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2017 Dexter Christmas Reading

NOVEMBER 15TH 2017 BY DEE LOFLIN

2017 Dexter Christmas Reading

Dexter, Missouri - The 9th Annual Christmas Reading is slated for Saturday, November 25th beginning at 6:00 p.m. at 125 W. Stoddard Street across from Rainey-Mathis Funeral Home in Dexter.

Greg Mathis began the annual Christmas Reading by reading the Second Chapter of Luke in 2009 and has now become a wonderful tradition.

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.

“Too often we tend to get caught up in the rush of the holiday season,” Mathis said. “It is simply a reading by a special person in the local community who tells aloud the true story of the first Christmas.”

The event is outside and everyone is encouraged to attend. A special guest will read the story of the first Christmas, but you have to attend to find out who the secret guest will be this year. Also the Crowley Ridge Mennonite Church will once again bless us with their beautiful magical voices.

In case of inclement weather the event will be moved indoors to the chapel at Rainey Mathis Funeral Home.

Greg Mathis has created a website if you would like to learn more about the event, **click HERE.**

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Moonlight Madness in Dexter on Friday

NOVEMBER 09TH 2017 BY DEE LOFLIN

Moonlight Madness in Dexter on Friday

Dexter, Missouri - The Historic Downtown Dexter Association will host their annual Moonlight Madness on Friday, November 10, 2017 from 5 p.m. - 9 p.m.

A total of \$800 in MAD MONEY will be given away!! So be sure to register at participating stores.

The drawing will be held at 9:15 p.m. at the corner of Walnut and Stoddard St.

YOU MUST BE PRESENT TO WIN!!!

Stores participating in the Moonlight Madness are:

Bella's Place
Betty Lou Unique Market & Boutique
The Bunny Patch
Calla Lily
The Corner Cottage
Dirtroads Junk N Disorderly
Encore Resale Shop
The French Market
Gregory's Two East
Grey Elephant Clothing
Hubbard's Jewelry
Jacksons Florist & Gifts
The Jewelry Shop
K9 Biz
LA Cotton
Locust Street Flowers
The Metro Gallery
N'Style Galleria and Outlet
The Powder Room & Boutique
Rich Plus Giftwrap
Sheila's Shoppe
Trinkets & Treasures
Weber's Ben Franklin
Xtreme Body Spa

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Scouting For Food Begins This Weekend

NOVEMBER 09TH 2017 BY DEE LOFLIN

Scouting For Food Begins This Weekend

Stoddard County, Missouri - Cub Scouts and Boy Scouts throughout Stoddard County will be participating in “Scouting for Food” Good Turn on Saturday, November 18, 2017.

Last year the food drive helped communities feed those in need.

Donation bags will be dropped off at homes on **Saturday, November 11th** and filled bags will be picked up on Saturday, November 18 by the scouts.

If bags are missed, your filled bag may be turned into the Stoddard County Gospel Mission at anytime.

"I would like to thank those who participate in this event year after year and making a difference to those less fortunate," commented Kim Slavings, Stoddard County Gospel Mission Director.

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Author Donates Anti-Bullying Book to Keller Library

OCTOBER 16TH 2017 BY DEE LOFLIN

Author Donates Anti-Bullying Book to Keller Library

Dexter, Missouri - Stoddard County native, Carolyn Morgan Abbott, donated a children's book about bullying to Keller Public Library. October is National Anti-Bullying Month in the United States.

"The Little Excavator" was written to teach children how someone feels while being bullied and encourages children to accept others who are different from themselves.

As a child Carolyn Abbott was a victim of bullying for her extreme curly hair and her wearing glasses. With this, Abbott designed a book to teach others compassion.

"Children are committing suicide at an alarming rate. If we can teach them to have compassion for others while they are young, perhaps we can save our children," said Abbott. "The Little Excavator" educates children."

"I would love for children to grow up realizing that there are all kinds of people and other kids that are of different sizes, personalities, looks, etc." continued Abbott. "We can all enjoy life together and have many friends."

The book may be found in the Children's Library at Keller Public Library in Dexter.

It is published by WestBow Press and is also available on Amazon.com and at Barnes & Noble, ISBN 9781512795271

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Eldon Stafford Turns 105 Years Old

OCTOBER 12TH 2017 BY DEE LOFLIN

Eldon Stafford Turns 105 Years Old

Dexter, Missouri - Eldon Stafford was born October 12, 1912 just two days before former President Theodore Roosevelt was shot in Milwaukee, Wisconsin. The Titanic sank that year, Alaska became a U.S. territory, Arizona became a state, and for the first time an airplane was featured on the U.S. postage stamp.

Eldon has seen a lot of change over the past 105 years.

"I think electricity was the greatest change in my lifetime," stated Stafford. "It has helped a lot of people and because of it the world changed for the better."

His daughter, Janet Karam, who lives in Memphis, Tennessee visited with her dad today at Cypress Point for his birthday. She said he moved from his home in Essex to Cypress

Point on December 12th at the age of 104. Until he was 103 he had always had a garden and up until just a few years ago he mowed his own lawn.

Mr. Stafford had worked for the United States Postal Service for more than 30 years and became the Postmaster at Essex until his retirement.

He was one of seven children. He had three older siblings and three younger siblings making him "that' middle child! The oldest was a girl, then five boys, and the last born was also a girl. His momma had her hands full back in those days. Of those siblings Eldon's brother T.G. "Mike" Stafford is 102 years old and his sister Lola Reynolds is 96 years old and still going strong.

"I don't feel any different than when I turned 100," commented Stafford. "The good Lord has been very good to me."

"I never smoked and the only time I had whiskey was when I was sick," continued Stafford. "I would have some whiskey before bed and when I woke up the next morning I was better."

Eldon loves to have visitors, enjoys playing solitaire and doing word search puzzles. He also attends daily exercise classes.

Please join him on Saturday, **October 14, 2017 from 1 p.m. - 4 p.m. for a Birthday Celebration at Cypress Point located in Dexter. Anyone who knows Eldon is invited and encouraged to visit with him.**

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