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# 'Top Ten' Honored By School, Community

APRIL 25TH 2012 BY UNKNOWN

'Top Ten' Honored By School, Community

*By Annabeth Miller  
ShowMe Times Editor*

When Chris Christian was a student at Dexter High school, he never imagined that one day he would be asked to speak at the school's Honor Banquet.

But there he was Tuesday evening – standing at the podium on the DHS Auditorium stage, speaking to the students whose academic rank placed them in the top ten percent of their classes.

“When I was asked to speak here tonight, I was caught by surprise,” Christian said. He wasn't a “top ten percent” student when he attended DHS, but he was president of the student body, and was active in Student Council, Future Business Leaders of America, Fellowship of Christian Athletes, was on the track team, and a member of Dexter Honor Society. After graduating in 2005 from DHS, Christian attended Missouri State University in Springfield, and then Missouri Highway Patrol Academy. He is now a highway patrol trooper, stationed in New Madrid and Pemiscot counties.

Christian noted the celebration Tuesday night of academic success was an outstanding opportunity for the school and the community to join together in a positive way. The Dexter Chamber of Commerce sponsors the annual Honors Banquet annually.

“An honor such as this is an excellent way from the school and the community to recognize and celebrate the choices and sacrifices you have sometimes made during your

school years,” he told the students. “In doing this, I believe it is not the honor itself, but more the effort you have put forth for your achievements.”

In a few weeks, Christian noted that some would some be walking across the stage to accept a high school diploma – and walking into a new phase in life. He challenged the students to continue to work for the best.

“I challenge you: Do not rest on your success here at Dexter. Continue to strive toward even higher goals after high school. Discipline yourself to carry over a work ethic into your college career,” he said. Earning good grades in high school has not been a big challenge to many, he observed. “College will be a new experience. For some, you will learn the art of studying. Essays will become longer; tests and exams more difficult; free time will be shortened and time in the library will be lengthened.

To younger students, Christian issued a challenge to continue on the path of academic success and to begin to plan early for a college career.

“Keep an open mind when it comes to selecting a college,” he said. He encouraged students to look closely at collegiate opportunities and to visit campuses, investigate programs offered, and even check into financial aid packages.

Christian also encouraged students to recognize and value their families.

“They are the source that makes tonight possible. No one is more proud of you than your family,” he said.

Students in the Top Ten Percent of the classes were presented with a certificate by Assistant Principal Church Powers, and academic medal by Principal Corey Mouser.

Following the ceremony and photographs in the high school gym, parents and students, faculty and school board members enjoyed a banquet in the DHS cafeteria.

*Photo Above: A proud Aaron and Amy Pixley celebrate with freshman son Sion following the Honors Banquet program Tuesday evening, (ShowMe Times photo by Annabeth Miller)*

### **2011-2012 DHS Honorees**

**Freshman:** Madison Christian, Katie Dewitt, Jake Hindman, Jessica Lindsey, Dalton Manuel, Honey Patel, Sion Pixley, Courtney Potts, Brooks Probst, Rachel Putnam, Kathryn Grace Reiker, Rebecca Singh, Alexis Smith, Dakota Southerland

**Sophomores:** Keaton Altom, Will Baker, Chelsey Berry, Cora Bradley, Jonathan Foels, Kayla Hester, Kelsey Holder, Zachary Kester, Sophie Lebel, Michaela Lesley, Ashley Long, Jacob Mier, Riley Rickman, Jacob Robinson, Kendra Stevenson, Kasity Twaddell, Kali Watson

**Juniors:** Katlyn Brown, Katelynn Frazier, Damian Glasener, Joseph Greer, Ryan Joyner, Jessica Loflin, Natalie Parrott, Courtney Rasor, Alex Rybolt, Kaitlin Viers, Samuel Ward, Logan Webb, Tyler Wilson, Chase Young

**Seniors:** Tyler Chapman, Shelby Chappell, Lauren Dudley, Owen Flowers, Taylor Hueckel, Jamie Manuel, Tyler Miller, Brandon C. Moore, Leah Noyes, Emma Powell, Dalton Putnam, Sydney Rinehart, Jacob Stephens, Lauren Ward

**ShowMe Times Gallery**  
DHS Honors Banquet 2012

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# New 1221st Leader Takes Command

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## New 1221st Leader Takes Command

A new leader has taken command of a local National Guard unit.

Capt. Matthew Knoderer, of Cape Girardeau, is the new commander for the 1221st Transportation Company in Dexter, Sikeston and Portageville. During a ceremony, the company's guidon was passed to Knoderer to symbolize the transfer of authority and responsibility.

"I promise that I will give you everything that I have so that you can continue to drive forward," Knoderer said to the soldiers at the ceremony.

Lt. Col. Timothy Hartman, commander of the 835th Combat Sustainment Support Battalion, said Knoderer's experience as a Missouri Guardsman engineer will be a benefit to the unit.

"Capt. Knoderer comes to the unit with a very different background, but a valuable one," said Hartman.

Hartman also pointed out Knoderer's experiences as an enlisted soldier before receiving his officer commission will also be a great asset to the unit.

"As a commander with deployment experience and as an enlisted soldier, he'll have an understanding of what you're going through if you're ever called into service again," Hartman told the company.

Knoderer takes command of one of the best transportation units in the state, said Hartman.

"The Missouri National Guard moves on the 1221st," Hartman told the soldiers. "You allow Missouri to do more things than any other state. You've given officers and soldiers to support other deployments while still completing missions at home. If the 1221st wasn't here, the state of Missouri wouldn't be where it is today."

For Knoderer, this new command is a welcoming challenge.

"I have southern roots and I feel like I'm coming home," said Knoderer. "I want to thank Lt. Col. Hartman for entrusting such a great unit to me."

Hartman said he looks forward to Knoderer's command over the next couple years.

"He has all the skills necessary to be a successful commander," said Hartman. "I have the utmost confidence he'll be able to lead you forward on any mission."

Knoderer said he plans to strive for individual soldier and unit readiness, and to continue to align the unit's missions under the Missouri National Guard's adjutant general's vision.

Knoderer enlisted in Missouri National Guard in 2000. He served in the 1140th Engineer Battalion in Cape Girardeau and deployed in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom in 2004-2005. He received his officer commission in 2007, and has served in several leadership positions: platoon leader with the 220th Engineer Company in Festus, commander of the 880th Engineer Haul Team in Perryville, mobilization readiness officer and brigade assistant training officer with the 70th Troop Command at Jefferson Barracks, and plans officer for the Missouri National Guard's Homeland Reaction Force. He is currently the brigade personnel officer with the 70th Troop Command at Jefferson Barracks.

Knoderer is supported in his military career by his wife, Jenny, their children, Nicolette and Will, his parents, Bill and Dawn Knoderer and Laura Knoderer, his grandfather, Anson Knoderer, and his uncle and aunt, Dale and Cissy Williams.

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## Crews Continue Work In Downtown Dexter

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[Crews Continue Work In Downtown Dexter](#)

*Crews from Visu-Sewer are in Dexter installing liners to the storm and water sewers in the downtown area. Crew members worked Thursday on Walnut Street, near the intersection of Miller, Walnut and Vine streets. The company, from Pewaukee, Wisc., has completed an intensive inspection and cleaning of the storm sewer system in preparation for the installation of the liners. The crew will be continuing work in town for the next several days. Local officials report the stormwater system in the downtown district is some of the oldest in the city. (ShowMe Times photo by Annabeth Miller)*

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## Board Revises DHS Cheer, Academic Programs

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### Board Revises DHS Cheer, Academic Programs

*By Annabeth Miller,  
ShowMe Times Editor*

The Dexter School Board on Monday night reorganized following the election earlier his month and made some adjustments to two programs at the high school.

Rick Williams and Kenny Pope were both sworn into new terms on the board after being reelected in the April 3 election. Board members unanimously voted to retain Herman Morse as board president and Betty Keirsey as vice president.

On the recommendation of high school principle Corey Mouser, the board approved a new plan for the selection and organization of the high school cheer squads.

According to the Mouser, the plan includes:

- Elimination of the freshman football and freshman basketball cheer squads
- Expansion of both squads to 14 members
- Football cheer squad would cheer at all home and away regular season games and any post-season championship games
- Varsity cheer squad would cheer only at home varsity boys and girls home games
- No regular season travel for varsity basketball cheer squad (exceptions would be county tournament and post-season play)

In addition, a new rubric will be introduced in the selection of squad members. Mouser said that under the plan the squad could hold a clinic as in the past – that squad sponsors would be selecting members.

“A lot of schools are going this way (elimination of travel),” Mouser said. “They save on travel expense and nights out.”

In another change at DHS, DHS science instructor Leigh Ann Dooley requested a change was made in the high school anatomy/physiology class.

Currently, the class is available to senior students on a pass/fail basis option. This relieves some pressure on students who are watching grade point average with the upper level science class.

“Mrs. Dooley has seen a situation with the pass/fail that they (the students) are not putting forth a great amount of effort because they are taking it pass/fail,” Mouser told the board. “So what we would like to do I make it a weighted class. Mrs. Dooley has been aggravated, and I understand. They’re putting forth the effort to just pass the class, but they’re not putting forth the effort they are capable of and able to do.”

“Any teacher is irritated when students play games with them,” said Morse, who is a retired teacher and school administrator.

Mouser said that it is important to go ahead and make the change in the class for students start the scheduling process.

The board approved the request, and Anatomy/Physiology will become a weighted class – worth 5 points on the 4.0 scale – for the class of 2014. This will make the upper level science class the eighth weighted class at DHS.

Dr. Bobby Jibben of Dexter has been offering his services as athletic physician to Dexter students for six years. On Tuesday the board unanimously agreed to the continue the relationship with Jibben.

“It’s always nice if someone gets hurt to see him come bee-bopping on down,” Morris said.

“It is very, very kind of him,” added Supt. Dr. Thomas Sharp.

In other business Tuesday, the board:

- Appointed Rick Williams as a director of the Dexter Public Schools Foundation board to a three-year term and appointed Morris to a one-year term;
- Agreed to renew its membership to the Missouri School Boards Association;
- Received a report from Assistant Supt. Dr. Roger Alsup on the successful inspection of the district bus fleet by the Missouri State highway Patrol;
- Passed a resolution honoring the certified staff members retiring at the end of the 2011-2012 school year – Carolyn Carroll, Maria Chamberlain, Vicki Jarrell and Betty Huffman;
- Scheduled the next meeting for Thursday, June 28, at 6 p.m.

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***Photo Above: Rick Williams and Kenny Pope take the oath of office for new term on the Dexter R-XI Board of Education at the beginning of Tuesday evening's board meeting. Administering the oath of office was Board Secretary Laura Putnam. (ShowMe Times photo by Annabeth Miller)***

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## Board OK's Ordinances; Appoints Roper

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Board OK's Ordinances; Appoints Roper

*By Annabeth Miller,  
ShowMe Times Editor*

Dexter's Mayor appointed a new assistant city water superintendent at Monday's meeting of the Board of Aldermen.

Upon the recommendation of longtime Water/Wastewater Supt. Tom Espey, Mayor Joe Weber appointed Brody Roper as the new assistant superintendent.

"In 2010, my assistant superintendent retired," Espey said to the aldermen. Espey said that being without an assistant in the department, it could be somewhat of a problem if Espey is out of town or "out of pocket." Therefore, he recommended the appointment of department employee Roper as the assistant superintendent.

"He can do a lot of things," Weber commented. "He's a good man. I believe he will be a very good asset."



“He’s got the City’s best interests at heart,” Espey added.

City Administrator Mark Stidham noted that Roper is fully licensed to hold the position in the Water/Waste Water Department.

Weber also made a trio of appointments to the park and Recreation Board on Monday evening. Weber appointed to new terms Jim LaBrott, Ron Lovelady and Hannah LeBeau on the board, and appointed Megan Agey Steuver to fill the unexpired term of Tracy Elfrink. Elfrink recently resigned from the parks board.

The board of aldermen unanimously approved Weber’s appointments.

The aldermen also unanimously approved an ordinance to install new stop signs on the northbound and southbound lanes of East Park Avenue at the intersection of Ray Street in Ward III.

“The aldermen from the ward have requested this,” said City Attorney Bud Lawrence, referring to Ward III aldermen Kirby Taylor and Jerry Corder.

Alderman also gave their stamp of approval to an ordinance for a temporary winery caterer’s permit. The ordinance would allow the city to issued a permit for a business to have a wine-tasting event at the business.

Lawrence reported a downtown business has requested a permit to have a wine tasting event occasionally.

The ordinance was unanimously approved.

The board approved two other ordinances. One is at the request of the Missouri Department of Transportation and sets uniform speed limits on three sections of city roadway. The final ordinance certifies the April 3 municipal election.

In other business Monday evening

- Parks and Recreation Superintendent Lawson Metcalf report that lifeguard training/certification will be held soon and that water is in the pool in preparation for the lifeguard classes.
- Library Director Pam Trammell report that three weekly Story Hour events are scheduled in May before the Summer Reading Summer begins in June.

- Fire Chief Seymore thanked city departments for help on the expansion of the park lot at the fire station.
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- **Ordinance 4669:** stop signs on East Park Avenue

*Voting yes: Corder, Battles, Aslin, Essner, Taylor, Pixley*

- **Ordinance 4670:** speed limits

*Voting yes: Corder, Battles, Aslin, Essner, Taylor, Pixley*

- **Ordinance 4671:** certify election results

*Voting yes: Corder, Battles, Aslin, Essner, Taylor, Pixley*

- **Ordinance 4672:** temporary winery caterer's permit

*Voting yes: Corder, Battles, Aslin, Essner, Taylor, Pixley*

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***Photo Above: Police Chief Sammy Stone answers questions concerning a proposed ordinance on East Park Avenue in the city. (ShowMe Times photo by Annabeth Miller)***

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