

Features



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Peggy Currie Retires From the Dexter Public School District

DECEMBER 26TH 2015 BY DEE LOFLIN

Peggie Currie Retires from Dexter Public School District

Dexter, Missouri - Peggy Currie was honored with a Retirement Tea at the Dexter School District's administrative offices. She worked for the school system for 28 years.

Peggy began volunteering at Southwest Elementary when her son was in second grade in 1987. She was then hired of August 1988 to fill the first full-time workroom aide position at Southwest Elementary, transferring the following year to Secretary to the Director of Special Services at the administration office.

She retires as Administrative Assistant to the Superintendent at the end of December 2015.

Currie resides in rural Dexter with her husband, David. They have two sons, Jim and Michael and two grandchildren.

Peggy has fulfilled a multitude of job duties in her 28 years at Dexter Public Schools and she now hopes to spend many days fishing and being a little "relaxed" around the house!

We wish her the best in her retirement!

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Rotary Club to Host Blood Drive in Honor of Gavin Thompson

DECEMBER 13TH 2015 BY DEE LOFLIN

Rotary Club to Host Blood Drive in Honor of Gavin Thompson

Dexter, Missouri - What should have been Gavin's first day of kindergarten turned out to be a day of needles and chemo. When Gavin grows up he wants to be a Hematologist and develop a needle that doesn't have to hurt children.

No child at the age of five should even have to think of things like that, but for Gavin the next year will be full of blood tests, chemo treatments, and missing school. His mother Nicole Thompson says he absolutely hates to miss school and can't wait to get back after each treatment.

Gavin is 5 years old, son of Grant and Nicole Thompson, and a kindergartner at Southwest Elementary School in Dexter. He was diagnosed with Lymphoblastic Leukemia on August 12, 2015. Gavin had a port put in on August 13th and his first day

of chemo was August 14th missing his first day of school.

Since his diagnosis his family has been making weekly and sometimes twice a week road trips to St. Louis for treatment. Gaven struggles with blood transfusions as he continues to develop antibodies and has had severe reactions at times to the transfusions. He has to be still for as much as 4 hours to receive warm blood during the transfusion. If you know anything about five year old little boys that's a difficult accomplishment in its self.

The Rotary Club of Dexter is known for their Service Above Self motto when it comes to donating blood.

They host numerous Red Cross Blood Drives each year, but this one is a little more than a normal blood drive. You see Gavin has captured the heart of Rotary President, Dee Loflin. She has had the opportunity to visit with him on many occasions at his school, at a football game, and even helped find his most favorite hat that he had left at school. To her he is Superman! Brave beyond words, adorable, super polite, and smart! He's extremely intelligent for being just five.

On Thursday, December 17th from 2:00 p.m. - 7:00 p.m. the Red Cross and the Rotary Club will be ready to go at Sacred Heart Catholic Church Parish Hall located at 102 East Castor Street. Please donate!

A special donation jar will also be available for financial donations as the burden is great with medical bills mounting and travel expenses increasing.

You can make an appointment by calling Dee Loflin, (573) 614-4804 and leave a message. The Rotary Club has set high hopes to receive at least 60 donors during the Blood Drive; that will potentially save 180 lives.

Gavin is incredibly strong and will undergo treatment in St. Louis during the blood drive so please give the gift of life. Cancer sucks! Support Gavin and his family and have a very Merry Christmas!

Platelets and type AB plasma also needed

Platelet donors and those with type AB blood are also continually needed to help ensure patients receive the lifesaving blood products they need. Platelets – a key clotting component of blood often needed by cancer patients, surgical patients and bone marrow recipients – must be transfused within five days of donation, so

donations are constantly needed. Donors with type AB blood are urged to give blood or platelets to restock the plasma supply. Type AB donors have the universal plasma type, which can be given to patients of all blood types.

Individuals who donated blood earlier this summer may be eligible to donate again and help patients like an expectant mother at a Red Cross-supported hospital who is currently receiving nearly 100 units of blood products a week until she delivers. Her need alone could add up to 1,100 units.

How to donate blood

The free Blood Donor App – available in app stores by searching for American Red Cross or by texting BLOODAPP to 90999 – not only makes appointment scheduling easy, but donors can also access their digital donor card and be notified when their donation is distributed to a hospital. Donors can also visit redcrossblood.org or call 1-800-RED CROSS (1-800-733-2767) to make an appointment or for more information. All blood types are needed to ensure a reliable supply for patients. A blood donor card or driver's license or two other forms of identification are required at check-in. Individuals who are 17 years of age (16 with parental consent in some states), weigh at least 110 pounds and are in generally good health may be eligible to donate blood. High school students and other donors 18 years of age and younger also have to meet certain height and weight requirements.

Blood donors in the Missouri-Illinois Blood Services Region can now save time at their next donation by using RapidPass to complete their pre-donation reading and health history questionnaire online, on the day of their donation, prior to arriving at the blood drive. To get started and learn more, visit redcrossblood.org/RapidPass and follow the instructions on the site.

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Dexter Chamber Hosts K9 Biz Ribbon Cutting

DECEMBER 10TH 2015 BY DEE LOFLIN

Dexter Chamber Hosts K9 Biz Ribbon Cutting

Dexter, Missouri - The Dexter Chamber of Commerce held a Ribbon Cutting at K9 Biz, located at 38 E. Stoddard Street in downtown Dexter on Thursday, December 10, 2015.

Owners are Claire Stadt, ABCDT and Christa Tucker, ABCDT.

Their mission is to provide top quality dog training to customers looking for a personal, fun experience working with their dog.

Hours are 9:00 a.m. – 6:00 p.m. Monday – Friday and Saturday 9:00 a.m. – 5:00 p.m.

If you would like more information on their dog training contact them at (573) 225-7321. Their motto is “Training is fun for you and your furry friend!” Don't forget to follow them on Facebook by clicking **HERE**.

On Saturday, December 12th from 10:00 a.m. – 2:00 p.m. K9 Biz will have a Grand Opening celebration with Santa! Bring your pet and have their picture made with SANTA! Pictures will be available for download on their Facebook page with a donation. All donations will be donated to the Dexter Animal Shelter.

Cake and punch will be served and a special doggy cake will be available for your four legged friends.

Linda Kush with Sit and Stay Dog Boarding and Training will be here with her dogs, Roxie and Riley to do a trick show at 11:30 a.m.

K9 Biz not only offers Basic Obedience courses, but other types of training as well. Plus they have a unique assortment of treats, collars, leashes, clothing, and so much more for your fur babies!

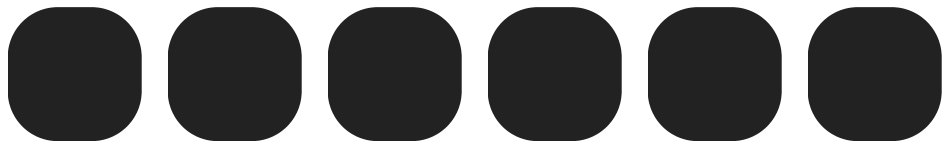
Bouncer and Daisy will also greet you at the door. Just be very careful Bouncer is blind and might bump into you. Daisy is just a pup and is very curious.

Pictured from left to right: Hillary Starnes, Dexter Chamber Director, Christa Tucker holding Daisy, Bouncer the black Lab, Rhonda Hall, Mayor Joe Webber, Chris Brannan, Claire Stadt with Katie a Border Collie rescue dog, Mark Stidham, Kevin Bishop, Chamber President, and Terry Battles.

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Bernie PAT December Student of the Month - Nathan Kester

DECEMBER 06TH 2015 BY DEE LOFLIN

Bernie PAT December Student of the Month - Nathan Kester

Bernie, Missouri - Nathan Kester has been chosen as one of the Students of the Month by the Bernie Parents as Teachers group.

He is the four year old son of James and Rebecca Kester.

Nathan likes playing outside, painting, and anything his big brother Alex can do.

He is currently learning how to write the alphabet and his name. During PAT visits with the family, Nathan enjoys all of the games they play and reading the books to his Mom and Mrs. McGarity.

If you would like to know more about Parents as Teachers contact Courtney McGarity or Casey Arnold at 573-293-5335, ext 293 or find them on Facebook by clicking [HERE](#).

The following information was taken directly from the Parent as Teachers Missouri website. For more information click [HERE](#).

Our Vision

All children will learn, grow and develop to realize their full potential.

Our Mission

To provide the information, support and encouragement parents need to help their children develop optimally during the crucial early years of life.

Our Values

The early years of a child's life are critical for optimal development and provide the foundation for success in school and in life.

Parents are their children's first and most influential teachers. Established and emerging research should be the foundation of parent education and family support curricula, training, materials and services.

All young children and their families deserve the same opportunities to succeed, regardless of any demographic, geographic or economic considerations. An understanding and appreciation of the history and traditions of diverse cultures is essential in serving families.

History

In 1981, Missouri pioneered the concept of helping parents embrace their important role as their child's first and best teacher. Today, Parents as Teachers continues to equip early childhood organizations and professionals with information and tools that are relevant—and widely applicable—to today's parents, families and children.

The Parents as Teachers leadership team and Board of Directors is engaged in a three-year [strategic plan](#), which positions the organization as a valued partner to support the organizations and professionals who serve families and children, especially those most vulnerable.

The concept for Parents as Teachers was developed in the 1970s when Missouri educators noted that children were beginning kindergarten with varying levels of school readiness. Research showed that greater parent involvement is a critical link in the child's development of learning skills, including reading and writing.

Early childhood professionals suggested that a program to provide early detection of developmental delays and health issues, and parent education to help parents understand their role in encouraging their child's development from the beginning could help improve school readiness and parent involvement.

With funding from the Missouri Department of Elementary and Secondary Education and The Danforth Foundation, Parents as Teachers began in 1981 in Missouri as a pilot project for first-time parents of newborns. Recognizing the program's benefits and cost effectiveness, the Missouri legislature provided state

funding in 1985 to implement Parents as Teachers programs in all Missouri school districts. Since 1985, Parents as Teachers has expanded to all 50 states and six other countries.

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Bernie PAT December Student of the Month - Codielee Smith

DECEMBER 06TH 2015 BY DEE LOFLIN

Bernie PAT December Student of the Month - Codielee Smith

Bernie, Missouri - Codielee Smith is one of Bernie Parents as Teachers' Students of the Month for December 2015.

He is the three month old son of Josh and Charity Smith.

Codielee enjoys tummy time with him Mommy and he also loves his older brothers who read to him. His favorite part of PAT is when his Mommy reads a new book to him during their visit with Mrs. Casey.

If you would like to know more about Parents as Teachers contact Courtney McGarity or Casey Arnold at 573-293-5335, ext 293 or find them on Facebook by clicking [HERE](#).

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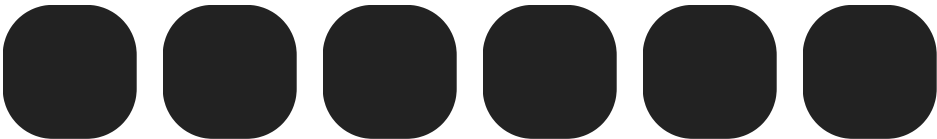
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