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Popular Home Tour To Usher In Holidays

NOVEMBER 21ST 2011 BY UNKNOWN

Popular Home Tour To Usher In Holidays

One of Dexter's favorite Christmas traditions is ready to help begin the holiday season in the community.

The annual Holiday Home Tour, sponsored by the Dexter Heritage House Association, will be held Saturday, December 3 from 1 to 4 p.m.

"We are excited about the homes that will be open for viewing that day," a member of the group stated. "We have four homes that have all undergone renovation and the fifth house will be the Heritage House, which has not been in the tour in four years. It also has received somewhat of a facelift.

The houses include:

- ***Matt and Marissa Mills***, 324 East Vine Street;
- ***Brian Crawford***, 723 Saddle Spur Road
- ***Mikal Long and John Brickley***, 209 Holmes Drive
- ***Tom and Lisa Thrower***, 320 Chautauqua
- ***Dexter Heritage House***, just off Cooper Street, north of the police station.

When visitors arrive at the home of Matt and Marissa Mills, the hostess will be greeting guests along with Bob Keathley who first bought the home, supervised all of the renovation and then sold it to the Mills. Known for many years as the Webb home, this

house was skillfully brought up to date without sacrificing the time period in which it was built. Decorations in this home will include a silver tree with a color wheel popular almost 50 years ago. Fresh greenery and other holiday adornments will make this lovely home a joy to see.

The home of Brian Crawford was on the home tour two years ago. Then it was a charming ranch style home with fresh coats of paint, wonderful furniture and elegant Christmas trees. In the past two years, an extensive remodeling has taken place and is now almost doubled in size with a new sitting room, sunroom, office and master bedroom suite. One of the highlights of this home are stained glass windows and transoms, many with a historic background.

The home of Mikal and John is readied for Christmas, cheery decorations will abound, and this historic home will delight guests with trees, collections of holiday items, greenery and candlelight. Hopefully, if nothing is amiss, there will be some special guests, so don't be surprised if a confederate soldier and ladies in Civil War-era fashions welcome you.

The home of Tom and Lisa Thrower was built in 1952-53. Tom and Lisa Thrower are only the second owners of this lovely period-styled home. The house was built by John and Helen Ringer, and even though the main floor was gutted and a stairway removed, many of the features of that time period remain intact. There will be a collection of Santas, snowmen, nutcrackers and angels, which will undoubtedly put a smile on the faces of visitors to the home during the holiday season.

Last, but not least, will be the Dexter Heritage House, dressed for the season in fresh greenery, a Christmas tree and other signs of the coming holiday. The house sports new interior paint, new windows on the East side, and the exterior of the home was also painted this past summer.

"We want to thank the community for supporting the events we sponsor each year to raise money for the upkeep of Dexter's oldest home," a Heritage House member said. "Without this support, we would not be able to care for the house to prevent deterioration."

Tour guests may register for a gift basket to be given away, and take a Christmas quiz with the winner to receive a batch of homemade divinity.

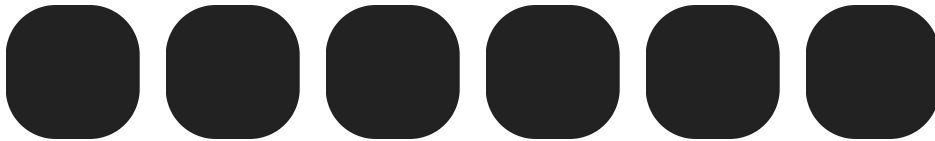
Tickets for the home tour are on sale at Chrisman Tire, Highway 114 West (at the corner of Catalpa and 114 or Business 60 as it is often called.) Cost of the tickets will be \$20, the same as last year.

Tickets are limited to 100.

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State Under 'Red Flag Warning'

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State Under 'Red Flag Warning'

JEFFERSON CITY - The National Weather Service (NWS) issued a “Red Flag Warning” Friday afternoon for much of Missouri.

“This means that critical fire weather conditions are either occurring now or will shortly. A combination of strong winds, low relative humidity and warm temperatures will create explosive fire growth potential,” the NWS warning stated.

The Missouri Department of Conservation urges hunters, campers and others in the outdoors to follow these precautions to protect lives, property and our forests.

Getting to camp

- Wildfires can start when fine, dry fuel, such as grass, comes in contact with catalytic converters.

- Think twice before driving into and across a grassy field.
- Never park over tall, dry grass or piles of leaves that can touch the underside of a vehicle.
- When driving vehicles off road, regularly inspect the undercarriage to ensure that fuel and brake lines are intact and no oil leaks are apparent.
- Always carry an approved fire extinguisher on vehicles that are used off road.

Preparing to make your fire

- Clear a generous zone around fire rings. When humidity is low and wind is high, debris can become tinder for a stray spark or ember.
- Store your unused firewood a good distance from the fire.
- Never use gasoline, kerosene or other flammable liquid to start a fire.
- Keep campfires small and controllable.
- Keep fire-extinguishing materials, such as a rake, shovel and bucket of water, close by in case you need to quench your fire in a hurry.

Never leave a campfire unattended!

- Extinguish campfires each night and before leaving camp (even if it's just for a few moments).

Practice extra caution in the field

- If you smoke, put out your cigarettes completely. Burn them in your campfire or pack them out.

Don't delay call for help!

- Call 911 at the first sign of a fire getting out of control.

Report forest arson

- Many wildfires are set by vandals. You can stop arson by calling 800-392-1111. Your report will remain anonymous, and rewards are possible.

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Winter's On It's Way: Get those Boots & Gloves

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Winter's On It's Way: Get those Boots & Gloves

A SMT Report

COLUMBIA – Get your winter coat and gloves ready, because we could be in for a repeat of last winter’s cold weather.

Last winter, the Midwest United States experienced one of its coldest winters in recent history. A University of Missouri atmospheric scientist is predicting a repeat performance for the approaching season.

“Atmospheric blocking patterns will keep cold air in place,” said Tony Lupo, professor and chair of the [Department of Atmospheric Science](#) in the [School of Natural Resources](#). “In addition, more moisture will be guided into the United States leading to more precipitation. With colder temperatures and increased moisture, expect another snowy winter for much of the Midwest.”

For the rest of the United States, Lupo predicts:

- The eastern and southeastern U.S. will experience a colder and snowier than normal winter.
- In Texas and the southern plains, residents will experience a mild, dry winter.
- The Great Lakes states will have the typical cold, snowy winter.
- Northern states will have a colder, snowier winter than usual.
- The Pacific Northwest will have a typical cool winter with slightly above average snowfall.
- The western states will experience typical cool temperatures and typical precipitation levels.

In the Midwest, Lupo said La Niña is the driving force behind the cold winter. The weather phenomenon cools the equatorial seas of the Pacific and influences global weather patterns. Less warm air rises during La Niña periods, which cools the atmosphere.

The 2010-2011 La Niña was one of the strongest on record, Lupo said. The warmer than usual sea temperature around the Gulf of Alaska will influence the upper level winds steering more storms into the continental United States.

In addition, Lupo said there will be increased atmospheric blocking events this winter due to low solar activity. Atmospheric blocking is a relatively unknown weather phenomenon responsible for prolonged bouts of extreme conditions. The event occurs between 20-40 times each year throughout the world and usually lasts between 8-11 days, Lupo said.

Blocking usually results when a powerful, high-pressure area gets stuck in one place. Because they cover a large area, fronts behind them are blocked. Lupo is part of a team that recently received a 3 million Russian ruble (about \$104,000) grant to study blocking patterns.

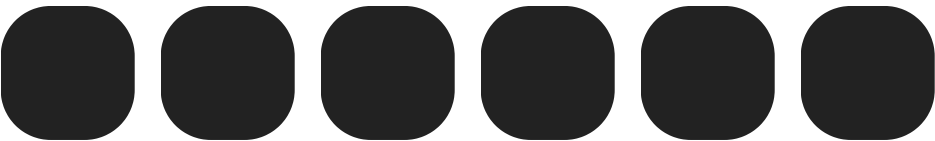
Lupo received his doctorate from Purdue in 1995 and is currently the principal investigator at the Global Climate Change Group. The Global Climate Change Group investigates how global climate change may impact long-term weather patterns and the growing season in the Midwest. He has written 34 papers on factors that influence large-scale weather patterns. Lupo is also a member of the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change that shared the Nobel Peace Prize with Al Gore in October 2007.

SMT File photo, Winter 2011

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Moonlight Madness Brightens Dexter Evening

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Moonlight Madness Brightens Dexter Evening

Historic Downtown Dexter was all a-buzz Friday evening as shoppers enjoyed a wonderful fall evening of bargains and shopping fun, and seeing old friends in new in the Downtown district.

The Historic Downtown Dexter Association (HDDA) sponsored by Moonlight Madness event, with most of the merchants in the district open with bargains and specials, Christmas gift ideas and holiday decorations. Santa and his helpers even were around for a time to greet young and old on Friday evening before heading back to his ever-busy headquarters at the North Pole.

Folks enjoyed a casual pace of shopping, meandering from shop to shops, chatting with friends along the sidewalks, and enjoying some of the refreshments on hand at several merchants.

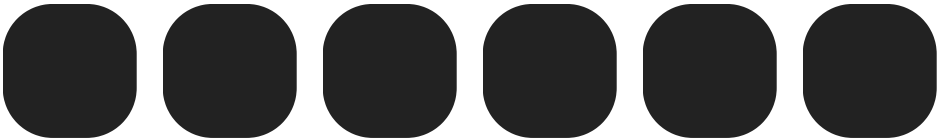
Photo Above: Kim Norman greeting shoppers at Locust Street Flowers during the Moonlight Madness eventing Friday in Historic Downtown Dexter. (SMT Photo by Annabeth Miller)

ShowMe Times Gallery

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Veterans Day Celebrated At Richland

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Veterans Day Celebrated At Richland

Richland Salutes Veterans

The students, faculty and staff at Richland Schools pause on Veterans Day to pay tribute to some special people - veterans. An assembly in veterans' honor as held at the school. LTC Jason Sherman was the keynote speaker. Other speakers included RHS Student Council President Mallory Hillis, Vice President Brandon DeJournett, RHS Principal Casey Rost, and Supt. Frank Killiams. The American colors were presented at the assembly the the members of the New Madrid County Central Jr. ROTC and taps was played by Tristan Wamble, a junior. Participating the Veterans Day assembly were (front row, left to right) David Hunsaker, Doyle Condict, James Barber; (second row) Mick Jones, Curtis Blunt, Bill Carroll, Garry Hux; (third row) Zach Petty, Dalton Gean, Dalton Griffin, Tim Mason; (top row) Dennis Carmack, LTC Jason "Tank" Sherman, Tomi Mason, and Frank Killian. (Photo submitted by SMT reader and RHS faculty member Karen Lane)

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