Local News



Dexter Native Wins Awards in Los Angeles

APRIL 03RD 2013 BY DEE LOFLIN

Dexter Native Wins Awards in Los Angeles

Written by Dee Loflin, SMT Manager/Writer

Dexter, Missouri - Brittney Greer, a Dexter native and co-owner of American Wasteland Entertainment along with her business partner, Jason Brasier, a Willow Springs, Missouri native attended the LA Webfest recently held in Los Angeles, California.

American Wasteland Entertainment is a Springfield-based production company and had two of only three entries from Missouri, all three being from Springfield. There was a total of 200 entries throughout the United States.

Drifter: Broken Road and Stage Fright were from American Wasteland Entertainment. The other production from Springfield was Epilogue, a Missouri State University production.

At the LA Webfest, American Wasteland Entertainment received the following awards:

Drifter: Broken Road: Outstanding Lead Actress (Vanessa Leinani), Outstanding Composer (Michael Brasier), Outstanding Writing (Jason Brasier), & Outstanding Directing (Jason Brasier).

Stage Fright: Outstanding Series (Horror/Scifi Category), Outstanding Editing (Jason Brsier and Robert Curry), Outstanding Directing (Jason Brasier), Outstanding Sound Design (Jason Brasier and Rob Curry), & Outstanding Composer (Jason Brasier, Michael Brasier and Tyler Durham), Best Producing (Brittney Greer, Jason Brasier, Babette Nicola Schlum and Jason Lee Knight).

At the end of the night, the Marseille, France web festival, a partner with the LA Webfest announced that they would be selecting 19 web series from the LA Webfest to come and show their work at the Marseille Webfest in October 2013. Drifter: Broken Road was one of those web series.

In addition, Drifter: Broken Road is also showing at Hollyweb Festival this coming weekend and is up for awards there.

The second season of Drifter will begin shooting this year. The season's name will be announced in the coming months and will be shot locally in the southwest Missouri area.

Drifter: Broken Road stars Vanessa Leinani (Columbia, MO), Hannah Duncan, Nick Herra (Springfield, MO), Rodney Wiseman (Springfield, MO), Ryan Shields (Springfield, MO), Todd Hansard, Dale Gehris (Springfield, MO), Blake Flageolle (Springfield, MO), Jerry-Mac Johnston (Springfield, MO), Zac Rantz (Nixa, MO), Jason Brasier (Springfield, MO), Michael Brasier (Springfield, MO), Scott New (Springfield, MO), Andrew Long (Nixa, MO), Kevin Keppy (Springfield, MO), Angel Gonzales (Springfield, MO)

Drifter is produced by Jason Brasier, Christopher Johnson, & Brittney Greer and is written & directed by Jason Brasier. Music was by Michael Brasier.

Stage Fright stars Brittney Greer (Springfield, MO) and Zac Rantz (Nixa, MO), Chris Greig (Springfield, MO), Mickey Stone (Springfield, MO), Stephen Nations (Springfield, MO), Elaine Jenkins (Springfield, MO), Haley Bertrand (Branson, MO), Jennifer Eiffert (Springfield, MO), Kevin Keppy (Springfield, MO), Marci Manna (Branson, MO), and Angel Gonzales (Springfield, MO)

Stage Fright was written by Brittney Greer & Jason Brasier and directed by Jason Brasier. It was produced by Brittney Greer, Jason Brasier, Babette Rickett, and Jason Knight.

Those wanting more information on Drifter or Stage Fright or how they can support or be a part of these series can check out www.americanwastelandent.com.

Congrtulations Brittney! The Dexter community is so proud of you!

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No MOre Trash Bash

APRIL 01ST 2013 BY BETH FARRAH

No MOre Trash Bash

Submitted by Beth Farrah, SMT Writer

Jefferson City, Missouri - Many signs of spring in Missouri are a welcome sight. Green shoots and flowering trees and bulbs promise warmer weather ahead. Unfortunately, other sights during spring aren't so welcome, such as litter along roads and highways, in our communities and in our outdoor spaces.

Help fight litter in Missouri through the state's annual No MOre Trash! month-long Trash Bash in April.

The Trash Bash is sponsored by the Missouri Department of Conservation (MDC) and Missouri Department of Transportation (MoDOT) as part of their ongoing No MOre Trash! statewide anti-litter campaign. The annual Trash Bash encourage people to clean up litter all across Missouri, from roadsides, parks, neighborhoods, rivers, streams, trails and other places. Trash Bash activities in April also include educational efforts in schools, at highway rest areas, and through community events, Earth Day celebrations, media promotions and more.

"Through the years, hundreds of thousands of volunteers have picked up more than half a million bags of trash during April Trash Bashes," said Stacy Armstrong, MoDOT No MOre Trash! Coordinator. "That's a lot of litter!"

Missourians care about conserving our forests, fish and wildlife. Last year, more than 18,000 volunteers and other Trash-Bash participants collected more than 130,000 bags of trash and many truckloads of debris during the 2012 month-long event. Volunteers included MoDOT and MDC employees, Adopt-A-Highway groups, Stream Teams, Scout troops, schools and community groups, and others.

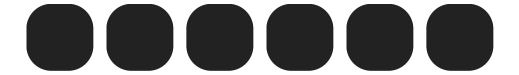
Littering isn't just ugly, it also hurts wildlife and Missouri outdoors.

"Animals get tangled in litter, such as plastic six-pack holders and discarded fishing line, and it hurts and kills them," said MDC No MOre Trash! Coordinator Joe Jerek. "Litter also poisons fish, birds and other wildlife, along with their habitats, such as rivers and woods."

Show you care about a litter-free Missouri by bashing trash in April. Go online to nomoretrash.org for more information on the Trash Bash, and to report cleanup efforts.

Visit www.nomoretrash.org for more information on statewide litter-cleanup event.

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Route 60 Reduced to One Lane

APRIL 01ST 2013 BY DEE LOFLIN

Route 60 Reduced to One Lane

Submitted by Dee Loflin, SMT Manager/Writer

Dexter, Missouri - It's that time of year when MoDot is repairing roads and we will have to take extra precaution when traveling. The eastbound Route 60 in Stoddard County will be reduced to one lane with a nine-foot width restriction as contractor crews resurface the roadway. If you travel this way, leave earlier and be sure to obey all speed limit reductions in this area.

This section of roadway is located from Route 51 near Fisk to Route F, turn-off to go to Aid, Missouri. Weather permitting work will be performed Wednesday, April 3rd through Friday, May 17th from 6 a.m. to 6 p.m. daily.

The work zone will be marked with signs. Motorists are urged to use extreme caution

while traveling near the area.

For additional information, contact Resident Engineer Audie Pulliam at 573-840-9781 or MoDOT's Customer Service Center toll free at 1-888-ASK-MODOT (1-888-275-6636) or visit www.modot.org/southeast.

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Carry the Cross

MARCH 30TH 2013 BY BETH FARRAH

Carry the Cross

Written by

Beth Farrah, SMT Writer

Missouri - During this Easter season, thousands of Missourians stretched out from east to west along Highway 60 and also north and south along Highway 63 while carrying large white crosses made out of pipes. Christians from all across the state stood out in the dreary weather while holding up the crosses on Good Friday to make the presence of God known to everyone.

Although it was rainy for almost everyone, many of the participants lasted the full six hours. This was a year of perseverance but it was also one of the largest groups within the past few years. Missouri had a goal to become one of the largest living crosses and had more than 3,000 crosses along both highways and thousands of participants that came out to support the great cause.

While standing along the major highways, the people carrying the crosses had to be sure to take extreme safety measures. Jim McNeill, a retired Missouri State Highway Patrolman, developed a well thought out safety guide for the volunteers to ensure that everyone was safe the entire time. With the weather conditions and the busy traffic, it was a top priority to keep everyone involved safe, no matter if they were driving or standing on the shoulder.

People from counties all over Missouri participated and made the event a great success. The main spots for the event included: Cairo, Charleston, Puxico, Bertrand, Sikeston, Essex, Morehouse, Thayer, Dexter, Dudley, Fisk, Gatewood, Huston, Camdenton, Poplar Bluff, and Cape Girardeau. Missouri's Texas County had over 500 participants and ordered over 150 crosses to carry. Together, the large groups made a huge cross over the state of Missouri by standing along the intersecting highways.

The event was organized by David Craig, who created many spots or "zones" for people to stand at along the highways and passed out the large crosses to all the volunteers. Craig participated in radio broadcasts in different towns on Christian radio stations and kept a Facebook page updated with information, tips, and Bible scripture to encourage the number of participants. He also held a Carry the Cross meeting at Life Church in Sikeston a week before Good Friday to inform the newcomers and participants about the safety measures and the reason why Carry the Cross is such an important event.

To get that many crosses, many churches all over the state of Missouri held "Cross Building Parties". The churches bought and donated pipes and spent their time cutting and building the crosses so that they can be distributed to participants that could not afford or build their own. The building parties were very successful and there were enough crosses for every participant to have.

"As Christians, our purpose is to make /images/Beth's Pictures/Carry the Cross side.jpg Him known," Craig explained to the

group of volunteers, "The cross is a tool to help us fulfill our purpose. The Cross is the sign and the symbol of the sacrificing love which has been at the heart of God from the foundation of the world. The Cross is a message of hope for a lost and confused world."

The idea of Carry the Cross is to show God's love and mercy for all who live on the earth. On Good Friday, Jesus died on the cross for our sins and three days later, on Easter Sunday, He rose again and is alive. The people that stood along the highways yesterday wanted to share the good news and give glory to God and his ultimate sacrifice.

Good Friday was filled with thanks and many witnesses stood with the crosses held high in honor of their savior. It was an amazing act and the numbers will hopefully increase drastically next year. Happy Easter!

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Statewide Archery Competition Results

Statewide Archery Competition Results

Submitted by

Beth Farrah, SMT Writer

Jefferson City, Missouri – The fifth annual Missouri National Archery in the Schools (MoNASP) state tournament, held March 22-23 at the University of Central Missouri in Warrensburg, drew 1,438 student archers in grades 4-12 from 74 schools across the state. Despite a weather forecast predicting snow, the event drew more than 7,500 observers and supporters.

The top-scoring male student was Seth Pezley of St. Joseph Cathedral in Jefferson City with a score of 294 out of a possible 300. The top-scoring female student was Shelby Winslow of Summit Lakes Middle School in Lee's Summit with a score of 287 out of 300. In addition to trophies, the two top scorers received Special Edition Genesis Bows.

Top-scoring teams and individuals, along with other teams and individuals who had qualifying scores, will go on to compete in the National Archery in the Schools (NASP) national tournament in Louisville, Kentucky, on May 10-11. A list of the almost 40 top-scoring teams and individuals who qualified for the national tournament, along with the nearly 80 individuals and teams who also had qualifying scores, is available at mdc.mo.gov/node/21559

MoNASP is coordinated through the Missouri Department of Conservation (MDC) and the Conservation Federation of Missouri in partnership with 290 participating schools and numerous supporting organizations throughout the state. MoNASP is an affiliate of NASP and promotes education, self-esteem and physical activity through the sport of archery to more than 63,000 participating Missouri students in grades 4-12.

"The growth of the Missouri National Archery in the Schools Program has been tremendous over the past four years," said MDC Education Outreach Coordinator Eric Edwards, who coordinates MoNASP. "This surge has led students outdoors with their families to participate in this lifetime sport. Many local conservation groups and civic organizations are also volunteering to help support MoNASP in their communities. Students are connecting with family members, coaches and teachers through archery. This connection and confidence gained through archery will spread into other parts of their lives."

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