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University Responds On County Ag Job

AUGUST 01ST 2011 BY NEWS

University Responds On County Ag Job

*By Annabeth Miiler,
ShowMe Times Editor*

BLOOMFIELD - Stoddard County won't be getting a new University of Missouri Extension agronomy specialist anytime in the near future.

The Stoddard County Commission learned Monday that the University Extension does not intend to fill the position open due to the recent retirement of David Guethle in the near future. The commission received a letter from Vice Provost Michael D. Quart concerning the position.

The commission wrote Quart concerning the opening earlier in the summer, stressing the need for an extension agronomist in agriculture-based Stoddard County. However, Quart informed commissioners the University of Missouri Extension is still operating under a hiring freeze.

“Hopefully, if the economy shows further improvement, we will have another opportunity later this year to fill additional open positions,” Quart wrote. “At this time, we cannot predict when the next review process of open positions will occur. When that process does begin, the Stoddard County position will be on the list for review and prioritization.”

Quart informed the commissioners that until the university is able to refill the position,

other area agronomy extension faculty members will be available to “answer questions and provide programming” in the county.

Presiding Commissioner Greg Mathis said he was at a recent Farm Bureau gathering in the county, and the open agronomy position was a concern to area farmers.

Commissioner Frank Sifford announced there would be a presentation on Tuesday, Aug. 2, from USDA Rural Development to the First Baptist Church in Puxico. The church was instrumental in obtaining a grant for \$18,000 for the purchase of an emergency generator for the congregation’s Family Life Center to be used in times of community emergency. The church is also a designated Red Cross Shelter.

“I wish we could get [a generator] in the Advance, Essex, and Dudley areas,” Mathis said. He noted that Bernie already has generators on hand in case of emergency.

Commissioners also announced that a ribbon-cutting celebration would be held for the road project on County Road 702 that leads to the Union Pacific center in Stoddard County.

Because of the importance of the railroad to the county, the commission will adjust its meeting on Aug. 8.

“Union Pacific brings a lot of revenue to Stoddard County,” Sifford said. Therefore, Sifford proposed the commissioners attend the ribbon cutting celebration at 9 a.m. on Aug. 8, and the regular weekly commission meeting begin at 10 a.m. Presiding Commissioner Mathis and Commissioner Carol Jarrell both concurred.

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Bearcats Treated To Pre-Season Barbecue

JULY 30TH 2011 BY NEWS

Bearcats Treated To Pre-Season Barbecue

It's an exciting time of the year, as things begin to perk back up after summer vacations, and thoughts turn toward a new school year and great activities and events.

This last week for the "Boys of Fall" (the Dexter Bearcat football crew) to have football camp each evening at the sports complex.

Drivers passing by Bland Stadium could see the young guys and the coaching staff hard at work. It was a week filled with hard work in near unbearable heat as the team prepares for the 2011 season of Bearcat football.

As a way to celebrate the end of football camp, a number of Bearcat fans organized a special barbecue for the team and staff at the conclusion of Friday's practice.

As guys came off the practice field hot and tired after an extremely tough practice, they were treated to a "Summer Spectacular" of hamburgers, hotdogs, fresh grilled sweetcorn and all the fixin's. This was the perfect ending to the grueling hours of preparation for the 2011 football season.

images/Blog Images/NEWS - JUNE&JULY2011/7.30.2011 travisgrill.jpg

The Football 'Cats have worked hard all summer in the weightroom and running.

Yesterdays practice was the culmination of increases to the running program as the team performed 10 sets of 200 yard sprints.

"It (the practice) really shows who has been working because it's hot and tough out here." says coach Aaron Pixley.

[images/Blog Images/show/ujh7](#)

The barbecue crowd gathered early at the end of the track adjacent to the Field House to prepare the evening's meal. Helping with the Bearcat Barbecue were:

"The boys have really looked forward to this all summer" commented head coach Aaron Pixley. "We really appreciate the support of all the people that make this possible".

The crowd "chowed down" on the extra thick and juicy burgers and the hot dogs, ate fresh "peaches & cream" sweet corn grown by the Christian Church Youth group, and really savored the sweet, cold watermelon.

It was a meal "enjoyed by all" and a meal worthy of great Bearcat athletes!

As the young Bearcat men prepared to go home after an evening of football and Bearcat Barbecue, they could be seen standing in line to shake the hands and thank the folks who made their barbecue possible.

GO BEARCATS!

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Dexter Queen Celebrates A Tradition

JULY 25TH 2011 BY NEWS

Dexter Queen Celebrates A Tradition

*By Annabeth Miiler,
ShowMe Times Editor*

Back in 1949, it was a little spot on the undeveloped western end of Dexter. It was known as the Daisy Queen, and Leon and Gwen McGarrity served ice cream and fountain soft drinks. Before too long, the McGarrity's started serving hamburgers and hot dogs to go with the soda.

But Leon learned to smoke meat, and he soon began making what has today become a Southeast Missouri classic. Leon named his most popular sandwich, the "Pig", made of sliced barbecued pork, topped with slaw and his secret mustard sauce. And eventually Gwen stopped peeling those potatoes that came in 100 pound sacks, and they bought crinkle cut frozen fries, and today's favorite Pig Basket joined the menu.

On Saturday afternoon, Gwen McGarrity joined today's owners – Lori Hawkins and husband Dana Hawkins – for the dedication of a special mural on the western side of Dexter Queen. Painted by local muralist Bob Whitehead, the artwork depicts a special era in Dexter Queen lore – complete with classic cars and a special section dedicated to Leon and the old Daisy Queen days.

In addition <images/Blog Images/NEWS - JUNE&JULY2011/7.25.2011 lori & gwen.jpg> to a

special ribbon cutting that included all of today's staff, the Hawkins' and Dexter Queen hosted a classic car show to celebrate the new mural. Classic cars – just like the ones that

would “circle” the Dexter Queen in the 1950s and 1960s – were lined up and ready for viewing. With old time “rock and roll” tunes in the back ground, it was a trip to yesteryear.

Leon and Gwen McGarrity owned Dexter Queen for 32 years. Due to the high heat and humidity, Leon – now 91 - was unable to attend Saturday’s event. Gwen attended in his absence. But the legend that Leon created back in 1949 is still served every day thanks to Lori and Dana Hawkins who celebrate the Dexter Queen tradition.

Photos Above: Top - Gwen McGarrity and Lori Hawkins with the "Dexter Queen Girls;" Middle - Lori Hawkins and Gwen McGarrity next to the mural of Leon; Bottom - The Chamber of Commerce Ribbon Cutting Celebration for the new Dexter Queen Mural. (SMT photos by Annabeth Miller)

images/Blog Images/NEWS - JUNE&JULY2011/7.25.2011 ldq ribbon cut.jpg

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Shelter Sponsors Adoption Event Saturday

Shelter Sponsors Adoption Event Saturday

*By Annabeth Miiler,
ShowMe Times Editor*

There are some puppies that are just looking for a good home this weekend.

The Dexter Animal Shelter is hosting an animal adoption event beginning at 10 a.m., this Saturday, July 23, at the shelter at 601 East Grant in the city. The adoption event will continue to about 3 p.m.

Animal shelter director Jeff Jarrell says he has a number of puppies and dogs that he hopes finds new homes on Saturday.

“We’ve got a good selection of puppies – about eight puppies and 11 medium-to-big sized dogs all for adoption,” Jarrell said. The dogs are all mixed breed animals ranging from “a hound to a Chihuahua mix.”

Just so folks don’t think Jarrell is favoring dogs these days, he said he did not have any kittens or cats at the shelter at this time.

“We get cats, too. Just not any right now,” he said.

All of the dogs are available to be adopted free of charge, Jarrell said. In fact, Jarrell said adoption is free until the end of the month.

“I just want them to have good homes,” he commented.

The Dexter Animal Shelter is located at 601 East Grant. Jarrell said signs would be posted leading to the facility. “You can’t miss them – they’re pink!”

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Aslin Appointed To Dexter Board

JULY 19TH 2011 BY UNKNOWN

Aslin Appointed To Dexter Board

*By Annabeth Miiler,
ShowMe Times Editor*

A familiar face joined the table at Monday's evening's Dexter Board of Alderman.

Tim Aslin was appointed by Mayor Joe Weber appointed and confirmed by the board to fill the aldermanic seat left vacant with the resignation earlier this summer of Dr. Rick Hux. Aslin will hold the seat until the next municipal election in April 2012 and may then choose to seek election to the seat.

Hux and his family have moved to Jonesboro, Ark., where Dr. Annette Hux has assumed a teaching position with Arkansas State University.

Aslin is no stranger to aldermanic business. He served Ward II as alderman from 2004 until January 2010. Aslin works at Mingo Job Corps as the Business and Community Liaison.

In the brief meeting Monday evening, Ward I Alderman Jerry Corder nominated Ward II Alderman Kent Essner to serve as Aldermanic President. The aldermen unanimously elected Essner to the position.

In a unique twist, Essner was appointed to the board in January 2010 to fill the seat vacated when Aslin resigned his old seat due to professional obligations.

In other business Monday evening, the board:

- Learned from Fire Chief Al Banken that the summer testing of city water hydrants is almost complete;
- The last Summer Reading Program session is Wednesday, July 20 at 10 a.m. Library Director Pam Trammell said the annual program for children has been highly successful this summer. The library will also host a nutrition program for children hosted by the University Extension service on July 27.

The next meeting of the Dexter Board of Alderman will be at 7 p.m., Monday, Aug. 1 at the Dexter Municipal Building on Vine Street.

Photo Above: Tim Aslin (left) takes the oath of office from City CLerk Crystal Bishop as Mayor Joe Weber (center) looks on. (SMT photo by Annabeth Miller)

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