

Area Bloggers



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UMC to Help Veterans With Disability Benefits

OCTOBER 01ST 2013 BY DEE LOFLIN

UMC to Help Veterans With Disability Benefits

Submitted by

Dee Loflin, SMT Manager/Editor

Columbia, Missouri - The University of Missouri School of Law is opening a new clinic that will help veterans and give law students real world experience. The new Veterans Clinic at the MU School of Law will help veterans and their families secure disability benefits.

MU law students will be supervised by experienced attorneys throughout the process and will have the opportunity to work in a law firm atmosphere within the law school serving real client needs. Law students interested in personal injury, civil litigation or administrative law will benefit from the skills taught at the clinic.

The clinic will include a weekly lecture for students on substantive law relating to veterans' benefits, followed by work with actual veteran files.

In addition, students will:

Interview clients, witnesses and medical personnel.

Research and develop the law and facts of the case, draft pleadings, and prepare briefs.

Interact with other practitioners in the area of federal veterans law, thereby encouraging networking developments.

Be encouraged to become members of the National Organization of Veterans Advocates (NOVA) and to attend one of the NOVA conferences, which are held twice annually.

Speakers at the opening ceremony include Gary Myers, dean of the MU School of Law , David Myers, Deputy Director for Case Evaluation Veterans Consortium Pro Bono Program

The opening ceremony will be at 1 p.m., Thursday, Oct. 3rd, Courtroom, Hulston Hall on the campus of the University of Missouri.

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We Are The Field

SEPTEMBER 25TH 2013 BY DEE LOFLIN

Written and Submitted by

Neal E. Boyd of Sikeston, Missouri

We Are the Field

One thing I love to do is simply drive through Southeast Missouri during harvest time. I liken it to those on the East Coast, where I once lived, who love to watch the leaves change during the fall. Just seeing the corn and wheat, beans and rice ripe and ready to be picked is a sight to see. Unfortunately, there are those who fly over us and live in the concrete jungles of America who will never get to experience or see what we have the opportunity of seeing up close each and every year. They don't know what it's like to be reliant on nature...to the rain...or lack of it. God tests us year after year, but when his bounty is plentiful, it is beautiful.

President Reagan once said, "If things are going to get better (in this economy) then things have to get better for the American Farmer." I believe this is true even now, especially for those of us in Southeast Missouri. Reagan understood that farmers are the backbone of a rural economy, and that in their weathered hands rests the livelihoods of the community as a whole.

I know that a farm family is a proud family with generations of history and tradition, and I know that a farm family lives it every day, with more knowledge and respect for land and livestock than many of us will never know.

And even though I can't start to understand the agony of a failed crop, or what that means to the families beholden to the land for their prosperity and sustenance, I do know the entrepreneurial spirit it takes to be a success in business. I know what it means to be an independent self-starter, and staying motivated to work towards a goal with only the "hope" of a positive outcome, but remain alert to the task even as the sand shifts, and the outcome changes.

I know what it's like to not have an audience or clients, and what that kind of "drought" means for business. I have had the weather determine my schedule. I, too, have suffered in the heat for my craft. I have tasted both success and defeat year after arduous year, yet remained resilient through all of God's daily

challenges.

I admit there is a lot I need to learn about farming, because watching the crops grow is simply a beginner's course in the subject. As for policy, I look forward to listening to new ideas, but also standing firm and remaining true to what has made our farmer's thrive while seeking ways to improve their lives and their industry. I see the many similarities of economics that also exist in my field of expertise, and I look forward to learning...to build a common ground in order to find the best ways to promote policies and ideas that will allow us all to flourish and succeed in the future.

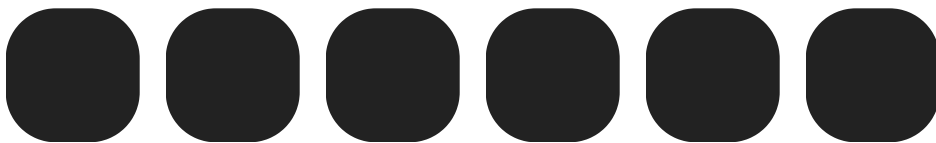
I write songs, one in particular is called "Missouri Anthem." In it I wrote the words, "Our families and fields bare the fruits of our labor," and they truly do. We are all a product of someone's hard work and sacrifice for a life we cannot even actualize or imagine yet. For now, our life is a magnificent gift and blessing with so many possibilities. We are the field...waiting for the farmer to plant whatever seeds he deems necessary to cultivate the land. And to that farmer...I salute you.

Neal E. Boyd

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People With Medicare and the Health Insurance Marketplace

SEPTEMBER 04TH 2013 BY DEE LOFLIN

People With Medicare and the Health Insurance Marketplace

Submitted by

Ruth Dockins

Seems as if everyone has heard about the Health Insurance Marketplace and yet most have not had any answers to their questions as yet. The following information was just received by me from the Center for Medicare and Medicaid Services. You will see from reading this information that if you are on Medicare you do not have to do anything! The Marketplace WILL NOT have any effect on your Medicare coverage.

Frequently Asked Questions

HOW WILL THE HEALTH INSURANCE MARKETPLACE THAT STARTS IN 2014 AFFECT MY MEDICARE COVERAGE?

The Health Insurance Marketplace is designed to help people who don't have any health insurance. You have health insurance through Medicare. The Marketplace **won't** have any effect on your Medicare coverage.

Your Medicare benefits aren't changing. No matter how you get Medicare, whether through Original Medicare or a Medicare Advantage Plan, you'll still have the same benefits and security you have now, and you won't have to make any changes.

The Marketplace provides new health insurance options for many Americans. If you have family and friends who **don't** have health insurance, tell them to visit **HealthCare.gov** to learn more about their options.

DO I NEED TO DO ANYTHING WITH MARKETPLACE PLANS DURING MEDICARE OPEN ENROLLMENT (OCTOBER 15 – DECEMBER 7, 2013)?

Medicare's Open Enrollment isn't part of the new Health Insurance Marketplace. It's against the law for someone who knows that you have Medicare to sell you a Marketplace plan.

Medicare Open Enrollment (October 15 – December 7, 2013) is the time when all people with Medicare are encouraged to review their current health and prescription drug coverage, including any changes in costs, coverage and benefits that will take effect next year. If you want to change your coverage for next year, this is the time to do it. If you're satisfied that your current coverage will continue to meet your needs for next year, you don't need to do anything. For more information on Medicare Open Enrollment, visit **Medicare.gov** or call 1-800-MEDICARE.

NOTE: The Health Insurance Marketplace Open Enrollment period (October 1, 2013 to March 31, 2014) overlaps with the Medicare Open Enrollment period (October 15 – December 7, 2013). Therefore, people with Medicare who are looking to make Medicare coverage changes should make sure that they are reviewing **Medicare plans** and **not Marketplace options**.

WHAT SHOULD I DO IF I'M CONTACTED ABOUT SIGNING UP FOR A HEALTH PLAN?

The Medicare open enrollment period is a time when there's a higher risk for fraudulent activities.

It's against the law for someone who knows that you have Medicare to sell you a Marketplace plan.

DO NOT share your Medicare number or other personal information with anyone who knocks on your door or contacts you uninvited to sell you a health plan.

Senior Medicare Patrol programs are teaching people with Medicare how to detect and report fraud, and protect themselves from fraudulent activity and identity theft.

To learn more about health care fraud and ways to protect against it, visit **StopMedicareFraud.gov** or the Senior Medicare Patrol (SMP) program in your area (locate your SMP at **SMPresource.org** or call me at 1-800-392-8771).

This information is provided by the United States Department of Health and Human Services.

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Dexter Rotary to Host Emergency Blood Drive

AUGUST 18TH 2013 BY DEE LOFLIN

Dexter Rotary to Host Emergency Blood Drive

Written by
Dee Loflin, SMT Manager/Writer

Dexter, Missouri - The American Red Cross issued an emergency request for donors of all blood types to roll up a sleeve and help save lives. Red Cross blood donations were down by about 10 percent across the country in June, with about 50,000 fewer donations than expected. July and August have also been down.

“We’re asking for the public’s help now to prevent a more serious shortage,” said Stephanie Millian, spokesperson for the Red Cross. “Each day donations come up short, less blood is available for patients in need. It’s the blood products on the shelves today that help save lives in an emergency.”

September is National Preparedness Month, a time for Americans to prepare for emergencies of all types, including ones that require blood transfusions. By giving blood through the American Red Cross, donors help ensure an adequate supply is available. This is the perfect time to give!

The Dexter Rotary Club hosts a Blood Drive four times a year; however during the summer months, blood donations typically decrease and the need for blood increases. **On Monday, August 19th, the American Red Cross will be at the Sacred Heart Church from noon - 5 p.m. Please donate!**

It can take up to three days for donated blood to be tested, processed and made available for patients, so the blood on the shelves is what saves the day when an emergency strikes.

Currently, eligible donors of all blood types, especially O negative, A negative and B negative, are needed for the Red Cross to readily meet patient needs. Donors who gave blood at the start of summer may now be eligible to donate again.

Help the Red Cross be prepared by making an appointment to donate blood. Visit redcrossblood.org or call 1-800-RED CROSS. If you can't give blood at this drive here are a few upcoming dates.

August 2013

Aug. 23 from 2-6 p.m. at Dexter Church of Christ, 1014 N. One Mile Road in Dexter, Mo.

Aug. 30 from 2-6 p.m. at Life Chapel Assembly of God, 22443 State Highway 51 in Puxico, Mo.

September 2013

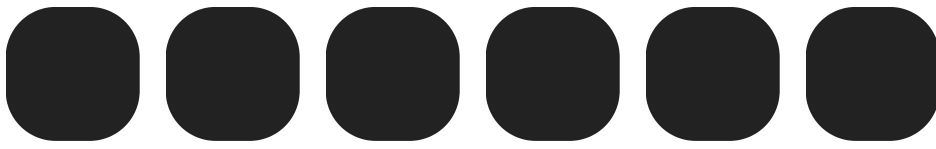
Sept. 4 from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. at Oak Tree Inn, 1608 U.S. 60 Business West in Dexter, Mo.

Sept. 13 from 1-5 p.m. at Bank of Advance, 105 E. Gabriel in Advance, Mo.

LAST UPDATED ON AUGUST 18TH 2013 BY DEE LOFLIN

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T.S. Hill Middle School Cookout

AUGUST 16TH 2013 BY DEE LOFLIN

T.S. Hill Middle School Cookout

Submitted by Jill Temples

SMT Writer

Dexter, Missouri- Tuesday, August 20th parents and students will hold a social cookout from **5:30 p.m.-7:30 p.m. at the Middle School**

Hotdogs, chips, snacks, and sodas outside at 5:30 p.m. There will be a short welcome in the Middle school gymnasium around 5:30 p.m.

Parents will then have the opportunity to walk through the student's schedule of classes and meet their teachers while the students continue to socialize outside.

Bring your student's schedule!

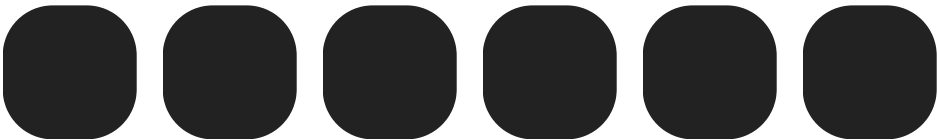
This is a meet and greet with our parents and students and a fun way to kick off the school year!

We strongly encourage you to take this opportunity to become familiar with middle school policies, procedures, and staff!

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