

Features



[TOP](#)

Meet the Candidate Set for Tuesday Evening

JULY 30TH 2018 BY DEE LOFLIN

Meet the Candidate Set for Tuesday Evening

Dexter, Missouri - Stoddard County Farm Bureau board is sponsoring a "Meet the Candidate" Forum at the Church of Christ Fellowship Hall in Dexter on Tuesday, July 31, 2018.

Doors open at 5:00 p.m. and the forum will begin at 6:00 p.m. The public is invited and encouraged to attend.

Refreshments will be served.

A representative from the Stoddard County Sheriff's Department will be the first to present a powerpoint presentation on Proposition 1 and Proposition 2 that are on the August primary ballot.

Other candidates who have committed to participating are (in no particular order) Paula Yancey, J.T. Howard, Jeff Riddle, Danny Talkington, Sam Huey, Jr., Cecil Weeks, Brock Williams, Herman Morse, and Kay Asbell.

The Church of Christ Fellowship Hall is located at 1014 One Mile Road (across from Burger King)

For more information contact Jana Jennings at Farm Bureau 573-624-9900.

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[Go to post](#)



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[TOP](#)

Enter the Code Red Contest Sponsored by the Dexter Chamber

JULY 25TH 2018 BY DEE LOFLIN

Enter the Code Red Contest Sponsored by the Dexter Chamber

Dexter, Missouri - The Dexter Chamber of Commerce wants to see your BEARCAT pride on September 21, 2018 for the Homecoming Game Day against the Doniphan Dons!

The Dexter Chamber encourages every business to show your school spirit by decorating windows, your lawn, or the outside of your business. You can even have a large number of employees participate by wearing their spirited outfits and do a little cheer!

To enter CODE RED contest, just call Korie Fish at the Chamber at 624-7458 or email to info@dexterchamber.com

Judging on two different categories: Commercial Business or Small Business.

Judging will be done by NOON on September 22st.

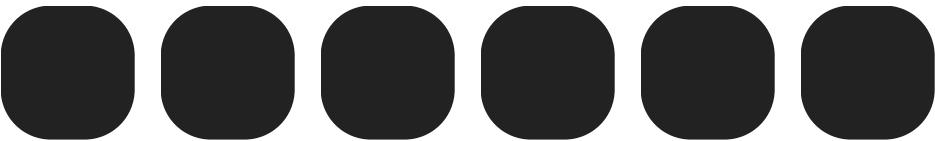
"We will let you know when the judges will be by your business" stated Fish, Dexter Chamber of Commerce Executive Director, "just in case you have a cheer or special affects for the judges.

Winners will be announced at the tailgate and will receive a traveling trophy and a free prime tailgating spot at next year's homecoming event for FREE!

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[TOP](#)

2018 Bearcat Community Homecoming Tailgate Set for September 21st

JULY 25TH 2018 BY DEE LOFLIN

2018 Bearcat Community Homecoming Tailgate Set for September 21st

Dexter, Missouri - It's never too early to start planning for BEARCAT HOMECOMING 2018!

The Committee has been working hard and are well on their way to making this the best ever celebration! The annual Bearcat Community Homecoming Tailgate will be held on September 21, 2018 beginning at 4:30 p.m. Homecoming Coronation will begin at 6:30 p.m. with the kick-off of the Dexter Bearcats football game vs the Doniphan Dons at 7:00 p.m.

The Tailgate will be at Charles Bland Stadium archway. Spaces are available for \$75 each which is about equal to 14 ft x 12ft or a larger booth for \$125 is about 28 ft x 12 ft, enough room for a 10x10 tent and a little space to have a game, facepainting, or grill to cook on, etc.

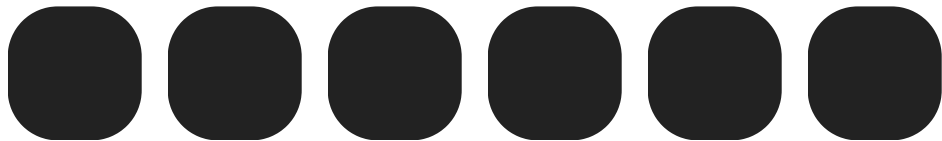
All profits are given back to student organizations of Dexter Public Schools.

Contact the Korie Fish at the Dexter Chamber of Commerce at (573) 624-7458. Spaces must be paid for no later than September 14, 2018. To get the best spaces, reserve early and pay as soon as possible. An additional \$25 charge will be added after the deadline date. make checks payable to Dexter Bearcat Community Tailgate. If you do not want to set up a tailgate, but would like to help offset the costs please send a donation.

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[TOP](#)

Bloomfield Chamber Welcomes Guest Speaker Carl Hefner

JULY 25TH 2018 BY DEE LOFLIN

Bloomfield Chamber Welcomes Guest Speaker Carl Hefner

Bloomfield, Missouri - Stoddard County Sheriff Carl Hefner spoke to a small crowd of interested voters Friday, July 13, 2018 at the Bloomfield Chamber of Commerce monthly meeting held at Elderland Restaurant.

His main topic of discussion was the two propositions on the ballot for the August primary. Proposition 1 and Proposition 2 both need to pass according to Sheriff Carl Hefner.

"Shall the County of Stoddard impose a county wide sales tax at the rate of one half (1/2) of one (1) percent for a period of seven (7) years from the date on which such tax is first imposed for the purpose of the renovation of the existing jail, construction, equipment, and design cost of a jail addition. Collections for this Proposition are not to begin until the the one half (1/2) of one (1) percent sales tax of Proposition 1 is approved."

This means on August 7, 2018 Proposition 1 must pass first before Proposition 2 can also be enacted. Both are needed for the survival of the Stoddard County Sheriff's Department.

Let's look at the past and see how the Sheriff's department has gotten to this point. First the jail was original constructed in 1983 to hold about 8 inmates. Then in 1991 the jail underwent an addition offering 4 more cells, two showers, dispatch area, laundry room and sheriff's office along with a booking area that is now an inmate property storage area. By the end of construction in 1991 the jail was designed to hold 28 inmates.

Since that time the jail has grown to over capacity, but not much renovation has been done. The average daily inmate population in 1998 was 34 making the jail capacity at 121%. During the 2016/2017 years the average daily jail population was 76 meaning jail was at 271% capacity.

The jail is now housing 4 people per 2-man cell and the day room is being used to house inmates for sleeping, etc. The kitchen is smaller than most apartments and they use residential washer and dryer constantly purchasing more than one a year to replace each as they run them almost 24 hours a day. Their food storage is outside and cold food storage is in refrigerators in the hallway. Safety of the officers is impaired because of the space and inmates having to go outside to

get items to prepare three meals per day. There is always plumbing issues which need to be upgraded.

One of the most serious problems is not being able to segregate inmates. Which means if you are arrested for a minor violation you will be housed with violent sex offenders. There is simply no ability to segregate inmates. There is not even a holding area while they process new inmates.

Another serious issue is that the corrections officers do not have visual supervision of inmates at all times. Over crowding leads to jail assaults and increased costs in medical and manpower etc to transport to the hospital as well as the potential for officers to be injured due to increased assaults on staff. Also if there were a fire or emergency the hallways are filled with storage, refrigerators, and other clutter because of lack of proper storage.

The third most important safety issue for corrections officers is the fact that the cell doors don't latch properly. They are using an antiquated key system and many parts on the cell doors are not available or have to be specially made. Another cost and safety issue for our deputies.

The new addition to the jail will include a full basement, a separate booking area with line of sight to padded cells and holding cells, an full kitchen and food prep area, industrial laundry area, cold and dry storage and four isolation/observation cells and a holding area for booking. Most importantly it will include a secure "sally port" for transportation of inmates. This is extremely necessary not only for the safety of the officers, but to the public as well.

The main level of construction will house a control center for the entire jail where all doors will be operated from a "pod" system. This new construction will also house approximately 120 inmates which should then last for years.

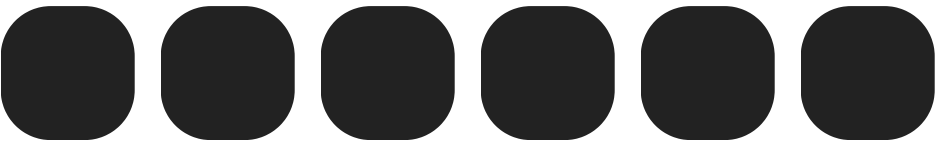
The preliminary cost of the entire project is estimated to be a little over 9 million dollars. The proposed funding would come from the passage of this sale tax to fund the jail until the bond is paid back which should be 7 years. This tax will end in 7 years.

If you have any questions or would like Sheriff Carl Hefner to speak at your organization about Proposition 1 and 2 please contact him at 573.568.4654

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[Go to post](#)



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TOP

Are You Concert Ready? Amanda Walker and Lynn Drury to Perform

JULY 18TH 2018 BY DEE LOFLIN

Are You Concert Ready? Amanda Walker and Lynn Drury to Perform

SATURDAY | AUGUST 25th @ 7PM | DHS AUDITORIUM

Get Ready for an incredible night of New Orleans American Rock as the Bearcat Event Center hosts another great musical event at the DHS Auditorium featuring the New Orleans sounds of music recording artist Amanda Walker along with special guest New Orleans-based singer/songwriter Lynn Drury.

Amanda Walker is a New Orleans-based indie pop/ Americana/ folk rock artist, specializing in original songs, piano and vocals. Born in rural Missouri (Alumni of DHS & SEMO) and adopted by New Orleans, Amanda writes and plays mesmerizing sets dripping with Mississippi River delta soul and Ozark Mountain folk sensibilities that have seamlessly melded with the funky Voodoo that New Orleans music is famous for.
<https://www.facebook.com/amandawalkermusic/>

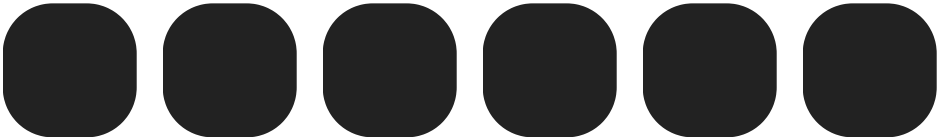
Lynn Drury is a New Orleans based songwriter, originally from the Mississippi Delta. Her style is influenced from her Country upbringing and mixed in with the funkiness of New Orleans, which has surrounded her for the past 20 years. Her distinctive voice and songwriting style has been compared to Van Morrison, Lucinda Williams & Neil Young, to name a few. A sound she calls "Mississippi Grit~New Orleans Groove."
<https://www.facebook.com/lynndrurymusic/> <http://lynndrury.com/>

Tickets are \$20 at the Door and \$15 Online. Doors open at 6 PM and the show begins at 7 PM. Limited Seating available so get your tickets online now at
<http://buytickets.at/amandawalkermusic>.

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