

Features



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Human Trafficking: Is It Here in Stoddard County?

AUGUST 05TH 2017 BY DEE LOFLIN

Human Trafficking: Is It Here in Stoddard County?

Stoddard County, Missouri - Is Human Trafficking a local issue in Stoddard County and the answer is YES! Human Trafficking is more than just a kidnapping and being sold into slavery! If you want to learn more or want to help please come to an **informational meeting on Tuesday, August 8, 2017 at 6:30 p.m. at the Living Water Worship Center in Bloomfield.**

Come the entrance behind Living Water Worship Center at 18094 Highway 25. Now is the time to get involved and learn about Human Trafficking and Exploitation with GO:61, Inc. Southeast Missouri representative, Tish Gentry, will be on hand to discuss the new SEMO chapter of GO:61 which is based out of Springfield, Missouri.

What exactly is Human Trafficking? it is defined by a person being used as a commodity for the gain of another person through one, two or all of the follow means: FORCE, FRAUD, AND COERCION. Human Trafficking is a crime against a person and within the organization of GO:61, they believe it is the worst crime against humanity.

Slavery and exploitation exist in three primary forms: [sex trafficking forced labor and domestic servitude](#)

GO:61 is working hard to educate the public especially in the Ozarks of Missouri. Small town and rural areas are not exempt from this crime. Prostitution and domestic abuse frequently cloak human trafficking and the enslavement of a person is not recognized because it is given another name.

Do you know the signs of someone in need? Do you recognize human trafficking when you are face-to-face with someone? GO:61 can provide volunteer training, education, and offer victim services in efforts to end these horrible crimes against humanity.

Local GO:61 representative Tish Gentry spoke about her passion. "I have always had a heart for hurting, young women," she said. "I went to a conference and took a 9 week training and now I want to start a program here in our area. There are many cases of human trafficking right here in our county. We just need to help them spiritually and be an advocate for them."

If you would like to know more about GO:61 click [HERE](#). Their website is GO:61.org

You can also follow the Springfield GO:61 on Facebook.

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Back the Blue Appreciation Day in Dexter

Back the Blue Appreciation Day in Dexter

Dexter, Missouri - Sue Edwards of Dexter felt it was time to celebrate our law enforcement on an annual basis by having a Back the Blue Appreciation Day on August 4th each year. Last year she and through local donations gave appreciation certificates and hosted a free lunch at Hickory Log to Dexter Police Department, Missouri Highway Patrol in our area, and to the Stoddard County Sheriff's Department.

“I just am tired of all the negative talk about the men and women who wear the badge,” stated Edwards. “I was sitting at the kitchen table one day and the more I thought about it the more I wanted to do something for our local officers who risk their lives each day.”

Dexter’s police department is fortunate enough to have so many citizens show their appreciation throughout the year, but on August 4th this day will be set aside each year to celebrate our local police force and all they do for the citizens of Dexter.

On Friday the Dexter Police Department, the Stoddard County Sheriff’s Office, and several of our local Missouri Highway Patrol Troopers will be treated to lunch at Hickory Log at noon.

Sue Edwards is point of contact for this event and she has already received a few donations from local businesses to help promote the event. For police officers invited, but not able to attend, gift certificates to Hickory Log will be given to them as a show of appreciation.

The Boy Scouts plan to fly the American Flags down Business US 60. If your business has a flag, please display it August 4th.

Sue asks that everyone wear BLUE to work that day and if businesses could display BLUE ribbons to let the police know how much we support them in Dexter.

“I think about all those mothers, wives, and children who kiss their loved ones goodbye as they go off to work not knowing if they will return that evening. It can be a very dangerous job,” commented Edwards.

An account has been established at Southern Bank in Dexter for donations. The bank is located at 713 W. Business US Highway 60 in Dexter. Their phone number is (573) 624-5525.

If you would like to donate or need further information, please contact Sue Edwards at (573) 614-9266.

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10th Annual Hope International Back-to-School Bash a Success

AUGUST 02ND 2017 BY DEE LOFLIN

[10th Annual Hope International Back-to-School Bash a Success](#)

Dexter, Missouri - More than 800 children of all ages were delighted to receive free backpacks full of school supplies from Hope International at their 10th annual Back-to-School Bash at the Bearcat Event Center on Tuesday.

Students were able to get haircuts, dental exams, hearing tests, and eye exams all for free donated by the many businesses in the community. They also had fun in the giant bounce houses set up on one basketball court. There was face painting, balloon animals, lots of free candy and information from various groups and organizations. Students and families were also treated to free popcorn, hotdogs, chips, and soda. Kiger Electric grilled more than 1,300 hotdogs at last count for the event.

What an amazing community effort for our students. It was also good experience for high school students who volunteered to work at many of the booths.

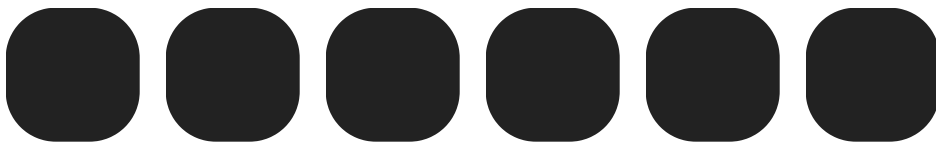
Students came from all over Stoddard County and a few surrounding towns such as Malden, Kennett and Senath. It was a great day and a lot of smiling faces.

This was NOT a low-income only opportunity. They wanted everyone with children to benefit from this event. Getting a child ready to go back to school can be very stressful and hard on a family. They want to make the Back 2 School process a fun and enjoyable day for everyone and it was!

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Fishing Classes at Keller Public Library

JULY 29TH 2017 BY DEE LOFLIN

Fishing Classes at Keller Public Library

Dexter, Missouri - Keller Public Library is offering Fishing Classes sponsored by the Missouri Department of Conservation on four Saturdays in September.

Classes are for youth ages 7 to 15 years and class size is limited to 20 participants. Pre-registration is required and there is no charge of the classes.

Children who complete all four classes will receive a \$25 Bass Pro Gift Card and each child must be accompanied by a parent or guardian. Classes each Saturday are two hours long.

Saturday, September 9th from 10:00 a.m. - noon students will attend Lesson 1: Equipment, Casting, and Proper Fish Handling.

Saturday, September 16th from 10:00 a.m. - noon students will attend Lesson 2: How to Tie a Knot and Bait a Hook.

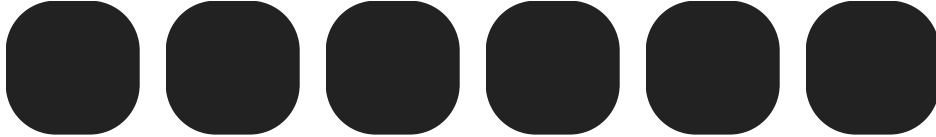
Saturday, September 23rd from 10:00 a.m. - noon students will attend Lesson 3: Five Common Missouri Fish - Their Anatomy, Habitat, and Life Cycle

Saturday, September 30th from 10:00 a.m. - noon students will attend Lesson 4: Fishing with Lures and Fishing Regulations.

Each class will be held in the Keller Public Library Community Room. Please call (573) 624-3764 to pre-register for each class.

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Back the Blue Fish Fry Fundraiser

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Back the Blue Fish Fry Fundraiser

Dexter, Missouri - On Saturday, July 29, 2017 the Dexter VFW Post 2659 will host a "Back the Blue" Fish Fry.

"These men and women serve on a front line as we have," commented Commander of the VFW Robert Myers. "They do not know who is friendly and who is foe until the conflict arises. It maybe from what appears to be a simple traffic stop quickly escalated in force, or to a domestic disturbance upon arrival walking into a hail of gun fire."

Join them from Noon to 6:00 p.m. and support your local law enforcement.

All proceeds will go to the Dexter Police Department. Other fundraisers are in the planning stages for EMS and Fire.

Cost of the meal is \$7.00 with children 12 and under free. You will be served delicious fried catfish, hush puppies, cole slaw, french fries and a drink.

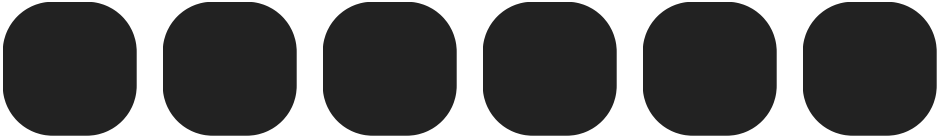
The new FVW Canteen is located at 23 North Locust Street in Dexter.

There will also be games for the kids and adults, an 8 ball tournament, dart tournament, basketball shooting for kids, corn hole events and 50/50 as well.

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