

Paw Print Press

Itasca, Texas 76055

Vol. 2016 Issue #6

February 5, 2016

Bennett Receives Chamber “Citizen of the Year” Honor



Pictures by: Brittany Reid

Itasca Rotary Club member Dean Bennett was presented a plaque by Chamber Secretary Judy Offutt proclaiming him the 2015 Chamber of Commerce Citizen of the Year.

Dean was born in Buffalo, NY and raised in Colden, a small city south of Buffalo. After attending some college he joined the Air Force. He served a total of four years, three in Spain. Dean married Bonnie Arndt and had two daughters.

Dean's community volunteering has included rural service organizations, leadership in the girls sporting and community activities, and volunteering to help direct and coordinate church events. He volunteers for Habitat for Humanity and served as construction manager for the first Habitat home built in Hill County. Dean volunteered and then served as President of the Humble Area Assistance Ministries during the formative years of the organization.

Locally, he participates in the Ministerial Alliance, and leads a Bible study. Dean is currently serving as Precinct 10 election judge in Itasca. He is a supporter of grandchildren's activities and the Itasca Fire Department. As a retiree, Dean is a general contractor doing

Who Killed Henry Ward?

Written by: Clay Pittman, Gillian Brackin, Aidan Sargent



From Monday, November 16th to Thursday the 19th the middle school took benchmarks; but instead of going back to class in the afternoon, they solved the cold case of the murder of Henry Ward, which is based on an unsolved murder.

This activity was organized by Mrs. McCue.

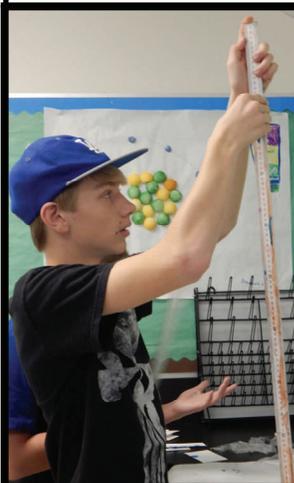
“It is very helpful for students. It helps them figure out stuff for themselves instead of a teacher telling them the answers,” says Coach Kettler, one of the supervisors of the blood analysis station.

All of the middle school teachers and aides supervised the activities while the students participated. Each classroom



teaches the different procedures used to solve a murder. The eight stations varied from hair analysis to blood spatter.

“My favorite activity was the blood spatter,” says 8th grader Eric Mozon. Most of the students would agree that the CSI



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>Community Church of Itasca</u>		
<u>First Baptist Church</u>	107 S. Lamar	
<u>First Presbyterian Church</u>	106 N. Lamar	687-2243
<u>First United Methodist</u>	Main & King St.	687-2475
<u>House of Faith of Itasca</u>	129 W. Main Street	
<u>Loveview Baptist Church</u>	FM 2959 East of I-35	
<u>Second Baptist Church</u>	120 W. Marrion	687-9134
<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

401 E. Monroe St. website - itascabc.org

Pastor: Jonathan Bowman 254-687-2343

Sunday School 9:45 Worship 10:50 a.m.

Sunday Evening Youth 5:00 p.m.

Wednesday Night Meal 6:00 p.m.

Wednesday Night Youth & Children 7:00 p.m.

First United Methodist Church

401 E. Main St, Itasca, TX 254-687-2475

E-mail: itascaumc@att.net

Re-Think Church

Open Hearts, Open Minds, Open Doors

Sunday School 9:30 a.m.-10:30 (All ages)

Sunday Worship Service 10:50 a.m.

Pastor Tom Wood Snacks 10:40 a.m.

Itasca Church of Christ

303 E. Monroe 254-687-2774 254-687-2858

God's plan for saving man

Hear the word of God . . . Romans 10:17

Believe . . . Hebrews 11:6

Repent . . . Acts 17:30

Confess Matt. 10:32

Baptism . . . Acts 2:38

Remain Faithful . . . Rev. 2:10

Sunday 9:45 a.m. 10:45 a.m. & 5:00 p.m.

Wednesday evening 6:00 p.m.

Second Missionary Baptist Church

120 W. Marrion St. Itasca TX 76055

Rev. George Demmeritte Jr. (Pastor)

First Presbyterian Church

106 N. Lamar - 254-687-2243

itascapc@sbcglobal.net www.fpcitasca.org

Sundays - 9:30-10:00 Fellowship in Barton Hall

10 - 10:45 Sunday School 11 a.m. - Worship Service

Bible Study - Sunday at 4 p.m.

Tuesday & Thursday - 10 a.m. Exercise Class

Barton Hall

First Baptist Church of Itasca

James McCarty, Pastor

107 South Lamar

Sunday School 9:45 AM

Sunday Worship Service 10:45 AM

Wednesday Adults & Youth 6:30 PM

Community Church of Itasca

Community Church of Itasca invites you to join our service and fellowship Sunday mornings. Services are held at 109 N. Wall St., Itasca. We invite you to join our family and grow in Christ with us.

Community Church Service 10:00 a.m.

Potluck Lunch 11:00 a.m.

House of Faith of Itasca

Pastor Philip Burch

Sunday School 9:30 a.m.

Worship 11:00 a.m.

Everyone Welcome!

Ministerial Alliance of Itasca

The Ministerial Alliance is a group of local pastors and leaders that desire to share the gospel and love of Jesus Christ in our community. We would be excited to have you join us! Please prayerfully consider being a part at our next meeting. Details to come!

~~Itasca Zoning Committee Meeting~~

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

~~Itasca City Council Meeting~~

If your Church is not listed above and you would like to have it advertised please contact the Paw Print Press at



Toothbrushes For 1st Grade

In early December the R.E. Lee Masonic Lodge #449 of Itasca presented the first grade students of Itasca Elementary School with packets from the Fantastic Teeth Club.

The packet contained a toothbrush and toothpaste, and instructions on their use. Students were instructed on the use of the toothbrush also on the care of their teeth on a daily basis.

Packets were presented by (left to right): Weldon



Notice of Public Meeting To Discuss Itasca Independent School District's Texas Academic Performance Report TAPR 2014-2015

The Itasca Independent School District will hold a public meeting at 7:00 p.m., February 08, 2016 during the regular board meeting in the IISD Library at 123 N College to present the Itasca Independent School District's 2014-2015 TAPR (Texas Academic Performance

Local Officials Take HOTCOG Oath

Two local officials will be serving as officers for the Heart of Texas Council of Government (HOTCOG) executive committee for the coming year. State Representative Charles (Doc) Anderson of Waco (left) administered the oath at last week's annual HOTCOG meeting.

Serving as officers are (l to r): Hill County Judge Justin Lewis-President, McLennan County Judge Scott Felton-Secretary-Treasurer and Hillsboro Mayor



Edith Omberg-Vice President.

HOTCOG is an organization of local governments working together voluntarily to solve mutual problems

R E P U B L I C A N



**The Paw Print Press does not endorse any candidate.

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Sunday February 14,2015 from 8am to 8pm



Wall of Honor

Itasca High School would like to ask for your assistance in paying tribute to all our alumni who furthered their education and have proven success in their field of study.

We would like to ask for an 8x10 picture of those who have: 1. Graduated from a 4 year college/university or, 2. served our country in any branch of the military or, 3. graduated/received specific certification from a trade or vocational institution, all of which have enabled these individuals to become a productive member of society.

Alumni from these areas will be eligible to have their picture placed on our future "Wall of Honor", planned for construction Spring 2016 within the halls of Itasca High. Please send photos that are 8x10 in size, and also include the following information to be added on a place card adjoining the picture: 1. First and Last Name (Maiden-Married), 2. Year of Graduation, 3. College of attendance & Degree received (Cap & Gown Photo), or Military Branch & Rank (Uniform Photo), or Career & Technology/Vocational Specialization (Graduation Photo and/or Uniform Photo)

These submissions may be sent by the person being honored, or by others who wish to honor a fellow family member, friend, or Alum. Please send to 123 N. College St. Itasca, TX 76055, marked (Attn: Wall of Honor Project). Please remember that this project will be a work in progress and a completion date has not yet been set. We would like to thank everyone in ad-

Itasca City Hall is selling Wampus Cat stickers for \$4.00 each. All proceeds go to benefit the new community center.



Itasca Museum Spring Schedule:

February 20 - 10 a.m. to 1 p.m.

March 5 - 10 a.m. to 1p.m.

War Eagles Looking for Cheerleaders

Hill County War Eagles are trying to form a cheerleading squad. Must be 18 and up but will make exceptions for 17 year olds with parent consent.

Must be able to attend practices and cheer at all home games and selected away games. If in-

Go Texas Scholarship

The deadline for Hill County graduating seniors to submit an online Go Texan scholarship application to the Houston Livestock Show and Rodeo (HLSR) is midnight Monday, February 8.

Applicants must be a U.S. citizen and resident of Texas, completed the free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA), have scored 950 on SAT or 19 on ACT, be ranked in the top one-third of their graduating class and plan to attend an accredited, not-for-profit university in the State of Texas.

Supporting scholarship documents must be post-marked to HLSR no later than Thursday, February 18. For complete details or to apply, go to www.rodeohouston.com/scholarships.

The county winner, selected by HLSR officials, will receive an \$18,000 scholarship and must attend in May in Houston.

In addition, the Hill County Go Texan Committee will be awarding additional scholarships for up to \$3,000. The committee awarded \$18,000 in scholarships in 2015.

To be eligible, local applicants must submit a qualifying application to HLSR.

More details on the local scholarship application process and deadline will be announced at a later date.

Wampus Cat District Basketball

Sports Editor: Adam Youngblood

District play has begun for the Wampus Cats with games starting against the toughest of the tough: Frost, Alpha Charter, Gateway, and Italy.

As a warm-up the boys had an easy going game against Bynum with a score of 89-30. While they were able to run over the Bulldogs, the Frost Polar Bears proved to be a completely different story as many fans piled in. The game began slowly for the Wampus Cats as they were only able to score a minimum of three points compared to the 21 points hanging above them. As always, the warm-up quarter finished and the boys fell into place scoring a total of 27 points against Frost in the second quarter. Unfortunately for the boys, Frost still held the lead ending the first half 30-32. After an extensive talk with both teams and coaches in the locker rooms, the methods of the coaches showed well with Itasca stealing the lead and not giving it back. The Cats came out with a win of 56-48.

Alpha Charter seemed relaxing as the boys threw 55 points on the scoreboard winning the game 55-25. Gateway, on the other hand, came quick and with a pounce. The first quarter ended with Itasca behind 17-18. Unfortunately for the Cats, the break between quarters gave Gateway more reasons to play. They fell back into the lead easily with a score of 42-28 in the second quarter. The Cats were unable to regain their spirits and lost 74-52.

Rival Italy seemed to be the game of the year with Itasca's last year's assistant coach David Ervin now coaching in Italy, there was tension before the boys even hit the court. As the boys learned they do not work well with tension. Starting the game off Italy gained two points in the first 10 seconds of the game with an easy layup from the tip. Itasca began to work fast and rushed the plays that were never intended to be rushed. As Italy continued to raise the lead, Itasca answered back in small steps ending the first quarter with Italy in the lead 14-11.

Compared to Italy, composure with the Itasca boys was seen throughout the court. The Gladiators continued to gain points, yet the Wampus Cats answered back easily with a few shots of their own. The most points came from inside the paint with #32 Tito Savala easily throwing the ball into the basket. After the break of half time the boys were unable to manage the court and fell into a state of confusion. Regrettably the boys realized the perfect

2016 Itasca High School Track Schedule

Thursday, March 3 @ Rio Vista

Thursday, March 10 @ Itasca

Thursday, March 24 @ Hillsboro

Thursday, March 31 @ Grandview

Wednesday, April 13 @ Itasca
(District Prelims)

Thursday, April 14 @ Itasca
(District Finals)



Itasca Lady Wampus Cat Basketball

February

2	Benbrook	Away	JV	6:00pm
5	*Frost (S)	Home	JV,V	4:00pm

*District Games

(S) Senior Night



JV/Varsity Boys Basketball Schedule

February

2	OPEN			
5	Frost* (S)	Home	5pm(JV) 7:30pm(V)	
9	Alpha Charter*	Home	6:30pm(V)	
12	Gateway*	Away	5pm(JV) 6:30pm(V)	
16	Italy*	Home	5pm(JV) 6:30pm(V)	

*District Games (S) Senior Night

Senior Spotlight Rodney Gaut

Reporter: Fathe Altum

Caricature by: Darius

Lara



Senior Rodney Von Gaut was born in Dallas, TX to Tina and Rodney Gaut Sr. Rodney has two older siblings Tabitha age 29, and Camillia age 26. Rodney has been a part of Itasca ISD since the end of his freshman year. He is known for his ag-

gressive athletic ability. "Let me tell you, it's not fun having Rodney run at you with everything he's got," said Josiah Sparks.

Rodney has been playing football since his sophomore year, and decided to play football and basketball for his senior year. He is also involved in Fellowship of Christian Athletics. After graduation Rodney plans to carry out his love for sports and get a degree in kinesiology and also get certified in automotive repairs. He would very much like to become a sports trainer where he can help strengthen and condition the players.

Rodney has made several memories while being in school. The first being in elementary when he was allowed naptime and recess. In middle school he remembers his "ah ha" moment when he was first introduced to athletics and football. In high school Rodney's favorite memories continue being in athletics, only now as a varsity player.

He was blessed with the unique ability to free style and make rhythm. Rodney is also known for his fun, sarcastic personality. He can be a bit of a class clown,

but he always makes everyone laugh.

During time away from school, Rodney likes to hang out with friends, as well as play video games, his favorite being Madden 16. He also loves to watch Boyz in the Hood while snacking on peanut butter and jelly sandwiches.

"Handle your grades, and handle your stuff in

school, so that way when your senior year comes along



Senior Spotlight Kassandra Gabino

Reporter: Joanna Sparks

Caricature by: Riley Pritchard



Luis and Sandra Gabino are the parents of 7 year old Roxanna and her 17 year old sister; senior Kassandra Gabino, who was born on March 12 in McAllen, TX. This funny, relaxed and outgoing senior's role model is her cousin, Martin.

Throughout high school she has been in many different U.I.L events, and is currently a member of the National Honor Society and participant in FFA. In her free time, she enjoys messing with pigs and riding horses. Over the summer when she has even more spare time, Kassandra enjoys riding side saddle and doing Charreadas, which are Mexican rodeos.

Kassandra has been a student of Itasca ISD since Pre-K. Although she moved to another school temporarily, she returned to Itasca shortly after. Out of all the years that she has gone to school here, she says her most memorable time was

when she went to the San Antonio Stock Show. "There were probably six or seven of us in the hotel room," she said. "It was really crowded, and it smelled pretty bad in there, but we had a lot of fun."

"Don't stress, and don't wait until the last minute to do your work either. Stay focused and you'll be fine," is the last advice Kassandra leaves behind to the underclassmen. After gradua-



October IISD Board Meeting

The Board of Trustees of the Itasca Independent School District met in regular session on Monday, October 19, 2015, with Vice President Mark Fehnel presiding. Other Board Members present were Secretary Kendra Markwardt, Susan Bason and Elizabeth Cervantes.

Administration members present were Superintendent Glenn Pittman, Principals Kristi Sargent and Amy Reyna, Special Programs Director Lisa Von Borstel, Business Manager Kim Eaddy and Secretary Norma Merkel. The meeting was called to order at 7:00 p.m. by Vice President Mark Fehnel.

Motions were passed to approve the minutes from the September 14, 2015 regular meeting.

Motions were made and passed to approve the first 2015-2016 budget amendment. The board reviewed the district quarterly investment report. No action was taken on a nomination to the Hill County Appraisal District Board of Directors.

Superintendent Pittman presented the results of the high school student survey to the board.

The board went into executive session at 7:10 p.m. and reconvened into open session at 7:47 p.m.

Following executive session, motions were made and passed to approve additions to the substitute teacher list for 2015-2016. Motions were made and passed to approve the addition of a third kindergarten class for 2015-2016 due to class size.

The meeting adjourned at 7:48 p.m.



George Willoughby
For
Hill County Constable
Precinct 4

**The Paw Print Press does not endorse any candidate.

Meet the Teacher

Coach Karry Ward



Reporter: Josiah Sparks

“It is an easy thing to teach but educating is a challenge.” This is what Coach Karry Ward feels like every teacher should have as their motto for teaching. Coach Ward has been teaching students for the last three years and is this year’s history teacher for the 8th graders of Itasca ISD. The precise words that Karry used to describe Itasca were, “It is a very small town, but has a great atmosphere.” He is happily married to the love of his life, Cherri Ward and is also the father of four amazing children. These four amazing kids are Kyleigh: 20, Trent: 15, Kirstyn: 12 and the fourth child is Kambree: 6.

Coach Ward’s hometown is wonderful town Whitney, TX. He attended and graduated from high school at Whitney Independent School District. Following his high school graduation, Karry went to college; his first college was Hill College and then he later attended Baylor University to finish up his college career. When asked what he had gone to college for, Coach Ward had replied by simply stating, “I went to college because I wanted to get myself an education”. His choice to become a teacher was influenced on the fact that he had a desire, “to lead, educate and entertain kids.”

Things That Bug Us

Column by: Carl Sweeney



My kids laugh when they have to help me with electronic gadgets. I tell them “don’t laugh, I taught you how to use a spoon.” One could say the most difficult thing about writing a column is selecting a title, perhaps today’s title will fit the column.

Have you noticed lately that it has become difficult to remove caps from sodas, jellies, vegetables, medicine bottles and other products? Instead of making them childproof, they have made them elderly folks proof. I was laughed at sixty five years ago for buying a gadget to open stuff with. I gave a dollar for it and it beats other methods today.

Seeing some of the commercials on T.V., in the paper or in magazines, it seems that truth has a better reputation than lying. We propagandize ourselves in every chance we get in favor so to speak. All wise men have endorsed it, Plato said, “Truth will prevail.” President Woodrow Wilson said, “The truth always matches piece by piece with other parts of the truth.” Waldo Emerson said, “Violation of the truth is a stab at the health of human society.” Mark Twain said, “When in doubt tell the truth,” H.W. Shaw said, “Truth is the edict of God.” In spite of the lip service we pay to the truth, we spend a lot of time deciding when to lie, and by the same token, trying to determine when we are being lied to.

There are other things that usually bug us. Let us list a few of them.

- We usually hate it when we finally find time to go to the movies, and there is nothing playing that we want to see.
- Your luggage is the last off the plane.
- Someone is giving you a number on the telephone, and your ball point pen runs out of ink.
- Did you ever wonder why most electrical outlets are behind the couch or other furniture?
- When your mail man puts your neighbor’s mail in your box.
- You loan someone your car, and when you get it back the gas tank is almost empty. The seat has been re-adjusted, the radio has been turned to F.M. The rearview mirror has to be adjusted, as well as the side view mirrors.
- When a company puts your phone call on hold and plays loud objectionable music.
- The guy in front of you is going ten miles an hour, and he just makes it through the yellow light and you don’t.
- Or when the guy driving in front of you turns on his directional light to turn right but suddenly turns left.

Speaking of traffic, this guy’s car stalled at the traffic light, he was trying to get it started when a little old lady behind him kept honking her horn. He finally went back and said, “Lady, if you will go get my car started, I will sit back here and blow your horn for you.”

- When you try to look up a word in the dictionary, to see how to spell it and you can’t find it because you don’t know how to spell it.
- When someone ahead of you in the 10 items or less line, with 24 items in her basket. Then she waits for the clerk to tell her how much her bill is before she starts digging into her purse for a check. I have mine partially made out while she is checking my basket.
- When your flashlight doesn’t work and you throw away the batteries, only to find that the bulb was bad.
- When you fail to stop the gas pump on even numbers, only to discover that you don’t have any pennies.

I have noticed now that most people will not bend over to pick up a penny on the sidewalk, I do. I think our government should do away with pennies altogether. I was amused by the one about the lady who called to report a fire at her house. The fireman wanted the location, so he asked, “Where is the fire?” She said, “In the kitchen,” then hung up. You watch the first half of a football game and look forward to the half time entertainment only to find that there are five ex-football players, telling us what happened in the first half.

I remarked one day to my granddaughter about the bad songs that are popular today. To which she replied,

Hair Cuts-Etc.

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This Week in History

January 31, 1919-Jackie Robinson, first African-American baseball player in the modern major leagues is born.

February 1, 1861-A furious Governor Sam Houston storms out of a legislative session upon learning that Texas has voted 167-7 to secede from the union.

February 2, 1900-six cities, Boston, Detroit, Milwaukee, Baltimore, Chicago and St. Louis agree to form baseball's American League.

February 3, 1962-President John F. Kennedy bans all trade with Cuba.

February 4, 1906-The New York Police Department begins finger print identification.

February 5, 1961 The Soviets launch Sputnik V, the heaviest satellite to date at 7.1 tons.

February 6, 1936-Adolf Hitler opens the Fourth Winter Olympics.

Itasca High School Activities

February

- 4 FFA Children's Barnyard
- 13 U.I.L meet at Grandview
- 18 National Honor Society Induction

March

- 2 High School Band Contest at Groesbeck
- 5 U.I.L meet at Colleyville
- 11 Cheer Tryouts
- 14-18 Spring Break

April

- 4 U.I.L District at Italy
- 6 U.I.L District at Italy
- 16 Prom

