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“Give what you can, take what you need!” Dexter Blessing Box

SEPTEMBER 10TH 2018 BY DEE LOFLIN

“Give what you can, take what you need!” Dexter Blessing Box

Dexter, Missouri - James Kalata's message, “Give what you can, take what you need!.”

Kalata earned his Eagle Scout by building a new Blessing Box next to the Welcome Center/Train Depot in downtown Dexter.

Eagle Scout projects are done with the intention of community betterment. Approximately 62 hours went into this project. The Historic Downtown Dexter Association helped fund the project. Busy B Lumber donated the plexiglass for the doors.

He hopes that people will utilize the Blessing Box by not only taking food for their needs, but to give back to the community as well.

"Whenever you go to the grocery store just grab a couple of extra cans of vegetables or cereal and drop off on your way home," stated Kalata.

The purpose of the Blessing Box is to help those in need. Anyone can donate nonperishable foods.

The Blessing Box is located next to the depot at the corner of W. South Main and Walnut.

Pictured from left to right: City Administrator Mark Stidham, Dexter Police Chief Trevor Pulley, Kalata, Troop 200 Leader Kyle Gillespie, and Dexter Chamber Executive Director Korie Fish.

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Dexter Police Dept Reestablishing their K-9 Unit

AUGUST 28TH 2018 BY DEE LOFLIN

[Dexter Police Dept Reestablishing their K-9 Unit](#)

Dexter, Missouri - The Dexter Police Department is pleased to announce they will be re-establishing the K-9 Unit. The department is currently undergoing a fundraising campaign to pay for the dog as the general revenue does not fund this cost.

The Dexter Police Department is fully committed to aggressively fighting the methamphetamine epidemic in our city, and keeping our youth safe in our schools," stated Chief of Police Trevor Pulley. "The K-9 will be a great asset to our department for tracking and apprehension, narcotic detection, building searches, crowd control, and handler protection. The K-9 will be available for appearances, presentations, and other public relation situations."

The K-9, of European bloodline, will be purchased and trained by a licensed professional in Cape Girardeau, Missouri. The K-9 will be qualified for dual propose, which refers to K-9 training and abilities in narcotics detection, tracking, criminal apprehension, handler protection, building searches, area searches, crowd control, and article searches. Not every dog is capable of being a police K-9, but by using imported dogs, this saves time, money, and guarantees the dog selected will have the highest qualities needed to perform the job of a police K-9 and serve the citizens of Dexter.

The cost of one K-9 will be approximately \$20,000. This cost involves the purchase of the police K-9 and the initial 8-week training program that trains and certifies the police K-9 for the street. The K-9 will be housed with the handler when not on duty. The department must also provide an outside shelter for the K-9. This shelter will include a metal roof, chain link sides, a wooden floor, and a dog house. For the most basic model of a shelter of this kind, the average price is \$1,000-\$1,500. We feel it is essential to provide the police K-9 with the adequate housing to not only protect him/her from various elements, but also provided the comfort he or she deserves when off duty.

Donations may be dropped off or mailed to the Dexter Police Department (305 Cooper St., Dexter, MO 63841.

Please note on the check that you wish for your donation to go toward the K-9 fundraiser. All donations are tax deductible.

For more information on donating, please contact Chief Trevor Pulley at trevor.pulley@dexterpd.com or (573) 624-5512.

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Sunday School Class Donates to Mother-to-Mother Program

AUGUST 22ND 2018 BY DEE LOFLIN

Sunday School Class Donates to Mother-to-Mother Program

Dexter, Missouri - Bob Coffey's Sunday School Class at First Baptist Church in Dexter donated to the Mother-to-Mother program.

This donation will help keep Mother-to-Mother's baby boutique and food pantry well stocked.

"We are truly blessed to have such a caring community that supports our program," commented Teresa Overall, Program Director for Mother-to-Mother Program.

Pictured are Shirley Tucker, representing the Sunday School class and Teresa Overall.

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Local Residents Chosen as Missouri Farm Family for Stoddard County

AUGUST 20TH 2018 BY DEE LOFLIN

Local Residents Chosen as Missouri Farm Family for Stoddard County

Bloomfield, Missouri - Aaron and Sarah Porter and family of Dexter, MO, were among the families honored during the 60th annual Missouri Farm Family Day, Aug. 13 at the Missouri State Fair.

The Porter family was selected as the Stoddard County Missouri Farm Family by University of Missouri Extension in Stoddard County and the local Farm Bureau. The family includes children Alex, Ava, and Adam Porter.

Each year, the fair sets aside a day to recognize farm families from across the state that are active in their communities, involved in agriculture, and/or participate in local outreach and extension programs such as 4-H or FFA.

The annual event is sponsored by five partner agencies: the Missouri Farm Bureau, the Missouri Department of Agriculture, the Missouri State Fair Commissioners, the MU College of Agriculture, Food and Natural Resources, and MU Extension and Engagement.

This year, all 114 Missouri counties plus the City of St. Louis participated, honoring nearly 490 people from 115 farm families.

The event showcases the impact Missouri Farm Families have on the economy and heritage of the state, said Missouri State Fair Director Mark Wolfe. “These families are involved in agriculture activities in their communities and are active participants in local outreach and extension. As the premier showcase for Missouri agriculture, the Missouri

State Fair is most certainly the appropriate place to celebrate these families.”

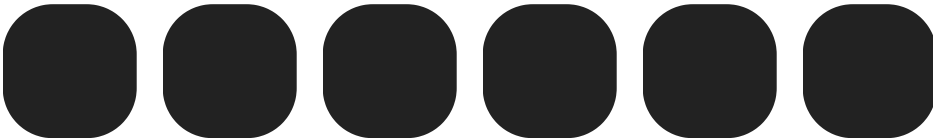
Honor Family in foreground. The Porter Family: Aaron, Sarah, Alex, Ava & Adam

Also pictured behind the family are: (left to right) MO. State Fair Commissioners: Kevin Roberts, Sherry Jones and Dr. Jack Magruder; Blake Naughton, Assoc. Vice Chancellor for MU Extension and Engagement Rob Kallenbach, Asst. Dean, MU College of Agriculture, Food and Natural Resources; Todd Hays, MO Farm Bureau Board of Director’s Vice President; Mark Wolfe, MO. State Fair Director and Garrett Hawkins, Deputy Director Mo. Dept. of Agriculture

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Active Shooter Training a Must in Our Schools

AUGUST 16TH 2018 BY DEE LOFLIN

Active Shooter Training a Must in Our Schools

Dexter, Missouri - A recent Active Shooter Training was held inside the halls of Dexter High School with the Missouri Highway Patrol offering the training to local Stoddard County officers. Dexter PD, Bernie, PD, Stoddard County Sheriff's Department, Missouri Department of Conservation and members of the Highway Patrol participated in the four hour training. Gavin Miller, Dexter School Assistant Superintendent played the role of the shooter.

Taking a proactive measures to ensure the safety of our students is of the utmost importance these days with several school shooting occurring in the midwest. It has now become necessary to prepare not only the police departments, but faculty, staff, and teachers of what to do in case of an active shooting inside the the school.

Dexter recently hired an SRO officer to work within the school.

"We feel it is necessary to have this type of training within our schools to keep both the faculty and students safe," commented Dexter Police Chief Trevor Pulley. "We now have a SRO in place and he will be allowed to build a relationship with the students throughout the school district."

Officer Don Donner was recently named the new SRO and has received extra training regarding his new duties at Dexter Schools. It is hoped that having a SRO on campus will be added comfort to parents and students knowing there is someone on campus that could respond to a threat within seconds.

"We have a plan in place and if necessary we will be ready," stated Pulley. "We brought in Sergeant Dennis Rainey from the Missouri Highway Patrol who has had a multitude of experience training the highway patrol as their firearms instructor and active shooter trainer. He gave us tons of information and going through scenarios really engaged our officers on what could happen during a real incident."

During an "active shooter" incident there will be a separate area set up for public relations once the shooter has been taken down. As a parent it will be difficult to wait for news from their child, but it is necessary to allow the police to perform their job and they will as quickly as humanly possible..

The ShowMe Times is already working with local police on how to get the word out to parents if an "active shooting" occurs on the campus of any Stoddard County school.

Make sure you have signed up for Text Alerts with your local school if available or Text Alerts on the ShowMe Times. Follow the ShowMe Times on Facebook and Twitter. During an incident the ShowMe Times will utilize all three to help get word out to the public and the local law enforcement will be in direct contact with the ShowMe Times to keep the information flowing as quickly as possible. There will be a special area near the school set up for a public relations which means parents will be able to go to that area to get information when it's available about their child.

"As a parent I can't imagine the chaos that will occur if someone enters our school and does such an unfathomable thing, but as a reporter I realize that getting the most accurate information to the public will be important," stated Dee Loflin, manager/editor of the ShowMe Times. "Just watching the training and the officers and how professional they were gave me a sense that they will do their very best to protect the students"

It is about 4 - 9 minutes of average time the police can be on the scene at any school and for some that is a very long time, but for response time that is good. Typically 98% of the time it is a single shooter incident so knowing that information can help the officers. Of course there is the 2% they have to be aware of and will be looking for during their entrance to any school.

Mass killings at schools have been going on for many, many years the change is the media. Media can announce or be on the scene within a matter of minutes and broadcast "live" for the entire world to see. That makes it sometimes more difficult for law enforcement because of crowd control. It is hoped that Stoddard County schools never have to be involved in any kind of shooting incident. Teachers throughout the area are also receiving training and students have "active shooter" drills in the classrooms added to the usual tornado and fire drills. Let's hope everyone is as prepared as possible and these types of training only add to their comfort level of what to do "just in case".

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