

## Features



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# Refuge Van Big Hit For FBC Dexter

SEPTEMBER 23RD 2012 BY STAFF WRITER

## Refuge Van Big Hit For FBC Dexter

**Dexter, Missouri** - The past week's events have created the perfect venue for the new First Baptist Church Refuge Van. A dream conceived by youth pastor Greg McGhee, the project has been a labor of love and passion for youth in the area.

When asked, "What is one of your dreams you would like to accomplish with your ministry?", Greg replied that he had a dream of putting together some sort of vehicle that could be used by the youth ministry to provide music, TV, and fun around different youth events. That began a flurry of support that constituted donation of equipment, money, and services to bring the Refuge Van into existence.

"We started the project in the summer of 2010 and finished it up after last years football season." recalled Greg McGhee. "We planned on having it done earlier but some things came up and it got pushed back a little bit."

There are many ways to do a budgeted project of this nature. McGhee took the right approach allowing patience to rule and allow God to get involved in this creation. By doing this, he was able to deliver a showroom quality piece that had no debt.

Initial searches for the perfect cost effective

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vehicles was the first order of agenda. As luck would have it, one of the youth found a 1991 Chevrolet Van that was mechanically sound and required very little work on the exterior. Most importantly, the van could be purchased within budget for the overall

project.

"This is just something that we wanted to use to bring more young people to Christ." recalled Greg McGhee. "There are steps that are necessary to get people to come to have a relationship with Christ and this was an idea that we had that would help with that." commented Greg.

"The first step is making acquaintances," recalled Greg McGhee. "and the second is building relationships with other people, at that point you can begin to share with them about how they can gain a relationship with Jesus Christ."

The van is an attractive conversation starter for the ministry. Those who attend car shows will understand the draw that occurs in a crowd when an auto is painted to perfection, designed with cool graphics and the doors open to the thundering beat of a bass guitar. People become curious and begin to stop just to get the story.

The Refuge Van has a story to share about a Savior that gave his life at Calvary so that everyone can have a relationship with God by simply confessing and believing in Him.

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Reaching out to friends and businesses that

specialize in auto body work, Greg received a blessing from a friend at his former church in Parma, Missouri.

After some initial work was done in Parma, additional paint and body work was done and completed by the body shop in Oran, Missouri. The body shop was able to completely repaint the van at a fraction of the cost of normal prices.

The FBC Refuge Van project also received a huge blessing from [Stereo One](#) in Cape Girardeau, Missouri. [Stereo One](#) sold FBC all of the audio and video equipment for the project at their cost, and donated their time to the project at no cost.

"A stereo project like this is a very time consuming and difficult undertaking and could not have been done without their help." commented Greg McGhee.

As the dream continued to grow, various features

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were desired that would draw the attention of young people and bring impact to the ministry of First Baptist Church. Several members who knew of the ongoing project

stepped forward to add additional funds to make sure this project was completed and ready for action this fall.

What could be better than a rolling event machine? This is a full featured vehicle including items such as: a 42-inch flat screen TV, four 6x9 speakers, two 10-inch subwoofers, power converters, and amplifiers. All of this is enclosed in custom carpeted speaker boxes with a hookup for an Xbox or other game console. In the front of van is a CD deck with the capability of playing an Ipad or Ipod through the flat screen or the sound system.

"The van has been a big hit at several outdoor youth events this summer!" "We have taken it to some of our youth members birthday parties and it is something that the kids really enjoy." recalled Greg McGhee.

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With thumping and bumping Christian music playing, the FBC

youth group was seen recently in the Stoddard County Parade traveling down Stoddard Street handing out candy to the crowd. This was one of the biggest events to allow the most people in the area to see this work of art.

Without a doubt, the Refuge Van is a piece of work that would challenge an episode of "Pimp My Ride", where rap superstar and car enthusiast Xzibit and car customization specialist Mad Mike take aim on the biggest clunkers on the road. Greg McGhee and many supporters at First Baptist have turned this clunker into a rolling good time in hopes of spreading the Good News of Jesus Christ.

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## Walk For Multiple Sclerosis This Saturday

SEPTEMBER 21ST 2012 BY STAFF WRITER

Walk For Multiple Sclerosis This Saturday

*Article By SMT Writer  
Beth Farrah*

The Multiple Sclerosis Foundation is proud to host the 19<sup>th</sup> year of the Multiple Sclerosis Walk in Southeast Missouri at the West City Park in Dexter. To support the people and foundation raising money for this disease, you can register to walk at 4:00pm on Saturday, September 22<sup>nd</sup>. The walk will officially begin at 5:00pm. There will be a one mile walk and a three mile walk but supporters are welcome to walk however far they choose.

Multiple sclerosis (MS) is a disease that affects the central nervous system. Thousands of people in America are diagnosed with MS every year. Although it is rarely fatal, this disease is very serious and harmful to the human body and affects many families and individuals nationally and locally.

The Multiple Sclerosis Walk will help raise money to go towards research and hospitals that are hoping to find a cure or more efficient treatments. This particular walk includes a lot of Southeast Missourians from Poplar Bluff, Portageville, Malden, New Madrid, Dexter, and the surrounding areas. The committee is looking forward to a large turnout for this important event.

[/images/2012 Article Pics/Features/Walk for a cure TOP.png](#) There will be many exciting activities taking place on Saturday at the Dexter Park. While enjoying the cold drinks and freshly grilled

hotdogs, you will be contributing to a great cause. There will be a silent auction, a raffle for quilts, a cake walk, and an Elvis impersonator for entertainment. There will also be a lot of fun and games for the kids that attend the walk. There will be blowup bounce houses, face painting, and a visit from JoJo the clown.

The walk will start at 5:00pm and will end around 7:30pm. Donations will be highly appreciated and will go towards a meaningful cause. Put on your walking shoes and come out and support the Multiple Sclerosis Foundation and the many individuals affected by this disease.

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## Central Gardens Prepares for Parade Entry

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SEPTEMBER 17TH 2012 BY UNKNOWN

## Central Gardens Prepares for Parade Entry

*Written by*

*Jessica Snider SMT Writer*

For several years Central Gardens Residential Care Facility in Dexter, Missouri has entered a float in the Stoddard County Parade.

Many of the residents enjoy getting to work on the float throughout the days prior to the parade. Many residents always participate with riding on the float entry and often dressing up to match the designated theme.

Throughout the years, a few of the floats from Central Gardens have placed in the parade. Placing in the contest or not, this is an activity that many people involved with Central Gardens enjoy getting to help with.

Every year, months prior to the parade, the minds of residents and employees at Central Gardens turn in hopes of coming up with an even better theme than the year before. Last year their float was revolved around Wizard of Oz. This year everyone knew it needed to be something new and fresh.

The idea of doing something “under the sea” or “pirates” came up among the group at Central Gardens and they ran with it.

A few months ago the project got under way. The residents began creating garland for the float by sewing together plastic shopping bags. The residents cut the bags, sewed them together, and then painted them. Coffee filters were also dyed to make coral. The residents have been busy painting fish cut from cardboard, shells, and many other decorations that will be on display Tuesday night.

A few of the residents may be seen as the float dressed up as mermaids hanging out by the ship which was craftily made from cardboard and painted. Among the mermaids, fish, coral, and ship, there will also be someone filling the role of King Triton.

The residents have thoroughly enjoyed being a part of putting this float together. That’s not to say the employees from Central Gardens haven’t worked hard either though.

The past week or so, employees and residents have been rushing around to add

</images/Jessica's Pics/central gardens 2.jpg>

the finishing touches before the float goes on display tomorrow evening. As of today a few things, such as painting cardboard fish, were still keeping a couple of residents busy.

Although only a few residents were available for a photo at the time, many have been more than happy to help with everything they can to help this float come together and be the best it can be.

Shown in the photo at the top is from left Elsie Temples and Erma Dowdy. The two ladies were busy painting a few finishing touches this morning.

Shown in the photo on the right is George Smee painting a little extra on the ship to be used as the main decoration on the float. George may also be spotted tomorrow evening looking a little different, as he will be dressed up as King Triton.

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## Tyler Wilson - Aiming for the Top

SEPTEMBER 13TH 2012 BY STAFF WRITER

[Tyler Wilson - Aiming for the Top](#)

**Dexter, Missouri** - Tyler Wilson is a well-rounded Dexter High School senior who has been seen frequently on the basketball courts and football fields of DHS. He also is a member of Dexter Honor Society and a member of the top 10 percent of his class for the past three years. However, Tyler has an secret outside of the realm of school that few are aware of, but in which he has excelled.

Tyler is a member of the United States Practical Shooting Association (USPSA), an organization of over 400 affiliated clubs throughout the United States. The USPSA was incorporated in 1984 and has its roots in the sport of practical shooting.

Having become popular in the 1950's, practical shooting initially evolved from experimentation with handguns used for self-defense. Today, practical shooting has evolved into more of a pure sport with weekly competitions held all over the United States.

USPSA shooters have earned a reputation of the most proficient shooters in the world, proven by their domination in the world of firearm competition. Many members of the association are sought after and employed as trainers for elite military and police units.

Tyler is the 17 year old son of Curtis and Theresa Wilson and became interested in practical shooting through is dad. Curtis involvement in shooting matches spurred his Tyler's interest in the sport. Shooting since 2006, Curtis had an initial emphasis on rifle shooting but later switched to pistols.

At the age of 13, Tyler decided to try his hand at competition. Initially, he began in the introductory production class, consisting of store-bought pistols that cost \$600-700 dollars. His first major match was the Tennessee State Sectionals.

After one year, Tyler began to advance to higher levels of competition entering the "limited class." The limited class allows certain adaptations to the pistol, but shooters are required to use "iron sights" to aim at the target. Six months later, Tyler advanced again to the "open division", allowing far more pistol and sight modifications.

It and cost several thousand dollars. One of the most common modifications is the "red dot" optical sighting system.

"My dad and I have made a lot of modification to my pistol," Tyler stated. "Ed Bowling has been a big encourager and someone to help me with these modification."

Ed Bowling is also a local shooter and is the co-owner of MetalWeld Inc.

Tyler states that the USPSA ranks its shooters according their performance on a classifier stage. These rankings range from D, C, B, A, master, and grand master.


As a young shooter, Tyler has competed in both the junior division as well as the adult open division. He has quickly progressed up the ranks, and is now competing in the Open B Class. His goal is to soon progress to the A class as his shooting percentages improve, and ultimately, his goal is to become ranked as a Grand Master.



Tyler has an impressive list of wins under his belt. His most important win was a multi-state competition held in Barry, IL where seven states were represented. In that event, Tyler received the highest junior score in the event.

Tyler's junior days are quickly coming to a close as on September 26<sup>th</sup>, he will turn 18 years old. At this time, he will leave the junior division and compete in the adult only division. An added incentive will be that he will now compete against his dad Curtis.

"My dad and I are competitive against each other with either one of us being able to beat the other at times," explained Tyler.

 highlights Tyler noted was his attendance to the Junior Camp at Fort Benning, Georgia in 2010. He received training on the Army Base from Army marksman with 80-100 other juniors shooters.

One of the fringe benefits to the sport are the friends Tyler has been able to make from all over the United States. The travel and competition have always been fun and exciting.

Even though Tyler has been duck hunting, he stated, "I am not a hunter - just a shooter."

As noted, Tyler is an incredible student and a highly valuable athlete to the Bearcat football and basketball programs. He noted that his school activities limit the practice time he needs to really advance his shooting skills.

His next major match will be the Tennessee Sectionals the last weekend of September, and the Missouri State Match in Rolla at the beginning of October. He states that he usually practices 1-3 times per week, and that repetition of the skills over and over is the key to success in this sport.

Tyler will practice dry-firing at home to perfect his technique. There is also a shooting range north of Dexter where he practices actual shooting. This range is the training site for area police officers as well as the Bootheel Pistol Club.

 and major in physical therapy. He has all ready attained a high enough ACT to qualify for academic scholarships to the university.

Missouri State does not have a formal practical shooting team, but he states that there is a trap and skeet club that he may participate in. Tyler definitely plans on making practical shooting a part of his future.

"Shooting is a great way to teach responsibility and learn respect for guns and ammunition," stated Tyler. "I love the individual aspect of the sport. I have no one to blame but myself if I don't do well."

Tyler added that the sport has also allowed him to spend lots of quality time with his dad that he will always remember. His 12 year old sister MaKenna is expected to take up the sport very soon.

It is apparent that Tyler is a young man with high goals for his future. With or without competitive shooting, he will always aim for the top in whatever he chooses to do with his life.

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## Mayer Honored With Portrait

SEPTEMBER 12TH 2012 BY STAFF WRITER

[Mayer Honored With Portrait](#)

**Senate Leader Robert Mayer Honored During Ceremonial Portrait Unveiling**

*Written by Zach Hedrick, SMT Writer*

**Jefferson City, Missouri** - In a special ceremony held today (9-12) in the Missouri Senate's Pershing Gallery, which houses portraits of former Senate President Pro Tems, Senate Leader Robert N. Mayer, R-Dexter, had his image added to the gallery's prestigious list of former Senate leaders.

“It was an honor to look around during the ceremony and see many of the senators who have made their mark in this great building on behalf of the citizens of Missouri,” said Sen. Mayer. “I am humbled and proud to be able to serve as the President Pro Tem of the Missouri Senate. I’ve enjoyed working hand-in-hand with members from my party and

across the aisle in passing beneficial legislation for Missourians.”

Sen. Mayer joins the ranks of former Senate leaders, including John E. Scott, 1983-1988; James L. Mathewson, 1989-1996; William P. McKenna, 1997-1998; Edward Quick, 1999-2000; Lt. Gov. Peter D. Kinder, 2001-2004; Michael R. Gibbons, 2005-2008; and Charles W. Shields, 2009-2010.

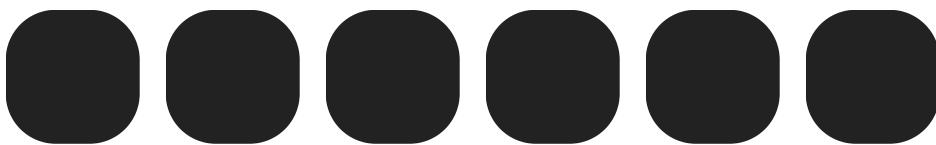
Elected to the House of Representatives in 2001 and then to the Senate in 2004, Sen. Mayer has served 12 years in the General Assembly, two of which in the role of President Pro Tem. As leader of the upper chamber, Sen. Mayer is responsible for managing procedural functions and ruling on parliamentary matters, among other important duties.

“As a boy who grew up in a small community working on a farm, I never dreamed I would have the opportunity to serve in the Legislature, much less in the role of Senate President Pro Tem,” said Sen. Mayer. “It’s been a challenging, but rewarding experience. With kind and encouraging words from my colleagues, both past and present, love and support from my family and friends, and God’s good grace, I’ve been able to achieve what few will be able to experience in their lifetimes, and for that, I will be forever grateful.”

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