

Features



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Sue Hawkins, Central Gardens' First Employee Retires

SEPTEMBER 10TH 2023 BY DEE LOFLIN

Sue Hawkins, Central Gardens' First Employee Retires

Sue Hawkins, Central Gardens' first employees retired after giving 29 years at the facility in Dexter, Missouri.

She was honored with a reception. Family, friends, co-workers and residents of the facility that she has loved and cared for were in attendance.

Hawkins won't be gone completely. She said she will be there on weekends working part-time.

"it's been an honor and my privilege," stated Hawkins. "Everyone here means so much to me. People have always asked me how they can repay me and I tell them you already have with your stories and spending time with you and your families. How much richer could I be to have so many wonderful lives come into my life. I love you all."

Photos of the reception can be viewed on the ShowMe Times Facebook page.

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Congressman Jason Smith Visits Lowery Acres in Puxico

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Congressman Jason Smith Visits Lowery Acres in Puxico

U.S. Representative Jason Smith visited Lowery Acres in Puxico, Missouri on Wednesday, August 30, 2023 as part of his annual farm tour.

Smith along with Missouri Secretary of State, John R. Ashcroft and Josh Speakman, Stoddard County Collector/Treasurer enjoyed some time on a four generation farm.

“This farm is a prime example of so many farm families in southeast and south central Missouri: a multi-generational farm family who just wants to grow their business without the government getting in their way,” commented Smith.

Lowery Acres was started by producing bedding plants, hanging baskets, mumns, apples, berries, cut flowers, pumpkins, Christmas Trees, alfalfa and row crops. The farm began in the late 1930s.

Smith said that is why the farm tour is so important. Missouri agriculture is extremely important to all of us.

“Agriculture is the number one economic driver in our entire state and definitely in our congressional district,” said Smith. “It is good to hear from farmers and agribusiness men and working families, the issues that they are having and how Washington could hopefully solve the problems they have created. It is usually what Washington has created, and make their lives better where they can just farm and run their business and not worry about government interfering.”

“It concerns me that for the first time in decades that our agriculture imports to our nation was more than our exports,” said Smith. “That has to change so this is a way that we are trying to look at vehicles to help the products and the items that we are growing.”

Smith said he is chairman of the Ways and Means Committee. He said this committee is over all tax policy, trade, social security, healthcare and over site of the IRS. He said an economic tax bill came out of the committee in June that will help small businesses, farmers and working class Americans.

“I really enjoyed him (Smith), I enjoyed visiting with him I enjoyed hearing about what was going on up there a little bit,” said Logan Lowery. “I hope they come away with a little bit of understanding of what we are doing down here as far as speciality crops go. We are not just all corn, beans, rice and cotton. There is some other things happening here too that could be paid attention to.”

Smith said inflation has gone up 16.9 percent in the last two and a half years and they increased the standard deduction by \$4,000 in this tax bill to help families cover the inflation they have seen. He said they also did things for small businesses in regards to expensing. Smith said they expanded expensing from the current \$1,000,000 to \$2,500,000. Smith explained that this extra money could cover the cost of one cotton picker as an example.

He also said taxing and preventing the Chinese from purchasing our farmland is included in the package. Smith said the committee also passed a U.S. Taiwan trade agreement, which he said was his piece of legislation. He said it was the most bipartisan trade agreement. He said every Republican and Democrat in the house and senate voted for it and the president signed it into law a few weeks ago.

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New Staff Introduced at Dexter School District

AUGUST 23RD 2023 BY DEE LOFLIN

New Staff Introduced at Dexter School District

The new staff at the Dexter School District are pictured following the staff luncheon at Dexter High School.

Front row from left to right:

Casie Layton, Kylah Hill, Allie Lee, Ann Marie Gentry, Malia Ellsworth and Tallhenia Ward

Second row from left to right:

Melissa Scowden, Addie Horton, Lexi Gibson, Kelly Owens, Laci Eaton and Veronica Bowers

Third row from left to right:

Summer Crowder, Jackie Kiger, Morgan Nichols, Shawna Read, Pam Foster and Katie Walters

Fourth row from left to right:

Savanah Whitehead, Shannon Hanners, Colton Gibson and Daniel McCoy

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2023 Little Miss Puxico Homecoming Queen and Her Court

AUGUST 10TH 2023 BY DEE LOFLIN

2023 Little Miss Puxico Homecoming Queen and Her Court

76th Annual Puxico V.F.W. Homecoming Queen Coronation

2nd Alternate is Kinley Franklin (left). She is the daughter of Matt and Katie Franklin.

1st Alternate is Tessa Wirz (right). She is the daughter of Chris and

Courtnei Wirz. 2023 Little Miss Puxico Homecoming Queen is Braylon Allison (seated).

She is the daughter of Matt and Britney Allison.

Retiring 2022 Little Miss Puxico Homecoming Queen is Caroline Dempsey (standing center). She is the daughter of Troy and Carlissa Dempsey.

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2023 Miss Puxico Homecoming Queen and Her Court

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2023 Miss Puxico Homecoming Queen and Her Court

76th Annual Puxico V.F.W. Homecoming Queen Coronation

2nd Alternate is Paisley Wilkerson (left). She is the daughter of Brian and Wren Wilkerson. 1st Alternate is Kelby Rodgers (far right). She is the daughter of Glenn and Ashley Rodgers. Homecoming Queen is Miss Emily Carr (seated). She is the daughter of Josh and Tiffany Carr. Retiring 2022 Miss Puxico Homecoming Queen is Miss Adysen Shepard (standing center). She is the daughter Michael and Michelle Owens and David and Tammy Shepard.

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