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# Friends Help Family Rise Above Flood

APRIL 25TH 2011 BY NEWS

Friends Help Family Rise Above Flood

*By Annabeth Miller, ShowMe Times Editor*

BIRD'S CORNER, Mo. - When storm clouds start looking dark, that's when you can count on friends and family to help you through.

Janie King knows all about that today – the storm clouds and the rain – and good friends and family.

Janie and her husband Robert live in eastern Stoddard County, on Route Y between Bird's Corner and Salcedo Road. When she got ready to go to work Monday morning she asked her husband to check to see if she had a clear roadway. The answer was simple: No.

With Sunday's constant rains, waters continued to rise in eastern Stoddard County. Missouri Department of Transportation crews closed Route Y in the county early Monday morning. Water was over the roadway and more was expected.

Route Y is about as east in Stoddard County as you can go. It connects the community of Salcedo in Scott County to Route AB which goes to Cline's Island. At Cline's Island, you cross the Castor River to continue west in the county.

But not long after discovering MoDOT had closed Y, the King family had a bit more to handle. The water was not only over Route Y, it was creeping closer and closer to their

grain bins and their home. Family members and friends started moving dirt and chat and filling sandbags to save the grain and the home.

“The first load of sandbags we got had already been filled,” Janie King said at about noon on Monday. “But then they just dropped off loads of sand and empty bags.”

Family members started filling bags and putting them in place. Janie said her daughter has been right in the thick of things, working side-by-side with the grownups.

“She’s the ‘Queen of the Shovel’,” Janie proudly said of her daughter, Liza. Liza is 10 years old, and mom says that she is “not scared of hard work.”

In addition, Janie says neighbors and friends have been lending a helping hand as the water continues to rise and the rain still falls.

“People have been awesome,” she said. “They’ll pull up, stop and get out and start filling sand bags. “

Folks are helping build sandbag walls to keep the floodwater from reaching the grain bins and the family’s home. In addition, another friend has been hauling in loads of chat to help in the effort.

“Kevin McClung of Parma has been bringing chat to build up the driveway to make a barricade so the water doesn’t come up to our house,” she said.

Janie King is a shutterbug, and in between working with the sandbags, making a big pot of soup for a good lunch for all those working against the rising floodwaters, she has been documenting the day with her camera.

“It’s really something,” King said. “People have just been great.”

*Photos courtesy of Janie King*

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## Hail Hits; Flooding Causing Problems In Area

APRIL 25TH 2011 BY NEWS

Hail Hits; Flooding Causing Problems In Area

*By Annabeth Miller, ShowMe Times Editor*

Area residents woke up Monday morning after a night filled with additional strong doses of Mother Nature's wrath – everything from heavy rain, hail, and strong winds.

A layer of bright green covered many city streets – green from the young leaves ripped from trees during Sunday night's hail storm. The hail arrived at approximately 11:10 p.m., leaving behind weather-worn trees, dents in vehicles, and reports of damage to homes and buildings. Reports on the hail measured from pea size to just at one-inch size hail stones.

Dexter City street crews were out early Monday morning cleaning up debris and preparing for the next rainstorm expected Monday afternoon.

In Downtown Dexter, Wayne Jean was busy sweeping the leaves stripped from trees by the overnight hail before business opened. Across Stoddard Street, Tim Holder was preparing for another day of business. He rolled out the carts full of plants – flowers and vegetables. The rainfall has halted work in flower beds and gardens.

“I’m going to run a special,” Holder said with a chuckle. “Ten percent off plants while it’s raining!!”

But the most damage yet may be from the abundance of rain. Local weather watcher Tina Fields reported Monday morning that she has recorded 10.4 inches of rainfall since Thursday night.

Flooding in the region has forced cancellations in the region. The following school districts are closed today because of weather conditions:

- Kelso
- East Carter County
- Greenville
- Poplar Bluff
- Southern Reynolds
- Van Buren
- Zalma
- Advance
- Leopold
- Clearwater
- Woodland

In addition, all campuses of Three Rivers College are closed Monday.

Dexter Public Schools were already scheduled to not be in session on Monday due to the Easter holiday break.

Early Monday morning a mandatory evacuation was ordered for persons living along a stretch of the Black River in Butler County. People living south of the Black River in Butler County and east of Ditch Road should leave their homes. Officials say a level along the Black River has been compromised at County Road 607.

A number of roadways in Stoddard County have been closed due to the recent flooding. Several routes have water over them but have not been closed and motorists are urged to use extreme caution and plan alternate routes.

Routes in Stoddard County that as of 9 a.m. Monday are closed or have water over the roadways include:

- Route 25 - south of Dexter
- Route AD
- Route BB
- Route D - five miles south of Dexter
- Route F
- Route FF - east of Dexter and south of Route 60
- Route H
- Route J
- Route K - from Route BB north to Route BB south
- Route K - from Route BB south to Route M
- Route M - from Leora and Routes K and N
- Route MM - from Route U in Stoddard County to County Road 102 in Dunklin County
- Route N - to Route A
- Route O - between County Road 309 and County Road 337
- Route T - from Route 51 to Route J
- Route U - six miles west of Bernie
- Route V
- Route Y - from Route AB to Route Z
- Business 60 - Dexter
- Intersection of Route E and N

***Photo Above: Hail pounded the Dexter area late Sunday night, measuring from pea-size to one-inch stones of hail. (SMT Photo by Annabeth Miller)***

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## Rain Continues, T-storms In Forecast

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### Rain Continues, T-storms In Forecast

Thunderstorms rattled throughout Southeast Missouri Friday night, and continued just in time for Easter Egg hunts on Saturday.

Heavy rains hit just as the Dexter Kiwanis Club Easter Egg Hunt ended Saturday afternoon, and ditches filling and roadways wet and some rain-covered. The National Weather Service calls for thunderstorms to continue throughout the Easter weekend. The forecast calls for storms to continue, with a threat that some of the storms could be severe and produce heavy rainfall. Low Saturday night around 61 and a 80 percent chance of precipitation.

More showers and thunderstorms are expected on Easter Sunday, with a 70 percent chance of precipitation dampening the day.

With the rains continuing through the beginning of the week, the NWS is calling for a Flash Flood Watch and Flood Advisory continuing in the Bootheel.

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## Mayer: 'Imperative' To Adopt Redistricting Plan

APRIL 22ND 2011 BY NEWS

Mayer: 'Imperative' To Adopt Redistricting Plan

*By Annabeth Miller, ShowMe Times Editor*

JEFFERSON CITY, Mo. - The clock may be ticking, but leaders in the Missouri Senate say they will continue work on crafting a “fair and equitable” congressional redistricting map.”

Senate leaders on Friday said that developing a new redistricting map was a “priority” and that they would meet the May 13 deadline.

Crafting a map that is fair and equitable to Missouri citizens when it comes to their representation in the United States Congress is a priority, said Missouri Senate leaders today in Jefferson City.

In the wee morning hours Friday, negotiations between leaders of the Missouri Senate and House of Representatives came to an end. The issue will stand "as is" at least until Tuesday when members return to Jefferson City after the Easter weekend. Members from both chambers worked for more than seven hours Friday night in closed-door negotiations.

The General Assembly is constitutionally charged to redraw Missouri’s Congressional

Districts based on the most recent U.S. Census data.

According to U.S. Census data, Missouri must lose a congressional seat – shifting from nine representatives in the U.S. House of Representatives to just eight.

“It is especially difficult this year, but the process is extremely important as it will likely be the basis for Missouri’s congressional district make-up for the next 30 years,” said Senate Leader Rob Mayer, R-Dexter.

Mayer said he believes that senators can develop a congressional map that can be approved by both the Missouri Senate and House of Representatives by the May 13 deadline.

“It is imperative we complete our Constitutional duty and adopt a map both members of the Senate and House of Representatives agree is the best in representing the interests of Missourians,” Mayer said.

Senators noted they had hoped to finish by a self-imposed deadline of Friday, April 22. Differences in the House and Senate map versions are currently before a conference committee.

Sen. Scott T. Rupp, R-Wentzville, is chairman of the Senate Select Committee on Redistricting and said the map should reflect the best interests of Missourians and not currently elected members of Congress.

“A member of Congress’ opinion has no more weight than that of any Missourian,” said Rupp. “We must remember we are elected to represent the people of Missouri and not their Congressmen and women.”

"At some point I think the Senate will get serious about negotiating the map and trying to resolve the differences between the two maps," said Rep. John Diehl, R-St. Louis, who chairs the House redistricting committee. Rupp noted negotiations will resume next week.

The House and Senate versions of the map are similar in several issues, but differ in a few key areas. Shifting the state down in the congressional representation has brought about conflict in rural areas and the state’s urban areas – particularly the Kansas City area as well as St. Charles, St. Louis and Jefferson County.

The Constitution provides lawmakers until the end of the legislative session (6 p.m., May

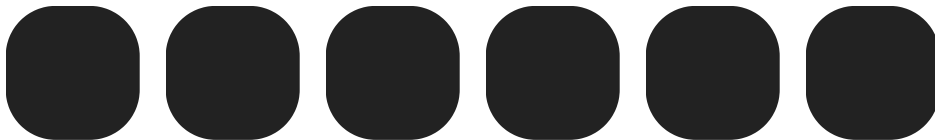


13) to adopt a new map. The House Friday amended Senate Bill 68 by attaching a House compromise map. That bill would next return to the Senate for consideration. If the Legislature does not complete the task, the issue would move to the courts to be decided.

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## Mahler Wins Dallas Design Competition

APRIL 22ND 2011 BY NEWS

Mahler Wins Dallas Design Competition

*By Annabeth Miller, ShowMe Times Editor*

As a young girl, Michelle Kinsey Mahler was as nimble with a needle and thread as some girls are with cheer stunts or dance steps or piano keys. And when she left Southeast Missouri to go to college, her sewing kit and design ideas were prominent on her packing

lists.

Many young women dream of wearing “the” wedding dress.

But Michelle Mahler dreams of designing “the” wedding dress that every young bride wants to wear on her wedding day. She is taking those design and sewing skills to creating dreams.

Mahler is a senior at Missouri State University, just weeks away from receiving a degree in design from the university’s department of fashion and interior design. She recently was awarded first place and a scholarship for her original bridal gown at an international fashion career day in Dallas.

Mahler is the daughter of Linda and Carl Hill of Dexter. She attended elementary school in Dexter and graduated from Ellington High School before heading to Missouri State.

Her gown was presented as part of the fully staged runway show at Fashion Group International’s (FGI) 2011 Dallas Career Day. She walked the runway with her design, as a representative of the university.

Mahler’s design, which she named the “Unrefined Diamond,” features a removable top skirt for the reception.

“I entered it specifically because I had made my bridal collection,” Mahler said. Her bridal collection now includes nine pieces, including the dress she made for her own wedding. Mahler and husband Brandon were married in July 2010.

“I made seven dresses from January through March,” she said of her expanding bridal collection. “The other two dresses I made before, including one I wore at my wedding and a second one I wore for my wedding rehearsal.”

She takes much of inspiration for her designs from her faith. The dress “Darling Dove”, for instance, she said was inspired by the Song of Solomon.

Mahler will graduate in May from MSU, and she and husband Brandon will remain in the Springfield area. Both plan to work as interns for Campus Crusade for Christ to “give back to the students on campus.”

In the long term, the young Southeast Missouri woman wants to build up her line of bridal

wear. But for now, she settles on spreading word of her work through friends and family, and through the website, etsy.com.

“I have three brides now who want me to design their dress,” she said. “I am hoping to open an online store sometime this next year. The dress I won for (in Dallas) has been the most popular with everyone so far.”

This was the first year the bridal gown category, sponsored by Mon Cheri Bridal, was part of the student design competition. More than 1,000 design and merchandising students attended the 43rd annual event on April 1, which was held by FGI of Dallas at the Dallas Market Center.

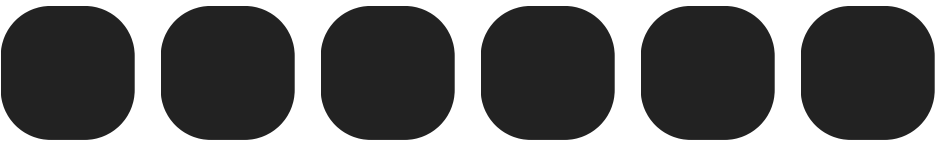
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**Photos Above:**Top Photo: Michelle Mahler on the runway during the FGI 2011 Dallas Career Day Fashion Show. Collage: Michelle and two of her dresses in her Bridal Collection.

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