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# BREAKING: Streets, Bridges Beginning To Ice

JANUARY 12TH 2012 BY UNKNOWN

BREAKING: Streets, Bridges Beginning To Ice

## BREAKING NEWS!

The Dexter Police Department just reported to the ShowMe Times that bridges in the city are beginning to ice.

A city spokesman reports the Dexter Street Department is spreading solution on roadways near the Dexter schools and will continue to spread solution on city streets around town.

The National Weather Service in Paducah issued a Winter Weather Advisory for the region through Thursday night. The NWS reports accumulating snow is expected through tonight.

In addition to the snowfall, biting west-northwestern winds are expected to lead to falling temperatures throughout the day. Wind chills in the teens are expected.

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### Links of Interest

- [MoDOT](#)
- [National Weather Service](#)

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## Winter's On The Way! Boots & Shovel Alert!

JANUARY 11TH 2012 BY UNKNOWN

Winter's On The Way! Boots & Shovel Alert!

*By Annabeth Miller, SMT Editor*

Here we go with the snow!

The National Weather Service in Paducah has issued a Winter Weather Advisory for Wednesday night through Thursday night. The NWS reports accumulating snow is expected in the region late Wednesday night through Thursday.

A low pressure over the Great Lakes Region will drag a cold front across the middle Mississippi and lower Ohio river valleys. Cold air will combine with moisture already in place to provide a good change of snow. Gusty northwest winds will also reportedly cause some blowing snow along with wind chill readings dipping into the teens single digits.

In advance of the predicted wintry weather, the Missouri Department of Transportation has reminded motorists that even light precipitation can quickly case roads to become slick and dangerous.

“One of the biggest travel issues when winter weather strikes is black ice. Motorists need to be especially cautious as falling drizzle freezes or melted snow refreezes making black ice a concern, especially on bridges and overpasses,” said Customer Relations Manager Sally Oxenhandler.

MoDOT crews are prepared for the snow and ice and ready to treat the state’s highways, Oxenhandler reports.

MoDOT also offerers the following tips for driving in inclement weather:

- Always wear your seat belt.
- Use common sense, and adjust your speed to suit driving conditions.
- If weather conditions warrant windshield wipers, turn your headlights on. They help you see and help other drivers see you. Plus, it's the law.
- Double the distance you normally leave between you and the next car.
- Use gentle pressure on your accelerator pedal when starting on wet or slick surfaces.
- Give snowplows plenty of room, and try not to pass them when conditions are poor.
- Remember that driving is most hazardous when temperatures are near 32 degrees.
- Watch for other vehicles having problems with road conditions.
- Don't pass other vehicles on or near bridges.
- Keep your fuel tank at least half full.

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#### Links of Interest

- [MoDOT](#)
- [National Weather Service](#)

***Photo Above: Wintery weather may indeed cover the Bootheel by Thursday evening, according to the National Weather Service in Paducah. (SMT File Photo by Annabeth Miller)***

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# Emerson Criticizes USDA Office Closures

JANUARY 11TH 2012 BY UNKNOWN

## Emerson Criticizes USDA Office Closures

By Annabeth Miller, SMT Editor

WASHINGTON – Southeast Missouri representative in the U.S. House of Representatives is critical of the moves by the U.S. Department of Agriculture to close more than 250 offices and labs across the country, including one in Dexter.

U.S. Rep. Jo Ann Emerson said Wednesday afternoon that a slate of USDA office closings in Missouri will reduce services to producers and communities in a major part of the region's economy.

"These closures should be subject to a thorough review process by Congress, not strong-armed through by an administration seeking to balance its budget on the backs of rural Americans," Emerson said. "I am a strong proponent of smaller, more efficient and more effective government, but I am also wary of any effort to reduce the presence of federal agencies charged with supporting jobs and growth in the private sectors of our economy."

Emerson says rural communities in Southern Missouri want USDA to administer programs like Rural Development with as much first-hand knowledge of the communities they are serving as possible.

"Eliminating USDA employees in Dexter and Jackson does nothing to improve the decision-making of USDA offices in Washington DC. USDA is proposing that they consolidate their cell phone plans at their headquarters and get rid of jobs and services in the rest of the country. This nonsensical bureaucratic logic is not good enough for a federal government which must commit to real and substantive efficiencies without compromising the mission of helping rural communities grow and prosper," Emerson said.

Emerson says the offices are valuable partners for rural communities and producers.

"The bottom line is that these local offices and their few employees each serve a crucial, cost-effective role for agricultural producers – small businesses, essentially – which make up a major proportion of our economy in Southern Missouri," Emerson said. "Eliminating the offices leaves a gap in information for those folks and forces more of them to rely on fewer resources of the USDA. It's downright cynical to call such a plan for action a "Blueprint for Stronger Service" – what they are talking about is eroding services to people and communities which depend on access to the information and assistance of the USDA.

The ten offices scheduled to be closed in Missouri include:

- Farm Service Agency, Hillsboro

- Farm Service Agency, Buffalo
- Farm Service Agency, Versailles
- Food & Nutrition Service, St. Louis
- Food & Nutrition Service, Kansas City
- Natural Resource Conservation Service, Dexter
- Rural Development Office, Hillsboro
- Rural Development Office, Jefferson City
- Rural Development Office, Carthage
- Rural Development Office, Jackson

## Links Of Interest

USDA “Blueprint For Stronger Service”  
U.S. Rep. Jo Ann Emerson

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## Local NRCS Office Among USDA Closures

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## Local NRCS Office Among USDA Closures

*By Annabeth Miller, SMT Editor*

In what it calls a “streamlining” and “cost-cutting measure,” the U.S. Department of Agriculture plans to close nearly 260 offices and labs across the country – including one in Dexter.

The Natural Resources Conservation Service office in Dexter is among the 259 offices across the country that received word it will be closed in USDA’s “Blueprint For Stronger Service.”

The local office in Dexter employs three staff members. An office of Rural Development in Jackson is also scheduled to close; it employs two staff members. The NRCS office in Dexter is the only Stoddard County USDA office slated for closure.

There are ten offices scheduled to be closed in Missouri:

- Farm Service Agency, Hillsboro
- Farm Service Agency, Buffalo
- Farm Service Agency, Versailles
- Food & Nutrition Service, St. Louis
- Food & Nutrition Service, Kansas City
- Natural Resource Conservation Service, Dexter
- Rural Development Office, Hillsboro
- Rural Development Office, Jefferson City
- Rural Development Office, Carthage
- Rural Development Office, Jackson

The announcement was made this week by Agriculture Secretary Tom Vilsack in a Washington, D.C. news conference.

"The USDA, like families and businesses across the country, cannot continue to operate like we did 50 years ago," said Vilsack. "We must innovate, modernize, and be better stewards of the taxpayers' dollars. We must build on the record accomplishments of farm communities in 2011 with a stronger, more effective USDA in 2012 and beyond."

As a result of its study, USDA will close the offices, which include Farm Service Agency, Rural Development offices, Food Safety Inspection and Natural Resources Conservation Service offices.

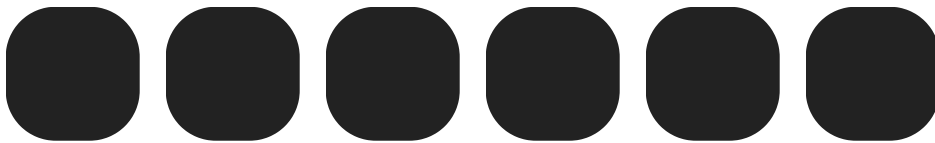
### Link Of Interest

[USDA “Blueprint For Stronger Service”](https://showmetimes.com/Blogpost/ulkp/Local-NRCS-Office-Among-USDA-Closures)

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## Bearcats Celebrate Winter Homecoming

JANUARY 09TH 2012 BY UNKNOWN

Bearcats Celebrate Winter Homecoming

*By Annabeth Miller, SMT Editor*

It's Winter Homecoming Week at Dexter High School, and Bearcats are celebrating and showing their school spirit throughout the week.

A full slate of activities is planned this week at the high school, with the student body enjoying special days and events to celebrate Winter Homecoming.

- **Monday** is a Slumber Party, with pajama attire featured by students, faculty and staff.
- **Tuesday** is Western Party, with western apparel the dress of the day and special square dancing and line dancing during Advisory Class.
- **Wednesday** is Luau Party with Hawaiian Shirts and limbo competition during Advisory.
- **Thursday** features an 80s Party, with 80s apparel featured and a "Name That Tune" contest during Advisory.
- **Friday** follows a Tailgate Party theme, with the school colors of Red & Black featured an a Pep Rally at the end of the day.

Bearcat athletes will be busy throughout the week, as well.

- **Monday:** Lady Bearcat Basketball, @ the BEC against Kennett
- **Tuesday:** Bearcat Basketball @ Bloomfield
- **Thursday:** 9<sup>th</sup> Grade Bearcats boys basketball vs Poplar Bluff; Lady Bearcats Basketball vs Neelyville @ the BEC
- **Friday:** Bearcat Basketball vs. Bernie @ the BEC

Friday night will also feature the presentation of the Winter Homecoming Queen Court and the crowning the 2012 Winter Homecoming queen. Ten lovely young ladies – two each nominated from the Bearcat Basketball Team, Lady Bearcat Basketball, DHS Dance Dexter, Wrestling Team, and the DHS Cheerleading Squad. Candidates include:

- ***Amanda Cooper:*** Amanda was nominated by the Dance Team and is a Senior at DHS. She is the daughter of Greg and Laurie Cooper. Amanda will be escorted by Stevie Payne. She is a member of Family, Career and Community Leaders of America, Future Teachers of America, the DHS Dance Team, Dexter Honors Society, and she attends the First Assembly of God in Dexter.
- ***Stephanie Gee:*** Stephanie is a senior at DHS, was nominated by the Wrestling Team and she will be escorted by Cody Stevens. Stephanie is a member of the DHS Chamber Choir and Student County, as well Rotary Interact, the Dexter Show Choir,



she is active in pageants, attends the Light House Church and is a member of TARs (Teen Age Republicans).

- **Rilee Jones:** Riley was nominated the Cheerleaders, is a senior at DHS, and will be escorted Friday evening by Chase Young. Rilee is a member of the Cheer team, FTA, Fellowship of Christian Athletes, FCCLA, DECA, and the Student County. She is the daughter of Danny and Kathy Jones and she attends Faith Lutheran Church.
- **Taylor Martin:** Taylor was nominated by the boys' Basketball team and will be escorted by Jordan Fitts. Taylor is the daughter of Mike and Amber Martin and is a senior at DHS. She is a member of FCA, FTA, DECA, FCCLA, Student County, the Rowdy Gals, has been a member of the volleyball and football cheerleading squads, and has participated in both basketball cheerleading and track all four years at DHS. She is a member of Risen Church.
- **Chelsey Massey:** Chelsey was nominated by the Wrestling team and will be escorted by Dylan Hefling. Chelsey is the daughter of Allen and Kim Massey and she is a sophomore at DHS. She is a member of Future Farmers of America and a wrestling cheerleading and she is a member of 4H.
- **Hannah Noe:** Hannah was nominated by the Lady Basketball team. She is a sophomore at DHS and is the daughter of Jo and Jonas Noe. Hannah will be escorted Friday evening by Blake Horton. Hannah is a member of the DHS Chamber Choir, the Lady Basketball and volleyball teams, she participates in track, FCA and Student Council. Hannah is active in her church and is a member of the Dexter Show Choir.
- **Sydney Rinehart:** Sydney was nominated by the Cheerleaders and will be escorted Friday by DJ Dowdy. Sydney is a senior at DHS and is the daughter of Vickie and Mark Rinehart. She is active in FCA, Rowdy Gals, the varsity basketball cheer team and Art Club. Sydney also attend First Baptist Church.
- **Megan Twewatha:** Megan was nominated by the DHS Dance Team. She is a senior at DHS and the daughter Deana and Steve Trewatha. She will be escorted by Brad Potts. Megan is a member of the DHS Dance Team, FCCLA, FTA, the DHS Student Council and Rowdy Gals, and is a member of the First United Methodist Church.
- **Miranda Warner:** Miranda was nominated by the boys' basketball team and will be escorted Friday evening by Tyler Miller. Miranda is the daughter of Jenni Zimmerman and is a senior at DHS. She is active in FCA, FTA, varsity basketball cheerleading and the Rowdy Gals. She attends St. Joe General Baptist Church.
- **Mollie Whitehead:** Mollie was nominated by the Lady Bearcat basketball squad and will be escorted this Friday by Cody Neldon. Mollie is the daughter of Kristi and Jonathan Whitehead and she is a sophomore and DHS. She is a member of FCA, FCCLA, Lady Bearcat tennis, basketball and track teams. She attends First Baptist

Church.

The court will be presented and the queen crowned Friday evening at the Bearcat Event Center between the junior varsity and varsity match-ups with the Bernie Mules.

The Winter Homecoming week will culminate with the Homecoming Dance, to be held after the varsity basketball game.

***Photo Above: The Homecoming Court for 2012 includes (front row, from left) Stephanie Gee, Rilee Jones, Hannah Jones, and Chelsey Massey; (back row) Mollie Whitehead, Taylor Martin, Sydnie Rinehart, Miranda Warner, Megan Twewatha, Amanda Cooper. (ShowMe Times Photo by Annabeth Miller)***

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