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Dexter To Salute World War II Veterans

APRIL 26TH 2011 BY NEWS

Dexter To Salute World War II Veterans

*By Annabeth Miller,
ShowMe Times Editor*

They are called “the Greatest Generation.”

President Franklin D. Roosevelt said their generation had a “*rendezvous with destiny*.”

They served their country – and the free world, really – in places like Saipan, Anzio, Guadalcanal, in North Africa, the beaches of Normandy, in the skies above Europe, and the jungles of Burma, as well as back in America at places like Camp Pendleton and Fort Ord.

Now, six decades after their service, dedication and sacrifice to America and the world, they are being recognized and honored.

A group of 30 World War II veterans will officially depart on a journey to remember: The Honor Tour to Washington, D.C. There they will see the historic sites in Washington and pay a special visit to “their” monument, the National World War II Memorial on the National Mall. The tour is sponsored by the Honor Tour group and coordinated by Rob Callahan.

Dexter will host the group of veterans - as well as other World War II veterans, families

and friends - for a special ceremony beginning at 8:30 a.m., Friday, April 29 at the Bearcat Event Center on Grant Street.

“My hope is that the community will come and be a part of this ceremony,” said Dr. Roger Alsup, principal at Dexter’s T.S. Hill Middle School. He has chaired the community planning committee for Friday’s event.

“This has really been sponsored by the community. The school is providing the facility and the manpower, but it is the community that is honoring the veterans. We have had a community planning committee that has put this together and I think it is going to be a good program. I really hope the community will come and be a part,” Alsup said.

Alsup said the students at Southwest and Central elementary schools have practiced walking to the BEC and getting seated for the ceremony. In addition, he said the staff at the middle school and high school would talk to students about the significance of the event.

“We want them to realize what this ceremony is for and it’s significance,” Alsup said.

“I think our community supports our military and veterans, and I like having these opportunities to show our appreciation,” Alsup said. “I think a lot of people understand how important World War II was for us – how much it impacted us.”

Participating in the program will be:

- DHS Jazz Band, directed by Scott Rybolt{br]
- DHS Honors Choir, directed by MaryRuth Boone
- DHS Student Body President, leading the Pledge of Allegiance
- Dr. Thomas Sharp, Superintendent of Schools
- Retired Brigadier General Charles Kruse
- “Replica” vocal trio

Groups like the American Legion, Legion Auxiliary, the DAR, the Stars and Stripes Museum, and other groups have joined to make the event possible. The employees at Dexter Wal-Mart helped pack snack bags to be given to each of the traveling veterans, the Dexter Fire Department has planned special water cannon salutes to honor the veterans. Dexter city department are all working together to make it a special day for the veterans, their families and the community.

Special exhibits will be setup both inside and out at the BEC for the veterans and the

community. Stoddard County’s own Stars and Stripes Museum and the Four Star Military Uniform organization from Blytheville, Ark., will have displays - including World War II era uniforms - inside the lobby of the BEC. The Military Vehicle Group from Cape Girardeau will have vehicles and other large equipment outside the center for the veterans and community to see.

The Honor Tour is on a tight schedule. After departing Dexter’s Bearcat Event Center, they will travel north to catch their flight out of St. Louis to Washington, D.C.

At the conclusion of the program the veterans will board their bus to begin the first leg of their journey. The bus will travel east on Grant Street to Catalpa, and north on Catalpa to Stoddard Street. Event organizers encourage the community to line Stoddard Street from Catalpa to the City Administration Building to honor the veterans. The Boy Scouts will have the American flag on display along Stoddard Street for that morning.

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Levee Breaks In Poplar Bluff

APRIL 26TH 2011 BY NEWS

Levee Breaks In Poplar Bluff

*By Andrew Cato,
ShowMe Times*

After days of rain and forced evacuations on Monday, the levee along the Black River in Butler County has finally given way to the the forces of nature.

The Black River levee at County Road 607 in Poplar Bluff breached in at least two places Tuesday morning, a spokesman for the Butler County Sheriff's Department said.

"There was a break and more than one break," the spokesman said at 11 a.m. Tuesday. "We went from evacuation to search and rescue operations."

The sheriff's spokesman did not know specific details concerning the number of households affected by the breach, or the number of people evacuated.

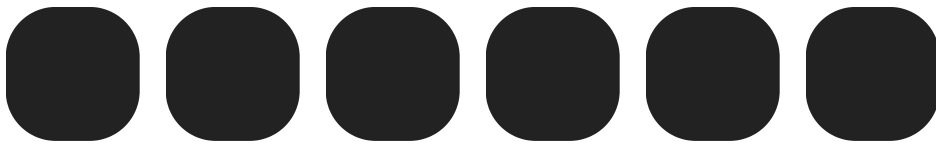
However, water patrol reported 59 water rescues over night Monday. About 1,000 people were displaced Tuesday morning and 230 people are at the Black River Coliseum.

The American Red Cross has established a center for evacuees at the Black River Coliseum in Poplar Bluff.

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Leaders Question Plan To Blow Levee

APRIL 26TH 2011 BY NEWS

Leaders Question Plan To Blow Levee

BREAKING NEWS

By Annabeth Miller
ShowMe Times Editor

The plan by the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers to intentionally breach the Birds Point-New Madrid Floodway – and flood more than 100,000 acres of farmland in Southeast Missouri – is drawing the ire of a trio of Missouri elected officials.

U.S. Rep. Jo Ann Emerson, Missouri Governor Jay Nixon and Lt. Gov. Peter Kinder have all expressed their opposition to the plan proposed by the Corps.

“I am strongly opposed to any plan to blow the levee,” Kinder said in an exclusive interview Tuesday morning with the ShowMe Times. “It didn’t work for the stated purpose in 1937. I think this is a terrible plan.”

Kinder is concerned that the plan will not work in 2011 but it will also destroy thousands of acres of Missouri farmland.

“One important difference between now and back then is that the area in 1937 had the

trees characteristic of a swamp, and they acted as breaks for water. The vast majority of those trees have virtually all been cleared and there is nothing to slow the speed of the water running into the floodway,” Kinder said.

Emerson also voiced strong concerns about a plan to intentionally breach the levee. On her Facebook network page early Tuesday morning, Emerson said she would be meeting in Mississippi County today with local leaders and the corps concerning the flooding along the Mississippi River.

“I am going to be meeting with local elected officials and the Army Corps of Engineers throughout the next few days,” Emerson said. “Southeast Missouri has been hit hard. My number one job today (Tuesday) is to make sure the corps exhausts every other option before blowing the fuse plug and causing massive devastation in the St. Johns/New Madrid Floodway.”

Emerson, Nixon and Kinder agree that the breaching of the Birds Point levee would be harmful.

“At this critical time, I have serious concerns about plans by the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers to intentionally breach the Birds Point levee along the Mississippi River near Mississippi and New Madrid counties,” Nixon said Monday afternoon.

Nixon said intentionally breaching the levee would affect hundreds of Missouri families, pour a tremendous amount of water through the floodway, and flood 130,000 of prime farmland.

“As Missouri families deal with this dangerous flooding, intentionally breaching this levee would be a harmful and inappropriate action.” Nixon said.

“We need to take this all the way to the White House if need be to slow this action down,” Kinder said.

The actual decision to intentionally blow the levee will not rest with the corps, but with the Mississippi River Commission. The Commission, established 1879, includes three corps officers, but also three civilians. Members of the MRV are nominated by the president and confirmed by the U.S. Senate.

Businessman R.D. James of New Madrid is one of the three civilian members of the MRC.

The commission will meet Tuesday afternoon and make its decision on the corps plan.

The Corps of Engineers in Memphis announced late Monday that it had started “readiness plans” to operate the floodway. In addition, it stepped up its floodfighting response in the region, opening offices in Cape Girardeau and Dyersburg, Tenn.

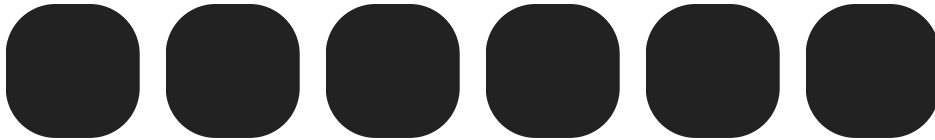
Related link:

[<http://www.mvm.usace.army.mil/Readiness/bpnm/bpnminfo.asp>

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Area Colleges, Schools Closed Tuesday

APRIL 26TH 2011 BY UNKNOWN

Area Colleges, Schools Closed Tuesday

The weather and flooding conditions in Southeast Missouri have forced a number of

schools in Southeast Missouri to close for classes for Tuesday, April 26.

Three Rivers College is closed Tuesday at its main campus in Poplar Bluff and campuses in Dexter, Sikeston, Malden and Kennett.

In addition, Central Methodist University classes in Poplar Bluff have been cancelled and Murray State University in Kentucky is closed on Tuesday due to storm damage in that region from Monday night.

Stoddard County Schools

Advance

Bell City

Puxico

Other Schools

Bunker R-III

Chaffee Head Start

Clearwater R-I Schools Delta R-V Schools

Doniphan R-I Schools East Carter County R-II

Greenville R-II

Lesterville R-IV

Marquand-Zion R-VI

Meadow Heights R-II

Naylor R-II Schools

Neelyville R-IV

New Hope Christian Academy

New Salem Baptist Academy

Oran R-III

Poplar Bluff R-I

Ripley County R-IV Schools

South Iron County R-I

Southern Reynolds Co. R-II

Twin Rivers R-X

Van Buren R-I

Westwood Baptist Academy

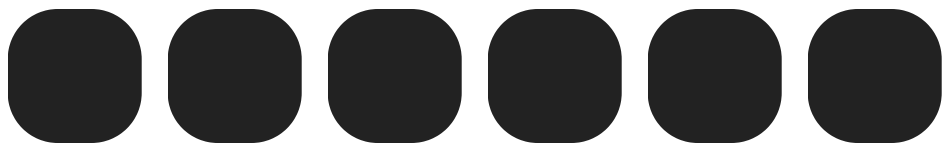
Woodland R-IV

Zalma R-V

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More from ShowMe Times:

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Lake Closes Some Areas Due To Flood

APRIL 25TH 2011 BY NEWS

Lake Closes Some Areas Due To Flood

By Annabeth Miller, ShowMe Times Editor

WAPPAPELLO, Mo. - The floods in Southeast Missouri have not only had a major affect on rivers and streams, but on the region's largest lake.

Officials with the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers at Lake Wappapello reported on Monday that most of the recreational areas at the lake are now closed to the public.

Doug Nichols with the Corps reported to the ShowMe Times that on Sunday campers were evacuated from both the Greeneville and People's Creek campgrounds and those two recreation areas are now closed due to the flooding.

In addition, Nichols reported that part of Chaonia Landng, Holiday Landing, the Rockwood Point beach and recreation area are all closed due to flood issues.

.As of 2 p.m. on Monday, lake level was 379.08 feet. Nichols said the summer pool at the lake is normally 360 feet. The lake is expected to crest at 384.0 feet Friday, April 29 without additional rain. More heavy rainfall is predicted to occur over the next several days. The discharge at the spillway will be increased to its maximum controlled release of 10,000 cfs (cubit feet per second) once the lake reaches 380.0 feet.

“We are protecting lots of folks and crops down streem (from the lake),” Nichols said of the lake levels. “So we are doing our mission.” Wappapello is a reservoir on the St. Francios River and was created in 1941 as a flood control project on the river.

Wappapello Lake annually provides an estimated \$3.9 million in flood protection to agricultural lands and developed areas along the St. Francis River Wappapello has Over 44,000 acres of public lands and water for hunting, fishing, swimming, boating, camping and picnicking.

Nichols advises that visitors to the lake should to use caution in flash flood-prone areas and when traveling low roads near the lake. Boaters are urged to use caution when on the lake. Inflows have caused floating debris such as logs, limbs, etc., on the lake.

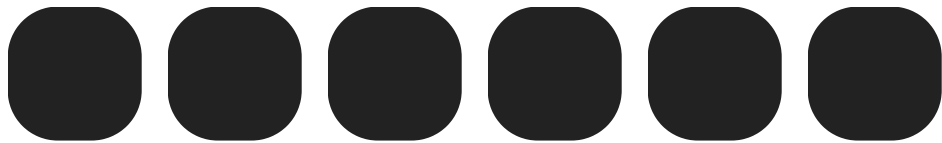
For up-to-date lake information and facility closings, call the Wappapello Lake Hotline at (573) 222-8139 or toll-free at 1-877-LAKE-INFO (1-877-525-3463) or call the Wappapello Lake Management Office at (573) 222-8562.

Photo Above: The water flows fast at Wappapello during the March 2008 flood. The lake is expected to crest later this week at 384 feet. (Photo by April Isbell. Thanks, April!

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