Features



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IDA Foundation Donates to Stars & Stripes Museum

AUGUST 28TH 2024 BY DEE LOFLIN

IDA Foundation Donates to Stars & Stripes Museum

Stoddard County Industrial Development Foundation donated \$1,000 to the Stars and Stripes Museum today.

This is an annual donation by the foundation.

Pictured are Laura Dumey, Stars & Stripes Museum and Peter Coutavas, IDA.

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Girls and Boys State Students Speak at Rotary Club

AUGUST 14TH 2024 BY DEE LOFLIN

Girls and Boys State Students Speak at Rotary Club

Marlie Hatton and Cameron Bell spoke at the Rotary Club about their time at Missouri Girls and Boys State which is held each year for students entering their senior year. The event is held at Lindenwood University - St. Charles and is in its 84th year.

The Rotary Club sends one girl and one boy to State. Cameron Bell had the opportunity to attend Boys State. He had the privilege to be on the City Council and voted on several city ordinances. He also attended a commerce class where he learned about business in America and how the economy works together as a whole.

"This opportunity given to me by the Rotary Club was amazing and I can't thank them enough," stated Bell. "I learned a lot about government and how it works."

Marlie Hatton attended Missouri Girls State also held at Lindenwood University this past summer.

She discussed her time at Girls State with the Rotary Club as they sponsored her to attend.

"I mentioned how I was in the school of Journalism and media because I plan to minor in journalism in college," stated Hatton. "I was in Covington City in the county of Price. I was the city's treasurer and I also ran all the finances for MGS Journalism team. I was on my county's council where I voted on different laws and such."

She got to meet Governor Mike Parson which she felt was pretty amazing and got to hear so many great speakers throughout the week.

Her city actually had three state officials speak by the end of the week, the Governor, Secretary of State, and State Treasurer. They also had some senators.

"This experience was truly life changing and I will forever recommend everyone going into their senior year to do this," commented Hatton. "I also got to meet some people that I know will be lifelong best friends. I just will forever be grateful that I got to go and

experience everything there. There was a lot to offer and I took full advantage of experiencing everything there. I only got 4 - 5 hours of sleep each night, but it was truly rewarding."

"The experience that the Rotary Club gave me was amazing and I can't thank them enough," concluded Hatton..

Missouri Boys State is an 8-day youth program held each June to teach Missouri high school students leadership and the workings of government. Missouri is one of forty-nine states (all except Hawaii) with such a program for boys and a separate program for girls sponsored by The American Legion Auxiliary

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Help Honor Jamie's Memory with New Playground Equipment at Bloomfield City Park

Help Honor Jamie's Memory with New Playground Equipment at Bloomfield City Park

A Missouri family wants to honor their late, young son after he lost his cancer battle. Jamie Tweedy was diagnosed with G anglioneuroblastoma, a form of cancer, after being initially diagnosed with Pneumonia. After several years and rounds of treatments, Jamie died in May of 2024 a day after Mother's Day.

To keep his memory alive, the Tweedy family hopes to fundraise and donate a locomotive train piece to the local city park in Bloomfield, Missouri.

"Jamie absolutely loved going outside, playing with friends, and going to the park with his family. He became extremely attached to a "train park" in the town we lived in before his diagnosis. We would visit the park often and everytime we came back to town we had to stop by it rain or shine, whether he was asleep or awake, and whether he was feeling good or not...we still stopped by ," the fundraiser reads.

More details about the effort, as well as the GoFundMe, can be found on their social media page. You can read more about Jamie's Journey by clicking HERE

To donate please click HERE, the GoFundMe page is set up and ready for your kind donation. The Bloomfield Park Board is already in the process of raising money for equipment at the park. A grant has been written and they hope to hear very soon if they qualified for the grant monies. While there is still more work to be done, they are trying to make a difference with an all volunteer team.

"As a Park Board Member myself, I am excited that Jamie's memory will last forever and on a piece of equipment he would have enjoyed playing on with his friends. I want to thank everyone who has already donated and those that will donate to make the Bloomfield City Park event better," Dee Loflin, owner ShowMe Times, Bloomfield Park Board Member and Bloomfield Chamber Board Treasurer/Member.

Here is what you will find on the GoFundMe Page for Jamie.

Hello my name is Sarah Tweedy and I want to say I truly appreciate you taking the time to learn about our sweet Jamie's story.

In August of 2022, our then 3 year old son was unexpectedly diagnosed with ganglionueroblastoma after unrelated imaging from symptoms caused by the common cold. The initial hospital diagnosed Jamie with possible pneumonia and after additional imaging from a secondary hospital it was confirmed that the "pneumonia" was actually a tumor located in Jamie's thoracic cavity.

Jamie had surgery to resect his tumor in September of 2022, and after biopsies, genetic testing and other labs were completed; we were informed that his cancer was considered low risk low grade. A conservative treatment plan was recommended by 3 different hospitals that included monthly labs and 3 month

follow up imaging. At his 3 month follow up imaging, we were hit with the unfortunate news that his ganglionueroblastoma had progressed and was now considered high risk. We transfered hospitals and oncologists immediately and started chemotherapy in February of 2023 after his broviac central line was placed.

Jamie underwent multiple rounds of high dose chemotherapy and immuno therapy from February of 2023-November 2023. His tumor was relentless and continued to grow despite treatments.

He was deemed an unsafe candidate for any form of radiation or additional surgey by hospitals across the U.S. due to the size and exact location of his tumor. After additional genetic testing, we agreed to trial a daily oral chemotherapy pill that ultimately (and thankfully) helped stabilize and slow down the rate of progression. He then took that oral chemo pill daily from Nov of 2023 to the day of his passing May of 2024. Jamie's tumor, though it remained localized, continued to progress slowly in size with each follow up imaging.

In May of this year, I lost the most amazing little boy a mommy could ever ask for. A major part of me was taken away from us the day after Mother's Day and our family has been left completely devastated and heartbroken.

Jamie had the biggest heart and hated to ever see us sad or worried about him. He would try to hide any kind of pain or discomfort just so we wouldn't worry about him. (And he hated taking medicines) Our sweet boy demonstrated the strength that others could only hope and pray they could ever have, and he was an inspiration to all of those around him. Before he became really ill, Jamie absolutely loved going outside, playing with friends, and going to the park with his family. He became extremely attached to a "train park" in the town we lived in before his diagnosis. We would visit the park often and everytime we came back to town we had to stop by it rain or shine, whether he was asleep or awake, and whether he was feeling good or not...we still stopped by.

I am creating this fundraiser on behalf of our Jamie's memory. We were able to modify the layout and design of the "train park" Jamie so loved and once funds are raised, we will be donating the locomotive train piece to the local city park in my hometown in his memory.

After his diagnosis, I created a Jamie's Journey page on Facebook, where I was an open book and updated about his journey often. I haven't made a update in quite sometime due to our loss, but will be updating his page often as we continue down this new path of Jamie's Journey, where we plan to honor our son's memory but also make a difference in other deserving children's lives. Bloomfield is in desperate need for a safe and fun environment for children to explore, learn and grow.

Please consider donating to help our cause. Feel free to follow Jamie's Journey page on Facebook, where I will be completely transparent on were we are with funding, process, and outcomes. We appreciate all the love and support we have been shown the past 2 years and would love to pass it on. Any additional funding raised past goal will go to future park/playground enhancements for locations of need in Jamie's memory.

If you are uncertain about donating via GoFundMe but would still like to donate in another manner, you can reach out to us via private message on Jamie's Journey facebook page and we can make additional arrangements that fit your request.

- •Approximately 1 and 260 children will be diagnosed with cancer before the age of 20
- •Currently only approximately 8% of federal funding is allocated towards childhood cancer research (previously it was only 4%....OUR KIDS ARE GREATER THAN 8)
- •Cancer is the #1 cause of death by disease amoung Children

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32nd Annual 4th of July Patriotic Parade for Kids

JULY 02ND 2024 BY DEE LOFLIN

32nd Annual 4th of July Patriotic Parade for Kids

The 32nd 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, across from the License Bureau with the Dexter Fire Department leading the way.

The youngsters guided by Uncle Sam (aka Jason 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 and videos. (ShowMe Times will be there!)

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 17 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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Dexter's Favorite Patriotic Veteran Receives Flag Flown Over U.S. Capitol

JUNE 28TH 2024 BY DEE LOFLIN

Dexter's Favorite Patriotic Veteran Receives Flag Flown Over U.S. Capitol

Walter P. Rushing, U.S. Navy Veteran, was quite surprised on Thursday afternoon when he received an Untied States Flag flown over the U.S. Capitol Building in Washington D.C.

Dee Loflin, owner of the ShowMe Times, knew about the US Flag Program and contacted Mike Schoelhamer, Constituent Services Specialist, with Jason Smith's office, to get a special flag for Dexter's move beloved Veteran. Smith is the 8th Congressional District of Missouri in the US House of Representatives.

Mr. Rushing is moving to Tennessee to be with his two daughters and their family.

He was in the United States Navy and if you have ever been in his apartment it's like walking into a mini war museum. He has quite the collection.

On Friday evening at 5:30 p.m. the public is invited to drive by, honk and waive at Mr. Rushing. It will be his last time waiving those American flags in Dexter. You may also stop by and sign his banner!

Thank you Mr. Rushing for all the memories and making us smile each and every day!! The students on the buses will miss you very much! You are truly the most Patriotic Veteran of Dexter!!

LAST UPDATED ON JUNE 28TH 2024 BY DEE LOFLIN

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