

County and state news

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BILLYO O'DONNELL IS PAINTING MISSOURI
Billyo O'Donnell recently visited Charleston to capture the beautiful azaleas in his new book of paintings while he's painting a scene in each county in Missouri. Staff photo by Sabrina Harris

Missouri Artist Billyo visits Charleston to capture the beautiful azaleas while "Painting Missouri"

By Sabrina Harris

Missouri Artist Billyo O'Donnell has spent the last 18 months of his life in each of the 114 counties in Missouri including the City of St. Louis.

His personal goal is to paint on location in every county in the state and put the paintings into a one-of-a-kind book. He is collaborating with writer Karen Glines on the project.

Billyo has been to and painted scenes in over 70 counties in Missouri in the last 18 months.

He plans to be finished with the 115 paintings around August, which means he will have spent two years on the project.

After the paintings are finished the book will be put together to be published.

He said he has already been through each county in Missouri to take notes and decide when and where to do his paintings, including the thoughts of which season would be the best in each place.

He choose Charleston in Mississippi County at a wonderful time of year to paint the beautiful azaleas. He choose the Mississippi County Historical Society Moore Home for his painting.

He carries a hand made map of Missouri with little pins in each county

he has completed.

He also said that everyone in Missouri has a little something of his, they just don't know it.

A few years ago he entered into one of those big art contests and his painting was chosen to be the new design for the Missouri License Plate. He received no money for the design.

After the book is complete he will hold book signings and then he plans to have an auction to sell all the paintings.

If you would like to see more on Billyo you can visit his website at www.PaintingMissouri.com.

Bootheel Regional Planning Commission begins work on county Natural Hazard Mitigation Plan

The Mississippi County Commission met Thursday with Mike Dumey from Bootheel Regional Planning Commission, who will be working on a Natural Hazard Mitigation Plan for Mississippi County.

Dumey said the State Emergency

quakes, floods. Existing emergency plans will be reviewed and public meetings will be held.

The federal government is trying to cut down on the cost of loss of property and life due to natural disasters.

and a total of \$4,355 in cash safety awards in this program.

The Commission met with Dana Brown-Ellis who asked for a letter of support from the county for a Caring Community Workforce Investment Board grant.