Paw Print Press

Proudly Serving Itasca "The Big Little Town" since 1997
Itasca, Texas 76055 Vol. 2006 Issue #38 September 22, 2006

District Governor Addresses Itasca Rotary Club

Reporter Sarah Evans

The Itasca Rotary Club had the pleasure of hosting District #5870 Governor Jim Osborn (pictured left) and his wife, Brenda Osborn from Austin at their August 31 meeting. Joining them were Assistant Governor Bob Wilson (also local club president) and the governor elect.

This year's Rotary theme is "Lead the Way," and all Rotary Clubs are urged to continue to keep the Emphasis of Rotary - Water, Health and Hunger, Literacy, and Family in their programs.

Continued on Page 3.

3rd Grader Competes in

Student of the Year Program

Press Release

Allena Heath, third grader at Itasca Elementary, recently competed in this year's 2006 Student of the Year Program in Houston, Texas.

The Student of the Year Program is an invitation-only Scholarship and Recognition Program in which students ages 7 - 25 years of age with a high academic ranking are invited to participate. The purpose of the program is to recognize students for their achievements, grant scholarships and encourage students to pursue their educational and career goals. It was held at the Marriott at the George Bush Intercontinental Airport on July 14 -16. Students from all over the state were present to compete in hopes of winning the title.

Continued on page 3.

IISD Board of Trustees Present Information Concerning Roll Back Tax Election

The IISD School Board was united in their message to the citizens of Itasca as they explained the roll back election and the benefits it would provide the students of Itasca.

Board of Trustee President Marquita Lloyd explained that by voting for the roll back, citizens would keep their taxes at the 2005 rate, but they would generate over $400,000 in state funding this year and in future years. This is state money that Itasca cannot afford to leave on the table for other districts to claim.

Vice President Rex Jean, a graduate of IHS, reported on the excellence of the education that students receive in Itasca. He urged voters to vote YES on the roll back election in order to keep that quality since whether we want to admit it or not a child's educational experience is tied to the amount of money that is available.

Trustees Donnie Faries, Susan Bason, Nancy Bowman, Kevin Lightsey and Claude Garrett outlined some of the Board's goals for the coming years: 3 sections of every elementary grade, additional math and science classes in the high school, improved technology, continued dual credit courses and college preparations test at no cost to student's parents.

Boy Scouts Tailgate Party

Reporter Devin Corbitt

At the first home football game on September 8 the sponsor of Troop #366, the Itasca Rotary Club, held a tailgate party in appreciation of the hard work the scout troop has displayed

There are ten Boy Scouts in Troop #366: Wyatt Berry, Justin Bonds, David Corbitt, James Hanes, Dylan Hernandez, David Maddox, Daniel Odom, Tyler Odom, Carter Reid, and Oscar Soto.

Thirty-seven people attended the tailgate party, including the 10 Boy Scouts, 15 members of the boys' families, 8 Rotary members and 4 visitors.

Continued on page 3.

Community Announcements

Churches of Itasca

Bethlehem Missionary Baptist W. Spurgeon 687-2800

Central Baptist Church 401 E. Monroe 687-2343

Church of Christ 200 N. Aquilla 687-2774

First Baptist Church 107 S. Lamar 687-2783

First Presbyterian Church 106 N. Lamar 687-2243

First United Methodist Main & King St. 687-2475

Loveview Baptist Church FM 2959 East of I-35

Second Baptist Church 20 W. Marrion 687-2224

Shiloh Community Church 254-582-0487

St. John Missionary Baptist 506 S. Weaver 687-2821

3rd Day Worship Center 107 E. Adams 214 564-2185

Itasca Nursing Home Sunday - 10:00 a.m.

Everyone Welcome Monday Evening 6:00 p.m.

Come Join Us!

Come pray with us. A prayer box is available for your request. If you can't stay, we'll pray for you.

Central Baptist Church, Itasca

Prayer Service

Every Wednesday – 12:05 -1:00 p.m.

Anyone who would like to see God move in our community! Questions call 254-582-8908 (Beverly)

If my people, who are called by my name, will humble themselves and pray and seek my face and turn from their wicked ways, then will I hear from heaven and will forgive their sin and will heal their land. Now my eyes will be open and my ears attentive to the prayers offered in this place. I have chosen and consecrated this temple so that my name may be there forever. My eyes and my heart will always be there.

2 Chronicles 7:14-16

Presbyterian Church Game Night

3rd Tuesday month 6:00 p.m.

Everyone invited!

Bring a finger-food and a favorite game or just come and enjoy the food and fellowship!

So many people spend their lives running between the mercy drops falling around them.

Won't you just submit and step into the showers of blessing at the Church of Christ at 200 N. Aquilla in Itasca at 10:45 a.m. Sunday morning?

Itasca Ministerial Alliance Meeting

October 7 – 9:00 a.m.

St. John's Baptist-Church

Itasca ISD School Board Meeting

2nd Monday of Month 7:00 p.m.

IISD Superintendent's Office 123 N. College St.

All interested persons are welcomed!

Itasca City Council Meeting

3rd Monday of the Month 6:00 p.m.

Municipal Court Building 136 N. Hill St.

All interested persons are welcomed!

Itasca Vol. 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

All interested persons are welcomed!

Itasca Zoning Committee Meeting

2nd Monday of Month 5:30 p.m.

Municipal Court Building 136 N. Hill St.

All interested persons are welcomed!

Yard Sale

Rain or Shine

Central Baptist Church

401 E. Monroe

September 29

8:00 a.m. – 4:00 p.m.

Community Choir

Christmas Cantata Practice

It may still be hot outside, but it's only a little over 3 months until the Itasca Community Choir presents its annual Christmas Cantata. This year's cantata is entitled "Gather at the Manger" by Dennis and Nan Allen. The cantata is a blend of beautiful new songs and the wonderful, traditional carols, such as The First Noel, O Come All Ye Faithful, and Angels We Have Heard on High.

Betty Sumner from First Presbyterian Church will be directing the choir this year. Shirley Maddox from Central Baptist will be the pianist. Everyone is invited to come and be part of the choir. It's a great opportunity to not only sing praises to the Lord but to also enjoy Christian fellowship! Practice is Sunday afternoons at 4:00 p.m. at the Presbyterian Church. Please join us!

Roll Back Tax Election

Saturday, September 30, 2006

Itasca ISD Cafeteria

7:00 a.m. – 7:00 p.m.

Rotarian Governor, New Member

Continued from page 1

During the meeting, the club members welcomed the newest Rotarian, Brad Shotts (pictured with Wilson), who is the director at Clayton-Kay Vaughn Funeral Home in Itasca.

Another topic of discussion during the presentation was the Polio Plus program. This is an international program sponsored by Rotary to help stamp out Polio across the world. Although the numbers of cases are not as low as they would like, they have gone down. The only countries reporting cases are Nigeria with 539 cases, India with 188 cases, Pakistan with only 11 cases and Afghanistan with 19 cases. With the Rotary's continued support of this program, soon Polio will be a disease of the past.

Boy Scouts Tailgate Party

Continued from Page 1.

During the event, local Boy Scouts had an opportunity to visit and share their experiences as Boy Scouts with everyone. Everyone present was treated to a delicious meal of hot dogs, homemade chili and all the fixings.

"Boy Scout Troop 366's boys" Scoutmaster Alan Corbitt said, "deeply appreciate the support and generosity of our sponsors. Helping the Itasca Rotary Club with the tailgate party were HILCO, Citizens State Bank, and Jimmy's Corner Store."

After the party, the boys and their families stayed to watch the Cats' victory over Rice.

Heath Receives Awards

Continued from page 1.

Allena received medals for her academic achievement, contribution to a community service project, a hospitality award and a ribbon for her achievements in Girls Scouts. It was a busy weekend and a great experience to meet and make new friends. Allena is the daughter of Allen and Lisa Heath, sister of senior, Bianca and kindergartener, Mackenzie. They would all like to thank her sponsors, The Hillsboro Chiropractic Clinic and Hotline Delivery Systems, for making her trip possible.

Do You Need a Building Permit?

Press Release

Most people continue to be unaware of the City of Itasca Code of Ordinances and/or the Itasca Zoning Ordinance which requires that a person obtain a building permit for the following: any new building/structures as well as addition to existing structures, putting up a fence, putting in a car port, storage building, swimming pool, etc.

In January of 2004, the Itasca City Council adopted the Itasca Zoning Ordinance, which had changed how the City handles certain tasks. The need for specific permits, i.e. building permits, is one of those changes. Both the beauty and safety of Itasca depend on adherence to these and similar codes.

If you have questions regarding any of the City Code of Ordinance or the Zoning Ordinance contact Code Enforcement Officer, Felicia Mayberry at 687-2201 during normal business hours.

Abandoned and Junked Vehicles

The Office of Code Enforcement would like to inform the community concerning abandoned and junk vehicles.

A "Junk Vehicle" is defined as a vehicle that is self-propelled, inoperable, does not have lawfully attached to it an unexpired license plate, a valid motor vehicle inspection certificate, is wrecked, dismantled or partially dismantled or discarded, and has remained inoperable for more than 72 consecutive hours, if the vehicle is on public property or 30 consecutive days, if the vehicle is on private property.

Anyone violating these ordinances will be sent a Notice of Violation letter to remove the vehicle(s) and/or pay a fine of $150.00. If you have question regarding any of the city Code of Ordinance, they may be viewed at City Hall during normal business hours or you may call 687-2201.

Felicia Mayberry, Office of Code Enforcement

Senior Spotlight

Chris Zackman

Photographer & Reporter Sarah Evans

Caricature by Gabby Rivera

"Itasca's great," 18-year-old Christopher Zachman said about moving to Itasca and graduating from Itasca High School. "I love attending a small school" he said, "you know who is good to hang out with."

Chris has attended Itasca since spring break of his junior year. He has two older brothers, Robert 35, Jason 20, and two sisters, Judith 34, and Christine 17. He also has two cats, Sandy and Freckles.

"The main thing I will miss about IHS is everybody I've met" Chris said "especially all the teachers."

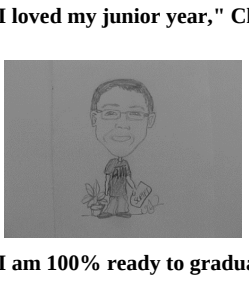
When Chris is not at school, he spends as much time as possible fishing, hunting, reading his favorite book, *Animal Farm* or watching the Dallas Cowboys with his friends.

Chris is a thinker who sees the importance of each step in life.

"My favorite age was when I turned 13," Chris said, "that told me I was out of the kid stage and that I was growing up."

His favorite class this year is Web mastering and his favorite teacher is Mrs. Crouch.

"I loved my junior year," Chris said. "I knew the next year I would be one step closer to graduating and being on my own."



"The people who have made the biggest difference in my life" said Chris "are my cottage parents, Josh and Melissa Renfro. They are helping me through situations that I will deal with when I graduate."

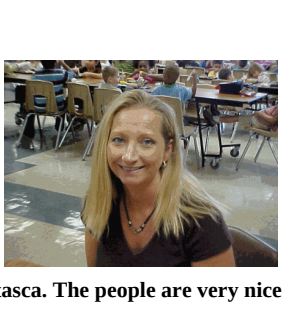
After high school, Chris plans on either joining the military or attending TSTC to become an Aviation Mechanic.

"I am 100% ready to graduate!" Chris said. "I would like to leave the underclassmen a little advice about high school and life. Get things done before they're due and always do your best."

IISD Welcomes New

Speech Pathologist

Reporter & Photographer Ashley Durham



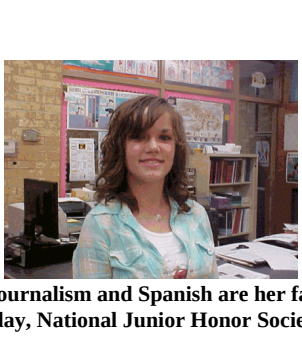
Mrs. Sharon Cooksey is one if the newest members of the Itasca ISD staff. She joins the district as its speech pathologist.

Cooksey taught in Johnson County before coming to Itasca. She did her undergraduate work at Stephen F. Austin and did her graduate work at Texas Women's University. She lives in Grandview with her husband John and their 10-month-old baby girl and 2-year-old son.

"Itasca is a closer drive from home," Cooksey said. It makes it easier to get to work and I like Itasca. The people are very nice and there are not as many students, so it is easier to work one on one."

Meet the Press – Devin Corbitt

Reporter & Photographer Eva Mayberry



Freshman, Devin Corbitt is the daughter of librarian Susan Corbitt and Alan Corbitt, and older sister of sixth grader, David.

Devin writes senior spotlights, feature and news stories for the *Paw Print Press*. She is hoping to add a little variety into her articles.

"I love to write," Devin said. "It makes the day a little more interesting," Devin said.

Journalism and Spanish are her favorite classes and Coach Wolfe is her favorite teacher. She participates in band (flute), one act play, National Junior Honor Society, and U.I.L (CX debate). She served as the Itasca National Junior Honor Society Vice President, an office she was elected to last year.

"Devin is a very hardworking student. She spits out stories like a computer," Mrs. Petrash said. "She's a real go-getter."

Class of 1996

It has been 10 years and we are planning the reunion. If you were a 1996 Itasca HS graduate or know how to contact one please call Jon or Kristen Bowman @ 214-717-8425. Or you can e-mail the information to jbowman@hillsborotx.org

Wampus Cats Earn

"King of the Jungle"

Title after Defeating Lions

Reporters Colton Yarbro & Mark Cummings

Headline by Jessica Grindele

Photographers Jessica Grindele & Ashley Durham

Itasca met Blooming Grove in the Lion's Den and dominated the kings of the jungle with a 44-7 win. The Cats were outsized but not outmatched and played with big hearts and used their secret weapon: speed.

The game began as the Wampus Cats kicked off to the Lions and the defense met them on the line of scrimmage and stopped the Lions. Itasca's offense ran the game and the defense held the Lions scoreless the first half of the game. The Cats entered the locker room at half time leading the Lions 30-0.

Midway through the third quarter the Lions scored their single touchdown. From then on Itasca controlled the game and scored twice more before the final buzzer.

Quarterback Mikey Marshall completed 9-of-16 for 157 yards passing, 2 TD's, and had 12 carries of his own for 62 yards. Kendale Mayberry had 5 catches for 88 yards, 1 TD, and a 62-yard punt return for a TD.

On the defensive side of the ball, Justin Shelton and Frank Sanchez have shown consistent leadership. Also, helping to led the defense and stop the opponents' scoring are Josh Huff, De'veon Mayberry, Adam Handy, and Clayton Wienecke.

2006 Varsity Football Schedule

Wampus Cats – 30 Tolar Rattlers - 29

Wampus Cats – 22 Rice Bulldogs – 14

Wampus Cats – 44 Blooming Groove Lions- 7

Won – 3 Lost – 0

Date Opponent Site Time

Sept. 22 Wortham Away 7:30 p.m.

Sept. 29 Scurry Rosser Away 7:30 p.m.

Oct. 6 Open

Oct. 13 *Maypearl Home 7:30 p.m.

Oct. 20 *Grandview Away 7:30 p.m.

Oct. 27 *Hico Home 7:30 p.m.

Nov. 3 *Rio Vista Away 7:30 p.m.

Nov. 10 *Dublin (Homecoming) 7:30 p.m.

*District Games

Junior Varsity &Junior High

JV 7th 8th

Won 2 Lost 0 Won 1 Lost 1 Won 1 Lost 1

Date Opponent Site 7th - 8th JV Time

Sept. 21 Wortham Home 5 / 6 & 7:30 p.m.

Sept. 28 Scurry Rosser Home 5 / 6 & 7:30 p.m.

Oct. 6 Open

Oct. 12 *Maypearl Away 5 / 6 & 7:30 p.m.

Oct. 19 *Grandview Home 5 / 6 & 7:30 p.m.

Oct. 26 *Hico Away 5 / 6 & 7:30 p.m.

Nov. 2 *Rio Vista Home 5 / 6 & 7:30 p.m.

Nov. 9 *Dublin Away 5 / 6 & 7:30 p.m.

Head Coach: Greg Cranfill

Coaches: Basham, Dakan, Mayberry, Fletcher & Horn

Superintendent: Dr. E. Ray Freeman

Principal: Glenn Pittman

(254) 687-2922 ext. 160 fax: (254) 687-2637

High School Cross Country 2006

9-23 – Hubbard Hubbard City Park 8:00

9-27 - Glen Rose Dinosaur Valley Park 4:00

10-4 – Maypearl Lakeview Camp 2:30

10-18 - District Byron Stewart Park 4:00 Cleburne

Junior High Cross Country 2006

9-23 - Hubbard Hubbard City Park 8:00

9-27 - Glen Rose Dinosaur Valley Park 4:00

10-4 – Maypearl Lakeview Camp 4:30

10-18 - District Byron Stewart Park 4:00 Cleburne

Head Coach: Tonye Davis

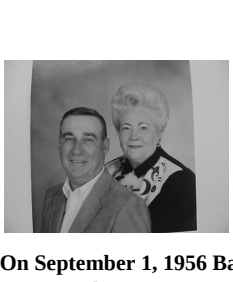
Assistants: Gerri Lawyer & Stacey Mayberry

Superintendent: Dr. E. Ray Freeman

Principal: Glenn Pittman

(254) 687-2922 ext. 162 fax: (254) 687-2637

Wilsons Celebrate 50 Years



Golden Anniversary - Harvey and Barbara Wilson were honored with their 50th wedding anniversary celebration at El Conquistador Restaurant in Hillsboro Friday, September 1.

In attendance were their son Richard Wilson and wife Melissa and grandchildren Alecia Evans and Bryant and Jacey Wilson of Grandview; daughter Monica Wilson of Fort Worth; Maurine Finch Powell and Talmadge and Judy Finch of Milford; and Keith and Claudette Hines of Waxahachie.

On September 1, 1956 Barbara Finch and Harvey Wilson were married in First Presbyterian Church, Milford, Texas. They are enjoying their retirement at their home in Itasca.

Box Tops Fundraiser

Reporter Viddy Reyes

The Elementary School is collecting Box Tops for Education. There is a drop off box at Citizens State Bank or you may send them to any elementary teacher or to the *Paw Print Press*.

General Mills provides the program to help schools raise money for extras they might need. Each box top that is turned in earns ten cents for the school

Box Tops coupons are available on hundreds of General Mills products. Last year Itasca Elementary earned $511, but other schools in the area that also participated in the program earned more. Venus earned $984, Whitney $982, Hillsboro $755 and Rio Vista $609.

The Elementary urges all of the community to get behind this program and save your Box Tops for Education.

"Friends of Hill County Paw Pals" Host Town Hall Meeting to Meet Candidates September 28 in Itasca

Press Release

On September 6, Hill County residents met at Antique Village located at 116 S. Covington St. in Hillsboro to organize as "Friends of Hill County Paw Pals:" Attending were Rene' Dendy, Charlotte Immicke, and Vickie Swain from Whitney, Susan Crawford from Itasca; Lana Crow, Dale and Cleo Davis, Loraine Easterling, Dana Fuchs, Mike and Betty Hendricks, Mary Ann Johnson, Marilyn Kerr, Jean Landis, Pat Lovelace, Johnnie and Mona Orvig, Sylvia Pate, and Lea Slocum, from Hillsboro.

Pat Lovelace volunteered to chair the committee whose primary aim is to increase the support base for Paw Pals' goals. Flyers describing the need for a county-level animal shelter have been distributed asking area citizens to sign up on the supporter list. In just one day at the recent Cotton Pickin' Fair in downtown Hillsboro, over 200 signatures were collected of voters concerned about the pet overpopulation crisis facing our county.

Friends of Paw Pals would like to bring awareness to all elected officials and citizens concerning the severe pet overpopulation crisis in our county. These concerns have prompted the group to seek an opportune time for the citizens of the county to meet the candidates and present their concerns and plausible solutions, as well as offer an opportunity for the candidates to voice their opinions and ideas.

A town hall meeting is scheduled in which County Judge Davis (D) and County Judge Candidate, Justin Lewis (R), Precinct #2 Commissioner James Buzzbee (D) and Candidate Steven Sulak (R), Precinct #4 Commissioner Candidates, Joe Daniels (D) and Lee Harkins (R) have been invited to attend. The meeting is scheduled from 6:30-8:00pm on Thursday, September 28 at the Itasca Rotary Club Room located at 105 W. Main St. in Itasca.

The public is encouraged to attend the town hall meeting to show your support for a much needed county-level animal shelter and to have a chance to meet November's candidates in person.

The next meeting of the "Friends of Hill County Paw Pals" group will take place on Tuesday, September 26 at Antique Village. Information about Paw Pals can be viewed on their website: www.hcpawpals.org or by calling 580-0679 or emailing hcpawpals@yahoo.com.

Thank You Note

A special Thank You to Rochelle Hardin of the Citizens State Bank of Itasca for making the Senior Center Open House a success.

From the staff and friends of the Itasca Senior Center.

Itasca Garden Club Opens New Season

Press Release

The Itasca Garden Club's first meeting for the new season started with a joint meeting at the Senior Center. Master Gardener, Gary Wiley presented the program "Earth Kind Roses." His informative program discussed the importance of soil preparation for all gardens and the benefits of using earth kind roses. He explained that no pesticides, oils or fertilizer ever needed to be used on this brand of roses. They also did not require dead heading.

Dan Weaver concluded the program with ideas and examples of "Companion Plantings." Dan provided suggestions of plants that would compliment your roses in your landscaping.

The Garden Club adjourned to the Farrow Room for their annual salad luncheon and meeting.

Officers for the 2006-2007 season are President - Martha Strona, 1st. Vice President - Maria Wood, 2nd Vice President - Cathye Miller, 3rd Vice President/Treasurer - Charlene Wiginton, Secretary/Reporter - Pat Cundiff and Historian/Librarian - Pat Gibbons.

Two new members, Shirley Onnen and Karen Buckner were welcomed into the club.

The October 12, meeting will be held at the Itasca High School. Speaker Pam Willman will present a program titled "Junior Gardeners."

Early Voting in

Roll Back Tax Election

Early voting in the state mandated roll back tax election began on Wednesday, September 13, 2006 and will continue through Tuesday, September 26, 2006.

It is conducted each weekday at the Itasca ISD Administration Office, 123 N College, Itasca, TX between the hours of 8:00 a.m. and 1:00 p.m.

If you miss all of the early voting times the regular polling place and time will be 7 a.m. to 7 p.m. on Saturday, September 30, 2006 at the Itasca ISD Cafeteria

Itasca Senior Center

offers lunch Monday-Thursday

Call Tom @ 687-2310 between

10:00 a.m. – 1:00 p.m.

Edwards Leads Successful Fight for DOD Drug Discounts

Press Release

U.S. Rep. Chet Edwards successfully offered a motion to instruct conferees on the FY 2007 DOD Authorization bill to lower pharmacy drug costs for military retirees by $251 million in 2007. It passed by a vote of 374-30 with 192 Democrats and 181 Republicans voting in favor and 30 Republicans opposed. This provision, adopted under the Senate version of the FY07 DOD Authorization bill, is designed to require pharmaceutical companies to extend DOD drug discounts to the TRICARE retail pharmacy program. Currently, pharmaceutical companies are refusing to grant discounts for the TRICARE retail pharmacy program like they do for drugs dispensed through the mail order program.

"It makes no sense that that the Department of Defense (DOD) is prevented from using its buying power to negotiate lower drug prices for America's military retirees just like the VA does for America's veterans. I am pleased that this provision passed overwhelmingly on a bipartisan vote today despite the opposition of pharmaceutical companies. Reducing the cost of prescription drugs for military retirees should not be a partisan issue. Specifically, this motion instructed House conferees on the Defense bill to accept Senate language that would reduce the cost of prescription drugs for military retirees, including Iraqi war veterans, by hundreds of millions of dollars.

The Veterans Administration saves hundreds of millions of dollars every year by requiring drug companies to offer veterans drug discounts, and applying this common sense principle to military retirees will result in huge savings to taxpayers of $251 million in fiscal year 2007, and help up to 1.9 million military retirees by making it unnecessary to pass the unfair House provision that would force a 100% increase in generic drug co-pays at local pharmacies for military retirees and a 77% increase in name brand drug co-pays. If Congress can save $251 million for DOD and taxpayers every year by lowering drug prices at retail pharmacies for military retirees, increased co-pays are unnecessary."

Edwards is ranking member of the Military Quality of Life and Veterans Affairs Appropriations Subcommittee

Two country homes for rent

Convenient to I-35 - 3 miles east of Itasca

Home #1

1600 sq ft all new interior

$675 per month + utilities - $700 deposit

Home #2

2 story large home

$795 per month + utilities $800 deposit

More information please call 806-789-9891

Recent Deaths

Johnson, Bobbie Sue - Bobbie Sue (Sue) Johnson of Itasca, beloved wife, mother, grandmother and great-grandmother, passed away peacefully August 12, 2006, at Itasca Nursing Home.

She was born Bobbie Sue Carter February 25, 1917, in Grandview, daughter of Maude Lockett and Robert Lee Carter. She married Arthur Colon Johnson Jr. in 1940 in Fort Worth. She worked as a seamstress and child-care worker and was an active member of Central Baptist Church of Itasca, where she was a member of the Homemakers class during World War II, then the Winsome class and finally the New Life class. For many years, she assisted with the fifth and sixth grade Sunday school class by teaching and playing the piano. She also volunteered her time at Itasca Nursing Home, where she played the piano for residents.

She was preceded in death by her husband of 64 years, Arthur Colon (A.C. or Colon) Johnson; all her brothers and sisters; and one son, John Carlton (Johnny) Johnson.

Survivors include: one son, Spencer Johnson and daughter-in-law, Braiden Rex-Johnson, of Seattle, Washington; one brother-in-law and sister-in-law, Eugene and Mary Ruth Arthur of Itasca; one nephew, John Paul Carter and wife, Carole, of Weatherford; several grandchildren, Cole Johnson and wife, Celeste, of Austin, Lee Ann Johnson and husband, Phil McKinzey, and Hill Johnson and wife, Amanda, all of Dallas and Grant and Eric Johnson of El Paso; four great-grandchildren, Ian and Gray McKinzey and Cash and Lily Johnson, all of Dallas; and numerous nieces and nephews.

A private memorial graveside service was held by the family August 19, 2006. Memorials may be made to a charity of one's choice. Condolence message may be sent to Spencer Johnson, 98 Union Street, Suite 1009, Seattle, WA 98101.

Bruton, Willie Dee - Willie Dee Bruton, 91, passed away September 6, 2006 in a local nursing home. Willie was born September 16, 1914 in Hill County, Texas to William Harvey Waller and Haddie Akins Waller. She married J.W. Bruton and they shared 62 wonderful years of marriage. Willie was caring, loving wife, mother, and grandmother who always thought of others first. She was President of the PTA in Dallas and volunteered her time with the March of Dimes and the Boy Scouts, along with various other organizations.

She was preceded in death by her husband and brothers, G. B. Waller, Roscoe Waller and Dennis "Pug" Waller. Survivors: Sons, Ronnal E. Bruton and wife, Phyllis of Morgan Mill and Randall O. Bruton and wife, Erma of Brandon; grandchildren, Carrie Oehler and husband, Mack, Jodie Bruton, Justin Bruton, Sherry Bruton; great grandson, Cody Bruton; and sister-in-law, Ruby Watson, Cora Bruton, Pat Waller, Delores Waller, Edith Dandridge, and Billie Bruton and numerous nieces and nephews.

September 25-29 IISD Menus

Lunch

9-25 – Pizza or Ravioli, Green Beans, Pineapple, Breadstick, Milk

9-26 – Chicken Rings or Steak Sandwich, Mashed Potatoes, Peas, Grapes, Milk

9-27 – Corn Dog or BBQ Sandwich, Spicy Taters, Ranch Beans, Peaches, Milk

9-28 – Burrito or Chicken Strips, Spanish Rice, Green Beans, Fruited Jello, Milk

9-29 – Cheeseburgers or BBQ Sandwich, Tator Tots, Let/Tom/Pic/On, Spice Cake, Milk

Breakfast

9-25 – Bagel, Cereal, Juice, Fruit. Milk

9-26 – Pumpkin Bread, Cereal, Juice, Fruit, Milk

9-27 – French Toast, Cereal, Juice, Fruit, Milk

9-28 – Sausage Biscuit, Cereal, Juice, Fruit, Milk

9-29 – Pop Tarts, Toast, Juice, Fruit, Milk

Passing of Tax Roll Back Will Not Affect Senior Taxpayer

Everyone whose taxes have been frozen (those over 65) will not be affected by the tax roll back election and the vote on September 30. No matter what the outcome of the election, their taxes will stay at the 2005 rate.

The tax rate that the roll back election will give Itasca taxpayers whose taxes are not frozen is the rate that was set in 1997. The rate will increase IISD's state funding by over $400,000 this year and for future years.

Covington United Methodist Church

Lord's Acre - Saturday, September 30

Country Store & Bake Sale – 8 a.m. – 1 p.m.

Barbeque Luncheon – 11a.m -12:30 p.m.

Auction – 1:00 p.m.

Quilts, tools, toys, lamps etc.

Do You Remember . . . ? - Harvest Moon

Columnist Carl Sweeney

It is said that the earth and human activities awaken in the spring. To me the greatest awakening is in the fall when the weather turns cooler, and the fall activities start. It is rejuvenation after the long, hot, lethargic summer. We start looking forward to the many activities of fall and early winter. At the beginning of fall, we at the farm wound up our last crops, did the last bit of canning, picking berries and storing produce in the cellar for the winter. We also did syrup making and on rainy days shucking corn for livestock, and chicken feed. Then, there was wood to be cut for the fireplace for winter. We did not consider Labor Day a reprieve from labor, just another day to prepare for the winter. This was also to time to plant fall gardens, such as turnips, collard greens, radishes, wheat, and oats.

In earlier days, school did not start until the middle of September or later. This was so the kids could help harvest the last of the crops. We started in September and finished school the last week in May. This was when school had only eleven grades. We had no kindergarten, no other government test, only final exams. We still graduated and entered college and we did it without mandated tests. What happened?

Along about the third week in September, the fall season starts in earnest. The days and nights have cooled, the fall equinox is upon us, and we are entering the last quarter of the year. Then what could be called a phenomenon occurs, it is called the "Harvest Moon." To some of us it haunts our thoughts in anticipation of its coming. On the nights when The "Harvest Moon" is to occur, Marguerite and I like to sit in the backyard swing to await its appearance. Just after sundown and twilight is falling upon us a magnificent moon starts peeping over the eastern horizon. It seems to be close enough to touch. To some of us it sends delicious chills through our veins. If one really thinks about it, this is a truly magical moment. To us sitting in the swing it is a romantically sentimental moment, also. Such as "Lost in Fantasy or Reverie," or "Moonstruck."

When I was young I often walked through the woods when the moon was brightest. Everything seemed to take on a magical quality and a soft glow. The color of the grasses and trees seemed to blend. The house doesn't seem to need that paint jobs so bad in the soft light. Also, at this time, the harsh reality of the large cities of the world is gently massaged away.

If the harvest moon seems to be brighter, it is. At this time it is some thirty thousand miles closer to earth. It is now that our fall activities begin in earnest. School is in session, football season has started, PTA meetings begin, band boosters are active and Thanksgiving is upon us, which as we know, is one of our greatest family times. Some people and especially the stores have begun to prepare for Christmas.

Then when the first cold norther comes in November, we start thinking and preparing for hog killing and those good old sugar cured hams and bacon. This also is the time for deer hunting and harvesting pecans. Now comes Christmas, which to some is the most important and enjoyable time of the year. Then we celebrate the New Year, and everything starts all over again.

The following Poem seemed to fit today's column. I hope you like it too.

Autumn chill is in the air,

Golden leaves are everywhere.

Apple trees with bright red fruit,

Scarecrow has a brand-new suit.

Fields of Pumpkins, orange and green.

Children everywhere thinking Halloween.

Haystacks standing straight and tall

Waiting for the harvest ball.

Picking berries, making jam

Making pies, baking ham.

Busy days full of cheer

Oh, how I love this time of year.

By Patricia Wyatt, Ventura, CA

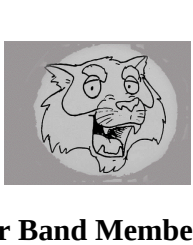
Lucky Reunited with Family

We printed an article last week about a pet who had been accidentally left behind in Hillsboro when he had jumped from his owner's truck.

City of Hillsboro Animal Control Officer James DeLuca picked up the pit bull from an area near the truck stop and he knew from his demeanor and disposition that it was probably someone's pet. He saw the Paw Pals article and realized it was the lost pet.

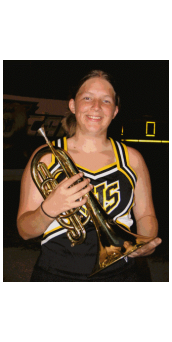
On September 11, Lucky's relieved and overjoyed owners came back to Hillsboro to pick him up. Officer DeLuca is to be commended for his humane professionalism and intuition that told him Lucky was in fact someone's pet causing him to spend that little bit of extra time on Lucky to produce a happy reunion for the dog and its owners.

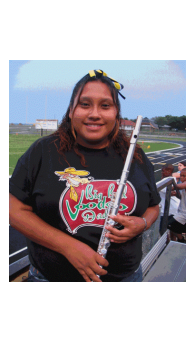
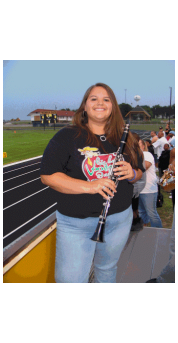
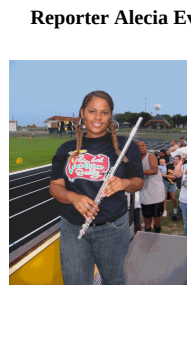
Wampus Cats of the Week



2006 Senior Band Members – Part II

Reporter Alecia Evans



In continuation from last week's Wampus Cat Spotlight, this week we will spotlight five more senior band members.

All of these seniors are seven-year band veterans. Chelsea Minyard plays the French horn. Many fans will recognize her as our much-loved mascot, Scratches, Taylor Rickman, Gabby Zuniga, and Mercedes Snyder all play the flute and their leadership skills are greatly appreciated by the band directors. Rita Garza, another woodwind player, is the band's only senior clarinet player and she does a great job leading her section.

Special of the Week

2003 Montero ES 4X4

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Wampus Cat Sports

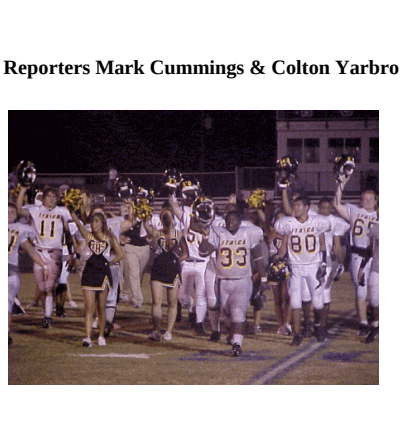
Itasca Wampus Cats – 30 Tolar Rattlers - 29

Itasca Wampus Cats – 22 Rice Bulldogs – 14

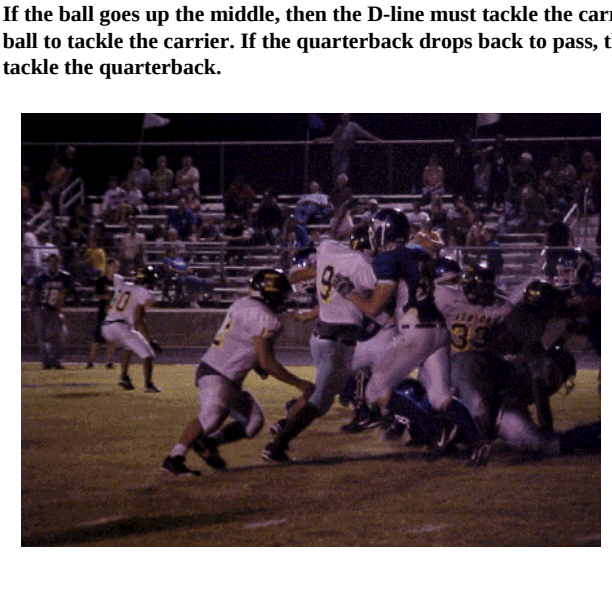
Itasca Wampus Cats – 44 Blooming Grove Lions – 7

Defensive Line

Reporters Mark Cummings & Colton Yarbro



The defensive line must stop the middle run. As uncomplicated as that sounds, it is not a simple task. The D-line must blow by the offensive linemen blocking for their quarterback with a quick, open handed, punch-like motion and look for movement of the ball. If the ball goes up the middle, then the D-line must tackle the carrier. If the ball is run to either side, then they must move with the ball to tackle the carrier. If the quarterback drops back to pass, then the D-line must fight through the opposing offensive line and tackle the quarterback.



The Cats starting D-line is De'veon Mayberry, Lamar Crawford, Josh Huff, and Clayton Wienecke. Backup defensive linemen are Adam Handy, James Rosas, Kyle Baker, Cris Pacheco, Josh Burns, Jacob Pelham, Chauncey Cox and Chad Rutherford.

They are all doing a great job this year of getting to the opposing quarterbacks and in locating the ball during the run.

Hill County Paw Pals

Recycling Cans to Save Lives

Press Release

First Tuesday of each month

Low Cost Sterilization/Vaccination Clinic Court House Annex - 8:00 a.m. – 5:00 p.m.

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Angel Food Ministry

September Information

Distribution Date – Saturday, September 23 from 10:00 a.m. – 11:00 a.m. only. Pick up at the church. You can order and pay for the next month at that time if you would like to. Please return boxes.

**Orders are non-refundable. Orders not picked up will be donated. **

Two Minutes

by Rix Quinn

Did a teacher ever make you rewrite a paper? One of mine did this all the time…and it made me crazy.

I'd scribble my essay quickly, and carry it up to his desk. He'd take the paper, then scan it quickly with experienced eyes. After a moment he'd look up at me, hand back my paper, then say gently, "Rix, I think you can do better."

I'd trudge back to my desk, and read my words again. Sadly, that teacher was right. I'd see several weak spots in the text, and turn it into a better essay.

That teacher's words stayed with me. And today – over 25 years later – whenever I write something, I still try to do a little better.

*****Rix Quinn wrote a book on short writing – "Words That Stick" – available on Amazon.com. He welcomes your questions to rixquinn@charter.net.**

Rotarian Memorial Established

Press Release

The Itasca Rotary Club has set up a memorial in honor of Ralph Bailey, Chester Baker and Harold Fehnel. The funds will be used to purchase new tables for the Rotary Room.

If you would like to give, please make your check out to Itasca Rotary Club with a memo about the memorial

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Last Chance to Vote for

"Don't Mess with Texas"

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