

## Features



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# Ross is Bernie Parents as Teachers July 2022 Student of the Month

JULY 01ST 2022 BY DEE LOFLIN

## Ross is Bernie Parents as Teachers July 2022 Student of the Month

Bernie, MO - Melody Ann Ross is Bernie Parents as Teachers July 2022 Student of the Month.

Melody is the four year old daughter of Logan and Lisa Ross.

She loves to sing and dance.

Her favorite things are painting, drawing, and playing on her tablet.

Melody's favorite part of PAT is when Mrs. Casey comes over with her giant bag of toys.

If you are interested in joining Parents As Teachers in Bernie contact Casey Arnold at [arnoldc@bernie.k12.mo.us](mailto:arnoldc@bernie.k12.mo.us) via email.

*The following information was taken directly from the Parent as Teachers Missouri website.*

### **Our Vision**

All children will learn, grow and develop to realize their full potential.

### **Our Mission**

To provide the information, support and encouragement parents need to help their children develop optimally during the crucial early years of life.

## **Our Values**

The early years of a child's life are critical for optimal development and provide the foundation for success in school and in life.

Parents are their children's first and most influential teachers.

Established and emerging research should be the foundation of parent education and family support curricula, training, materials and services.

All young children and their families deserve the same opportunities to succeed, regardless of any demographic, geographic or economic considerations.

An understanding and appreciation of the history and traditions of diverse cultures is essential in serving families.

## **History**

In 1981, Missouri pioneered the concept of helping parents embrace their important role as their child's first and best teacher. Today, Parents as Teachers continues to equip early childhood organizations and professionals with information and tools that are relevant? and widely applicable?to today's parents, families and children.

The Parents as Teachers leadership team and Board of Directors is engaged in a three-year strategic plan, which positions the organization as a valued partner to support the organizations and professionals who serve families and children, especially those most vulnerable.

The concept for Parents as Teachers was developed in the 1970s when Missouri educators noted that children were beginning kindergarten with varying levels of school readiness. Research showed that greater parent involvement is a critical link in the child's development of learning skills, including reading and writing.

Early childhood professionals suggested that a program to provide early detection of developmental delays and health issues, and parent education to help parents understand their role in encouraging their child's development from the beginning could help improve school readiness and parent involvement.

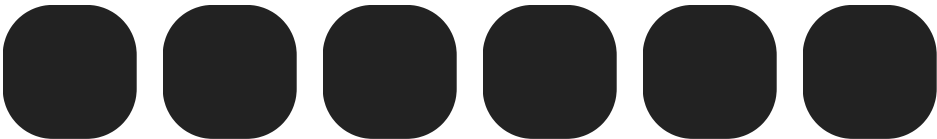
With funding from the Missouri Department of Elementary and Secondary Education and The Danforth Foundation, Parents as Teachers began in 1981 in Missouri as a pilot

project for first-time parents of newborns. Recognizing the program's benefits and cost effectiveness, the Missouri legislature provided state funding in 1985 to implement Parents as Teachers programs in all Missouri school districts. Since 1985, Parents as Teachers has expanded to all 50 states and six other countries.

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# 30th Annual Fourth of July Patriotic Parade for Kids

JULY 01ST 2022 BY DEE LOFLIN

30th Annual Fourth of July Patriotic Parade for Kids

The 30th Annual Fourth of July Patriotic Parade for Kids will be held on Monday, 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.

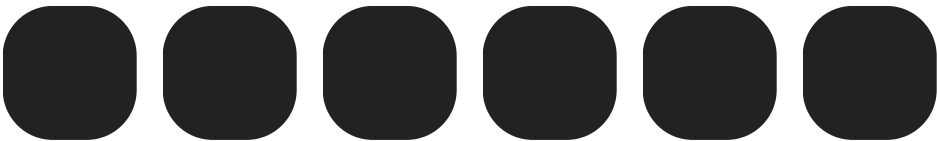
The "just for kids" parade was started by Janice Barney, Lisa Greer and Jean Rahm. The parade leadership has passed to a new generation, as Kristina and Jason Banken, now host the holiday parade each year. The Banken family began hosting the parade 15 years ago, and have continued to build upon the Independence 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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# MSG Garrett W. Cox Promoted to Sergeant Major

JUNE 28TH 2022 BY DEE LOFLIN

## MSG Garrett W. Cox Promoted to Sergeant Major

Bloomfield, MO - Master Sergeant Garrett W. Cox was promoted to Sergeant Major in a ceremony held at the Stars & Stripes Museum on Saturday, June 26, 2022.

"The adjutant General of Missouri has reposed special trust and confidence in the patriotism, valor, fidelity, and professional excellence of MSG Garrett Cox. In view of these qualities and his demonstrated leadership potential and dedicated service to the United State Army, he is therefore, promoted to Sergeant Major effective date of December 20, 2021," stated CPT Crystal Cecil-Sevier, MC for the ceremony.

Major Jonathan E. Holem presided over the ceremony.

"We are very pleased to be joined by Cox's wife Kendra; his daughters Olivia and Adelyn; mother, Jessica Cox; father, Roger and wife Sharon Cox. Also in attendance were his brother SSG Heath Cox and family, his brother Jake Cox, and his sister, PFC Madison Cox.

PFC Madison Cox sang the National Anthem which was followed by the invocation by MAJ Holem.

According to Holem, Cox enlisted into the Missouri Army National Guard as a cook in December of 2000 attending basic training at Fort Knox, Kentucky and completing advanced individual training at Fort Lee, Virginia. He reclassified into the Military Police Corps in 2003 and then the medical corps in 2021.

His deployments include Guantanamo Bay, Afghanistan, Iraq, and Kosovo.

He has been a valued asset to the organization and currently serves as the chief medical NCO for the 229th Multifunctional Medical Battalion. Over the past twenty years MSG Cox completed numerous assignments to include serving as the Joint Operations Center NCOIC, Homeland Response Force Region 7, NCOIC, First Sergeant, 1137th Military Police Company, J5/7 Training NCO, Army Substance Abuse Coordinator, Interim

Branch Chief 31B & 88M Reclassification Course, Homeland Response Force NCO, 205th Military Police Battalion Plans NCO, Military Police Platoon Sergeant, Senior First Cook, Military Police Squad Leader, First cook, Military Police Team Leader, and Food Service Sergeant.

Cox holds a BS in Criminal Justice with an emphasis in Law Enforcement and Corrections. His military education includes the United State Army Sergeants Major Academy, Company Command/First Sergeant's Course, Army Communities of Excellence PH1, Homeland Response Force Liaison Course, Military Police Senior Leaders Course, Disaster Planning, Counter IED Trainer, Police Transition Team, Arm Basic Instructors Course, Military Police Basic Noncommissioned Officer Course, and Warrior Leader Course.

MSG Cox's awards and decorations include the Bronze Star Medal, Army Commendation Medal, Army Achievement Medal, Army Good Conduct Medal, Army Reserve Component Achievement Medal, National Defense Ribbon, Kosovo Campaign Medal, Afghanistan Campaign Medal, Iraq Campaign Medal, Global War on Terrorism Expeditionary Medal, Global War on Terrorism Service Medal, Army Non-Commissioned Officer Professional Development Ribbon, Army Overseas Service Ribbon, NATO Non-Article 5 Medal for the Balkans Ribbon, NATO ISAF Medal, Meritorious Unit Citation, Missouri National Guard Long Service Ribbon (15 years), Missouri National Guard Kosovo Campaign Ribbon, Missouri National Guard Afghanistan Campaign Ribbon, Missouri National Guard Iraqi Campaign Ribbon, Missouri National Guard Expeditionary Ribbon, Missouri National Guard State Emergency Duty, Missouri National Guard Governor's Unit Citation, Louisiana National Emergency Service Ribbon, and the German Armed Forces Badge in Bronze.

"Thank you to Kendra, Seth, Adelyn, and Olivia for your love and support as well as Mom, Dad, Sharon and to Maddie for sharing her day," commented Cox. "Also thank you to Wes and Robert, Steve, Gene for their mentorship and friendship."

"Needs of the ARMY is a broad reaching and multiple use term. My original MOS I wanted was in medical, but due to a hearing issue, I was told I could not join the Army," continued Cox. "The gentleman at MEPS said I was disqualified from service due to high frequency hearing loss."

"My response was of shock and a bit of anger, but I asked him who he knew that issued orders in high frequency, and that I was there to join by choice, and not the same choice as many of the other people there. After spending the day going through the battery of testing I had talked to many of my fellow applicants who were only there because the

judge had given them a choice of incarceration or service. After a few more moments, he responded with, well get a waiver and come back then."

"This is where I first got acquainted with needs of the Army because due to this hearing waiver, I was only allowed to be a cook or in supplies. Then 9/11 changed a lot of things. The 1137th was deploying, but not taking on cooks, so all of a sudden hearing wasn't a big deal and the Army guard had a need for MPs. Deployments were another "need of the Army", it seems there is never enough folks to fill all the positions. After returning it wasn't long until the 1175th had spots that needed filling and because I was an MP that could cook, well needs of the Army got me again.

"I volunteered to go to Afghanistan due to a vacancy on the 205th roster. That was a blessing and where I met Kendra and as you guessed it, the needs of the Army pulled her onto the roster as well. And because of that I have a great family. My son, Seth, could not make it down, but my two beautiful daughters are here, and although they don't tend to agree with the needs of the Army, they have been as supportive as kids can be and for me."

The majority of his career has been spent as a Military Policeman. MAJ Phillips selected him as 1SG of the 1137th and he spent five years in that role being able to lead, mentor, and work with great soldiers. Col Payne took him to the Joint Operations Center to assist in the restructuring there and he was able to see some of the processes and inner workings of the State Guard. He then applied for a nationwide vacancy as an Operations Sergeant Major with the 229th Medical BN. LTC Kurt Mungestat and CSM Chad Mead selected Cox to fill that position. They took a chance on him and told him they saw an opportunity to broaden the knowledge and expand the Medical BNs Operations and PLanning Cell based off of his past experiences and not just being in the medical career field. Again the drive force was the needs of the Army.

Cox graduated 21 years to the day he enlisted and being told his hearing wouldn't allow him to be a medic. Well the NEEDS OF THE ARMY is a broach reaching and multiple use term, so he will see what's next in his career.

Cox and his family currently live in Linn, Missouri and he is serving with the National Guard 229th Medical Battalion located in Fulton, MO.

Pictured above are Major Jonathan E. Holem, Sergeant Major Garrett Cox, and CPT Crystal Cecil-Sevier.

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## Sikeston American Legion and Auxiliary Donate to MO Veterans Cemetery Over \$25,000

JUNE 15TH 2022 BY DEE LOFLIN

### Sikeston American Legion and Auxiliary Donate to MO Veterans Cemetery Over \$25,000

On Saturday members of the Sikeston American Legion and American Legion Auxiliary gathered at the Missouri State Veterans Cemetery to make a donation. The donation was in the amount of \$25,740. Since 2012 the group has donated more than \$169,000 to the cemetery. One year was missed due to the COVID-19 shutdown meaning this was achieved in nine years.

The funds were raised as part of the recent poker run and cook off weekend held in April by the Legion and other sponsors.

Veterans cemetery director Tammy Smith said this has allowed for the installation of the heat, air, LED lighting, sound system and enclosure of the committal shelter. Other beatification projects around the cemetery have also benefited from these donations.. The



cemetery is state funded, but not everything is covered in that budget.

“Without their support it would be very difficult to keep up the pace that we do, it would be very difficult,” said Smith. “It is expensive to maintain the cemetery and groups like this make it so much easier.”

“The whole interment process for the family, the experience of having to be down here, they have just made so much more comfortable for them,” said Smith. “Grieving is very difficult, you cannot make that easy. But being comfortable when you are having to go through it is a plus.”

“I have so many family friends interred here already and I have been around it in one way or another since its inception in the early 2000s,” said one of the organizers Jimmy Cantrell. “It holds a big spot in my heart. To see what it was and what it is now is amazing.”

Cantrell said the events held over the weekend that raised these funds were a corn hole tournament and the ultimate wing war (chicken wing cook off) held on Friday night. On Saturday was an auction, cook off and poker run.

“It takes a lot to do what we do, it takes a lot of help, It takes a lot of manpower, a lot of woman power,” said Cantrell. “A lot of things most people don't see, hear or realize. Our sponsors and contributors are the backbone.”

Smith and the staff at the cemetery participate in the weekend by judging the cook off, which is not a sanctioned state event. One of the events Smith and others judge is the mystery meat class, which is kept secret until the morning of the event. Some of the meats have been head cheese and liver.

Cantrell said the winners of the cook off receive a cash prize which is paid from a separate fund and not in anyway deducted from the donation.

Vickie Wilson with the Sikeston American Legion Auxiliary spoke about what this donation means to the auxiliary.

“It means a whole lot because that is what we are centered around is veterans, anything that has to do with veterans,” said Wilson. “Nine years ago Blair Moran came to us stating that the cemetery needed a new bell tower and system for the funerals so I took it on as my project as district president for the American Legion Auxiliary. And from then on it has been going ever since.”

The American Legion, Legion Auxiliary, Legion Rider, Sons of the American Legion and non members.

“If it wasn't for our sponsors out in the community, we couldn't do it,” said Wilson. “Our sponsors are our big supporters.”

Wilson and Cantrell both said it takes a lot of people with a lot of input to make the weekend work. Wilson said the event has grown considerably, the first years donation was \$9,000 all the the way to this year which was more than \$25,000.

“\$25,740 is incredible, it's an incredible feat and they do it in one weekend,” said Smith.

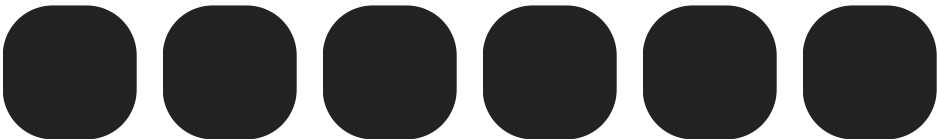
“We appreciate the outstanding support we receive from the American Legion Post and Auxiliary unit in Sikeston,” said Blair Moran, with the Assistance League. “This represents a great deal of hard work and we would also like to thank our community support given to make the generous donation a reality.”

Article and photo submitted by Josh Ayers, Dexter Statesman.

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# Scooters Coffee Ribbon Cutting 2022

JUNE 04TH 2022 BY DEE LOFLIN

## Scooters Coffee Ribbon Cutting 2022

A ribbon cutting was held to celebrate the opening of Scooters Coffee at 600 Business Highway 60. Scooters is a drive-thru only business, but you can smell the aroma of coffee as soon as you drive up to the window!

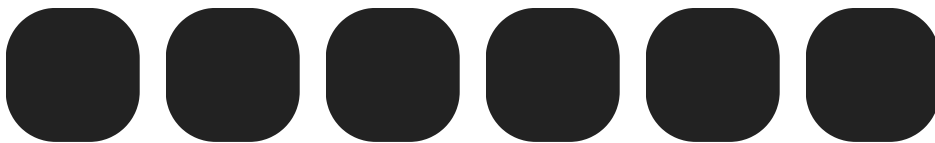
To follow Scooters **Coffee Click [HERE](#)**.

Pictured from left are Dexter Chamber office manager Karlee Wright, Baylee Johnson, Tanya Badlapatla, Angel Smith, Tori Curtis, Delaney Lemmon, Shelby Haynes, Samarah Hicks, Jason Ivy, Linda Ulm, Leslie Ackman, Dexter Mayor Jason Banken and Dexter Chamber president Dustin Mayer.

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