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Stoddard County Sheriff's Deputies Hold Active Shooter Drill

SEPTEMBER 11TH 2019 BY DEE LOFLIN

Stoddard County Sheriff's Deputies Hold Active Shooter Drill

Puxico, Missouri - On August 29, 2019, Stoddard County Sheriff's deputies, faculty and students of Mingo Job Corp, as well as agents of Missouri Fish and Wildlife participated in an active shooter drill at Mingo Job Corp.

This drill will be done periodically at Mingo Job Corp to prepare students and faculty in the event of an active shooter situation.

Stoddard County Sheriff's Office has done several Active shooter trainings throughout the county at different schools and churches.

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Dennis Smelser Inducted Into The Missouri Bankers Association's 50 Year Club

JULY 30TH 2019 BY DEE LOFLIN

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J. Dennis Smelser, executive vice president of Midwest Bancorporation Inc. in Poplar Bluff, was inducted into the Missouri Bankers Association's 50 Year Club on Thursday, June 13, during MBA's 129th Annual Convention at the Hilton Branson Convention Center.

This recognition from MBA honors bankers who have dedicated 50 years of service to the banking community. Smelser is one of eight bankers who were inducted into the 50 Year Club this year.

Smelser began his banking career in 1969 in the bookkeeping department of Security Bank in

Paragould, Arkansas, while attending Arkansas State University. After graduation, Smelser served as manager of the customer service department and later as the bank's internal auditor.

In 1975, Smelser joined the audit department at Citizens Bank in Jonesboro, Arkansas, which led to an opportunity with his current employer. In 1976, Smelser moved to Dexter

where he was employed as vice president and cashier of Dexter National Bank (later First Midwest Bank of Dexter). He transferred to the bank's parent company, Midwest Bancshares Inc. (later Midwest Bancorporation Inc.) in 1981. Dennis has served in several capacities throughout the last 38 years and currently serves as executive vice president and trustee of the company's employee stock ownership plan (ESOP).

A native of the Lafe community in Arkansas, Smelser is a graduate of Paragould High School, Arkansas State University (BS 1973), Southwestern Graduate School of Banking at SMU (1976) in Dallas, Texas, and Professional Master of Banking in Austin, Texas in 1997.

Mr. Smelser is a past member of the Paragould Exchange Club, Center Hill Jaycees, Paragould Parks and Recreation Board, Dexter Kiwanis Club, Dexter Zoning Commission, and the Dexter Airport Board. Dennis was also active in the First Baptist Church of Dexter for over 30 years.

Smelser married Janie Morrow of the Stanford community in Arkansas and they have two sons, Brian (deceased) and Shaun, and three grandchildren; Lillianne, Emmett, and Laurel. After living in Dexter, Missouri, for 40 years they recently moved to Jackson, Missouri, to be near their grandchildren. Smelser is the son of the late Faye Smelser Partlow of Paragould, Arkansas.

The Missouri Bankers Association is a statewide trade and professional organization in Jefferson City that represents the interests of more than 250 banks and savings and loans in Missouri. MBA serves as the principal advocate for the Missouri banking community and provides educational opportunities, products and services that assist bankers with enhancing their banking operations.

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Bernie Parents as Teachers Program Receives Grant

JULY 26TH 2019 BY DEE LOFLIN

Bernie Parents as Teachers Program Receives Grant

Dexter, Missouri - Through the Walmart Community Grant Program, Dexter Walmart recently awarded the Bernie Parents as Teachers program with a \$500 grant.

A large portion of these funds will go towards purchasing children's books that will be given away during each home visit.

The Bernie PAT program strives to help build home libraries and encourage a love for reading between parents and their children.

Matt Looney, Dexter Walmart manager, is shown presenting the check to Bernie's Parent Educators, Courtney McGarity and Casey Arnold.

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American Legion Supporting Veterans with BBQ Meat Sale

JUNE 30TH 2019 BY DEE LOFLIN

American Legion Supporting Veterans with BBQ Meat Sale

Dexter, Missouri - The American Legion in Dexter will host a BBQ Cook/Meat Sale on Wednesday, July 3, 2019 at the Dexter American Legion Building located at the corner of W. Oak St. and Elder St.

You may pick-up BBQ items from Noon - 5:30 p.m. A box lunch style BBQ sandwich with chips, and water for only \$5.00 If you are a Veteran you may stop by and get your FREE box lunch.

You can also pre-order Boston Butts \$30, Pulled Pork \$35 and Whole BBQ Chicken \$15.

Email or call James Kaufman at 573-820-1706 or dexsotl@gmail.com

Veterans supporting veterans who serve our great country!

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27th Annual 4th of July Patriotic Parade for Kids

JUNE 24TH 2019 BY DEE LOFLIN

27th Annual 4th of July Patriotic Parade for Kids

Dexter, Missouri - The 27th Annual Fourth of July Patriotic Parade for Kids will be held on Thursday, July 4th at 10:00 a.m. This annual parade will begin at the corner of Elm and Vine streets in downtown Dexter.

The youngsters guided by Uncle Sam aka Mayor Banken will gather on the steps of the U.S. Post Office on Stoddard Street to salute the American Flag with the Pledge of Allegiance. They will sing a few patriotic songs and pose for those everlasting photos.

The parade will follow its traditional route down Elm Street to Stoddard Street with kids on bicycles, tricycles, wagons, scooters, golf carts, on foot or in strollers. You may even see a few patriotic dogs in the parade.

The parade will get moving again, east down Stoddard Street to Poplar Street, where it will turn south at the First Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) back to Vine Street and turn west returning to the Bankens' front yard where they will be treated to lemonade and a small snack.

The "just for kids" parade was started by Janice Barney, Lisa Greer and Jean Rahm. The parade leadership has passed to a new generation, as Kristina and Jason Banken, now host the holiday parade each year. The Banken family began hosting the parade 12 years ago, and have continued to build upon the Independence Day tradition.

Children are invited to participate. They may walk or bring their bikes and other means of transportation for the parade. Parking will be available for grown-ups in the city parking lot on Vine Street across from the Dexter Municipal Building

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