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# Ribbon Cutting for Pennington Auto Tire and Body

JANUARY 03RD 2017 BY DEE LOFLIN

## Ribbon Cutting for Pennington Auto Tire and Body

Dexter, Missouri - The Dexter Chamber of Commerce held a ribbon cutting recently at Pennington Auto Tire and Body, LLC located at 120 W. Business 60 in Dexter.

The family owned business is ran by owner Bill Pennington and his wife, Christine. Their son, Tony, heads the tire department and daughter, Penny Abner is the office manager.

Bill retired last year and has been in the ministry for more than 35 years. He is the pastor at Rivers of Life Ministries.

Follow Pennington Auto Tire and Body, LLC on Facebook by clicking [HERE](#).

Shown in the photo from left to right are: First Midwest Bank VP Kim Sifford, Chamber President Debbie Stidham, Sherry Abner, Christine Pennington, Bill Pennington, Mayor Joe Weber, Chamber Director Rhonda Hall, Alderman Jerry Corder, and Chamber Executive Director Hillary Starnes. Back row from left to right: City Administrator Mark Stidham, Kenny Abner, Tony Pennington, Alderman Terry Battles, and Chamber First Vice President Jason Banken.

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## Brown Automotive Group to Host Grand Opening

DECEMBER 29TH 2016 BY DEE LOFLIN

[Brown Automotive Group to Host Grand Opening](#)

**THIS EVEN HAS BEEN POSTPONED UNTIL MARCH 2017! Thank you**

**Dexter, Missouri** - The newly opened Brown Automotive Group located in Dexter will host a Grand Opening and Customer Appreciation Days January 5th, 6th and 7th with food, giveaways, and MORE!

The Brown Automotive family will serve hotdogs, hamburgers and drinks along with fabulous raffles for a 65" Flatscreen TV, Gas Cards, Lamberts Gift Cards and Coozie Tumblers!

It's all FREE to enter! If you are a new customer receive 1 entry, previous customers get 2 entries, test drive a vehicle and get 1 entry, fill out a credit application and receive 1 entry, purchase a vehicle and get another entry! So many ways to enter all while eating FREE delicious hamburgers and hotdogs.

Receive a 25QT YETI Cooler with every purchase! WOW! What a deal!

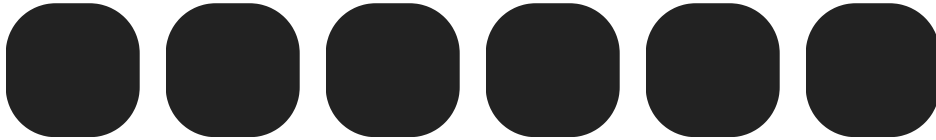
Brown Automotive is located at 1731 W. Business 60 in Dexter. Call them at (573) 625-5400. They are open Monday - Friday 8 a.m. - 5 p.m. and Saturday 8 a.m. - 2 p.m.

Follow Brown Automotive on Facebook by clicking **HERE**.

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## O'Dell Named 2016 Dexter Firefighter of the Year

DECEMBER 22ND 2016 BY DEE LOFLIN

[O'Dell Named 2016 Dexter Firefighter of the Year](#)

**Dexter, Missouri** - The Dexter Fire Department held their annual Christmas banquet on Tuesday, December 20, 2016. Todd O'Dell, a 15 year veteran of the Dexter Fire Department was named the 2016 Firefighter of the Year.

The Dexter firemen vote each year as to who has gone above and beyond the call of duty and who exemplifies the spirit of the department.

Presenting the award to O'Dell is the 2015 recipient, Jeffrey Hueckel.

Mark Stidham, City of Dexter Manager, spoke during the celebration. "We have come a long way over the years," commented Stidham. "You guys are working efficiently. I'd like to brag on all of you and put you up against any fire department in southeast Missouri."

"We try to address every need that Don has asked for over the years," Stidham said of Don Seymore, Fire Chief. "The city of Dexter appreciates each and everyone of you!"

Amy Palmer with SCAD, guest speaker, also said a few words about the Dexter Fire Department.

"You guys do a fantastic job. You are all heroes to EMS," stated Palmer. "We know without a doubt you will have our back. We sometimes don't take the time to thank you and let you know how much you are appreciated."

"You put your lives in front of us. We park our vehicles next to the fire engines and you protect our vehicles and us while we work. Thank you!"

Don Seymore, Fire Chief, also spoke about some of the most interesting and unfortunately tragic situations the firemen and rescue have had to deal with during the 2015 year. One of course was the recent train wreck taking the lives of two adults and two children. With tears filling his eyes he spoke of that tragic day being one he will never forget and if any fireman needed to talk his door was open.

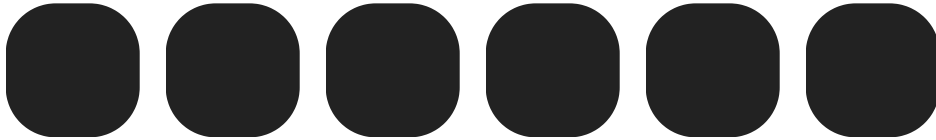
"Days like that one will stick with you forever during your career and life. You are never completely prepared for that type of tragedy," stated Seymore.

On a much lighter note he spoke of the recent water rescue and the amazing efforts by everyone involved to rescue a young lady partially submerged in a ditch on Arvin Road. She received very few injuries and was a very lucky lady. "Who would have guess a water rescue in Dexter. It's flat here and not many water sources except the lagoon, but the ditch was full of water and well we did what we had to do to rescue that person."

Jeffery Hueckel received his 5 year pin. Todd O'Dell and Terry Battles received their 15 year pins.

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## Devin Busby Charity Challenge Quite Successful

DECEMBER 21ST 2016 BY DEE LOFLIN

[Devin Busby Charity Challenge Quite Successful](#)

**Malden, Missouri** - The winner of the \$1,342.26 donation from the Devin Busby Charity Challenge is Hope International!

Busby is a Risk Advisor and Master Farm Insurance Agent at the Byrum, Culp, Davis & Dell Insurance Agency in Malden.

"To everyone that had a hand in this, I really appreciate it and I can't tell you how appreciative Hope International was to receive the donation," stated Busby. "I can promise you the money you donated will go to good use in helping children and families. Also a big thank you to the other two charities who participated - Bootheel Youth Museum & Delta Children's Home."

A REMARKABLE fact on Hope International for the year 2016 alone: They fed 170,072

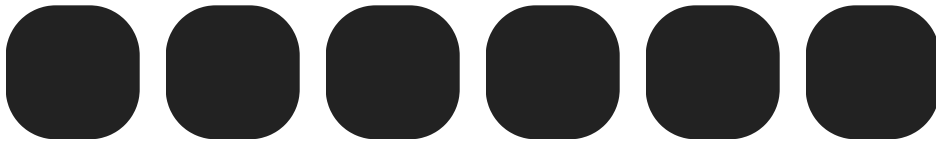
people, clothed 687 families, supplied furniture to 338 families, assisted in three major disasters, sent 33,000 pounds of clothes to Haiti, supplied 600 kids with school supplies, raised \$5,000 for the Barnes family, along with touching lives every single day! Truly amazing!

If you would ever like to make a donation to Hope International you can contact Kristin Stevens, Gale 'N Heather Jordan, or go to the Bernie/Kennett location. Your donation WILL make a difference!

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## Annual Wreaths Across America Honors Veterans

DECEMBER 19TH 2016 BY DEE LOFLIN

[Annual Wreaths Across America Honors Veterans](#)

**Bloomfield, Missouri** - It was a gorgeous day at the Missouri Veterans Cemetery in Bloomfield. The sun was shining, the temperatures were warm and hundreds of volunteers of all ages converged to place beautiful Christmas Wreaths on veterans' graves. It looked to be a record breaking turn-out for the 8th annual Wreaths Across America.

A green wreath with a red ribbon laid across the tombstone of a veteran. It was a simple image, but a powerful message. A message of honor, remembrance and gratitude.

In 1992, Worcester Wreath found themselves with a surplus of wreaths nearing the end of the holiday season. Remembering his boyhood experience at Arlington, Worcester realized he had an opportunity to honor our country's Veterans. With the help of Maine Senator Olympia Snowe, arrangements were made for the wreaths to be placed at Arlington in one of the older sections of the cemetery, a section which had been receiving fewer visitors with each passing year.

In 2007, the Worcester family, along with veterans, and other groups and individuals who had helped with their annual Christmas wreath ceremony in Arlington, formed Wreaths Across America, a nonprofit 501-c3 organization, to continue and expand this effort and support other groups around the country who wanted to do the same. The mission is simple: REMEMBER, HONOR, TEACH.

On December 13, 2008, the U.S. Congress unanimously voted to establish Wreaths Across America Day on the second or third Saturday of December.

Along with scores of other communities around the country, including Arlington National Cemetery, our community came out strong and gathered at the Missouri Veterans Cemetery in Stoddard County on Saturday, December 17, 2016.

Mr. Randy Dunn served as Master of Ceremony. A Moment of Silence for those fallen, prisoners of war, missing in action, and to honor those who have served this great nation. Jack Gillies conducted the Pledge of Allegiance and Kara King sang a most beautiful National Anthem. Pastor Ronnie Stevens of the First General Baptist Church said the Invocation.

Wreaths of Service were placed by those representing the Army, Navy, Air Force, Coast Guard, Merchant Marines, and POW/MIA.

Benediction was performed by Pastor Stevens and the firing volley was performed by the Stoddard County Veterans Honor Guard followed by Taps.

Following the brief ceremony, volunteers scattered throughout the hillside at the cemetery to place a wreath at each headstone in the cemetery. This was the 8th year for the Wreaths

# Across America at the Missouri Veterans Cemetery in Bloomfield.

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