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American Legion to Host Red Cross Blood Drive

JANUARY 19TH 2015 BY DEE LOFLIN

American Legion to Host Red Cross Blood Drive

Dexter, Missouri - The American Red Cross asks people to start a lifesaving habit by giving blood regularly in 2015. Blood has a shelf life of just 42 days. Patients must rely on volunteer blood donors to constantly replenish the supply. Regular blood donations are needed all year long.

The American Legion will host a Red Cross Blood Drive on Friday, January 23, 2015 from 3:00 p.m. - 7:00 p.m. The American Legion is located across from West Park in Dexter at 620 West Oak St. Appointments are not required.

This will be a great opportunity to give to an organization that helps our community in many ways. The Red Cross not only handles 1/2 of the United States supply through these blood donations, but offers CPR classes, first aid classes and other health and safety programs, they provide food, shelter and emotional support to victims of disasters such as earthquakes, tornadoes and floods.

What do you need to donate blood? It's very simple!

1. A blood donor card and driver's license or two forms of identification, especially if you are a first time donor are required to check-in.
2. Donors must be at least 17 years of age, weigh at least 110 pounds, and be in reasonably good health.

3. Donating blood involves four basic steps: Registration, Medical history and mini-physical, Donation and at the end a nice Refreshment.

Any information given to the Red Cross during the donation process is confidential.

The need for blood is constant and every pint counts. Each day, patients in our county are helped by donors who have given blood.

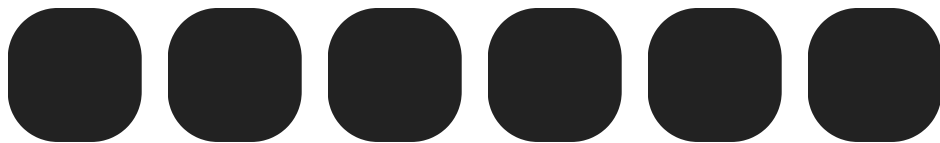
Here is just one example of how a blood drive recently helped a person. Thirty units of red blood cells and five units of platelets were transfused to a car accident victim and saved their life. Had generous donations not been made his/her family would be attending a funeral instead spending time with their loved one. Thanks to the many dedicated Stoddard County residents who have given over the years, the blood products were available for these types of patients and other like them.

The Red Cross needs your help! Donate today! Visit www.redcrossblood.org or call 1-800-733-2767 for more information on how to volunteer or donate. We hope to see you at the Rotary Club Blood Drive Thursday.

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It's Girl Scout Cookie Time!

JANUARY 14TH 2015 BY DEE LOFLIN

It's Girl Scout Cookie Time!

Dexter, Missouri – It's that time of the year when Girl Scouts will sell their delicious cookies door-to-door. The Girl Scout Cookie Program is the largest girl-led enterprise in the country and Troop 70134 a multi-level Girl Scout Troop in Dexter knows exactly how to sell cookies!

Cookie sales began early January and will end January 21st, so there is still time to get your favorite cookie. Girl Scout cookies will then be delivered during the week of February 13th and payment will be due then.

Girls utilize five basic skills they have learned and will use throughout their life. One is set a GOAL! And these young ladies have set their goals and are out selling as many boxes of cookies as they can to reach their individual goal.

Allyssa Gross says she wants to beat her record last year of 270 boxes, so she set a goal of 300.

Lindsey Haynes, one of the youngest in the troop and is currently a Brownie set a goal of 200 cookies.

Kayleigh Bridges also set a goal of 300 boxes and according to Gabrielle Dunivan, she wants the ultimate prize of riding in a Limo! Now that's a lot of boxes!!!

Second they must make decisions, manage money, learn people skills and learn good business ethics. About 25% of the cost goes to the bakery for production, transportation, and support costs the remaining proceeds goes directly to the girls. All monies stay within the council jurisdiction and do not go to the national Girl Scouts, so there is a real incentive for these girls to sell their cookies, beside the taste!

What cookies will be available in the Stoddard County area?

- **Thin Mints:** Round dark-chocolate mint-flavored cookies.
- **Peanut Butter Sandwich:** Two oatmeal cookies with a layer of peanut butter sandwiched in between
- **Shortbread:** Shortbread cookies shaped like the Girl Scout trefoil
- **Caramel deLites:** Caramel, coconut, and chocolate doughnut-shaped cookies
- **Peanut Butter Sandwich:** Round cookies with a layer of peanut butter that's covered in chocolate
- **Thanks-A-Lot:** Shortbread cookies with a layer of fudge on the bottom
- **Lemonades:** Shortbread cookies with lemon icing
- **Cranberry Citrus Crisps:** **NEW** – Crispy cookie made with whole grain, full of tangy cranberry bits and zesty citrus flavor.

Please support your local Girl Scout troop and purchase these wonderful cookies. They are available for \$4.00 per box. No money is collected now, but is due at time of delivery. If you miss your chance now, you will get another chance later when the girls sell cookies at booths in front of local businesses.

If you would like more information or to purchase cookies from Troop 70134 call Krista Gross at 573-421-3261 or text her a message. Let's help these girls hit their goals and raise money for their troop!

There are several Girl Scout Troops in the area. This is just one of many troops selling cookies. Contact your local Girl Scout Office for more information.

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Bagby Wealth Management Announces Rhonda Hall, Investment Consultant

JANUARY 05TH 2015 BY DEE LOFLIN

Bagby Wealth Management Announces Rhonda Hall, Investment Consultant

Dexter, Missouri - Bagby Wealth Management is pleased to announce that Rhonda Hall is now an Investment Consultant.

Rhonda joined Bagby Wealth Management in 2004 and brings 10 years of financial experience to the team. She is a graduate of Southeast Missouri State University where she earned a Bachelor of Science Degree in Business Administration as well as a 2-year Certificate in General Business. Following college, Rhonda continued her studies and advanced her career by becoming a Registered ParaplannerSM through the College for Financial Planning as well as completing additional courses in Finance through Missouri State University in Springfield. She draws on her education in Business Administration as well as her industry knowledge, experience and administrative skills in fulfilling her role at Bagby Wealth Management.

Rhonda will be leaving her previous role as Executive Assistant to Mike Bagby to further her career as an Investment Consultant within the firm. She will continue to hold her certification as a Registered ParaplannerSM. Rhonda holds a Series 65 license for passing the Uniform Investment Advisor Law Examination.

Rhonda's time is devoted to analyzing critical client and account data, preparing projections, comparisons and reports, and conducting financial product and investment research. She will continue to utilize these skills to assist her in her role as an Investment Consultant. She has played an integral role in supporting the financial planning and investment management needs of both the firm's clients and advisors.

Rhonda is a native of Dexter, Missouri where she and her husband Gary raised their two sons, Eric and Landon. She is a member of First Baptist Church in

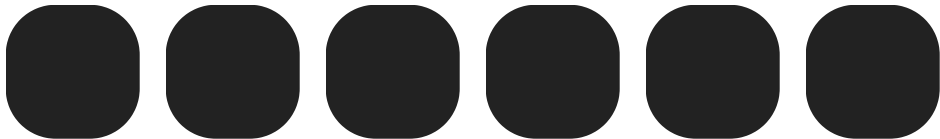
Dexter. Rhonda spends her free time with her grandchildren – Koghen, Ryleigh, and Bently. Her favorite pastime activities include fishing, hunting, and camping with family and friends.

With over 30 years of serving the Dexter community, Bagby Wealth Management is committed to providing clients with tactical, strategic advice, and wealth management services to build, preserve, and utilize wealth.

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Going for the Goal with The Franklins at Bernie Church of Christ

JANUARY 02ND 2015 BY DEE LOFLIN

[Going for the Goal with The Franklins at Bernie Church of Christ](#)

Bernie, Missouri - The Bernie Church of Christ would like to invite you to meet James and Willie Franklin on Saturday, January 3rd and Sunday, January 4th.

James was the University of Missouri starting quarterback from 2011 to 2013. He is a talented young man, but more importantly he is dedicated to God.

In a 2012 interview with The Christian Chronicle, James talked about the faith of his parents, Willie and Pam Franklin. "I have been blessed with two strong and great Christian parents who instilled Christian values in me as I was growing up under their roof. Because of this, I am able to remain strong with my beliefs by reading any Bible frequently and being around Christians. Those are the things that help me keep and maintain my spiritual beliefs. No matter what stage I am on, I always put God first," stated Franklin.

James grew up in Corinth, Texas. He is the son of well-known minister and former NFL-er Willie Franklin, who played for the Baltimore Colts. His father is black, his mother white. He celebrates that fact and the fact he is not just an athlete, but also a Christian athlete. He makes Christianity the cornerstone of his life.

He chose to attend the University of Missouri – Columbia and play for the fighting Mizzou Tigers. In his freshman year he was a back-up quarterback to Blain Gabbert. He ran for 116 yards on 23 carries with two touchdowns. When Gabbert entered the NFL Draft he became the starting quarterback.

As a sophomore, he started all 13 games for Mizzou, leading them to an 8 – 5 record. He completed 63.3% of his passes for 2,865 yards, and 21 touchdowns. Franklin also rushed 217 times for just under 1,000 yards and 15 touchdowns. One of his best games came against the Texas Longhorns when he led Missouri to their first win since 1997 over Texas.

Franklin was named MVP of the Independence Bowl after leading Missouri to a 41-24 victory over the Tar Heels of North Carolina. In 2012, James had to have surgery on his throwing shoulder; however he was able to appear in nine games that season. As a senior in 2013, he appeared in 10 games, missing four due to injury. He finished the season with 2,429 passing yards, 19 touchdowns and in his final college game, he helped lead the Mizzou Tigers to a victory in the 2014 Cotton Bowl over the Oklahoma State Cowboys in his home state of Texas.

Willie Franklin is a former professional football player for the Baltimore Colts and the Los Angeles Rams from 1971 - 1974. He is a dynamic speaker with a unique ability to motivate all for greater service to God through his preaching and song leading. Willis is also a graduate of the University of Oklahoma and Harding School of Biblical Studies.

Please join the Bernie Church of Christ on Saturday and Sunday for The Youth Emphasis evening worship.

James will meet with teenage boys on Saturday, January 3rd at 3:00 p.m. Kaylee Franklin (James' wife) will meet with teenage girls at the same time. Then at 4:00 p.m. will be a Q & A session with James and Willie. A light meal will be served at 6 p.m. and Willie will present a lesson at 7:00 p.m.

On Sunday, January 4th, Willie will present lessons at 9:30 a.m. and 5:00 p.m. and James will present a lesson at 10:15 a.m. There will be a Pot Luck meal following the morning worship service.

If you would like more information call 573-293-5620.

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Cortez Win's Big in St. Louis MMA

DECEMBER 30TH 2014 BY STAFF WRITER

Cortez Win's Big in St. Louis MMA

St. Charles, MO - On December 27, Brawl Inc. Light Heavyweight Champion, Frank Cortez, and the rest of the Dark Horse team traveled to St. Charles, Missouri for his fighting debut in the Family Arena for Fighthard MMA.

This event was a big challenge for Cortez for multiple reasons. Frank's opponent, Jason Huncovsky from Finney's Hit Squad, was recognized in the St. Louis area as a premier MMA fighter. This was also one of the first times that Cortez would perform in front of such a large venue of over 9,000 spectators.

The match was a fiercely fought battle with Cortez winning the fight by unanimous judge's decision of 29-28 after three rounds. The match was also awarded Fight of the Night, earning over 95% of the votes.

The excitement of the night wasn't over with the fight. Cortez received the opportunity with meet with and be interviewed by The Sports Cage Blog Talk Radio's host Debo Lyn Hart Jr. before his fight. Debo was very impressed with Cortez and the team, and invited him back for a post-fight interview with Knuckle Junkies.

 t day. His interviews can be seen and heard on knucklejunkies.com and <http://www.blogtalkradio.com/thesportscage>.

Cortez, now with an MMA record of 8-2, is in line to fight for the Midwest Light Heavyweight title as well as will be defending his Brawl Inc. Light Heavyweight title in the upcoming months.

The Dark Horse team and their coach, Joe Davis, are very proud of Cortez's achievements as he has worked hard to earn them.

"Cortez never misses a practice and works extra hard to improve his cardio and strength

conditioning."

For updates on Cortez and the rest of the Dark Horse team follow them on their facebook page, Dark Horse MMA, as they keep it updated with fight information, tshirt sales, and other things going on with the team. They are all looking forward to what 2015 has to bring.

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