

# Features



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## Catching Snowflakes On A Winter Day

FEBRUARY 13TH 2012 BY UNKNOWN

### Catching Snowflakes On A Winter Day

*Nature is full of genius, full of the divinity; so that not a snowflake escapes its fashioning hand.”*

*- Henry David Thoreau*

*By Annabeth Miller,  
ShowMe Times Editor*

There is nothing that can replace the soft and graceful flutter of a snowflake. For a time Monday afternoon - with the snow just beginning to fall – the sight of those first snowflakes was There were no thoughts of slushy streets and cancelled meetings; of the cold and wet, traffic snarls or of freezing feet and fingers that needed to thaw by a warm fire.

No. There was just the joy of a long-awaited snowfall. There were thoughts of playing in the snow, of using that new snowboard that was under the Christmas tree. There were thoughts of crafting the perfect snowman, hoping for enough now for a snowball scrimmage, playing in the snow, catching snowflakes and making a wish in the winter fun.

</images/AB 2012/snowflake.jpg>

For young Kylee Carter it was an afternoon for giggles and new experiences; of enjoying the delights of the first flakes of snow to fall on a winter afternoon.

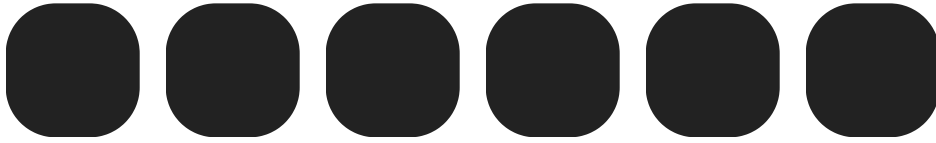
Kylee (also known as Peanut and a ferocious Cardinal baseball fan) was ready to catch snowflakes. Kylee liked playing in the snow, and yrying to catch snowflakes on her tongue - except her daddy thought she tried to do it with a very narrow tongue! Nevertheless, there were big smiles, giggles galore as she kept her tongue out, happily catching snowflakes.

Kylee is daughter of Kim and Kyle Carter, former Dexter folks who now live in Sikeston. Kylee's dad snapped these keepsake photos.

It's good to know that kids still have fun being naturally fun kids – and giving the rest of us a chance to remember what it is like to still be a kid at heart.

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## Richland Celebrates 51st Homecoming

FEBRUARY 11TH 2012 BY UNKNOWN

[Richland Celebrates 51st Homecoming](#)

*By Joe Foster,  
Special to the ShowMe Times*

ESSEX - Richland High School celebrated its 51st annual Homecoming Friday evening. With a gymnasium of Rebel fans, the traditional Homecoming Court was presented at halftime of the Richland-Clarkton varsity basketball game.

Crowned King and Queen this year were sophomores Tyler Maddox and McKenzie Hillis. Chelsea Freeman is the retiring Queen.

The representatives from each class, descending, are:

- Austin Maddox and Mallory Hillis
- Nick Daniels and Jessica Hill

- Tyler Maddox and McKenzie Hillis
- Charlie Atchison and Hailey Laws

When I asked McKenzie her thoughts about tonight she said, "I was really surprised, I wasn't expecting to win. I had fun doing it though, but I was sad Mallory didn't win. I'm glad that I got the opportunity to do it. I was just really shocked, but glad I won."

Later in the night girls from kindergarten through the third grade got the opportunity to dance with the cheerleaders during halftime. Captain Mallory Hillis told me, "It was really a win-win for everyone. It's a lot of fun teaching them cheers and dances and they love learning them."

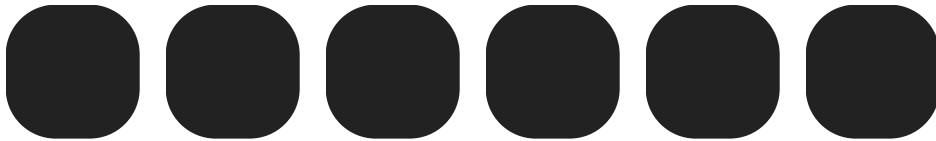
Chelsea Freeman said, "They did really well! I'm ready to see how the older girls are going to do on their more challenging performance on Thursday at Senior Night."

The Homecoming Celebration also included a high school art show, the annual History Day and the Richland Book Fair.

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## Wanted: Girl Scout Photos, Past & Present

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FEBRUARY 10TH 2012 BY UNKNOWN

## Wanted: Girl Scout Photos, Past & Present

*By Annabeth Miller,  
ShowMe Times Editor*

Were you a Girl Scout? Did you sing around the campfire at Camp Latonka? Did you make s'mores at day camp? Have fun times with your troop? Go to Girl Scout Round-Up?

In observance of the 100th anniversary of Girl Scouting in America, the ShowMe Times wants to celebrate with a very special photo gallery featuring your photos of your Girl Scouting experience!

This March 12 will mark the 100th anniversary of when Juliette Gordon Low called her niece in Savannah, Ga., and declared: "I have something for the girls of the Savannah and all America, and all the world, and we're going to start it tonight!" And so Girl Scouting in America was born.

Girl Scouting came to the Bootheel as early as the 1920s when a "Lone Troop" was formed in Kennett. A troop was established in Dexter in 1934.

The Cotton Boll Girl Scout Council was established in 1948 and from that time until today literally thousands of girls and young women enjoyed the Girl Scout experience. From Peach Orchard to Puxico, Dexter to Deering, New Madrid to Naylor, the Cotton Boll Girl Scout Council took Girl Scouting throughout the region to make sure the program was available to every girl.

Girls enjoyed local troop activities, day camps, camp outs, Thinking Day ceremonies and Girl Scout Week carnivals. In the 1951, the council opened the gates to Camp Latonka, an established camp on Lake Wappapello. The camp celebrated 60 years of offering program to girls during 2011.

Today, the tradition continues with Girl Scouts of Missouri Heartland – a newly-formed council that includes Cotton Boll and four other Missouri councils.

So, send your photos – old and new – to the ShowMe Times. Just email your images to Annabeth Miller, SMT Editor, at [amiller@showmetimes.com](mailto:amiller@showmetimes.com). Photos should be sent by or before **March 7, 2012**. Please add information about when and where the photo was taken and if possible, who is in the photo.

*Please, no photos sent by Facebook; we are hoping to unveil all photos in one gallery. If you have any questions, please contact Annabeth at 573.624.7469 or 573.421.7626.*

*Photo Above: Cadette Girl Scout Troop 46 from Dexter trekked to Jefferson City in the early 1970s, and toured the State Capitol with the help of State Rep. Jim Spain of Bloomfield.*

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## 'Duck Commander' To Headline Dinner

FEBRUARY 09TH 2012 BY UNKNOWN

### 'Duck Commander' To Headline Dinner

*By Annabeth Miller,  
ShowMe Times Editor*

It's an event that is years in the planning, and it is slated to be one of the most popular events for sportsmen this winter in Dexter.

First Baptist Church in Dexter is hosting its first-ever Wild Game Dinner Friday, Feb. 17. Special guest speaker is the popular Phil Robertson, known by his any fans as simply "The Duck Commander."

"This has turned out to be a big deal," Pastor Steve Easterwood said Thursday afternoon. Easterwood said that 425 seats are available for the dinner, with only about 30 tickets still available as of Thursday afternoon. "

Robertson is from Louisiana, where he and his family have a successful duck call business.

"He's been around for a long time," Easterwood explained. "Some of the guys here in town started ordering duck calls from him in the 1970s. We've even got guys from Illinois calling and wanting tickets."

Word about the Dexter event spread on the Internet thanks to the Duck Commander website.

[/images/AB\\_2012/2.09,2012\\_hicks.jpg](/images/AB_2012/2.09,2012_hicks.jpg)

This is the first-ever Wild Game Dinner for the church, and the meal will be prepared by former Dexter resident and championship barbecue master Darrell Hicks and the Cajun Cooker cooking team.

"Darrell's doing the cooking, so it will be a great dinner," he said.

### **Duck Commander**

Phil Robertson was born and raised in Vivian, La., a small town near Shreveport. With seven children in his family, money was scarce and very early on, hunting became an important part of his life.

As a high-school athlete, Phil was All-State in football, baseball, and track, which afforded him the opportunity to attend Louisiana Tech University on a football scholarship. There he played first string quarterback ahead of Terry Bradshaw. Phil's been quoted as saying "Terry went for the bucks, and I chased after the ducks."

Phil and his family- wife Kay, and four boys, Alan, Jase, Willie, and Jephtha - began a quest to turn his passion for hunting and fishing into a livelihood.

Never satisfied with the duck calls that were on the market, Phil began to experiment with making a call that would produce the exact sound of a duck. A duck call for duck killers, not "world champion-style duck callers." Claiming, "No duck would even place in a duck calling contest." And so, in 1972, the first Duck Commander call was born. Phil received a patent for this call and the Duck Commander Company was incorporated in 1973.

His home became his "factory" from where the calls were assembled, packaged, and shipped. Phil traveled store to store in the early days, with most ending in rejections. A certain large store in Stuttgart, Ark., laughed him out of the building (Oh, yeah, that store is now one of Duck Commander's largest accounts.)

In the mid-70's, Phil turned his life over to the Lord and made some dramatic changes in the way he was living. Phil Robertson is not only known as the Duck Commander but is now building a reputation all over the country for his faith and belief in the Almighty. He is invited to speak to hundreds of different churches and organizations every year, telling them what the Lord has done for him and can do for them.

Duck Commander is still a family business with all four sons and their wives working for the company at one time or another. Duck calls are still being built, blown, packaged and shipped in the Robertson's home on the Ouachita River, although now their home is surrounded by several offices and warehouses to help the company smoothly, and the nets are still being run, only now the fish that they catch feed all the Duck Commander employees. Yes it's a rough life, but as Phil says "somebody's gotta do it."

It isn't often a person can live a dream, but Phil Robertson, aka The Duck Commander, has proven it is possible with vision, hard work, helping hands, and an unshakable faith in the Almighty. If you ever wind up at the end of Mouth of Cypress Road, sitting face to face with Phil Robertson, you will see that his enthusiasm and passion for duck hunting and the Lord is no act- it is truly who he is.

Easterwood said the dinner will begin at 6 p.m. at the church, with the program to begin at 7 p.m. In addition, there will be a number of prizes donated for the evening, including a shot gun to be signed by Robertson himself.

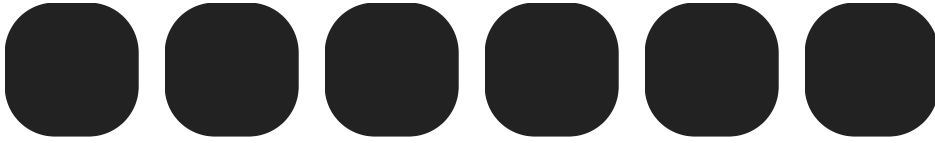
### **What's Happening**

- **WHAT:** Wild Game Dinner
- **WHEN:** Friday, Feb. 17
- **TIME:** Dinner @ 6 p.m.; Program @ 7 p.m.
- **WHERE:** Dexter First Baptist Church
- **COST:** \$25 per ticket
- **SPEAKER:** The Duck Commander, Phil Robertson
- **INFORMATION:** 573.624.7436

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## Nixon: A+ Big Deal; 'Go Bearcats!'

FEBRUARY 07TH 2012 BY UNKNOWN

[Nixon: A+ Big Deal; 'Go Bearcats!'](#)

*By Annabeth Miller  
ShowMe Timed Editor*

With little fanfare or hoopla, Missouri Governor Jay Nixon visited the Bearcat Event Center, enthused about the Bearcats and enthused about an academic program to help Missouri students afford a college education.

Nixon took the podium Tuesday morning at the BEC with the entire DHS student body in the stands for a unique school assembly.

Calling Dexter “one of Missouri outstanding schools” Nixon told the students that he and First Lady Georganne Nixon were proud to be at “the home of the Bearcats.”

“As we travel the state we take photos with the schools’ logos painted by different classes,” the chief executive said. The Nixons posed for a photograph earlier with a group of DHS students at the Bearcat mural near the high school office. “That’s just a stunning Bearcat with those green eyes! That’s a great logo!”

Nixon also noted Dexter students joined students across Missouri earlier in the morning in the Great Central Shake Out – an earthquake preparedness drill.

“You all participated this morning with 468,000 other Missouri school kids,” he told the Dexter students, and said the preparedness reviewed in the drill is important. “It can make a huge, huge difference.”

But the Governor’s main purpose was really to promote the A+ scholarship program and encourage the Dexter students to take advantage of the state program. The program makes two years of free tuition at a Missouri community college available to

students who complete the A+ program in high school.

### **'Great Schools' Don't Just Happen**

“Great schools like Dexter High don’t exist by accident,” he said. “Great schools are possible only because of strong support from every part of the community – parents, grandparents, employers, taxpayers and civic leaders. Each of us has a hand in public education. I say to Missouri – public education is a value not a political issue; it is something we share and respect.”

Nixon spoke with most of Dexter’s Board of Education and top administrators standing behind him. Board President Herman Morse, Vice President Betty Keirse, and board members Rick, Williams, Kenny Pope and Kevin Bishop as well as Supt. Dr. Thomas Sharp, administrators Dr. Kim Flowers, Dr. Roger Alsup and DHS A+ Coordinator Ann Polsgrove and DHS principal Corey Mouser joined Mrs. Nixon. Board member Nancy Mayer was unable to attend.

Nixon praised schoolteachers who “have answered a call to service” to make Missouri communities stronger, more prosperous and thanked them for their commitment.

“Our public schools always have been and always will be open to all, beacons of hope, opportunity and excellence for everyone. No one is turned away from public school in our state,” he told the students. “Some children come to school hungry, some homeless; some bear the burdens of poverty, neglect. But when a child of want and a child of wealth walk through the schoolhouse doors here, they enter as equals. Support for public education should not be an issue that divides us. It is an enduring value that unites us.”

Nixon noted Dexter came together in recent years to fund a bond issue for school improvements for today’s students and future generations, calling it a “precedent.” He applauded the Dexter district for taking the necessary steps to gain A+ designation.

“These people here – the board and administrators – all had to do a lot to make this happen.” He noted that Dexter was one of 50 districts in the state that joined the A+ program last academic year. The first Dexter students to graduate and able to take advantage of the A+ program graduate in May 2011.

### **A+ A 'Big Deal'**

Nixon told the students that A+ is “big deal” for three basic reasons. The first reason was that the requirements for A+ - to attend school make solid grades and mentor other students – are all “positive steps” for the students.

Second, he told the students that A+ was a positive program because of the global economy we compete in today. He noted that they will be competing for jobs not just in the region or state, but worldwide.

The governor told the students that A+ is important because more and more jobs in the future will require a two- or four-year degree.

“We want more and more young folks going on to technical schools, going on to two-year and four-year schools to make sure you are armed with the greatest asset for economic independence ever invented: Education.”

The A+ program isn’t cheap, but Nixon said that state government in Missouri is committed to funding the program.

“You do your part of the deal and we’ll do our part of the deal and that money will be there,” he said. “Now it’s up to you all. The teachers have done their work to build it up. The administrators have organized it, the school board has authorized it, the state school board has approved it. The first class of A+ recipients is now out at community colleges from this very community. Now the responsibility is on you. All these folks have before you have done all this work to give you an opportunity.”

Before he left the BEC, Nixon told the students a phrase more commonly heard in the gym: “Go Bearcats!”



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