

# Features



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## 2020 Dexter Firemen of the Year

JANUARY 11TH 2021 BY DEE LOFLIN

### 2020 Dexter Firemen of the Year

Dexter, MO - Lieutenant Landon Miller and Josh Craft were named 2020 Firefighters of the Year at the annual Fire Department holiday dinner held at the Hickory Log in Dexter.

Due to the COVID-19 pandemic attendance was restricted to fire department personnel only.

Photo courtesy of Dexter Fire Chief Don Seymore.

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## Bernie PAT December 2020 Student of the Month

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DECEMBER 13TH 2020 BY DEE LOFLIN

### Bernie PAT December 2020 Student of the Month

Bernie, MO - Liam Asher Robinson is the Bernie Parents as Teachers Student of the Month for December 2020.

He is the one year old son of Holden and Amanda Robinson.

Liam loves to play outside and ride the mower with this dad.

He also enjoys reading with his mommy and playing hide and seek with his brother and sister.

Liam's favorite thing during the family's PAT visit is doing the new activity Mrs. Casey brings.

The following information was taken directly from the Parent as Teachers Missouri website.

#### 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.

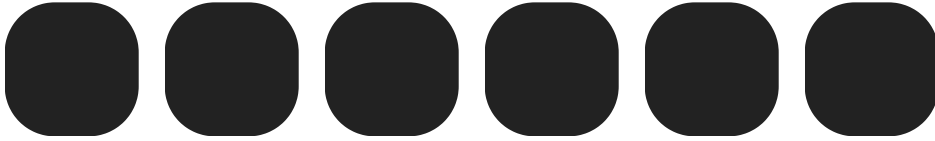
The concept for Parents as Teachers was developed in the 1970s when Missouri educators noted that children were beginning kindergarten with varying levels of school readiness. Research showed that greater parent involvement is a critical link in the child's development of learning skills, including reading 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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## Local Christmas Card Exchange 2020 - Let's Make this a Very Merry Christmas

DECEMBER 03RD 2020 BY DEE LOFLIN

Local Christmas Card Exchange 2020 - Let's Make this a Very Merry Christmas

This holiday season will be like no other in our lifetime. COVID-19 has brought so much change and sadness. What if we returned to the old days of exchanging Christmas cards? Many of us have stopped this annual tradition because of social media and the internet. It's easier to say Merry Christmas to so many people without sending a card. Most of us don't even have handwritten address books anymore. Let's make this season a little brighter for everyone!

So here is the challenge for this Christmas or even after the holiday.....list your address below the post and anyone can send you a card. When you get a card just send a card in return or pick out a few addresses listed and send a Christmas card now. Don't forget the

nursing homes. Those residents would love to have cards to hang on their door. Just send to the nursing home address and they will distribute or call ahead, you may be able to drop off several at one time. (Just remember they are not allowing people inside at this time due to COVID).

You will have until December 17th to mail your card locally to arrive by Christmas. Just let the post office know it is a local address.

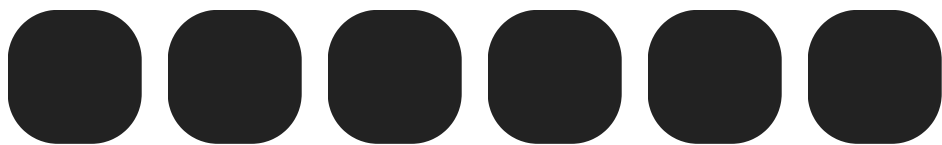
After the holiday, brighten someone's day by sending a pick-me-up message of inspiration. Insert a recipe or a little note "thinking about you". We all know isolation can be demanding on our psyche so let's brighten everyone's holiday with a special card!

Pictured is Kallen Glaus who is ready to brighten a few people's day by mailing Christmas cards!!!

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# 12th Annual Dexter Christmas Reading Will Be Virtual

NOVEMBER 26TH 2020 BY DEE LOFLIN

## 12th Annual Dexter Christmas Reading Will Be Virtual

The 12th annual Dexter Christmas Reading will be held, Saturday, November 28th, in the chapel of Mathis Funeral Home in Dexter. Greg and Lisa Mathis began this tradition in 2009 for Stoddard County.

"After making preparations to extend our lot area by closing off Stoddard Street, purchasing additional speakers in order to reach a wider area and purchasing 700 Holiday facial coverings with our Dexter Christmas Reading logo, we have made the decision to go virtual," commented Greg Mathis.

"We feel that with nice weather, which is predicted, we could have had over 500 folks in attendance."

"With the COVID 19 numbers in Stoddard County and surrounding communities rising, we feel that it is in the best interest of our community to go virtual."

June Coffey, Lisa's mother and Greg's mother-in-law read the Christmas story from Luke 2 every Christmas Eve to their two boys when they were young. It was a tradition Greg decided to share with others through the Christmas reading. Mrs. Coffey passed away in 2015.

**Folks can access the Dexter Christmas Reading by going to the Mathis Funeral Home Facebook page, where a link will be provided to receive the webcast. Also the ShowMe Times will place a link on their Facebook page that will allow you to watch.**

The Crowley Ridge Mennonite Choir will begin singing at 5:45 PM, The Reading will begin at 6:00 PM, with the choir singing again for 15 minutes after The Reading concludes.

Anyone wishing to have one of our facial coverings, please come by Mathis Funeral Home in Dexter where they will be distributed free on a first come basis.

"We appreciate your understanding and sincerely hope you will join us!"

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## Bloomfield Veterans Cemetery Dedicates Road In Honor of Jack Matthews

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NOVEMBER 19TH 2020 BY DEE LOFLIN

[Bloomfield Veterans Cemetery Dedicates Road In Honor of Jack Matthews](#)

Bloomfield, MO - On Veterans Day, the Bloomfield Assistance League along with Jack Matthew's family gathered to dedicate a road in his honor. Matthews is a World War II Veteran and was the driving force in efforts to bring the Missouri Veterans Cemetery to Stoddard County.

A road on the north side of the property now bares his name as does a plaque at the front door of the administration building.

Mr. Matthews worked diligently beside Jerry Elder, Frank Sifford, and Ray Coats to acquire land to donate to the state. He made numerous trips to Jefferson City to meet with

officials to get the site at Bloomfield.

The ceremony was small due to COVID-19. Col. Ed Gargas began with the Pledge of Allegiance.

US Army Sergeant Blair Moran, president of the Bloomfield Assistance League spoke, "We have gathered here this morning on a very special Veterans Day to honor a very special veteran. Mr Jack Matthews is the reason we are assembled here today at the Missouri Veterans Cemetery because of his outstanding work that he did in making this site a reality."

"All of us assembled here today as baby boomers owe a great deal of gratitude to both Jack and Pauline (his wife) and their generation who sacrificed so much," continued Moran. "That allowed all of us as baby boomers to grow up in a country, free of tyranny that Jack helped defeat while wearing the uniform of our nation."

Matthews did not stop with just forming the Bloomfield Veterans Cemetery, he dedicated his entire adult life to helping veterans. He created a foundation that helps fund programs that assist Missouri State Veterans. He worked through the Dept of Labor on veterans employment and served on the Missouri Veterans Commission for eight years.

Mr. Matthews was unable to attend the ceremony due to health reason, but his wife Pauline and son, retired Army Col. Larry Matthews, were in attendance.

Col. Matthews was presented a plaque from the Missouri Legislature and an appreciation flag from the Bloomfield Assistance League.

He also spoke to the crowd, "I have always told people that the journey is more important than the destination and even though this is a destination, dad fought a hard journey to get us where we are today."

"When dad started this journey, he decided he wanted to try and give something back to the community. There were two cities that wanted this cemetery real bad. One was Cape Girardeau and the other was Poplar Bluff. He worked closely with the Stoddard County Commission and when they donated the land it all fell into place."

Matthews was a WWII veteran and joined at the age of 17. He was sworn into the Army at Jefferson Barracks in St. Louis and went to basic training at Camp Robinson in North Little Rock, Arkansas. He then shipped out on a train to Boston and took a troop transport to Glasgow, Scotland. From there, he took a ship across the English Channel into France. He returned two years later and finished high school.



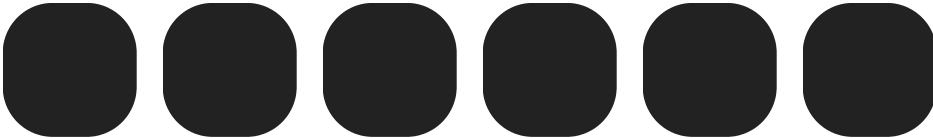
"When you think about what you were doing as a junior in high school," said Matthews, "You probably didn't see the carnage that those young men saw during WWII."

Col. Matthews extended his thanks on behalf of his family, stating that the Bloomfield Cemetery had no better friend than Jack Matthews.

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