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Southeast Regent VP, Ed Gargas, Named Eagle Scout Class Sponsor

FEBRUARY 05TH 2018 BY DEE LOFLIN

Southeast Regent VP, Ed Gargas, Named Eagle Scout Class Sponsor

Cape Girardeau, Missouri - Tony Smee, President of the Southeast Missouri Eagle Scout Association, has announced Ed Gargas as the honored sponsor of the 2017 class of Eagle Scouts.

Officially named the 2017 Col. Edward P. Gargas Class of Eagle Scouts, seventy? five Eagle Scouts from Southeast Missouri and Southern Illinois will be honored at Southeast Missouri State University on Saturday, February 10th at 2:00 PM in Academic Auditorium.

Gargas, himself an Eagle Scout, will address the latest class of Eagles as they receive their awards. The ceremony is free and open to the public, and all holders of the rank of Eagle Scout are encouraged to attend. It is estimated that less than five percent of all Boy Scouts will ever earn the rank of Eagle. The prestigious award requires formal demonstration of leadership over several years, creating and managing a significant service project that benefits the community, and earning a minimum of 21 merit badges that require proficiencies such as first aid, environmental science, lifesaving, emergency preparedness, personal management, citizenship and outdoor skills. A lengthy formal review before a board of Eagle Scouts and community representatives is the final hurdle prior to a Scout's elevation to the rank of Eagle.

Mr. Gargas currently serves as Vice President of the Southeast Missouri State University Board of Regents, having been appointed by Governor Jeremiah "Jay" Nixon in 2015. He is Director of Operations and Sales with Bagby Wealth Management. He holds a Bachelor of Science in Business Administration from Southeast Missouri State University, as well as a Master's in Business Administration from William Woods University and a Master of Strategic Studies from the U.S. Army War College.

Ed is a commissioned officer in the Missouri National Guard and currently holds the rank of colonel. He is a combat veteran of Operation Iraqi Freedom. He has received four Army commendation medals and many other awards for his performance and service. Ed's assignments in the military have included: brigade commander, brigade operations officer, battalion commander, battalion executive officer, battalion operations officer, division engineer, and company commander.

Ed is a member of the First Baptist Church in Dexter, as well as various other community and civic organizations including the American Legion, and the Dexter Chamber of Commerce. He and his wife Tina have one son, Nate. Ed attained the rank of Eagle Scout in 1984 in Troop 81, Kennett, Missouri.

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Valentine Gala Event to be Held in Honor of Susan Cox

FEBRUARY 04TH 2018 BY DEE LOFLIN

Valentine Gala Event to be Held in Honor of Susan Cox

Dexter, Missouri - Susan Cox was recently diagnosed with a rare neurological condition called Transverse Myelitis. A Valentine Gala benefit will be held in her honor on Thursday, February 8, 2018 at Dexter's Wesley Hall at the First United Methodist Church.

It's been nearly four months ago since Susan's life changed. She began feeling discomfort on her right side, then it affected her legs and by the afternoon she was in the hospital in Cape Girardeau looking for answers. Doug, Susan's husband decided to head to Barnes Hospital in St. Louis where they spent a number of days confirming the rare condition.

Many of you know Susan's husband, Doug, works for the city of Dexter, but spends countless hours serving up delicious BBQ at many fundraisers and events locally.

Once the diagnosis was confirmed, they decided to go the best hospital in the country who has doctors known to be the "the pioneers" of Transverse Myelitis aka TM. They traveled to John Hopkins Hospital in Baltimore and doctors there agreed Susan had TM.

TM is defined as a rare neurological condition in which the spinal cord is inflamed. This inflammation can be caused by an infection, immune system disorder or damage to nerve fibers.

Cox was left without feeling from the middle of her body to her toes and has now undergone intense physical therapy. Ironically she works at Select Physical Therapy in Dexter and has been employed there for 20 years. She has been utilizing her therapy each and every day to the point she is able to stand, walk, and even maneuver without a walker.

The damage is done and will not heel according to her doctors; however she is determined to continue working and helping others. Both her and her husband are known in the community as ones who help others first.

With all the medical and travel expenses, friends have decided to help the Cox family with a Valentine's Gala Benefit. Tickets for the event are available at Gregory's Two East in downtown Dexter and are \$25 each. Finger foods and beverages will be served beginning at 6:30 p.m. with musical entertainment provided by local artists. Maggie Thorn Arlan Taylor, Mary Ruth Boone, and Jansen Williams will perform.

A silent auction will also take place and donations will be gladly accepted at Gregory's.

For additional information contact Gregory's Two East at (573) 624-4554. Tickets will also be available at the door.

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Xtreme Body Spa Chamber Ribbon Cutting

FEBRUARY 01ST 2018 BY DEE LOFLIN

Xtreme Body Spa Chamber Ribbon Cutting

Dexter, Missouri - An official Chamber of Commerce ribbon cutting was held at the newly established Xtreme Body Spa located at 221 N. Walnut Street.

The Spa offers haircuts, massages, waxing, eyelash services, nail service, facials, and tanning services.

Xtreme Body Spa is open six days a week from 9 a.m. - until 9 p.m. every day, but sunday.

The building also houses Dearly Loved Boutique.

Pictured from left to right are Cecil Haley with Southern Bank, Alderman Jerry Corder, Dearly Loved Boutique Owner Caitlin Koenig, Alisha Allen of Dearly Loved Boutique, Nail Technician Mikela Brown, Services Technician Bethany Rice, Owner and Operator Lisa Tucker, and her husband, Tom. Also present were Chamber members and directors, as well as Chamber Executive Director Hillary Starnes.

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Tom Bischof Celebrates 20 Years at Bagby Wealth Management

JANUARY 23RD 2018 BY DEE LOFLIN

Tom Bischof Celebrates 20 Years at Bagby Wealth Management

Dexter, Missouri - Tom Bischof has been with Bagby Wealth Management for 20 years. The management and staff honored Tom with a luncheon to celebrate his milestone anniversary on Thursday, January 11, 2018. Beth Bischof, Tom's wife, was also in attendance at the luncheon.

Tom currently serves as Director of Compliance and Legal Affairs for Bagby Wealth Management. His responsibilities include maintaining regulatory compliance across all firm activities including trading, operations, technology, security, licensing, and communications. Additionally, he develops company policies and contracts that provide structure to the firm.

In January 1998, Tom joined Bagby Investment Consultants (now Bagby Wealth Management) as an Investment Advisor. For the transition, he completed courses at Southeast Missouri University in business and finance and then obtained Series 7, 63, 66 and 24 securities registrations plus a Missouri Life Insurance License. Previously, Tom practiced law in Dexter, which included estate planning, probate, wills, tax planning, Social Security, business, banking, and corporate law after obtaining his law degree from the University of Missouri, Kansas City.

Tom and his wife Beth live in Bloomfield where he remains active in the community. He has served on the Dexter Regional Healthcare Foundation Board of Directors from 2000 to 2015. He assisted with fundraisers for the Bloomfield PTO from the mid-1990s until 2009 and served as a member of the Bloomfield City Council from 2007 - 2011.

Bagby Wealth Management is an independent Registered Investment Advisory firm (RIA) with roots in Dexter since 1984. The management and staff of Bagby Wealth Management feel very fortunate to have Tom on board. He serves a vital role within the firm and the firm looks forward to many years ahead.

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Walmart Donates to Dexter Police Department

JANUARY 12TH 2018 BY DEE LOFLIN

Walmart Donates to Dexter Police Department

Dexter, Missouri - Lieutenant Joshua T. Benton of the Dexter Police Department accepted a donation of \$250 from local Walmart Super Center manager Debbie Juden.

The Walmart donation will be utilized to help upgrade and refurbish body cameras currently in use by the police department.

"We are very appreciative of the donation," commented Benton.

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