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Annual Bernie Library Fundraiser Book and Bake Sale

MAY 04TH 2017 BY DEE LOFLIN

Annual Bernie Library Fundraiser Book and Bake Sale

Bernie, Missouri - The Bernie Public Library will host their Spring Fundraiser on Friday, May 5, 2017.

The Bake Sale and Book Sale will be from 8:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m.

Hardback and large paperback books will be 50 cents and regular paperbacks are 25 cents or fill-a-bag for \$5.00.

You can make a donation and choose a dessert of your choice. Please support the Bernie Public Library! Contact Librarian Sandy Stone at (573) 293-4383.

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Boy Scouts Learn About Electrical Safety

MAY 03RD 2017 BY DEE LOFLIN

Boy Scouts Learn About Electrical Safety

Dexter, Missouri - Local Boy Scouts in Dexter were provided a lesson on electricity safety from Team SEMO's Ron Montgomery.

These students were excited and ready to learn about electrical safety.

SEMO Electrical Cooperative has been serving this area since 1938!

"In 1938, a group of farmers in Mississippi County in southeast Missouri came together to form a cooperative to meet the electrical needs of the rural area. The small band of forward-thinking farmers and area business leaders received help from the newly formed Rural Electrification Administration (REA). From originally serving the counties of Scott, New Madrid, and Mississippi, the Cooperative also serves Stoddard, Bollinger and Cape Girardeau. SEMO Electric's service area is 75 miles from north to south and east to west. From its humble beginnings with a few lights on a farm homestead, SEMO Electric today serves thousands of homes, farms and businesses."

As part of a three-tier cooperative system, the power distributed by SEMO Electric is generated by Associated Electric Cooperative, Inc., based in Springfield, Mo. SEMO Electric receives transmission services from M & A Electric Power Cooperative based in Poplar Bluff, Mo. SEMO Electric's mission is to partner with member-owners to safely, competitively and reliably energize homes, farms and businesses to enhance the quality of

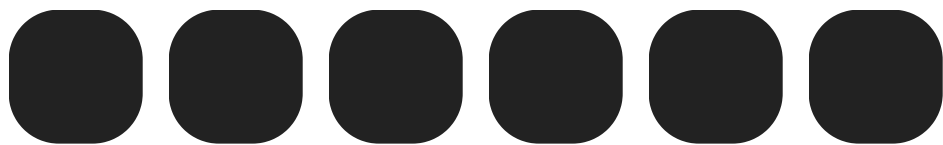
life in southeast Missouri.

If your group would like a safety lesson give Ron a call at 1-800-813-5230.

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Bloomfield Chamber Farm Family of the Year

MAY 03RD 2017 BY DEE LOFLIN

Bloomfield Chamber Farm Family of the Year

Bloomfield, Missouri - The Bloomfield Chamber of Commerce held their annual award ceremony at the Assembly of God Church on Thursday, April 20, 2017.

Several awards were announced including Woman of the Year, Business of the Year, and Organization of the Year, Man of the Year, Educator of the Year, Lifetime Achievement Award, and Farm Family of the Year Award.

The Bloomfield Chamber of Commerce Farm Family of the Year was awarded to Vaneta Hendley-King, James and Joe Hendley family.

The King-Hendley Farm is one of only a few Stoddard County Century Farms. This means the farm has been in operation by the same family for at least one hundred years.

The Hendley family came to southeast Missouri in the 1840's and Henry M. Hendley served in the Civil War as a Confederate soldier. Today four generations are involved in the operation: Mrs Vaneta Hendley-King is the mother of James, James is the father of Joe and Tyler.

Joe has five children and the older ones enjoy helping with chores. Tyler is studying to be a minister, so the time he is actively engaged in the operation is limited at the present time. The family raises Black Angus cattle, a great deal of hay and row crops on about 1200 acres. Mrs. King has a fish pond that is open to the public.

Since James' wife Fran retired from the Bloomfield School System, she has become a beekeeper; she also spends several weeks each year in Georgia where she and her sister have a farm partnership.

Joe's wife Kathy has recently become a farm appraiser for Progressive Farm Credit Services.

Mrs. King is a member of the Bloomfield General Baptist Church, James and Fran are members of Bloomfield Trinity United Church, Joe and Kathy are members of the Advance Methodist Church and Tyler and his wife are serving God in the St. Louis area where he will soon complete his study to be a minister.

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The Bloomfield Chamber Lifetime Achievement Award was presented to Evelyn and Gerald Griffin.

Graduated from Bell City High School, but have lived in Bloomfield for a great deal of their adult life.

Their Corporation has provided employment for many Stoddard County residents.

Several years ago Gerald and Evelyn made improvements to the historic Buck Store Building; they have supported several area churches and helped fund the purchase of the street lights on the courthouse square.

They were instrumental in the establishment of (BANC) Bloomfield Area Nutrition Center that provides meals for the Bloomfield community every Wednesday.

Presenting the award is Jim Mayo to Evelyn and Gerald Griffin.

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Bloomfield Chamber Educator of the Year - Ann Bye

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The Bloomfield Educator of the Year is Ann Bye.

Ann Bye is a 1971 graduate of Bloomfield High School.

As the district Girl Scout Field Director, Ann trained volunteers who work with troops throughout southeast Missouri. She also served as the director of the Girl School Camp at Lake Wappapello.

She taught in three different school district before coming to Bloomfield as a Title One teacher, Cabool, Scott Central and Leopold. She also taught junior high language arts and high school English during 16 years with Bloomfield Schools.

She has been the Beta Club Sponsor and has taken a group of students to the National Convention after winnings at the district and state level each year she has been sponsor. Students have also been successful under her leadership as the Speech Team Sponsor.

Ann has devoted a great deal of time to the Volleyball program at Bloomfield High School, serving as bookkeeper for the games. She has serves as the secretary of the Community Teachers Association. After 19 years in the education field, Ann will be retiring at the end of this school year.

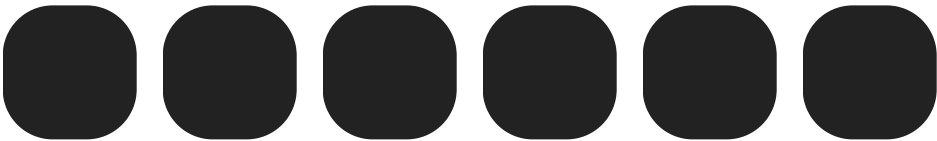
She is an active member of First Baptist Church and the Bloomfield Chapter #385 Eastern Star.

Presenting the Bloomfield Chamber Educator of the Year award is Mrs. Toni Hill, Superintendent of Bloomfield School District.

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