Smell the aroma of a home-cooked meal shared at the family dinner table. Feel the heat while running barefoot on summer sidewalks. Remember the joy of bumping into friends while walking down Main Street on your way to get an old-fashioned fountain soda or ice cream cone. Sense the excitement of the weekly high school football showdown in 100-degree heat one week and below freezing weather a few games later.

Welcome to Hillsboro, Texas, USA.

With the recent homecoming game and several former students returning home for the festivities, Hillsboro residents are reminded of the many people who have been a part of the city’s rich and proud heritage. Founded in 1853, the city was best known for its cotton production from 1880 until the 1940’s. With an agriculturally driven economy, schools were developed and challenged with meeting the unique needs of rural families.

The first school was established in Hillsboro in 1853 and was run by the county, and it wasn’t until 32 years later in 1885 that the city took over control of the school system after selling bonds to construct two new sites. Since that time the district has grown from serving 160 students to its current enrollment of over 1850 students.

For more than 150 years, Hillsboro Independent School District has educated a variety of students, many who have continued on to contribute greatly to the communities in which they live and work. A great spirit of pride and community commitment follows HISD graduates wherever they go. Whether well-known by the state or country at large, or greatly admired in their local areas of influence, HISD is proud of the role its graduates are taking to make the world a better place.

One such person is HISD’s oldest living alumni, John L. Byars Aldridge, who resides in Hillsboro. Known as “John L.” to her friends and family, the 100-year-old former student graduated from Hillsboro High School in 1925 and went on to attend Hillsboro Junior College where she earned a teaching certificate. She taught school for a few years and married her husband, Homer Aldridge, in 1928. She left teaching to raise their daughter, LuJeanne (born in 1929), but eventually went back to work, taking on positions at a variety of businesses including Martin-McDonald (a dry goods and clothing store), secretary to Judge Lewis, and 37 years as a bank teller at Citizens Bank. Aldridge lost her husband in a tragic accident in 1950 while he was on a job site working for the state highway department. He was 42.

John L. Byars Aldridge has been a dynamic member of the

Continued on page 2

Former Hillsboro Football Player Gives Much, Receives More

He remembers his Hillsboro school days fondly, including his time as a linebacker for the Hillsboro Eagle football team and playing other sports like track and baseball. Today, Aaron McGregor is still warmhearted about his home town and is busy running around a different type of field as a real estate business owner in the city. He’s grateful for the academic preparation he received from his days at HISD and the character traits he gained from his high school football training, both of which have contributed greatly to his current success.

After graduating in 1998, McGregor attended Stephen F. Austin where he played rugby and earned a Bachelor’s of Business Administration. He then moved to Baton Rouge, Louisiana, and

Continued on page 2

McGregor, HISD Alumni, Class of 1998

Aaron McGregor, HISD Alumni, Class of 1998

Aaron McGregor, HISD Alumni, Class of 1998

Aaron McGregor, HISD Alumni, Class of 1998

Coming Home: Spirit of Hillsboro Promotes Progress, Brings Some Back Home to Stay

Vintage HHS football jerseys proudly displayed at A Tisket, A Tasket

HISD’s oldest living alumni, John L. Byars Aldridge, pictured with her daughter, LuJeanne (Class of 1946), and son-in-law, John Carmichael (Class of 1943), also HISD alumni
Best Begins Outside According to District Grounds Manager

CONTINUED FROM FRONT

Hillsboro community for many years and is a熟手 in his field. He is a member of the American Society of Landscape Architects and has been an active member in the community for over 20 years. He is currently serving as the Hillsboro Independent School District’s Grounds Manager.

In keeping with HSD’s goal of offering the best education possible, on-time jobs are essential. The grounds manager is responsible for maintaining the landscape of the campus, ensuring that the school property is clean and well-kept. He also assists in the planning and implementation of new landscaping projects to enhance the aesthetic appeal of the campus.

McGregor currently has 10 years of experience as a grounds manager. He has worked in various positions within the landscaping industry, including maintenance and design. He has a passion for his work and enjoys the challenge of creating beautiful landscapes for the Hillsboro community.

In his free time, McGregor enjoys spending time with his family and playing golf. He is also a member of several community organizations and is active in local events.

McGregor is a graduate of Texas Tech University and holds a degree in Landscape Architecture. He is a member of the Texas Landscape Association and the American Society of Landscape Architects.

He is a native of Texas and has lived in the area for most of his life. He is deeply committed to the Hillsboro community and is proud to be a part of it.

McGregor’s dedication to his work and his commitment to the community have made him a valuable member of the Hillsboro Independent School District.

CONTINUED FROM FRONT

In his free time, McGregor enjoys spending time with his family and playing golf. He is also a member of several community organizations and is active in local events.

McGregor is a graduate of Texas Tech University and holds a degree in Landscape Architecture. He is a member of the Texas Landscape Association and the American Society of Landscape Architects.

He is a native of Texas and has lived in the area for most of his life. He is deeply committed to the Hillsboro community and is proud to be a part of it.

McGregor’s dedication to his work and his commitment to the community have made him a valuable member of the Hillsboro Independent School District.
Community Businesses ‘Talk Snap’ About Eagle Pride

An innocent school contest has turned into some pretty serious smack talk.

Hill Country Title created a competitive and fun-smack talking display that included life-sized stand ups of Kobe Bryant and Tony Romo. When local attorney and avid Eagle supporter, Robert Watts decided he jumped on board to ensure his firm would rise to the top and win the prize. As news spread of Watts’ boasting about his business’s assured victory, other local businesses were enticed by a first prize of five free tickets to the homecoming game and the chance to show their school spirit. Hill Country Title, Auvenshine & Pratt Law Firm, and Julie Siddons Realtors/Hill County Insurance Agency were challenged to show their football spirit.

The tasty dish is a pale reddish-orange; it will satisfy your hunger, but it won’t taste good.

Joe Paterno

“Success without honor is an unsalted dish; it will satisfy your hunger, but it won’t taste good.”

Sherrine Thomas wants to instill one simple message in Hillsboro High School students: it is giving that we receive.

Thomas started her employment with HISD in 1992 with working in ESL and TAKS remedial studies. During her early years she also served as the high school student council sponsor and encouraged the group to volunteer but realized they needed a more organized way to discover and meet the needs of the community. In 1996 she began the Learn & Serve Community Service Program at Hillsboro High School to teach students a spirit of volunteerism that could change the way they look at life and help them succeed in school and beyond.

“When we first introduced the Learn & Serve Program,” said Sherrine Thomas, “what struck me was the breadth of the students’ involvement. As they started to do service, they realized how much they could contribute. It was rewarding to see their growth and development. We are proud to have been a part of that.”

Hill Country Title

The trash talk culminated on Friday morning before the game when the winners were announced on the weekly coach’s radio show on KHRB. All contest participants received an invitation to the Homecoming Football Game.

With this new opportunity to give back, Hill Country Title’s effort was refuted with an “official” document calling Hill Country Title on their rights to use the materials. The playful badgering went back and forth between the two businesses for several days.

Sherrine Thomas, a retired principal from Hillsboro and a native of Ennis, Texas, was drawn to the HISD Parent & Community Liaison position when a friend at her church mentioned the program. Upon leaving her previous position as the coordinator for the Hand in Hand Program at Ennis ISD, Sherrine Thomas felt “the need to give back to the community.” She,” she said, “came to the conclusion that there was truly a need for this type of program.”

Institutional Research; Vicki Ellison, VP of Instruction.

Vicki Ellison & the Pre-Kindergarten class at Franklin Elementary School

When Alexia Fleming began her teaching career in 1999 at Hillsboro Elementary School, she brought an attitude of compassion and commitment to every student that entered her classroom. Ten years later, she maintains the same positive approach as she observes her first students graduate and continue on to become successful in their post school days.

“All children are a gift from God,” said Fleming, an ESL certified reading teacher who teaches fifth grade reading and language arts at Hillbrook Intermediate. “I believe every child can learn and be successful if they have someone who believes in them.”

She has been married to her husband, Eric, for seven years. He is the general manager of Fleming Lumber, a local family-owned business started by his great grandfather. The couple has two sons: Kobe and Kade — who play select league baseball and also enjoy soccer and basketball.

Fleming has enjoyed many memorable moments in her years at HISD. As a former guidance counselor she recalls a few years teaching when she would race the boys at soccer and basketball.

When Fleming Lumber, a local family-owned business started by his great grandfather. The couple has two sons: Kobe and Kade — who play select league baseball and also enjoy soccer and basketball.

Sherrine Thomas wants to instill one simple message in Hillsboro High School students: it is giving that we receive.

Thomas started her employment with HISD in 1992 with working in ESL and TAKS remedial studies. During her early years she also served as the high school student council sponsor and encouraged the group to volunteer but realized they needed a more organized way to discover and meet the needs of the community. In 1996 she began the Learn & Serve Community Service Program at Hillsboro High School to teach students a spirit of volunteerism that could change the way they look at life and help them succeed in school and beyond.

“Our students receive so many great things through their participation in the district,” said Thomas. “They develop a sense of responsibility and community. In 1996 she began the Learn & Serve Community Service Program at Hillsboro High School to teach students a spirit of volunteerism that could change the way they look at life and help them succeed in school and beyond.”

“I’ve been born and raised in Granada Pruece, Texas. Ellison attended East Texas State University in Commerce, Texas. Her 33-year teaching career has taken her to Spring, Richmond and Taylor, Texas, and living in the Houston area in HISD for the past 23 years. She and her husband, Hugh, a former assistant principal for Hillsboro and now with Covington ISD, have been married for 34 years. They are the proud parents of three daughters - Kati, who lives in Las Vegas, Emily, who lives in Hillsboro, and Betsy, who is currently attending Texas A&M in College Station. Ellison enjoys her newfound grandson to Vicki Ellison for her many years of exemplary service to the young children of Hillsboro.

Hillsboro ISD Vision:

The School of Choice
Board Member Mancha’s Mantra: Finish School, Finish Strong

Not a day goes by that Lupe Mancha, HISD board member, doesn’t stop to encourage a kid to stay in school and make good grades. That’s because he also sees every day the extreme challenges faced by those who don’t.

“Young people who don’t finish school don’t have much of a chance these days,” said Mancha. “Without at least a high school diploma, a person can barely make enough to survive and often has to work several jobs their entire life. There’s no getting ahead for them – just getting by.”

Since serving as a school district board of trustees member beginning in 2000, Mancha has become a tireless advocate for Hill County’s diverse student population. Prior to joining the school board, he was active on the city’s planning and zoning board but was attracted to school board service as he learned of the dire need to move the district forward academically.

“When I joined the board, our community was comprised of a very large percentage of economically disadvantaged people,” recalled Mancha. “I knew that improving the education of our kids could change the statistic significantly.” He joined with other like-minded trustees to support innovative strategies that are now showing results. Though state testing requirements have become more stringent, HISD now meets and exceeds state standards and is seeing a decrease in its dropout rate.

Mancha currently owns his own home improvement company, LM Enterprises. He first came to the United States from Mexico in 1985 when he was 17. Settling in Whitney, Texas, with his family and knowing only Spanish, he later took on the role of store manager for Fleming Lumber Company until 2005 when he started his business.

Mancha is married to Linda, his wife of 16 years, and is the proud father of two sons – nine-year-old Alfonso and 10-year-old Napoleon. Alfonso and Napoleon are avid soccer players, and his wife is active in their church’s music program. The family’s favorite past time is attending Hillsboro High School football games. They also enjoy getting away to Mancha’s “parents’ farm” in Whitney.

HISD expresses its sincerest appreciation to Lupe Mancha for many years of dedicated service to the young people of Hillsboro.

School Board President Proud Of District Gains In Academic Performance

When her first daughter began school in HISD in 1989, Susan Mann jumped right in as a volunteer, serving as a room mother and with the PTA. Over the years she grew more passionate about moving the district forward academically and felt she could make even more of an impact as a school board member. So she ran for office and began serving in 2001.

During her tenure, including her service as president since 2004, Mann has observed the district gain considerable ground in meeting and exceeding stringent state requirements. “I am so excited to see how the progressive measures we have taken to improve academic performance are not only helping our students succeed, they are also making news across the state,” commented Mann. “Our teachers and administrators are presenting at statewide workshops about HISD programs. Educators are impressed and want to know more. It’s a notable time in our district’s history. I am so proud to be from Hillsboro.”

When Mann first joined the board, the district faced a multitude of challenges, including numerous students transferring to other districts because of academic issues. She is pleased to emphasize that this is no longer the case. “I know now that when transfers occur it is not for a better education,” she added.

“Our academic strength, combined with our diverse population, offers a unique and rich experience for HISD students and families,” said Mann. “Our students learn to accept and appreciate one another despite their differences. They are well-prepared for the real world in terms of educational and interpersonal opportunities.”

Mann grew up south of Houston in League City, a small town at the time, and she attended Sam Houston State University where she met her husband, Arthur, who is from the Wharton County area. The couple was eager to get back to the small town life that they had both once known, so they returned to his former stomping grounds to plant their own new roots in Hillsboro in 1981. In 1982, Mann was employed by the City of Hillsboro where she now works as the director of the library and the management information services (MIS) division. During her tenure with the city she has secured more than $2 million in grants and gifts for library and technology improvements.

Mann’s daughters are now HISD alumni and both live in the Hillsboro area. Her daughter, Ada, attends Hill College. Her daughter, Peggy, an EMT, is married to Chris Lidster, a paramedic/firefighter, and she recently gave birth to the Mann’s first grandbaby, Keira Sidney. Her husband, Arthur, is news editor for The Hillsboro Reporter. She often notes that she has been married to the same “Mann” for 28 years.

HISD thanks Susan Mann for her many years of dedicated service to the students of Hillsboro.

“Education is not the filling of a pail, but the lighting of a fire.”

William Butler Yeats