

Letters To The Editor



[TOP](#)

Letter from Tila Hubrecht

MARCH 14TH 2015 BY DEE LOFLIN

Letter from Tila Hubrecht

Dear 151st District Constituents,

The beautiful weather has arrived! This week we all enjoyed seeing the snow melt and the temperatures rise with the sun showing it's beautiful face! The time change, something that we all complain about, has taken place. There is a bill that has been introduced regarding the time change. I have signed as a co-sponsor of this piece of legislation but have received reports from constituents telling me of a time when this was tried unsuccessfully in the past. I am not aware of this attempt but if you are, would you please share with me your thoughts on this? We all have different experiences and expertise and you sharing yours with me will enable me to vote wisely on this issue as well as all bills that are presented on the floor.

This week the budget was finished in the House and sent to the Senate. I am listing more information below on this but all in all, the budget so far looks like something we can all work with, there were quite a few areas that were increased above the Governor's recommendations. I will monitor how the budget progresses through the Senate and what changes are made.

Beautiful pieces of artwork were created by some very talented students at Puxico Elementary and have been on display in the Capitol this past week. One piece was actually presented to me to be displayed in my office for this next year, I am very honored! I am quite impressed with the talent of these young students! I enjoyed meeting with these students and their families as they were at the Capitol Thursday.

The Floor and Committees are all quite busy and will continue to be busy as the session quickly progresses. I am kept quite busy reading through several bills each evening after things "close" for the day! I have filed several pieces of legislation this session and am very busy working to get these bills through the process. I will have hearings on two of these bills this next week. I will spend quite a bit of time this weekend while I am home preparing my presentation for the committee. These two pieces of legislation, if successful, will reduce some government regulations on nursing home facilities that are duplicative and overburdensome. Government should work for the people, not the people working for the government!

Legislative Spring Break is approaching, it will be the week of March 23rd. If you have any event that you would like for me to attend during that week, please call my office as soon as you can, my schedule for the break is quickly filling up! I am hoping to be able to make it through much of the district that week meeting as many constituents as possible.

Until next week,
Tila

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City Administrator Warns of Flooding in Dexter

FEBRUARY 20TH 2015 BY DEE LOFLIN

City Administrator Warns of Flooding in Dexter

Dexter, Missouri - The National Weather Service is estimating quite a bit of rain for Saturday, February 21st, that coupled with the large amount of snowfall we have already on the ground could cause major flooding in Dexter.

Due to large amounts of snow in the ditches and driveway culverts the drainage is being blocked. When the snow begins to melt and it rains several inches the liquid has to get to the ditches in front of homes.

If the melted snow and rain cannot flow freely then it will back up into homes and yards causing flooding and damage.

Please take some time today to open the driveway drain in front of your home. The City of Dexter spent numerous hours on Thursday and will continue to try and free up large drains blocked by the snow.

Thank you,
Mark Stidham
City Administrator, Dexter

This could be recommended for anyone even in the county, if you have culverts or drainage, they need to be cleared or flooding may occur.

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Casting Crowns to Appear at The Carson Center

FEBRUARY 05TH 2015 BY DEE LOFLIN

Casting Crowns to Appear at The Carson Center

Paducah, Kentucky – Casting Crowns will appear at The Carson Center in Paducah, Kentucky on February 28th.

Taken from their website here is more information about this awesome Christian band. For Ticket information click **HERE!**

“Hearing Casting Crowns’ frontman Mark Hall singing those words in the title track of the band’s new album **Thrive**, it’s hard not to feel peace wash over your soul. Life can be so challenging and it’s easy to become overwhelmed. What a gift to be reminded we were made to thrive!

“The idea of ‘Thrive’ came out of our student ministry. I’ve been a youth pastor for almost 22 years and it’s still what I want to be when I grow up,” Hall says with a grin. “The songs always really start out with what we’re teaching, and for years I’ve been using Psalm 1 in showing them what a believer looks like. It says: ‘Blessed is the one who does not walk in step with the wicked or stand in the way that sinners take or sit in the company of mockers, but whose delight is in the law of the Lord, and who meditates on his law day and night. That person is like a tree planted by streams of water, which yields

its fruit in season.’”

For Hall, nature seemed to underscore scripture on a family vacation in Gatlinburg, Tenn. when he looked at the trees near the river. “Their roots are exposed and you can feel them just doing everything they can to get to where the water is,” he says. “When I talk to families about how they are doing, they always say ‘just surviving.’ That is not the life that God designed for us to live. That’s not saying that you’re not going to have problems. None of the New Testament people had it easy. They all had troubles, some even at the expense of their lives. The book of joy, Philippians, was written from prison. Hard times are going to come, but God didn’t put you here just so you could survive through hard times. He put you here to thrive, to dig in and to reach out. This record is an effort to draw a picture of what a believer, a follower of Jesus, would look like if they dug into their roots and understood God and themselves more, and then instead of trying to go be Christian for God, they just let God give them chances to be a Christian.”

Casting Crowns’ has consistently delivered songs that spur listeners to evaluate their relationship with God and with each other. “The basic idea is let God define himself through you and if you’ll do that, you’re going to thrive,” says Hall. “The first six songs on the record are all about learning who God is and who you are. The second six songs are about how that works out. How are you going to get out there and let him live his life through you?”

The album’s lead single “All You’ve Ever Wanted” has a potent message. “It’s combating that logic that we have in us that says when we fail, we need to make it right,” Hall says. “We think we need to make things right with God. We think we’ve got to make him proud again. Not only does it not work, it’s not needed. We’re fighting a battle that’s already won and that’s what this song is about.”

Hall says the hardest song for him to write on the new album was “Love You With the Truth.” “It’s a big, upbeat rockin’ song about a person realizing that they’ve been a really cruddy friend because they haven’t shared the truth with the person closest to them,” Hall explains. “People say, ‘I want to share the gospel, but I don’t want to ruin my friendship.’ What you are really saying is I love my friendship more than I love my friend. It’s tough, but it’s truth.”

One of the most poignant songs on the album is the compelling ballad “Broken Together.” “Marriage is tough,” Hall says. “We bring a lot of fairytales to the picture when it comes to marriage. We bring them to the altar with us [thinking]: ‘This is going to be perfect. We don’t have to be apart. We can just wake up together every morning and no one is

going to have morning breath. We're not going to have any problems.' And then the problems hit and you don't know where to file those into your picture. . . The idea I'm trying to say is: 'Can you lay down who you thought I was and love the me that is? Can we take this from where we are now and realize that I can't be that person?' Only God is going to be able to make this work and broken people can be broken together. To me, it's probably the most important song on the record."

Song after song on the album deals with tough topics and frames life's challenging moments in Biblical perspective. "House of Their Dreams" paints a portrait of a family who has achieved what the world views as success, but inside their home, they are aching with emptiness and isolation. "Just Be Held" shares an uplifting message for anyone struggling as Hall shares what our heavenly father wants his children to remember: "Your world's not falling apart, it's falling into place. I'm on the throne. Stop holding on and just be held."

"Waiting on the Night to Fall" is a powerful ballad that displays the depth and range in Hall's voice. The haunting lyric about addiction uses the metaphor of an old man lurking in the woods, biding his time, as Hall sings: "He knows you have the answers, but truth lies dusty on your shelf and the sword that you could slay him with has become an ornament and nothing else."

"Dream for You" features Hall's youth group singing background vocals. The song reminds us God's dream for us is bigger than we could ever imagine. "We have this picture of who God can use," Hall says, noting that when God spoke to Moses, he found reasons he couldn't do what God asked. "What God had to do for Moses is He had to wipe away that picture and say, 'I'm going to use you.' It's the same way with us. When God hits us with something like 'You need to teach this small group' or 'you need to live on a mission field,' we immediately look in our own backpack at our gifts and skills. If I would have lived on that, I would have never been a youth pastor. I would have never written a song. I would have never stood up in front of anybody. I don't have any of those things in my backpack. . . God is saying, 'There's an X-factor here. If you would just step up, I'll do something that will blow your mind.'"

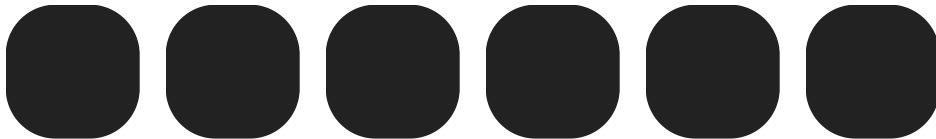
Working again with producer Mark Miller, who signed the band to his label more than a decade ago, **Casting Crowns** has crafted another collection of songs that are entertaining and innovative, yet lyrically substantive. *Thrive* is a rich aural feast that leaves everyone with plenty of food for thought. In writing songs for *Thrive*, Hall enlisted some of his favorite collaborators, among them Matthew West, Matt Maher and Bernie Herms.

It's been more than 10 years since the members of **Casting Crowns** heard their first single on the radio in July 2003, the same day Hall and his wife Melanie welcomed their daughter Zoe. Since then so much has happened in the lives of each member and along the way God has taught them so much. "He's opened our eyes to our suspicion that He was way bigger than we thought He was," Hall says with a smile. "He didn't need **Casting Crowns** to come along to help His word get out. God is winning. He's changing the world. It may look at times like things are getting darker and darker, but they are not. Everywhere you go, you can see light and light wins. It always wins."

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Letter From SEMO University President Dobbins

NOVEMBER 25TH 2014 BY DEE LOFLIN

[Letter From SEMO University President Dobbins](#)

Dear Southeast Community,

The Greater St. Louis Region is home for approximately 40 percent of Southeast Missouri State University students. Located just two hours from St. Louis, our University community has closely followed the process and events that led to the grand jury decision announced yesterday with great interest and emotion.

As the events unfolded last night, I thought of the more than 300 current Southeast students and many employees who grew up in the Ferguson-Florissant vicinity who may still have family living in close proximity to the affected neighborhoods. Those individuals and their loved ones are in our thoughts and prayers.

Our first concern is for the health and safety of our students. The University has many professional staff available to assist students who are directly affected by this event and its aftermath. Please contact me at president@semo.edu or the Dean of Students at deanofstudents@semo.edu to be connected to campus support services. Since our residence halls are open during the Thanksgiving Break, students are welcome to stay over the break. If students plan to remain on campus during this break period, they should let their resident advisors know as soon as possible.

This week and in the weeks to come, I am hopeful that our University community of students, faculty and staff will support one another and take the time to talk respectfully about the greater societal issues raised by these events. The diversity of our student community is one of the characteristics that makes Southeast Missouri State University a wonderful place to learn and to freely express personal beliefs.

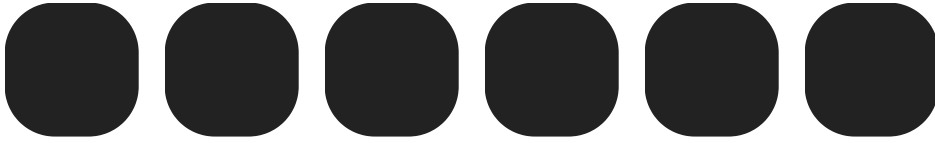
Best wishes for a safe Thanksgiving holiday,

Kenneth W. Dobbins
President

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Dexter School Board Opposes Amendment 3

OCTOBER 15TH 2014 BY DEE LOFLIN

Dexter School Board Opposes Amendment 3

Article Submitted to

news@showmetimes.com

Below is a resolution in opposition to Amendment 3 that was formally adopted by the Dexter Board during its last meeting on September 23 . Dr. Sharp provided these at their last meeting and authorized them to release the document.

You can go to www.protectourlocalschools.com for additional information.

Dexter R-XI School Board Opposes Amendment 3

On September 23, 2014, the Board of Education passed a resolution to officially oppose Amendment 3 on the November ballot.

Board President Kevin Bishop stated the following about the Board's decision to oppose Amendment 3:

“Amendment 3 takes away local control of educational decisions from parents, teachers, administrators and school boards. It is a state mandate of how to evaluate and prevents school boards from hiring, promoting, compensating, and

dismissing teachers in accordance with their local board policies. Additionally, Amendment #3 would require more standardized testing for students, which school districts and tax payers would be forced to pay for.

We do not think Amendment #3 is in the best interests of our students, parents, teachers, administrators, and schools. Accordingly, the Dexter school board opposes Amendment #3.”

RESOLUTION ON AMENDEMENT 3

Dexter R-XI Board of Education

WHEREAS, Amendment 3 on the November ballot is a state mandate that shifts local control for education decisions away from parents, teachers, administrators, and school boards; and

WHEREAS, Amendment 3 is considered to be a poorly drafted and deeply flawed proposal that has many unintended consequences for teachers, administrators and school boards; and

WHEREAS, Amendment 3 would inhibit school boards from hiring, promoting, compensating, or dismissing teachers in accordance with board policy; and

WHEREAS, Amendment 3 could force taxpayers to pay for additional standardized tests at a time when our public schools are significantly underfunded by the state; and

WHEREAS, Amendment 3 significantly changes teacher evaluations away from a tool to improve teacher performance;

Therefore be it RESOLVED, the Dexter R-XI Board of Education on this 23rd day of September 2014, hereby opposes Amendment 3 on the November ballot.

Board President

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