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Medicare Open Enrollment

OCTOBER 25TH 2013 BY DEE LOFLIN

Medicare Open Enrollment

*Submitted by
Dee Loflin, SMT Manager/Editor*

Congressman Jason Smith Capitol Report

8th Congressional District, Missouri - Soon senior citizens across our congressional district will be receiving information about Medicare Open Enrollment. During this two month enrollment period, current Medicare beneficiaries can alter their coverage plans and new beneficiaries can sign up for a Medicare plan for the first time. Medicare Open Enrollment begins October 15th and closes December 7th. During Open Enrollment, beneficiaries will have the opportunity to:

- Change to a Medicare Advantage Plan or select a different plan that better meets your needs;
- Join a Medicare Prescription Drug Plan;
- Change your Medicare Prescription Drug Plan.

Open Enrollment is an important time for seniors to make sure they have the Medicare plan that best suits their individual needs. Navigating any federal program can be daunting, and my staff and I are here to assist with this process. By visiting www.medicare.gov or calling 1-800-MEDICARE, you learn about the various plans Medicare offers. Should you encounter difficulties in this process, I encourage you to contact one of my district offices.

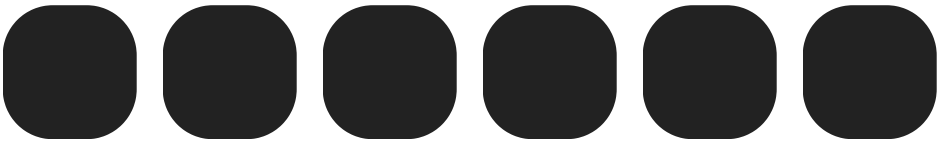
You may call my Cape Girardeau office at 573-335-0101, Farmington at 573-756-9755, Rolla at 573-364-2455, or West Plains at 417-255-1515.

Our Eighth Congressional District is home to many senior citizens who rely on Medicare for medical and prescription needs. I understand the importance of Medicare in seniors' daily lives, as both of my parents are Medicare recipients. Since my election to Congress, I have worked to keep the promise of Medicare to our seniors. Moving forward, I will continue efforts to improve seniors' access to Medicare and fight any actions to deny care or change benefits for our Greatest Generation. Seniors who have worked hard their entire lives and paid into Medicare and Social Security deserve the best options possible. Please know that my staff and I are here to help you and we hope you will contact us if we may be of assistance.

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DHS and DMS Marching Bands Compete for Top Awards

OCTOBER 15TH 2013 BY DEE LOFLIN

DHS and DMS Marching Bands Compete for Top Awards

*Written by
Dee Loflin, SMT Manager/Editor*

Charleston, Missouri - Congratulations to the DHS and DMS Marching Bearcats for their victories this weekend at the Southeast Missouri Band Directors Association Marching Competition.

It's been an annual tradition for the Charleston R-1 School District to host the Marching Contest. Since the 1980's when the marching Bluejays needed new uniforms and decided to host a fundraising event they have invited area bands to compete on the street and on the field to raise money for the band.

In the parade competition they received: Outstanding Music, Outstanding Field Command, Outstanding Marching, and Outstanding Flags. 1st Place in their Division and Highest score of 20 high school bands in competition.

On the field, they received 2nd place in the 3rd division beating Park Hills and New Madrid County Central, and received the 4th highest score of the 14 bands in competition on the field! "We were even victorious over a band we've never beaten before," commented Scott Rybolt, DHS Band Director.

Bands performing included North County, Sikeston, Ste. Genevieve, Perryville, Jackson, Northwest, Puxico, East Prairie, Woodland, and Charleston.

Congratulations to the Dexter High School Band on their awards and performances Saturday. Mr. Jim Wade and his middle school students also competed well.

T.S. Hill Middle School finished in 1st Place in the parade portion of the marching contest. They scored a 72.25 beating Advance, South Pemiscot, Charleston,

Caruthersville, and Richland. Of the 9 years under Mr. Wade's direction, the middle school has taken first place 8 times. Quite the record!

T.S. Hill Marching Bearcats also earned Outstanding Music, Outstanding Marching, Outstanding Percussion, and Outstanding Flags in the parade contest.

Not only did they receive 1st Place in their Division BUT they had the 4th highest score overall for the day. This included all the middle school and high school bands who performed, 26 total band for the day. Only three bands scored higher, one of which was the Dexter High School Band. Way to go Middle School!!

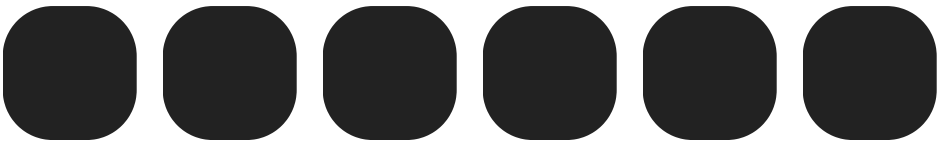
The Dexter community is extremely proud of each band student and for all that you do on and off the field. We appreciate your talents as well as your entertainment during pre-game and half-time shows.

Band directors Jim Wade and Scott Rybolt are very proud of their students regarding their effort and achievements at Charleston, and are also very thankful to the parents and community for their help and support.

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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.

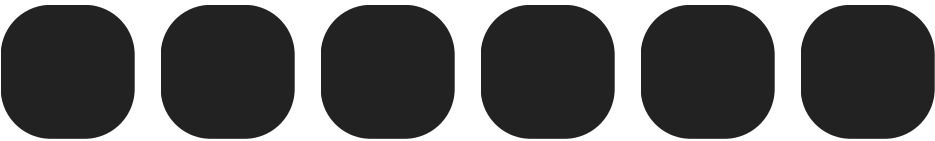
Speakers at the opening ceremony include Gary Myers, dean of the MU School of Law , David Myers, Deputy Director for Case Evaluation Veterans Consortium Pro Bono Program

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

We Are The Field

*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.

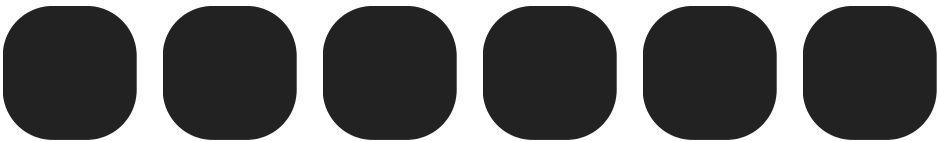
I write songs, one in particular is called “Missouri Anthem.” In it I wrote the words, “Our families and fields bare the fruits of our labor,” and they truly do. We are all a product of someone’s hard work and sacrifice for a life we cannot even actualize or imagine yet. For now, our life is a magnificent 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.

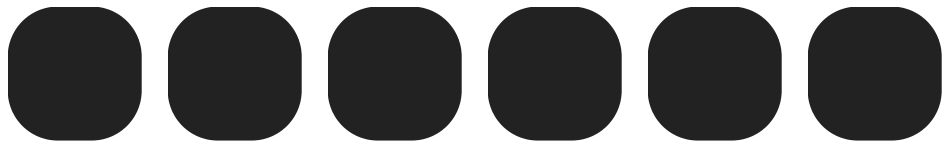
DO NOT share your Medicare number or other personal information with anyone who knocks on your door or contacts you uninvited to sell you a health plan.

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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