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Eagle Days at Mingo

JANUARY 14TH 2013 BY DEE LOFLIN

Eagle Days at Mingo

*Submitted by
Dee Loflin, SMT Writer*

Puxico, Missouri - The Missouri Department of Conservation's (MDC) Duck Creek Conservation Area will host the popular "Eagle Days" event for the public on Saturday, February 2nd from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m.

Both areas are located on highway 51, just north of Puxico, Missouri. All activities begin at Mingo's Maintenance Shop.

Peter Rea of the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service said, "This "Eagle Days" event is a great way of celebrating the successful recovery of our National Symbol and we hope that many people can come out to enjoy the day."

Rea said, "The majestic bald eagle is one of our country's greatest conservation success stories because as recently as the early 1960s, they were an extremely uncommon site in Missouri and the rest of the lower 48 states."

Pat Holloway, Missouri Department of Conservation Education Consultant said, "Many area schools have signed up to bring 1,160 students to the area on Friday to view the symbolic bird in its natural habitat."

"We allow schools to bring classes a day early, so school children have the opportunity and also to lessen the crowd on Saturday," continued Holloway.

/images/Eagle Photo by Jimmy Sisk Young ones.jpg

The Eagle Days event is packed with learning opportunities such as exhibits at Mingo’s Visitor Center, live eagle presentations and chances to view bald eagles in the wild. The event is held every other year and jointly coordinated by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service and Missouri Department of Conservation.

Due to the cold weather and frozen conditions in more northern areas, bald eagles return to Southeast Missouri in January and February to fish and hunt.

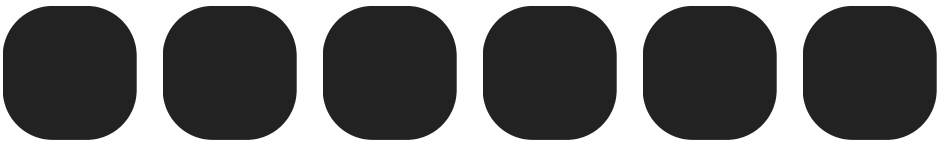
The bald eagle is considered native to Missouri and thanks to restoration efforts, is now observed nearly statewide. Missouri now has more than 120 active eagle’s nests and the birds were removed from the federal government’s endangered species list with over 7,000 nesting pairs in the lower 48 states.

For more information on bald eagles in Missouri, go online to mdc.mo.gov. for more information about the Eagle Days event, contact Mingo National Wildlife Refuge at 573-222-3589.

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Show Me Whatcha Got Talent Show Returns

JANUARY 14TH 2013 BY DEE LOFLIN

Show Me Whatcha Got Talent Show Returns

*Submitted by
Dee Loflin, SMT Writer*

Poplar Bluff, Missouri - Southeast Missouri's own talent show is making a comeback this spring, as "Show Me Whatcha Got" returns to Poplar Bluff for a second season. The show, which sold out the Tinnin Center last February, is promising to have an even bigger run this year, with more contestants, more shows, and a \$1,000 grand prize on the line.

"Show Me Whatcha Got" will hold its first round of online-based auditions from Jan. 21 to Feb. 21. All types of acts are welcomed. Contestants who cannot submit online will also be able to attend recorded audition sessions on Jan. 26 and Feb. 9, held 9 am to 3 pm at the Tinnin Center in Poplar Bluff.

Selected acts will then perform in front of a four-judge panel in two live shows on Apr. 6. The top 12 acts will move on to compete in the final show on June 1, with the \$1,000 grand prize winner selected by audience text message vote.

"I'm incredibly excited to see this year's shows," said Mitch Davis, the show's creator and a member of the "Show Me Whatcha Got" judging panel. "We had a great turnout last year, and I'm anticipating a talented, diverse set of contestants this season. We haven't even opened auditions yet, but we've already gotten dozens of people showing interest in competing."

Davis created the show in late 2011, as a response to the popularity of national TV shows like "America's Got Talent." The first competition, which ended in February of 2012, exceeded even Davis' best expectations, attracting 50 competitors and selling out the Tinnin Center.

Tanisha Jones, a singer, wowed the judges and audience for the grand prize, and is scheduled to return as a guest performer at this season's final show. Also returning from 2012's show is judge Tabitha Pierce, who is being joined this year by newcomers Leeza Edmundson and Adam Davis.

“As a musician myself, I noticed that there were all of these talented people around me with nowhere to show off their skills,” Davis said. “There was this void, waiting to be filled. Now, performers from all over Southeast Missouri have a professional, high-quality venue to perform in. We’re also going to be spending the two months between auditions and the live show coaching performers, to help them be at their best for the audience.”

While “Show Me Whatcha Got” is Davis’ brainchild, he said that the secret to the show’s success is its roots in the local community. Both seasons of the contest have been sponsored by local businesses, as well as Three Rivers College. The show is held at the Tinnin Center in Poplar Bluff, and both the judging panel and production staff are made up of local volunteers.

“The community has been really enthusiastic about showing its support for the show,” said Abby Eaker, one of the show’s executive producers. “It helps that they know that it’s produced by people like them, for people like them. With all the help we’ve been getting, it’s been no problem to get season two off the ground.”

/images/Show Me Whatcha Got.jpg

Potential contestants are encouraged to submit audition videos online at smwgtalent@gmail.com, or attend one of the recorded audition sessions.

Online submissions should include name, age, city of residence, and what the contestant would use the prize money for. For more information, go to [facebook.com/showmewhatchagot](https://www.facebook.com/showmewhatchagot), twitter.com/showmewhatchagot, or call 573-300-1412.

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Joseph Greer To Perform at Dhafer's Friday Evening

JANUARY 11TH 2013 BY DEE LOFLIN

Joseph Greer To Perform at Dhafer's Friday Evening

*Written by
Dee Loflin, SMT Writer*

Dexter, Missouri - If you have not had the opportunity to witness Joseph Greer's musical talents, you will not want to miss this occasion tonight.

Joseph will be entertaining on keyboard at Dhafer's Mediterranean Steakhouse, Friday evening between the hours of 5:30 p.m. to 8:30 p.m.

Joseph is quite the talented high school student who is building a reputation as a local musician.

A senior now at Dexter Senior High School and preparing for graduation, Joseph is not only talented on the keyboard, but plays the saxophone as well. He jams with the Dexter Jazz Cats and he has consistently received accolades at the district and state levels for his ability to play saxophone as well as the piano.

He recently auditioned for the Missouri State Band and Jazz Band in Columbia, Missouri where he was named the All State Jazz Piano Player. He will be performing at Tan-Tar-A, in the Lake of the Ozarks with the All State Jazz Band at the MMEA Conference. This conference is attended by thousands of music educators from across Missouri. The performance will take place on Saturday, January 26, 2013.

This is a must see performance at Dhafer's Mediterranean Steakhouse, which is located at 117 S. Locust in Dexter. They have a wonderful selection of fine foods and wines. This

is the perfect restaurant to bring your family and friends and you will enjoy an evening of memorable music.

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Rock and Roll Up Your Sleeve Blood Drive

JANUARY 10TH 2013 BY DEE LOFLIN

Rock and Roll Up Your Sleeve Blood Drive

*Written by
Dee Loflin, SMT Writer*

Dexter, Missouri - KFVS12 Heartland Blood Drive is under way and the Fraternal Order of Eagles on Old Hwy 25 is having a Blood Drive January 10th

and 11th from 2 p.m. - 7 p.m. and January 12th from 10 a.m. – 3 p.m. This year’s drive is sponsored by Subway.

“The annual KFVS12 Heartland Blood Drive follows a critical shortage of blood products, “ says Scott L. Caswell, CEO of the American Red Cross Missouri-Illinois Blood Services Region. “We applaud KFVS12 and their viewers for answering the call to help patients in need.”

Call 1-800-RED CROSS or go to **www.redcrossblood.org**, sponsor-code KFVS12, to schedule an appointment to donate blood, and help save lives at the blood drive nearest you.

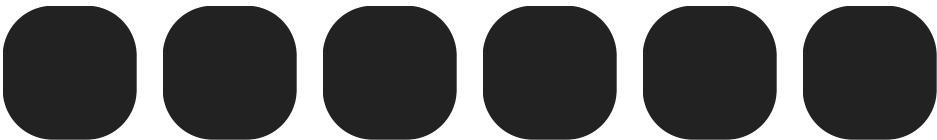
Potential donors must be 17 years old (16 with a signed American Red Cross parental consent form); meet weight requirements and be in good health. Donors should remember to bring a picture ID.

All blood types are needed to ensure a reliable supply for patients. Blood donations typically decline during the winter months, due to factors such as holiday travels, inclement weather, and seasonal illnesses.

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Aaron's Ribbon Cutting and Dedication Ceremony

JANUARY 10TH 2013 BY DEE LOFLIN

Aaron's Ribbon Cutting and Dedication Ceremony

*Written by
Dee Loflin, SMT Writer*

Dexter, Missouri - Aaron's just opened a new store and is now a Chamber Member in Dexter. They recently opened at 907 Hwy Business 60 West just behind Family Video. General Manager, Richard Wright stated "Dexter is a great location and we offer a guaranteed low price on brand name furniture, appliances, tv's and computers. You don't need credit which will help many folks build or establish their credit."

Aaron's is dedicated to providing the following to all of their customers: everyone's pre-approved for lease ownership – there is no credit needed, you get a guaranteed low price on everything you choose, options of 12, 18, 24 month plans or 120 days same as cash, receive highest level of service, a large selection of brand names you trust, and delivery and set up are included with your new lease agreement.

Aaron's always says, "Nobody Beat's Aaron's.....Nobody". In fact, Aaron's will beat any advertised price on the identical item or they will give you \$100.00 cash.

Aaron's is not to be viewed as a rent-to-own store. They offer quality name brand items such as Sharp, Toshiba, Samsung, Frigidaire, Panasonic, HP, and Maytag at the lowest possible price.

/images/Aaron's 2 Richard Wright.jpg

Aaron's began in 1955 by entrepreneur Charles Loudermilk, Sr. and is headquartered in Atlanta, Georgia. A national leader in the sales and lease ownership of residential furniture, consumer electronics, and home appliances as there are over 2,000 company-operated and franchised stores in 48 states and Canada.

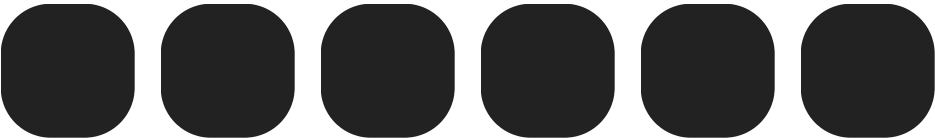
For consumers with income or credit constraints, Aaron’s affordable and flexible payment program is a popular alternative path to owning.

If you have questions, call 573-614-4694 or stop by and see their beautiful array of furniture. They are open Monday – Thursday from 10 a.m. to 7 p.m., Friday 10 – 8 and Saturday 10 – 5. They are closed on Sundays. You may also preview their merchandise online at <http://www.aarons.com/store-F1288-Dexter-MO.aspx>.

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