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Bernie Parents as Teachers March Student of the Month

MARCH 03RD 2018 BY DEE LOFLIN

Bernie Parents as Teachers March Student of the Month

Bernie, Missouri- Jaxon Kash Blevins is the Bernie Parents at Teachers student of the month for March 2018.

He is the nine month old son of Briana Johnson and Nolan Blevins.

Jaxon loves his brother, Kasen, and thinks he is funny. He also enjoys snuggling with his mommy, visiting Walmart, his binky, eating puffs, and kisses from his puppy Lila.

During the family's PAT visits, Jaxon enjoys digging through anything Mrs. McGarity brings for him.

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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Camellia Nails & Spa Ribbon Cutting

FEBRUARY 14TH 2018 BY DEE LOFLIN

[Camellia Nails & Spa Ribbon Cutting](#)

Dexter, Missouri - The Dexter Chamber of Commerce held a ribbon cutting for Camellia Nails & Spa on Thursday, January 25, 2018.

Camellia Nails & Spa is located at 1638 B. West Business 60 next to Rent One in the Bus 60 Plaza.

They are open Monday through Friday from 9 a.m. - 7 p.m. and on Saturdays are open 9 a.m. - 6 p.m.

Walk-ins are welcome or you can make an appointment by calling (573) 625-5116.

Pictured are several Chamber directors and member with key figures in the front cutting the ribbon. Left to right are owners Andy Truont and Lana Tran, and employees Minh Nguyen, Deip Tran, and Trinh Le.

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Zander Northern is Bernie PAT Student of the Month for February 2018

FEBRUARY 08TH 2018 BY DEE LOFLIN

[Zander Northern is Bernie PAT Student of the Month for February 2018](#)

Bernie, Missouri - Zander Lee Brian Northern is the Bernie Parents as Teachers' Student of the Month for February 2018.

Zander is the 20 month old son of Logan and Alexis Northern.

His favorite thing to eat is bananas, and he loves to dance and play outside.

During the family's PAT visits with Mrs. Casey Arnold, Zander enjoys receiving new books and reading them with his parents after the visit.

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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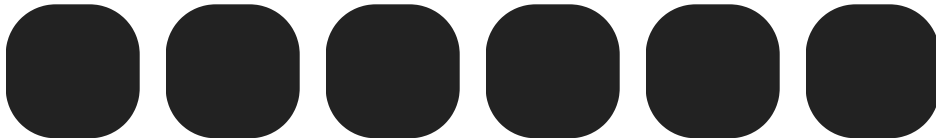
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Southeast Regent VP, Ed Gargas, Named Eagle Scout Class Sponsor

FEBRUARY 05TH 2018 BY DEE LOFLIN

Southeast Regent VP, Ed Gargas, Named Eagle Scout Class Sponsor

Cape Girardeau, Missouri - Tony Smee, President of the Southeast Missouri Eagle Scout Association, has announced Ed Gargas as the honored sponsor of the 2017 class of Eagle Scouts.

Officially named the 2017 Col. Edward P. Gargas Class of Eagle Scouts, seventy-five Eagle Scouts from Southeast Missouri and Southern Illinois will be honored at Southeast Missouri State University on Saturday, February 10th at 2:00 PM in Academic Auditorium.

Gargas, himself an Eagle Scout, will address the latest class of Eagles as they receive their awards. The ceremony is free and open to the public, and all holders of the rank of Eagle Scout are encouraged to attend. It is estimated that less than five percent of all Boy Scouts will ever earn the rank of Eagle. The prestigious award requires formal demonstration of leadership over several years, creating and managing a significant service project that benefits the community, and earning a minimum of 21 merit badges that require proficiencies such as first aid, environmental science, lifesaving, emergency preparedness, personal management, citizenship and outdoor skills. A lengthy formal review before a board of Eagle Scouts and community representatives is the final hurdle prior to a Scout's elevation to the rank of Eagle.

Mr. Gargas currently serves as Vice President of the Southeast Missouri State University Board of Regents, having been appointed by Governor Jeremiah "Jay" Nixon in 2015. He is Director of Operations and Sales with Bagby Wealth Management. He holds a Bachelor of Science in Business Administration from Southeast Missouri State University, as well as a Master's in Business Administration from William Woods University and a Master of Strategic Studies from the U.S. Army War College.

Ed is a commissioned officer in the Missouri National Guard and currently holds the rank of colonel. He is a combat veteran of Operation Iraqi Freedom. He has received four Army commendation medals and many other awards for his performance and service. Ed's assignments in the military have included: brigade commander, brigade operations officer, battalion commander, battalion executive officer, battalion operations officer, division engineer, and company commander.

Ed is a member of the First Baptist Church in Dexter, as well as various other community and civic organizations including the American Legion, and the Dexter Chamber of Commerce. He and his wife Tina have one son, Nate. Ed attained the rank of Eagle Scout

in 1984 in Troop 81, Kennett, Missouri.

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Valentine Gala Event to be Held in Honor of Susan Cox

FEBRUARY 04TH 2018 BY DEE LOFLIN

[Valentine Gala Event to be Held in Honor of Susan Cox](#)

Dexter, Missouri - Susan Cox was recently diagnosed with a rare neurological condition called Transverse Myelitis. A Valentine Gala benefit will be held in her honor on Thursday, February 8, 2018 at Dexter's Wesley Hall at the First United Methodist Church.

It's been nearly four months ago since Susan's life changed. She began feeling discomfort on her right side, then it affected her legs and by the afternoon she was in the hospital in

Cape Girardeau looking for answers. Doug, Susan's husband decided to head to Barnes Hospital in St. Louis where they spent a number of days confirming the rare condition.

Many of you know Susan's husband, Doug, works for the city of Dexter, but spends countless hours serving up delicious BBQ at many fundraisers and events locally.

Once the diagnosis was confirmed, they decided to go the best hospital in the country who has doctors known to be the "the pioneers" of Transverse Myelitis aka TM. They traveled to John Hopkins Hospital in Baltimore and doctors there agreed Susan had TM.

TM is defined as a rare neurological condition in which the spinal cord is inflamed. This inflammation can be caused by an infection, immune system disorder or damage to nerve fibers.

Cox was left without feeling from the middle of her body to her toes and has now undergone intense physical therapy. Ironically she works at Select Physical Therapy in Dexter and has been employed there for 20 years. She has been utilizing her therapy each and every day to the point she is able to stand, walk, and even maneuver without a walker.

The damage is done and will not heal according to her doctors; however she is determined to continue working and helping others. Both her and her husband are known in the community as ones who help others first.

With all the medical and travel expenses, friends have decided to help the Cox family with a Valentine's Gala Benefit. Tickets for the event are available at Gregory's Two East in downtown Dexter and are \$25 each. Finger foods and beverages will be served beginning at 6:30 p.m. with musical entertainment provided by local artists. Maggie Thorn Arlan Taylor, Mary Ruth Boone, and Jansen Williams will perform.

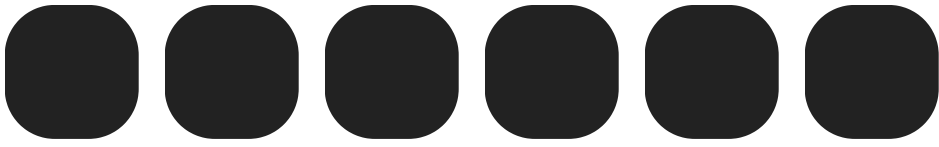
A silent auction will also take place and donations will be gladly accepted at Gregory's.

For additional information contact Gregory's Two East at (573) 624-4554. Tickets will also be available at the door.

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