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## 2019 Bloomfield Chamber Educator of the Year

MARCH 20TH 2019 BY DEE LOFLIN

### 2019 Bloomfield Chamber Educator of the Year

Bloomfield, Missouri - The Bloomfield Chamber of Commerce held their annual awards dinner on Tuesday, March 12, 2019.

Debbie Shafer was named the 2019 Bloomfield Chamber Educator of the Year.

As a young, married mother of two, Debbie had a strong desire to have an active role in her children's education, so she enrolled in education classes at Northeast Missouri State University, now Truman State University and graduated in May of 1988. She earned her Bachelor of Science in Education and one more baby!

On the day of her graduation, Debbie received a phone call from Truman's Placement Center informing her of a job they felt she would be perfect fit. In August of 1988, she began her teaching career as a third grade teacher at Mary Immaculate Catholic School. Debbie credits her seven-year tenure there as the cornerstone for the remainder of her teaching career. Her connections with her students now run through generations as she teaches children of former students.

Debbie's time with Bloomfield R-14 School District officially began in the fall of 1996 when she was hired as a fifth grade teacher prior to piloting the newly formed At-Risk class for third through fifth grade. Though the program only lasted a year, relationships were built that still continue today.

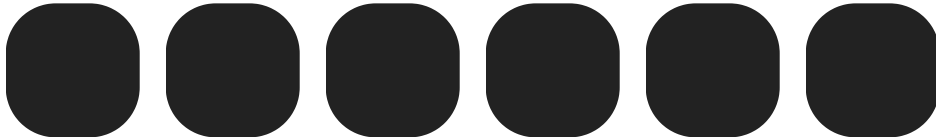
In the spring of 2002 she moved to the middle school at Bloomfield. That's where Debbie's special "niche" became her place in education. She later taught high school, 2nd grade and gifted students and then returned to the middle school.

In addition to her career in education, Debbie has been blessed with a wonderful family, including her husband Tony with who she loves to travel with and her children, two of who have gone into education and are grown with families of their own. She has six grandchildren, Bryston, Layton, Bennett, Jillian, Anderson, and Gwendolyn.

Pictured from left are Chamber Board Member and Bloomfield Superintendent Toni Hill, Shafer and Chamber Vice President Janis Traughber.

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## Paisley Owens is Bernie PAT March Student of the Month

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MARCH 20TH 2019 BY DEE LOFLIN

[Paisley Owens is Bernie PAT March Student of the Month](#)

Bernie, Missouri - Paisley Owens is the five year old daughter of Chad and Sara Owens and is the Bernie Parents as Teachers' student of the month for March.

Paisley likes being outside, drawing, painting, riding her bike, singing at church, and Ranger rides with her family.

Paisley's favorite color is blue. Every week, Paisley goes to story hour, Thursday School, gymnastics, and church.

Paisley also enjoys going to work with her daddy and visiting the job site.

During the family's PAT visits, Paisley enjoys playing games and learning about counting, letters, and taking turns.

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.

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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## Chamber Seeking Vendors for Bloomfield Heritage Days

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### Chamber Seeking Vendors for Bloomfield Heritage Days

Bloomfield, Missouri - The Bloomfield Chamber of Commerce and the Bloomfield Lion's Club will host the 2019 Bloomfield Heritage Days on Friday, April 19th and Saturday, April 20th with School Education Day on Thursday, April 18th from 9 - 3.

A pre-1850's period encampment will be on hand along with hawk and knife throw, items for sale, lots of old fashioned foods, and so much more! There will be a Dog Show on Saturday, April 20th at 2 p.m. At 10 a.m. on Saturday morning the Easter Bunny will be at the park for photos along with an Easter Egg Hunt for ages 1 - 12! Special prizes will be awarded to those who find the Golden Eggs!! Music and entertainment will also be scheduled throughout the weekend.

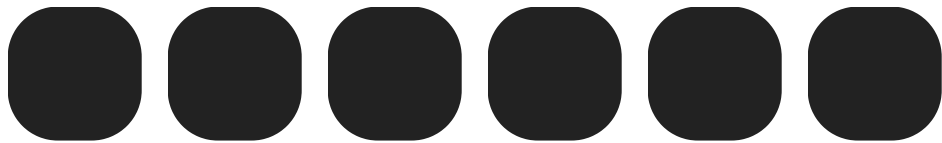
If you have yard sale items, small business, crafts, jewelry, antiques or just want to set up an informational booth about your business please contact Goldie DeGroot, Bloomfield Chamber President at (573) 568-9996 at Granny Pickers. Cost is \$20 per booth and proceeds will go towards scholarships from the Chamber.

Mark your calendar for this spectacular event!

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## Friends of the Library Invite You to "A Gathering of Friends"

MARCH 19TH 2019 BY DEE LOFLIN

[Friends of the Library Invite You to](#)

Dexter, Missouri - The Friends of the Library invite you to "A Gathering of Friends" on Saturday, March 30, 2019 at the Gathering.

The doors open at 5:30 p.m. with appetizers, dinner, door prizes, musical entertainment, a silent auction, and the presentation of the Friend of the Year Award.

The Gathering is located at Versity Crossing, 1430 North Outer Road in Dexter.

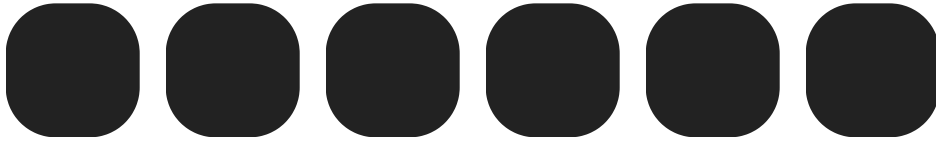
Tickets are \$25 each and may be purchased at the Keller PUblic Library or Designs on You.

The event is sponsored by Friends of Keller Public Library and The Gathering Event Center.

Please join them in raising money for a great cause!

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## 2019 Bloomfield Chamber Business of the Year

MARCH 19TH 2019 BY DEE LOFLIN

### 2019 Bloomfield Chamber Business of the Year

Bloomfield, Missouri - The Bloomfield Chamber of Commerce held their annual awards dinner on Tuesday, March 12, 2019.

Granny Pickers was named 2019 Bloomfield Chamber Business of the Year.

They are sometimes called a flea market, but are so much more, offering good used furniture, household goods, home decor, scrapbooking supplies, antiques and so much more.

The owner, Goldie DeGroot, is also very involved in the community. She is the current president of the Bloomfield Chamber of Commerce.

She is married to Wayne and between them they have three grown children, Cindy DeGroot, Beverly Tidwell, and Donnie Tidwell. They also have two grandchildren, Michaela Tidwell, a Bloomfield High School senior and Angel Garver.

Granny Pickers has been in Bloomfield since the fall of 2011.

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