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Bearcats Hold Successful Blood Drive

OCTOBER 31ST 2011 BY UNKNOWN

Bearcats Hold Successful Blood Drive

By Annabeth Miller, SMT Editor

Bearcats are many things - students, athletes, musicians; they are talented in the classroom and in the ag shop; they bring home awards and they have great dreams for the future.

And Bearcats also care.

That was evident Friday with the Future Teachers of America (FTA) organization at Dexter High School hosted its annual fall blood drive with the American Red Cross.

Throughout the busy day student FTA members worked with Red Cross staff in helping donors complete paperwork and assist in a wide variety of ways. From offering moral support to those giving blood to helping serve the snacks after donating, the Bearcat FTA members were ready to help wherever needed.

And that Bearcat spirit was visible in lines of students, faculty and staff who lined up to donate blood.

Ann Polsgrove, faculty sponsor of FTA said it was a productive and successful day.

“We had 124 people presented to donate,” she reported. There were 78 productive units were collected.”

It was a difficult summer for the American Red Cross. Natural disasters, record high temperatures, and outrageous gas prices all contributed to a low blood supply. While thousands of generous blood donors rolled up a sleeve to donate during this time of need, the Red Cross blood supply remains critical as we enter autumn.

Photo Above: Senior Cody Stevens says that Bearcats are "Number One" - on the football field and in other ways, as well. Cody donated blood during the DHS Blood Drive on Friday, and teammate Josh Overall was hand to offer support. (SMT Photo by Annabeth Miller)

ShowMe Times Photo

Bearcat Blood Drive, October 28, 2011

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Libla Ready For State Senate Race

OCTOBER 30TH 2011 BY UNKNOWN

Libla Ready For State Senate Race

Special to the ShowMe Times
By Tim Krakowiak, Editor
SEMO Times

POPLAR BLUFF – Two Poplar Bluff natives have dropped out of the Senate race, clearing the way for another local candidate who has proven his commitment to a first run at office, raising \$180,000 in just over a month.

Having celebrated his 40th year as a self-made businessman this summer, Doug Libla, co-owner of Mid Continent Nail Corp., is grooming his successor for his position at the manufacturing plant, in hopes of filling the seat of Senate President Pro Tem Rob Mayer, who is terming out in 2012.

But first Libla must vie in the Republican primary against state Rep. Billy Pat Wright out of Dexter, who is completing his fourth two-year term in the House. The victor will face the only Democrat thus far who has announced his candidacy for the 25th District next November, Rep. Terry Swinger of Caruthersville, also serving his final term.

"I'm at a point in my career where I've been such a critic of politics for 20, 30 years, I'm ready for public service," said Libla, who was born in Greenville and resides in Poplar Bluff. "The direction of our state and federal government is stunting the growth of our young people, killing the American dream, and I feel compelled to step out and put 100 percent of my effort into representing the 25th District and all it entails."

TRADE WAR

One of the largest manufacturers of nails in the United States, Mid Continent has been on the frontlines of the trade war against China, having won a lawsuit in 2008 through the U.S. International Trade Commission that required the Commerce Department to impose a tariff on Chinese companies "dumping" cheaply made nails in our country in an attempt to kill competition.

While the family owned business spent more than \$1 million to win the unfair trade case, the nails kept coming in, so Mid Continent invested another \$75,000 to hire a private detective who discovered that Chinese manufacturers were simply exporting their nails through Korea and Taiwan to avoid paying the duties, according to the *St. Louis Post-Dispatch*.

"We've lost several domestic competitors over the last 10 years because they couldn't compete with the government of China, where they don't have to pay workers comp, [provide] benefits and decent salaries," Libla pointed out.

Before he announced his candidacy Aug. 22 in the *SEMO Times*, Libla said he spent time in Jefferson City visiting each chamber, meeting legislators and doing his "due diligence." His strength, he said, will be his "negotiation skills on both sides of the aisle" and he is not looking to "garner the spotlight."

"This isn't part-time work; it's a tremendous responsibility that should not be taken lightly," Libla said. "I've traveled all over the country, and have seen big employers taxed to death, so I do think I can make a difference, getting in there with other like-minded senators and reps, making Missouri a more business-friendly state, and improving our self-perception."

Libla has received large campaign donations from regional business leaders of varying backgrounds, not surprisingly including the medical community, which is poised for major growth.

Last month, Libla flew community members to the state Capitol in his company airplane for Poplar Bluff Regional Medical Center's relocation hearing on its \$173 million replacement hospital, which broke ground Oct. 6. One member of the Missouri Health Facilities Review Committee said the overpowering in-person support is what led to her approval.

Libla has already opened a very visible office in the heart of Poplar Bluff's retail district at Mansion Mall, which he said he would staff full time in January. He also plans to organize policy advisory teams representing multiple groups of constituents including agriculture, education, health care, industry, municipality and senior citizens.

"It's important to me to keep up with everybody's needs, because you can't know everything," Libla said. "I feel like we've lost the way to what we're trying to get accomplished within government in the state of Missouri."

A key to Libla's early success in fundraising has been his committed campaign team, led by treasurer Herman Styles Jr., a successful businessman who co-owns Colton's Steak House & Grill in Poplar Bluff, as well as restaurants in Farmington, Jefferson City, Sedalia and Springfield, with more expansion plans slated for next year.

"I'm at the tail end of my career—no more seven-day work weeks for me—so I'm helping Doug contact people for money and votes, or both," Styles commented. "We're all enthusiastic, running around like a bunch of 18 year olds."

This is Styles' first time being heavily involved in a political campaign, he noted, and he is not alone. Deputy campaign treasurer Brent Davis, who had a 31-year career with the Missouri State Highway Patrol, and now conducts compliance training for Gamma HealthCare, explained how he admires what Libla stands for.

"Doug won't be bought," Davis stated. He recalled in the mid-1970s meeting Libla through the businessman's lead role with the Missouri Association of State Troopers Emergency Relief Society, which provides funeral expenses for fallen troopers killed in the line of duty, and guarantees a college education for any surviving children.

'SETTING THE TABLE'

Publicly endorsing Libla a month ago, Jeff Shawan, a leader of Poplar Bluff's nonprofit sector, announced in March he was running for the senatorial seat, but since then he has gracefully bowed out.

Shawan described how he was involved in Rep. Todd Richardson's successful campaign last year for District 154, and was working to find a business-oriented candidate for Mayer's seat, originally concluding he would enter the political arena himself.

"Why I got out really came down the reason why I got into the race—I thought it would be counterproductive to compete against someone with very similar Conservative views as me, thereby splitting the Butler County vote and setting the table for what I would consider a Jefferson City insider going back to office," Shawan said. "It's my belief with the recession in our economy that we need representation from the business sector to streamline what I consider to be an overreach of the government, both on the federal and state levels."

The first Poplar Bluff candidate to announce his intent to file was Gayle Kingery, Richardson's eight-year predecessor, who dropped out of the Senate race in June. Unlike Shawan, Kingery said he would not endorse a candidate until after the primary in August 2012.

"I got to thinking, at my tender age, which is 72, that 'Hey, I probably got another 10 good years in me of traveling and enjoying the country and my grandkids,'" Kingery said. "I certainly will miss the public service. For what it's worth, I was told I was the candidate to beat."

Having just returned from a trip to Colorado earlier this month, Kingery said he has not followed who is running at this early stage, but when asked, admitted his initial thought was that it would be nice to bring the seven-county senatorial seat to Poplar Bluff.

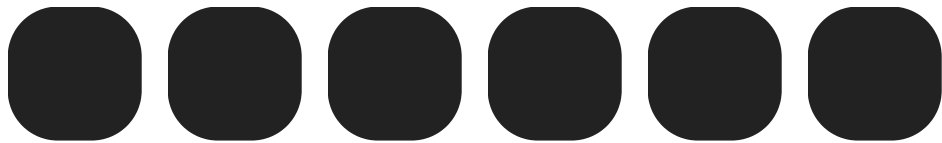
"Poplar Bluff is the largest community in the 25th District, and we have the infrastructure in place with Highways 60 and 67 divided, to put us on the map to be the capital of Southeast Missouri," Kingery said. "Having the seat here would be a good thing, but it doesn't necessarily have to be, as we were well served from Dexter for eight years by Rob Mayer, who I will continue to support in whatever he does."

Tim Krakowiak can be contacted by emailing tim@semotimes.com, or follow him on Twitter [@timkrakowiak](https://twitter.com/timkrakowiak).

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Elisa Hester Named University Homecoming Queen

OCTOBER 30TH 2011 BY STAFF WRITER

Elisa Hester Named University Homecoming Queen

Searcy AR – With the same beautiful smile that captured the Miss DHS in 2007, Elisa Hester was crowned the 2011 Football Homecoming Queen of Harding University.

The crowning ceremony was held at halftime of the Harding University's game against Quachita Baptist on Saturday.

Elisa is the daughter of Terry and Ranan Hester of Dexter. Elisa's brothers, Bryn and TJ Hester, and many friends were on hand for the celebration following the game.

There is a certain genuine glow in the smile and spirit of Elisa Hester that removes the surprise of her crowning. During her summer work at Hidden Trails Country Club or Hickory Log Restaurant, she has always been able to touch people with her willingness to love and care for others. She is an incredible young lady that is well deserving of this title.

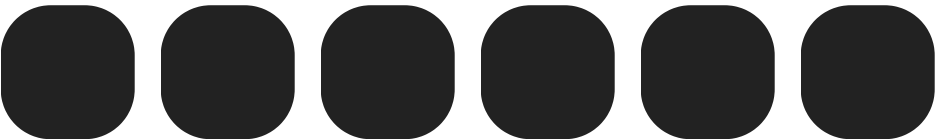
Miss Hester is a senior at Harding University, majoring in family consumer science research. Her current plans are to complete her degree and then pursue a master's degree. She hopes to work at the university level as an educator.

SMT staff is very happy for Elisa and the entire Hester family. Congratulations to the 2011 Harding University Homecoming Queen, Elisa Hester.

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County Road To Be Closed

OCTOBER 29TH 2011 BY UNKNOWN

County Road To Be Closed

SIKESTON - A busy roadway in Stoddard County will be closed next week while state crews complete a project.

The Missouri Department of Transportation announced that Route AB in Stoddard County will be closed while crews replace a pipe beneath the roadway.

The section of roadway of Route AB that will be closed is located from Highway 25 to County Road 503. Weather permitting, work will be performed Monday, Oct. 31 and Tuesday, Nov. 1 from 8 a.m. to 3 p.m. daily.

The work zone will be marked with signs. Motorists are urged to use extreme caution while traveling near the area.

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Fall Fest Planned At Central Gardens

OCTOBER 28TH 2011 BY UNKNOWN

Fall Fest Planned At Central Gardens

Can't get enough of fall fun? There will be fun around every corner Saturday afternoon at Central Gardens in Dexter.

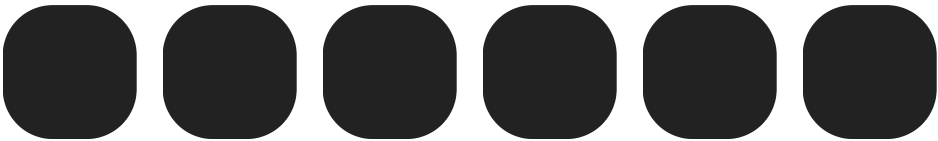
Central Gardens will host its Fall Fest this Saturday, Oct. 29, from 1-3 p.m. There will be crafts, games and costumes and kids of all ages are invited to attend and participate.

Administrator Stacy Blocker says the event is free and all are welcome to come and enjoy the afternoon. Central Gardens is located at 302 North Elm Street in Dexter.

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