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Hats Lovely, Creative Featured In 'Parade'

APRIL 05TH 2012 BY UNKNOWN

Hats Lovely, Creative Featured In 'Parade'

*By Annabeth Miller,
ShowMe Times Editor*

Judy Garland many have sung about it and Fred Astaire gracefully dance about it in the 1948 movie, but the young kids at Small Wonders actually went on their own Easter Parade this week.

In what has become a Easter tradition, the youngsters took a turn around First National Bank and the offices of First Baptist Church in their creative and distinctive hats this week.

From feathered ducks to spring flowers to a unique army helmet, the kids had quite an Easter Parade.

Mothers snapped photos of the unique experience, and kids modeled their creations on the sunny spring day. As they made their way from the bank back to Small Wonders, traffic stopped and marvelled and the springtime parade crossing Walnut Street.

I could hardly wait to keep our date this lovely Easter morning
And my heart beat fast as I came through the door.

In your Easter bonnet, with all the frills upon it
You'll be the grandest lady in the Easter parade.

I'll be all in clover and when they look you over
I'll be the proudest fellow in the Easter parade.

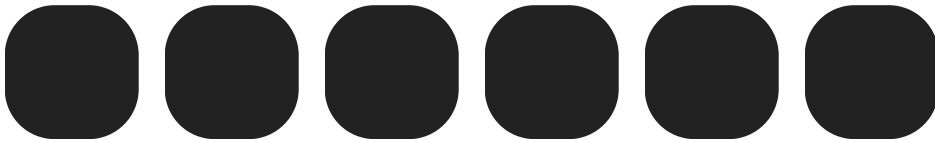
"In My Easter Bonnet"

ShowMe Times Photos by Annabeth Miller

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DHS Goes 'Green' For Luke

MARCH 30TH 2012 BY UNKNOWN

[DHS Goes 'Green' For Luke](#)

*By Annabeth,
ShowMe Times Editor*

Dexter High School is painted green today.

More specifically, lime green.

Friday is “Lime Green for Luke” Day at DHS, all in an effort by students, friends, Faculty and Staff to support Luke Lewis.

Luke is a sophomore at DHS and was diagnosed earlier this year with Non-Hodgkin’s lymphoma. Luke was been receiving treatment at Children’s Hospital in St. Louis.

Lime green is the color of the day Friday, with lime green ribbons being sported throughout the school.

Lime green? It just happens that the “color” for lymphoma is lime green. And it also happens to be the sophomore’s favorite color.

The DHS Student Council has been sponsoring events all semester to help and support Luke. STUCO Advisor Jennifer Miller said one of the first events was “Levi’s for Luke, where teachers paid to wear jeans one day to school.

“We are doing it now for the whole district. We are going to challenge the other schools in the district to do it. We raised \$400 just our (DHS) teachers,” Miller said.

STUCO members are also selling “Lollies for Luke.” The lollipops are flavorful suckers with sometimes unique flavor for candy – like raspberry lemonade and mint chocolate chip.

Students in their Advisory Classes Friday also crafted cards and sent letters to their classmate.

“Everybody has been participating, especially with the sucker,” said STUCO member Stephanie Gee. She said many students are paying more than the asked price to help the cause.

Miller said Luke’s mother, Michelle Quentin, is a nurse, and has not been able to work since January. Luke has been in the hospital almost non-stop since January and has needed care. Last week, she said, he had five straight days of chemotherapy.

“He’s getting some pretty powerful stuff,” Miller commented. He’s had chemotherapy and blood transfusions, and medical treatments a young sophomore in high school shouldn’t have to worry about.

The students are rallying around their friend and classmate, lending support and friendship.

“A lot of kids are on Facebook with Luke and talk to him there,” Gee said.

“And we are also selling lime green bracelets,” said STUCO member Tate Midkiff. Olivia Parker and Midkiff were busy Thursday getting the lime green ribbons ready for Friday.

Miller is also struck by the generosity of the community and willingness to help Luke.

“I received a check for \$100 from the parents of a student – they just wanted to help, she said. In addition, local businessman Greg Banken has made a contribution.

Miller said another project they are excited about is a concert featuring the band The Buzz on Saturday, May 5. The Buzz, featuring middle school principal Scott Kruse, will headline the concert to be held in the high school gym. But some high school musicians and bands, and high school talent Joseph Greer will join The Buzz. Admission will be \$5 per person

“We have ordered t-shirts and will be selling them before and at the concert,” Miller said.

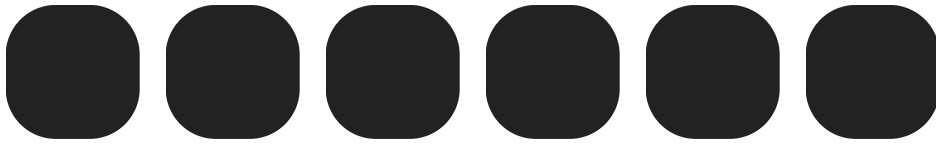
The black shirt will feature – of course – lime green.

Photo Above: Members of the DHS Student Council and the Student Body have joined together to help a fellow student - Luke Lewis - who is battling non-Hodgkin's lymphoma. STUCO member (from left) Olivia Parker, Stephanie Gee, Jenny Blattman and Tate Midkiff are among the students selling "Lollies for Luke" at DHS. (ShowMe Times Photo by Annabeth Miller)

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'Stuff A Truck' To Help Local Mission

MARCH 21ST 2012 BY UNKNOWN

'Stuff A Truck' To Help Local Mission

By Annabeth Miller, [be]ShowMe Times Editor

Bare pantry shelves are a serious problem for a family.

But bare pantry shelves at the mission in town are a serious problem for a community.

The shelves at the Stoddard County Rescue Mission are running spare these days, and the food is not on hand to meet an ever-growing need.

So a group of folks in the Dexter community have decided to take action and a difference for the Mission and the community. In response to the plea for food donations, a community food drive to benefit the mission is being planned.

“Local churches and groups will be collecting canned good and non-perishable items now until the end of March,” said Loretta Reid of the First United Methodist Church.

The goal – to bring together the community’s donations and “stuff” four trucks with food for the mission on Saturday, March 31. Donations received that day will all be given to the Stoddard County Rescue Mission, Reid said

Trucks will be at four difference locations on March 31 to collect canned goods:

- **Harp’s Food Store**, 4 South Catalpa
- **Town and Country Super Market**, 707 Specialty Drive
- **USA Drive Store**, Business Highway 60 and One Mile Road
- **Wal-Mart Supercenter**, 2025 West Business 60

A number of churches and groups have joined in the effort to fill the trucks with items for the Mission’s pantry;

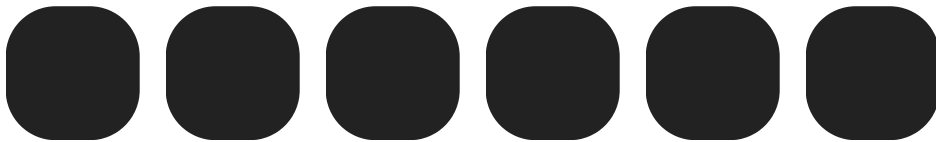
- Sweet Prospect Baptist Church
- Quick Cash Loans
- First Christian Church, D.O.C.
- First Baptist Church (Sunday School class)
- First United Methodist Church

Other churches or groups that would like to join the effort may contact Reid at 62-5769 or FUMC at 624-3344 or additional information.

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Work Progresses On New Cell Tower, Other Projects

MARCH 20TH 2012 BY UNKNOWN

[Work Progresses On New Cell Tower, Other Projects](#)

*By Annabeth Miller,
ShowMe Times Editor*

The Dexter Board of Aldermen gave its approval Monday evening to working with a cellular telephone company on the installation of a new cell tower in the city.

City Administrator Mark Stidham reported to the board that he and City Attorney Bud Lawrence had met and reviewed the contract between the city and T-Mobile on the cell company's lease for the installation of a tower on the city water tower on Elder Drive.

"We've just about got all the bugs worked out of it," Stidham reported.

Under the proposed agreement, T-Mobile will install a tower on the "Elder water tower" for \$1,100 per month with an increase of a two percent increase on an automatic renewal. Stidham asked the board for its permission to proceed with work with T-Mobile.

An ordinance permitting the cell tower on city property will be presented in the near future.

"This will be much like the one we have at the (West) Park," Stidham said. Water Supt. Tom Espey reported he had already met with officials from the cell company.

"It'll pay the maintenance on the tower – the painting" Stidham said.

On a motion by Ward II Alderman Tim Aslin and seconded by Ward III Alderman Kirby Taylor was unanimously approved.

Keller Public Library Director Pam Trammell reported that the Friends of the Library Fashion Show on March 12 was a successful event and thanked local merchants for their support.

Street Supt. Jeff Myers reported the company working with the city on water drainage downtown – Digital Sewer – met with city officials on Monday and the firm will arrive next month for the next phase of the project.

Workers with Digital Sewer will arrive back in the city on April 9, Myers reported. Workers will need to clean what little debris has settle in the system since it was cleaned, and take measurement for the liners that will be installed.

"They will be here and start our project uptown on April 16," he said. "What they've already done has helped a lot. But this will just reinforce the really bad spots."

He said the city crews have started doing some work that coincides with the work that will be done by the digital firm.

In other business Monday evening, the board

- Received the monthly report for February 2012 from City Auditor Eddie Cato;
- Learned from Library Director Trammell that checkouts from the Keller Public Library are up 10 percent and the Summer Reading Program will begin June 13
- Approved a Package Liquor License and a Sunday Sales License for Break Time, which will open at the Intersection of Business Highway 60 and Catalpa Street.

Photo Above: Water Supt. Tom Espey, Park And Recreation Supt. Lawson Metcalf, and Streets and Sanitation Supt. Jeff Myers listen to the aldermanic debate during Monday's meeting of the Dexter Board of Aldermen. (SMT photo by Annabeth Miller)

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History Alive: Siege of New Madrid Marked

History Alive: Siege of New Madrid Marked

*By Annabeth Miller,
ShowMe Times Editor*

NEW MADRID - In the early part of 1862, the Union General John Pope was one the move.

The West Point graduate and career Army officer had been summoned on Feb. 14 and given orders to capture a small town and river island in Southeast Missouri. So Pope and his troops headed south from St. Louis, reaching Commerce by Feb, 21. But their ultimate destination wasn't Commerce – but New Madrid and Island No. 10.

On March 10, Pope began a siege on the Bootheel community that would last until the Confederates surrendered on April 8. Pope and his officers occupied for his headquarters what was certainly one of the most elegant homes in New Madrid and the Bootheel – the home of Amanda Hunter and her seven children.

The city was once again “invaded” by Union troops, to mark the 150th anniversary of the siege. Re-enactors portrayed Company C of the 47th Illinois Infantry, who served as Pope's escort company. The re-enactment event was held March 10-11.

After a hearty breakfast on Saturday morning, most of the troops were on a march around New Madrid – looking for Confederates. And almost-empty camp was left behind – with morning fires left banked to take the edge off the morning chill.

Left behind was one private – who said he was the “oldest, fattest private in the Union Army.” But he was chatty, and helped explain the encampment – and the equipment carried everyday by enlisted men.

“It got cold out here last night – I didn't sleep real good. But one of the men did say he heard me snore,” he explained.

Taste Of History

Steve and Becky LaBarre were busy throughout the morning. Having prepared a hearty breakfast for the 35 or so soldiers that morning, they turned right around and began preparation for the noon meal. Actually, LaBarre said there would be two noon meals to prepare.

“We prepare one meal for the enlisted men, and something else for the officers,” he explained while turning beefsteak in cast iron skillets over the wood fire. That day he was

preparing a beef stew for the enlisted men, and steak with root vegetables for the officers.

“The root vegetables would have come out of cellars here,” he explained. The troops would have procured what was needed – vegetables, seasonings, a cow that would have been butchered – from the local residents. Steel pots hung over the low burning fire with the stew and the vegetables for the officer’s meal. Coffee pot sat to the side of the fire.

Becky showed her kitchen and explained the recipes they used throughout the weekend were from the 1860s. She had a big wooden bowl, filled with thick slices of fresh baked bread. Pickles were in blue canning jars, spices in pots and containers.

For instance, the beefsteak Steve was preparing had been rubbed in a dry mustard and fried in the cast iron skillets; a gravy was made using the drippings and coffee, and a garnish was made from English walnuts marinated in sweet pickle juice. All of this was served surrounded by potatoes, parsnips, onions and carrots.

Enlisted men ate from the mess kits; officers had the fine bone china that would have been taken from the Hunter-Dawson home.

Throughout the day the re-enactors drilled and had inspections, and even arrested a few local Confederate sympathizers.

Hunter-Dawson Home

Next door, tours were given of the Hunter-Dawson home. The home was built by William and Amanda Hunter, a Virginian who moved to the area in 1830, became a successful businessman and acquired a large section of land north of the town.

The Hunter-Dawson house is a two-story, 15-room frame structure of an eclectic style with Georgian, Greek Revival and Italianate influences. The lumber used in the house is yellow cypress, which came from a nearby sawmill owned by Hunter. The labor during construction was furnished by Hunter's own slaves and by area craftsmen.

The home has a basement, and family tradition says that some local Confederate soldiers, injured in skirmishes before Pope occupied the home, hid in the basement. Local ladies slipped the men food and medical supplies by hiding them under their skirts. The ladies would stroll the grounds, stand at the basement windows, and the men would reach under the full skirts for the needed supplies!

William never lived in the home; he died from yellow fever in 1859. Portraits of William and Amanda hang in the parlor.

Amanda and William’s descendants gave the home and the furnishings for a state historic site in 1966. The home is grand – with 15 rooms, nine fireplaces, and furnishings.

In observance of the 150th anniversary of the War Between The States, this report is part of periodic series on Civil War sites in our region.

Sites Of Interest

- [Hunter-Dawson State Historic Site](#)
- [City of New Madrid](#)

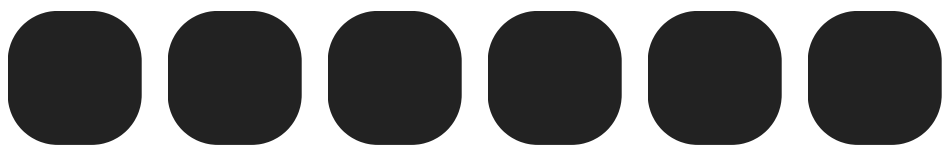
ShowMe Times Photo Gallery

ShowMe Times Photos by Annabeth Miller

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