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Governor Kicks Off 2nd 100 Missouri Mile Challenge

MARCH 20TH 2014 BY DEE LOFLIN

Governor Kicks Off 2nd 100 Missouri Mile Challenge

*Submitted by
Dee Loflin, SMT Manager/Editor*

Missouri - Gov. Jay Nixon and First Lady Georganne Nixon today visited Rock Bridge Memorial State Park in Boone County to launch the second year of the 100 Missouri Miles Challenge. The challenge encourages Missourians to complete “100 Missouri Miles” of physical activity by walking, running, biking, rolling, paddling or hiking throughout Missouri, including Missouri’s State Parks.

“After being recognized as the Best Trails State in the nation last year, the First Lady and I launched the 100 Missouri Miles Challenge to encourage folks to enjoy the tremendous outdoor opportunities the Show-Me State has to offer,” Gov. Nixon said. “This year, we’re again inviting Missourians to get out and get active with their families and friends to make the 100 Missouri Miles Challenge part of a healthy, active lifestyle in 2014.”

In 2013, Missourians taking the Governor’s 100 Missouri Mile Challenge walked, hiked, rode and rolled more than 1,162,000 miles, enough miles to circle the Earth 46 times.

To continue this success, 100MissouriMiles.com will feature an improved user dashboard for logging and tracking miles, new badges and achievements to unlock throughout the year, and an enhanced interface to easily move around the site.

Last year, the Governor formally launched the 100 Missouri Mile Challenge at the opening ceremony of the Special Olympics Missouri State Summer Games in Columbia. In 2014, Special Olympians will continue to be an important part of the Governor's initiative.

"Special Olympics Missouri is a proud partner of the Governor's 100 Missouri Miles Challenge," said Mark Musso, President & CEO of Special Olympics Missouri. "As an organization that represents more than 17,000 Missouri athletes, we look forward to another great year of getting out and enjoying the beautiful parks, trails and communities here in the Show-Me State."

During his visit to Rock Bridge Memorial State Park, the Governor also encouraged young Missourians looking for summer employment to apply online with the State Parks Youth Corps (SPYC) program, which is back in 2014 for its fifth year.

"The State Parks Youth Corps gives young Missourians the opportunity to gain valuable job skills, build character and make a tangible difference in Missouri's great outdoors," Gov. Nixon said. "This year will be another great opportunity for young men and women to help us keep Missouri's parks, trails and historic sites among the best in the nation."

SPYC, a nationally recognized jobs initiative started by Gov. Nixon in 2010 to enhance Missouri's 87 state parks and historical sites, is a cooperative partnership between the Division of Workforce Development and Missouri State Parks.

SPYC employs eligible Missourians between the ages of 17 and 23 at parks, historic sites and natural areas across Missouri, from May 1 through Dec. 31. Applications for the program are now being accepted online at thinkoutside.mo.gov.

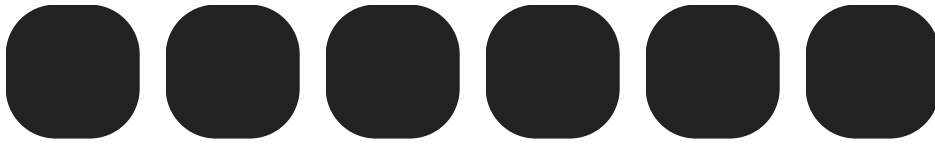
To sign up for the 100 Missouri Miles Challenge and begin logging miles, or to continue an existing account, please visit **www.100MissouriMiles.com**

Photo provided by the office of Jay Nixon, Governor of Missouri.

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God Is Not Dead Huge Success, Begins Friday Night

MARCH 18TH 2014 BY STAFF WRITER

God Is Not Dead Huge Success, Begins Friday Night

GOD'S NOT DEAD HUGE SUCCESS FOR PREMIER OPENING AT DEXTER TWIN CINEMA

Dexter, Missouri - Local church youth leaders and ministerial staff have joined together in a cooperative effort to bring the new movie "**God's Not Dead**" to the Southeast Missouri area. Over 2,300 pre-booked tickets have been already purchased.

Chris Costin at the Dexter Twin Cinema has worked closely with Josh Miller, Youth Minister at the First General Baptist Church in Bloomfield to create this event for the entire community to enjoy. They have over 250 attending their events. Through the local management, the group was led to Bobby Wilson, regional manager of the theater group.

"We have theaters in the area in Jonesboro, Blytheville, Paragould, Dexter and others throughout the Midwest," noted manager Bobby Wilson. "Anytime we get an opportunity to bring a film of this nature to one of our theaters, we are happy to work with area groups to make that happen."

"This has been an incredibly passionate group of leaders that have worked with us for this showing of **"God's Not Dead"** at the Dexter Twin Cinema," continued Wilson. "The response has been tremendous from area churches and groups. I'm certain it's gonna be a big opening week in Dexter."

"God's Not Dead" will open at the Dexter Twin Cinema on March 21st of this year. Over 25 groups and area church's have already begun to develop their individual plans of "Family Night At the Movies" with six nights already sold out.

The organizers of the event are planning a special event on the Friday premier night with the FBC Refuge Van and parking lot activities. The theater hold 190 people and both Friday nights will be OUTREACH NIGHTS!

Local churches purchased the tickets to be given away to the community to those who either do not attend church or who do not have a relationship with Christ. The Lighthouse Christian Center, First General Baptist Church of Bloomfield and others will be on hand to answer questions or offer information about attending a local church.

All church organizations or youth groups are encouraged to get involved with the premier showing of the activities planned for that evening. For additional information, you can contact **Christ Costin at 573-624-6911**. Those area Churches currently involved include;

Bloomfield Churches - Trinity United Methodist Church, 1st General Baptist Church of Bloomfield, Bloomfield Assembly of God, St. Joe General Baptist Church, & First Baptist Church of Bloomfield.

Dexter Churches - First Christian Church of Dexter, Lighthouse Christian Center, First Baptist Church of Dexter, Dexter Assembly of God, Risen Church, 1st General Baptist Church of Dexter, Dexter Lutheran Church, United Methodist Church of Dexter, Sadler's Chapel Methodist Church, and Southwest Church of the Nazarene.

Bernie Churches - Bernie United Methodist Church.

Aid and Dudley Churches - Liberty Hill General Baptist Church & Dudley Church of God.

Tickets are still available for the following dates and times:
Saturday, March 22nd, 10:00 a.m., 12:30 p.m. and 4:00 p.m.

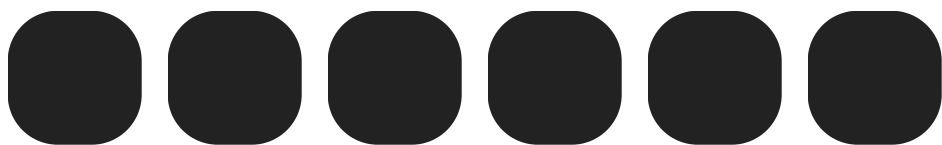
Saturday, March 22nd, 7:00 p.m. and 9:45 p.m.
Sunday, March 23rd, 12:30 p.m., 4:00 p.m.
Monday, March 24th, 7:00 p.m. - just a few seats
Tuesday, March 25th, 2:00 p.m. and 4:00 p.m.

The ShowMe Times will help to communicate the availability of tickets and all the activities planned as they become available to us.

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Share the Harvest Program

MARCH 17TH 2014 BY DEE LOFLIN

Share the Harvest Program

*Submitted by
Dee Loflin, SMT Manager/Editor*

Missouri - According to the Missouri Department of Conservation (MDC), 4,487 deer hunters donated 227,358 pounds of venison from the 2013 Missouri deer harvest to the state's Share the Harvest program.

The program is administered by the Conservation Federation of Missouri and MDC to help feed hungry Missourians. Share the Harvest orchestrates the efforts of thousands of hunters, numerous local supporting organizations, and more than 100 participating meat processors to get ground venison to people in need through food banks and food pantries around the state. Hunters donate their extra venison to participating meat processors who then prepare the donated venison by grinding it into one-pound packages that are given to food banks and food pantries for distribution to those in need.

Processing fees are covered entirely or in part by numerous local program sponsors, and statewide sponsors that include the Conservation Department, Shelter Insurance, Bass Pro Shops, the Conservation Federation of Missouri, Missouri Chapter Whitetails Unlimited, Missouri Chapter Safari Club International, Missouri Chapter National Wild Turkey Federation, Midway USA Inc., Missouri Deer Hunters Association, and the Missouri Food Banks Association.

Since the program started in 1992, Share the Harvest has provided more than 3.1 million pounds of lean, healthy venison to help feed Missourians in need.

For more information on Share the Harvest, visit <http://mdc.mo.gov/node/2544>.

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Call Before You Cut!

MARCH 14TH 2014 BY DEE LOFLIN

Call Before You Cut!

*Submitted by
Dee Loflin, SMT Manager/Editor*

Jefferson City, Missouri - The Missouri Department of Conservation (MDC) recommends that landowners considering a timber sale “Call Before You Cut” to get professional advice that can help them maximize benefits to their wallets, families and land.

“This is especially true if they have never had a timber sale before, or are concerned about the long-term health, wildlife habitat, and looks of their forested land,” said MDC Forestry Field Program Supervisor Brian Schweiss. “Through our Call Before You Cut service, landowners can get professional help from MDC foresters and private consulting foresters. It only takes a phone call to (877) 564-7483, or by going online to callb4ucut.com.”

Schweiss added that 83 percent of Missouri forests are privately owned and all forests provide important benefits to both those who own them and society in general.

“Forested lands play a vital role in providing clean air, recreational opportunities, wildlife habitat, forest products and clean water,” Schweiss said. “We work with and for many Missouri landowners to sustain healthy forests. From decades of research, we’ve learned that active forest management enhances the value of privately held woodlands.”

Schweiss offers landowners five reasons to Call Before You Cut:

1. Maximize timber income and save on taxes.

The difference between a low bid and high bid on a timber sale is typically substantial. Unaware landowners may take the first offer. A professional forester can assist with marking trees and estimating their value so the landowner knows what is being sold and the potential value. Equally important, professional foresters know what trees should not be cut for future forest benefits.

Tax savings may be another benefit. A professional forester can set a value for timber, known as the “basis,” for the year the landowner purchased the property. When selling trees, this basis can be deducted from the volume sold. In addition, sale revenue under the right conditions can be treated as capital gains income rather than ordinary income. Depending on how reported, landowners may be able to save a bit on taxes.

2. Harvest to increase quality, health and value of land.

Leaving the right trees is just as important as harvesting the right trees. Proper harvesting should leave trees with future potential. Depending on landowner objectives, these trees have wildlife value, future harvest value, and aesthetic value. Harvesting all good trees and leaving bad ones is referred to as “hi-grading.” When this occurs, a sale may be a “once in a lifetime” event. If the right trees are left, timber sales could occur on the same acres every 10–15 years.

Some larger landowners break their properties into different cutting units, have sales semi-annually, and rotate around the property on a set cycle. This provides regular income, encourages faster growth of desired trees, and maintains a healthy forest. Leaving the right trees will also maximize hunting and recreation opportunities.

3. Protect land for future generations.

Leaving property to their children is an important objective for many landowners. This legacy could be damaged through one poorly planned timber sale. Hi-grading and other

harvests that take all sellable trees do not leave much potential for the next generation.

Practices such as forest thinning can help improve growing conditions for preferred species. This forest-stand improvement removes or harvests the worst trees, and provides needed growing space for remaining trees so they remain healthy and grow for a future sale, or wildlife needs.

4. Find the best logger for the job.

What sets apart a good logger from a bad logger? How do you ensure that the person harvesting trees on your property will not leave ruts and damaged trees? This concern is shared by many landowners. In Missouri, many loggers have completed the Missouri Forest Products Association's Professionally Trained Harvester program. This teaches felling and skidding techniques that minimize damage to the forest. Some harvesters go one step further and become "Master Loggers." These individuals have both completed extensive training, and have demonstrated excellent performance.

It is also vital that landowners have a detailed contract that specifies what will be done and not be done with a timber sale. A professional forester can help landowners develop contracts that protect the land and remaining trees from damage, and that specify payment methods for harvested trees.

5. Learn if harvesting is right for the situation.

Professional foresters can help landowners determine if the time is right for a timber harvest. Small trees may be harvestable, but may not have reached their full potential value. A nice white oak that is only 16 inches in diameter has value, but may only bring a lower lumber value. This same tree will increase in size and volume over time, and may sell at a higher veneer value at a later date. That is a double benefit for the landowner since they could receive a higher board-foot value, and the tree will have more board feet of volume.

MDC coordinates the "Call Before You Cut" program for Missouri in partnership with the Missouri Chapter of the Society of American Foresters, the U.S. Forest Service Northeastern Area State and Private Forestry, and the Missouri Tree Farm Program. The program encourages woodland owners to consult with a professional forester, in conjunction with a professional timber harvester or a master logger, before they make decisions about their forestland.

For more information and to receive a free Call Before You Cut packet, call (877) 564-7483, or go online to callb4ucut.com.

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Pothole Patrol Launched - Help MoDOT Find Them

MARCH 10TH 2014 BY DEE LOFLIN

Pothole Patrol Launched - Help MoDOT Find Them

*Submitted by
Dee Loflin, SMT Manager/Editor*

Sikeston, Missouri -The Missouri Department of Transportation (MoDOT) is kicking-off a heightened pothole repair initiative today and would like the public's help. Through the month of March, MoDOT's Southeast District maintenance crews are committed to repairing potholes as quickly as possible. MoDOT will

aggressively respond and patch potholes to keep highways smooth and safe for Missouri motorists.

"We want to get asphalt in the hole within a day of being notified a repair is needed. Our goal is to repair it before you drive the same road the next day," said MoDOT District Engineer Mark Shelton. "We know our aging infrastructure is prone to potholes this time of year, and we are making every effort to keep our roads safe and as smooth as possible."

MoDOT encourages motorists to report the location of potholes using the following tools:

- Call our toll-free Customer Service Center at 1-888-ASK-MODOT (888-275-6636)
- Use our Report a Road Concern form on the web at <http://www.modot.org/southeast/>
- Use your smart phone/tablet with a mobile friendly form at www.modot.org/roadconcern
- By email to comments@modot.mo.gov
- Through social media: Facebook at <https://www.facebook.com/MoDOTSoutheast>; or Twitter @MoDOTSoutheast.

Potholes form when temperatures warm up during the day, but continue to be cold at night. This is the main cause of potholes in highways and why they are prevalent during spring season. The rain and snow from winter leave moisture that seep into the cracks and joints in the pavement. When temperatures drop, the water freezes and expands the pavement. This expansion causes the pavement to bulge and crack. When cars drive over the bulging pavement, it eventually causes chunks of pavement to pop out.

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