



[TOP](#)

Rainey-Mathis Unveils New Sign

AUGUST 05TH 2011 BY UNKNOWN

Rainey-Mathis Unveils New Sign

Remember when ... Dexter had just one of those “new fangled” electronic signs that displayed the time and temperature? The Citizens Bank on South Walnut Street was the first business in town to have a time & temperature sign ... and that’s all the sign displayed. Now, a number of businesses have display signs that let us know if we are running late to school, work an church – plus remind just how hot it really is outside. Today’s signs are digital displays, with messages and sometimes even graphics! The newest edition of digital sign in town is at Rainey-Mathis Funeral Home on Stoddard Street. It’s a great addition to Downtown Dexter!! (SMT Photo)

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Plans Set for Area Pageants

AUGUST 04TH 2011 BY NEWS

Plans Set for Area Pageants

Entries are still being accepted for the Miss Dexter and Miss Heartland pageants to be held Saturday and Sunday, Sept. 3 and 4.

The pageants are sponsored annually by the DHS Vocal Music Department.

The Miss Dexter Pageants will be held on Saturday, Sept. 3. Contests include the Little Miss, Little Mister, Petite Miss, Junior Miss and Miss Dexter pageants.

All contestants in the Miss Dexter pageants must reside in the Dexter R-XI School District. The pageants will begin at 5:30 p.m. with the Little Miss and Mister Dexter contests. All pageants will be held in the DHS Auditorium.

On Sunday afternoon, the Miss Heartland Pageants will be held. Pageant director Jamie Sepulvado clarified this week that the Miss Heartland Pageants will continue the tradition of being open to all girls from throughout the region.

Miss Heartland Pageants scheduled and their age divisions include:

- * Baby Miss at 1:30 p.m., birth through 17 months
- * Tiny Miss at 2 p.m., 18-35 months
- * Wee Miss at 2:30 p.m., 3-5 years
- * Petite Miss at 3 p.m., 6-8 years
- * Pre-Teen Miss at 3:30 p.m., 9-11 years
- * Jr. Miss Heartland at 4 p.m., 12-14 years
- * Miss Heartland at 4:30 p.m., 15-19 years

An entry fee of \$25 is required for each contestant.

Entries forms are available at the Bunny Patch in Downtown Dexter, may be downloaded from the ShowMe Times by using the links below, or by contacting the pageant director at via e-mail/: [Jamie Sepulcado](mailto:Jamie.Sepulcado)

Miss Dexter Entry Forms

Little Mr. & Miss Dexter

Petite, Jr. & Miss Dexter

Heartland Pageants Entry Form

Heartland Pageants

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Tax Holiday A Boon For Shoppers

AUGUST 03RD 2011 BY NEWS

Tax Holiday A Boon For Shoppers

A SMT News Report

Parents, students and teachers can pay a bit less for school supplies during the Missouri sales tax holiday this Friday through Sunday.

During the three-day holiday period, certain back-to-school purchases such as clothing, school supplies, computers and other items defined by state statute can be exempt from sales tax. The sales tax holiday, adopted in 2003 by the state Legislature, typically runs from the first Friday in August to midnight Sunday night. The holiday comes as schools are readying to open their doors for the new school year.

Beginning 12:01 a.m. Friday and ending midnight Sunday, the state's 4.225 percent sales tax won't be assessed on school supplies, computer items or clothing.

State law gives local jurisdictions the option of whether to participate in the sales tax holiday. Area cities not participating in the sales tax holiday include Bloomfield, Cape Girardeau, Malden and Poplar Bluff. In addition, Stoddard County is not participating.

The items exempt from sales tax during the back-to-school sales tax weekend include:

- clothing — any article with a value of \$100 or less.
- school supplies — not to exceed \$50 per purchase. This can include textbooks, notebooks, paper, writing instruments, crayons, art supplies, rulers, book bags, backpacks, handheld calculators, maps and globes.
- computer software — taxable value of \$350 or less
- personal computers — not to exceed \$3,500. These can include a laptop, desktop, compute system, mouses, printers and other hardware.

The tax holiday also benefits teachers, who often pay out of their own pockets for school supplies, particularly for students who come to school without them.

Related Link

Missouri Department of Revenue

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County Schools Ready For New Year

AUGUST 02ND 2011 BY NEWS

County Schools Ready For New Year

School bells are getting ready to ring in Stoddard County, and districts are busy making preparations for the start of a new school year.

Richland Schools

Students, parents and teachers at Richland R-I are getting a kick-start to the school year, with registration set for tomorrow, Aug. 3. Key dates to remember leading to the start of school at Richland include:

- Aug. 3 – Registration
- Aug. 8 – New Teacher Training
- Aug. 9 & 10 – In-Service training for teachers
- Aug. 11 – First day of school

Students should report for classes at 8 a.m. on Aug. 11 and the first day will be a full day of classes. School personnel remind parents and students that the supply list for each grade is available at local Wal-Mart stores.

The Student Handbook will be distributed to Richland Students on the first day of schools. Parents and students are both advised to pay special attention to the new attendance policy.

Bloomfield Schools

Bloomfield students will report for a full day of classes on Thursday, Aug. 18. School buses will run on the first day of school.

Bernie Schools

Preparations are being made for the start of the 2011-2012 school year in Bernie Schools. Important dates to remember include:

- Aug. 3 – New Student Registration, 10 a.m. – 6 p.m. in the high school Media Center
- Aug. 9 – Returning Student Registration, 7 – 12 only
 - o Grades 7, 8 , and 12 – 8:30 -11:30 a.m.
 - o Grades 9, 10, and 11 – 12:30 – 3:30 p.m.
- Aug. 12 – Kindergarten Orientation – 6 p.m.
- Aug. 15 – Teacher Orientation
- Aug. 16 – Elementary Open House – 6 p.m. in the high school gym
- Aug. 18 – First day of classes

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University Responds On County Ag Job

AUGUST 01ST 2011 BY NEWS

University Responds On County Ag Job

*By Annabeth Miiler,
ShowMe Times Editor*

BLOOMFIELD - Stoddard County won't be getting a new University of Missouri Extension agronomy specialist anytime in the near future.

The Stoddard County Commission learned Monday that the University Extension does not intend to fill the position open due to the recent retirement of David Guethle in the near future. The commission received a letter from Vice Provost Michael D. Quart concerning the position.

The commission wrote Quart concerning the opening earlier in the summer, stressing the need for an extension agronomist in agriculture-based Stoddard County. However, Quart informed commissioners the University of Missouri Extension is still operating under a hiring freeze.

“Hopefully, if the economy shows further improvement, we will have another opportunity

later this year to fill additional open positions,” Ouart wrote. “At this time, we cannot predict when the next review process of open positions will occur. When that process does begin, the Stoddard County position will be on the list for review and prioritization.”

Ouart informed the commissioners that until the university is able to refill the position, other area agronomy extension faculty members will be available to “answer questions and provide programming” in the county.

Presiding Commissioner Greg Mathis said he was at a recent Farm Bureau gathering in the county, and the open agronomy position was a concern to area farmers.

Commissioner Frank Sifford announced there would be a presentation on Tuesday, Aug. 2, from USDA Rural Development to the First Baptist Church in Puxico. The church was instrumental in obtaining a grant for \$18,000 for the purchase of an emergency generator for the congregation’s Family Life Center to be used in times of community emergency. The church is also a designated Red Cross Shelter.

“I wish we could get [a generator] in the Advance, Essex, and Dudley areas,” Mathis said. He noted that Bernie already has generators on hand in case of emergency.

Commissioners also announced that a ribbon-cutting celebration would be held for the road project on County Road 702 that leads to the Union Pacific center in Stoddard County.

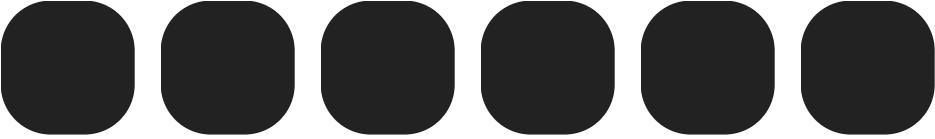
Because of the importance of the railroad to the county, the commission will adjust its meeting on Aug. 8.

“Union Pacific brings a lot of revenue to Stoddard County,” Sifford said. Therefore, Sifford proposed the commissioners attend the ribbon cutting celebration at 9 a.m. on Aug. 8, and the regular weekly commission meeting begin at 10 a.m. Presiding Commissioner Mathis and Commissioner Carol Jarrell both concurred.

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