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John O'Leary to Headline 18ForeLife Banquet on June 1, 2018

MAY 24TH 2018 BY DEE LOFLIN

John O'Leary to Headline 18ForeLife Banquet on June 1, 2018

Dexter, Missouri - The 2018 guest speaker for the 18 FORE Life banquet is John O'Leary.

The Ben Kruse memorial 18 FORE Life Charity Golf event is set to take place on the weekend of June 1st and 2nd with the banquet on Friday evening.

While most past banquet speakers have survived cancer or had someone in their family to who battled the disease, O'Leary is not a cancer survivor, but at the age of nine suffered burns over his entire body while playing with matches and gasoline in his family's garage.

The burns were so severe that the doctor told his parents he would not survive. He spent months in the hospital and faced many surgeries and years of therapy. Before he was 10 years old, he lost all of his fingers to amputation due to the severe burns he suffered.

O'Leary now speaks across the country, inspiring others to do three things in life:

1. To navigate adversity through decision-making;
2. To reveal a brighter vision for what's possible;
3. and to live boldly to impact others.

Each year, a love offering recipient or family member also is invited to speak at the banquet. This year, members of the Pixley family will be on hand to honor the memory of their brother, Adam, who lost his battle to cancer this year.

"There are still some tickets left for the banquet and we need a few more golf teams as well," commented Scott Kruse. "The cost is only \$30 each." You can contact Mr. Kruse at (573) 614-0503.

The 18 FORE Life Charity has raised over \$2.2 million dollars since its inception in 2000. The charity, through a number of annual events and primarily through donations and the golf tournament are able to provide love offerings to area families in the amount of \$1,000 each.

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Memorial Day Ceremony Planned at MO State Veterans Cemetery in Bloomfield

Memorial Day Ceremony Planned at MO State Veterans Cemetery in Bloomfield

Bloomfield, Missouri - The annual Memorial Day ceremony will be held at 1:00 p.m. at the Missouri State Veterans Cemetery in Bloomfield on Monday, May 28, 2018.

The American Legion Post #59 Honor Guard will present the POW/MIA Table Ceremony which honors soldiers that were prisoners of war or missing in action from each branch of the U.S. Military.

The Stoddard County Honor Guard will provide the firing of the volley for the Memorial Service.

The public is encouraged to attend.

Families and friends of those buried at the cemetery are invited to attend, as well as members of the general public. For more information, contact the cemetery office at (573) 568-3871.

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Congressman Jason Smith Honors Matthew Agey of Dexter

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Congressman Jason Smith Honors Matthew Agey of Dexter

Dexter, Missouri - On Saturday U.S. Rep. Jason Smith presented a Congressional Award to Matthew Agey of Dexter. The award is the highest honor given by Congress to a youth who excels in a number of areas including personal development, public service, physical fitness and exploration. The awards can range from several different certificate levels, all the way to bronze, silver and gold medals.

“It’s a great honor for me to acknowledge Matt’s dedication and commitment to reaching his goals and achieving the Congressional Award,” said Smith. “I hope this is the first of many medals I will present to some of the outstanding youth in southern Missouri.”

Matt is the son of Debby and David Agey of Dexter. He earned certificates through the program as he worked to complete the requirement for the medal. While other students in the 8th Congressional District have received certificates, this is the first medal earned by a high school student in the 8th District since Congressman Smith entered office.

To earn the bronze medal, Matt, who will be going into his Junior year at Dexter High School, gave more than 100 hours in voluntary public service in his community and achieved challenging goals in the areas of physical fitness and personal development. Students in the program choose someone to help encourage and guide them through the process and Matt worked with Sean Vanslyke as his advisor, CEO of SEMO Electric, helping him set his goals and validating his activities in each of four program areas.

Matt served his community by assisting at 4H and Sons of the American Legion events. He helped raise money for Wreaths Across America and local cancer organizations. Matthew volunteered his time to set up community events for children and placed wreaths on graves of veterans. He furthered his physical goals by learning proper rules, technique and skills associated with the game of golf and participated in the Junior PGA. He also

pursued aggressive physical development for the upcoming football season.

“The Congressional Award is a way to encourage students to set goals and work to achieve them,” said Smith. “I have no doubt this has helped keep Matt on a course toward a successful future. It can do the same for other students.”

The Congressional Award is the United States Congress’ award for young Americans. It is non-partisan, voluntary, and non-competitive. The program is open to all youth regardless of ability, circumstance, or socioeconomic status. Participants earn Bronze, Silver, and Gold Certificates and Bronze, Silver, and Gold Medals. Each level involves setting goals in four program areas; Voluntary Public Service, Personal Development, Physical Fitness, and Expedition/Exploration. Any student, including those with special needs or disabilities willing to take the challenge, may earn the award. To find out more, contact Congressman Smith’s office at 202-225-4404.

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Mayor Banken Signs Proclamation for National Police Week

MAY 14TH 2018 BY DEE LOFLIN

Mayor Banken Signs Proclamation for National Police Week

Dexter, Missouri - Jason Banken signed his first proclamation as the new Mayor of Dexter on Monday, May 14, 2018 honoring men and women who have served as police officers for the city of Dexter. May 13th - May 19th is National Police Officer Week.

Established by President John F. Kennedy, National Police Officer Week also has designated Tuesday as National Peace Officers Fallen Day. **Flags are to fly half-staff all day on May 15, 2018.**

Established by a joint resolution of Congress in 1962, National Police Week pays special recognition to those law enforcement officers who have lost their lives in the line of duty for the safety and protection of others.

Proclamation

Whereas, the Congress and President of the United States have designated May 15, 2018 as Peace Officers Memorial Day, and the week in which it falls as Police Week;

Whereas, the International Association of Chiefs of Police has declared law enforcement officer safety and wellness a top priority, and the IACP's Center for Officer Safety and Wellness promotes the importance of individual, agency, family, and community safety and wellness awareness; and

Whereas the members of law enforcement agency of Dexter Police Department play an essential role in safeguarding the rights and freedoms of the citizens of Dexter, Missouri; and

Whereas, it is important that all citizens know and understand the problems, duties and responsibilities of their duty to serve the people by safeguarding life and property, by protecting them against violence or disorder, and by protecting the innocent against deception and the weak against oppression or intimidation; and

Whereas the police department of Dexter PD has grown to be modern and scientific law enforcement agency which unceasingly provides a vital public service;

Now, Therefore, I, Jason Banken, Mayor of the City of Dexter, call upon all citizens of Dexter, MO and upon all patriotic, civil, and educational organizations to observe the week of May 14th as Police Week with appropriate ceremonies in which all of our people may join in commemorating police officers, past, and present, who by their faithful and loyal devotion to their responsibilities have rendered a dedicated service to their communities and, in doing so, have established for themselves an enviable and enduring reputation for preserving the rights and security of all citizens.

I further call upon all citizens of Dexter, Missouri to observe May 15, 2018 as Peace Officers Memorial Day to honor those peace officers who through their courageous deeds, have lost their lives or have become disabled in the performance of duty.

In Witness Whereof, I have hereunto set our hands and caused the seal of the City of Dexter, Missouri to be affixed this 14th Day of May, 2018.

Pictured are from left to right City Administrator Mark Stidham and from the Dexter Police Department Hank Trout, Trevor Pulley, and Joshua Benton. Seated Mayor Jason Banken ready to sign the Proclamation.

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Dexter Wal Mart Donates to Local Police Department

MAY 08TH 2018 BY DEE LOFLIN

Dexter Wal Mart Donates to Local Police Department

Dexter's Walmart presented the Dexter Police Department with a \$1,500 donation on Thursday, April 26, 2018.

The monies will be utilized in supplying the department with updated body cameras.

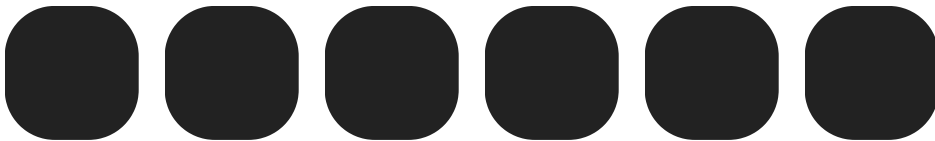
This is the second time Walmart has committed to assisting with the local department's upgrade of equipment.

Accepting the grant are Lt. Joshua Benton and Capt. Trevor Pulley. At left are Walmart Asset Protection Assistant Manager Cory Nugent and Assistant Store Manager Randee Holder.

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