Mrs. E.B. Machen. The Machens were parents of Bernice and Estalene. Estalene married Manton Turner and Bernice married Dorothy Sweeney. Mr. Machen was a kind-hearted soul and extended credit from the store to everyone in the community. Marguriet Chalmers said, when they were kids they picked up pecans on the school grounds and traded them to Mr. Machen for candy.

When the G. R. Chalmers' house burned, Mr. Machen gave them clothes and other supplies from the store. They lost everything in the fire. Later when so many people left Pluto and the farms, he had to close the store.

I would like to list some of the people that lived in the Pluto Community at one time or another. I am sure these names will bring back memories to some of you. Besides, those mentioned before there was Will and Bobby Goodman, George Sweeney, Carl Sweeney, Sr., Doc Wardlow, Claude Fredrick, H. E. Mackey, Lee Cockerham, Buddy Cockerham, Rob Bailey, Jim Bailey, Buddy Goodman, Edwin Wilson, Ben Whitfield, Simms



Hooper, Cecil Knott, Clarence Daniel, Tom Daniel, Walter and Mary Jane Christopher. Walter was a barber and they had a daughter, Cora, who had a daughter, Anita Curlee who currently resides in Hillsboro. Some other last names I remember are Ipock, Harris, Woods and Grantham. The teachers I remember are Irene Crouch, Ruby (Cockrell) Baker and Mr. and Mrs. Brandon.

There are several families that reside in Pluto today. They are Ardrus and Hortense Cockerham, Leona Cockerham, Bruce Cockerham, the Ray Brutons and the Tom Farquhars. I haven't found anyone who knows how Pluto was named. We hope it will not be demoted like the planet Pluto was. Several months ago, there was an article about Pluto in the Fort Worth Star Telegram. It was an interesting story by Sarah Bahari.

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Wampus Cats of the Week

District All-Academic Team



The 2007 Wampus Cat Football Season is finished but two students recently received an honor that goes beyond the hard hitting on the field.

Junior Cris Pacheco (right), outside lineman, and Sophomore Defensive End Ryan Crouch (left), were honored as part of the 2007 11-AA All-Academic Team.

Cris also achieved a spot on the 1st All-District Team and Ryan was named to the 2nd all-District Team.

Itasca is proud to say that their “brawn” also has “brains.”

Special of the Week



“Jingle Bells, Jingle bells,
Jingle all the way. Oh,
what fun it is to ride in a
Lloyd Ford every day.”

“Merry Christmas Itasca”



**Lloyd Ford Invites you to the an-
nual Christmas Open House
“Fried Turkey Day”**

Friday, December 14 - 12 noon

Lloyd Ford – Proud Supporter of the Wampus Cats