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BEST IN SHOW was awarded to Phil Schmuck of New Waverly for his lime green Mustang



The PEOPLE'S CHOICE trophy went to Gary and Paulette Nunley's '66 cherry red Chevy pickup.
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Congratulations to the 2009 BHS Homecoming Queen, Victoria Chapa, (center) pictured with her court (L-R) Desiree Worthy, Meredith Shaw, Kaila Grissett and Blaize Harriman.
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Centerville School Tax Collector provides good report

By Sherry Matney

The Centerville Independent School District held a meeting on September 16, 2008 in the CHS Library. Board members were all present with the exception of Kathy Gresham.

Assistant Superintendent Carole Dickey discussed the Financial Integrity Rating System of Texas (FIRST). Senate Bill 218 of the 77th Legislature authorized the implementation of a financial accountability rating system, which is officially referred to as School FIRST. The school district's School FIRST rat-

ing is based upon an analysis of staff and student data reported for the 2007-2008 school year, and budgetary and actual financial data for the 2008 fiscal year ending August 31, 2008. The data for the report is derived from the Annual Financial Audit filed by the school district, the Public Education Information Management System (PEIMS), the academic rating of the district, and supplementary information provided by the district. The system has 24 indicators with a possible 85 points. Dickey explained each indicator and the rating

received. Centerville ISD received 84 points out of the 85 points, giving the district a "Superior Achievement" rating.

Cathie Largent, Tax Assessor and Collector, reported on the 2008-2009 collections. A total of 92.6% (\$2,635,695) of current taxes have been collected. An additional 2.8% of prior year taxes have been collected for a total of \$79,647. Total collections, with penalties and interest, were \$2,781,418.

August minutes and August/September bills were approved.

O.I.S.D. celebrates Grandparent's Day

By Melissa Missildine

O.I.S.D. Superintendent Richard Scoggin held a special breakfast last Monday to honor Grandparents' Day. He had donuts and pig-in-a-blankets brought in and served them with orange juice. Scoggin said he was impressed by the turn out. They had about twice as many guests as predicted.

Monday was also the beginning of Homecoming week. The students at Oakwood were allowed to dress in different costumes

throughout the week to show their spirit. Monday was Pajama/Crazy Hair Day. Tuesday was Nerd Day. Friday was Picture Perfect Day (school pictures were taken).

Wednesday was Mismatch/Backwards Day. Thursday was Nerd Day. Friday was Spirit Day (show your pride with school colors).



Pre-K student Thomes Edwards wears her p.j.s to school on Pajama Day during Homecoming Week.
Photo by Melissa Missildine

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BISD earns highest state financial rating

by Vanessa Goodwyn

Jeannine Myers had the floor during the public hearing which preceded the regular September meeting of the BISD School Board. As the district's business manager, Myers reviewed the school's FIRST (Financial Integrity Rating System of Texas) results. She explained each of 24 test indicators upon which the district is rated, and proudly reported that BISD was able to meet all the criteria and was awarded a Superior Achievement for 2007-2008. On behalf of the Board, Superintendent Jackie Thomason responded, "I appreciate all the work Mrs. Myers and all the ladies (in the administration office) do to make sure we meet all these standards." He added that the district has had a good report for several years now.

Superintendent Thomason presented the regular monthly reports. The most significant item on the Facilities Report was the addition of new speakers at the football stadium, and the Enrollment Report showed that every campus is up from last

year, with the district total currently at 897.

Buffalo Elementary Principal Johnny Veretto gave the State of the Campus report for BES, noting that they are "off to a very smooth start." Upcoming events include Literacy Night/Open House on October 6, and the Book Fair October 5-9. A fire safety program will be presented to the children on October 9 and drug awareness will be the focus of Red Ribbon Week on October 26-30. The elementary principal pointed out that the campus is "maxed out" on space, and described several adjustments that have been necessitated by overcrowded conditions. Small groups of students are meeting in rooms previously used as teacher's lounges and even supply closets. Veretto concluded that the elementary staff is eagerly anticipating more room when the district's new construction is completed and they can move some grades to the next campus.

Tracy Gleghorn presented a report on the BISD Performance Based Monitoring Analysis System. She

also announced that the district will receive a share of a \$987,000 T-3 Grant through Region 6. The school will use the funds to update technology and specifically to reach the Target Tech level on Texas StarChart.

Consultant Jim Hanks gave another slideshow presentation on the progress of the high school facility. Boone & Boone general contractor Ron Boone and ACI Architect Paul McCullough had also been invited to the meeting to answer the Board's current questions, and much of the meeting was filled with a discussion of the work on the building. The board members expressed their frustration that the completion date keeps getting bumped back and pressed for the most expedient completion -- with everything done right. Boone assured them, "It WILL be completed right," but could not promise to speed up the completion, citing changes in delivery dates on materials, change orders and weather-related delays.

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