Local Schools

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Chitwood Receives Dicken Scholarship

MAY 25TH 2017 BY DEE LOFLIN

Chitwood Receives Dicken Scholarship

Poplar Bluff, Missouri - Montana Chitwood was Poplar Bluff High School's fourth recipient of the \$400 Kyle Dicken Memorial Scholarship.

Chitwood plans to study music education at Missouri State University in Springfield. "She's in the marching band, jazz, concert – pretty much her whole schedule is band," said instructor Stephen Winters, half-jokingly.

Curtis and Wanda Dicken, the grandparents of the late Kyle, who would have graduated in the Class of 2014, would like to grow their endowment fund, which they say is the only scholarship available exclusively to local band students. For more information, email the Community Foundation of the Ozarks at awingo@cfozarks.org or call 573-803-1248.

Pictured (From left) Curtis and Wanda Dicken, Montana Chitwood, and Stephen Winters.

Photo and article submitted by Tim Krakowiak, Communications/Marketing Director, Poplar Bluff R-I School District

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Missouri Good Sports

MAY 25TH 2017 BY DEE LOFLIN

Missouri Good Sports

Poplar Bluff, Missouri - Multi-sport student athletes who display exemplary sportsmanship, ethics and integrity—as determined by coaches—received awards of excellence from the Missouri State High School Activities Association on Friday, May 19.

Sierra Sievers and Joseph Hardimon were named Missouri Good Sports at Poplar Bluff Junior High, and Katie Sliger and Adam Vincent received the annual award at Senior High. Sierra plays basketball, volleyball and cross country, with an 11.0 GPA. Joseph plays basketball, and track and field, with a 9.8 GPA. Katie runs cross country, track and field, and participates in swimming and diving, with a 10.886 GPA. Adam plays football and soccer, and runs track and field, with a 9.944 GPA in the classroom.

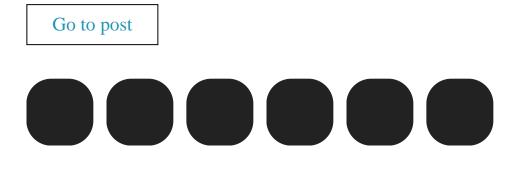
"We at MSHSAA firmly believe that a positive role model such as yourself can positively influence the actions of others in your school – your teammates, younger students, your opponents and even spectators," stated Jason West, MSHSAA communications director. "By taking the responsible steps in displaying positive sportsmanship, you are helping to rekindle the spirit of citizenship and are serving as a positive representation of your school and community."

Pictured: (From left) Adam Vincent, Katie Sliger, Athletic Director Kent Keith, Sierra Sievers and Joseph Hardimon.

Photo and article submitted by Tim Krakowiak, Communications/Marketing Director, Poplar Bluff R-I School District

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Huskey Earns Laseter Scholarship

MAY 24TH 2017 BY DEE LOFLIN

Huskey Earns Laseter Scholarship

Poplar Bluff, Missouri - Graduating senior Katie Huskey has been awarded the \$1,000 Dr. Michael D. Laseter Memorial Scholarship for Poplar Bluff High School.

Huskey, who plans on studying biomedical engineering at Columbia University in New York, wrote in her essay that she would like to marry her love of technology and her desire to help others by designing prosthetics to improve the quality of life for amputees.

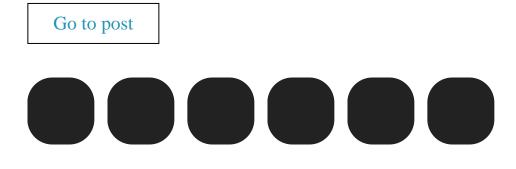
Huskey is the 10th student to be awarded the Laseter scholarship since its inception. Dr. Laseter was a physician specializing in internal medicine at Kneibert Clinic for over 20 years. After retiring from medicine in 1994, he taught physiology at PBHS on a voluntary basis for five years.

Pictured: Donna Laseter presents a scholarship check to Katie Huskey, who plans to enter the field of medicine.

Photo and article submitted by Tim Krakowiak, Communications/Marketing Director, Poplar Bluff R-I School District

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Students Present Almost \$48k to St. Jude

MAY 22ND 2017 BY DEE LOFLIN

Students Present Almost \$48k to St. Jude

Poplar Bluff, Missouri - Top fundraising students presented a check to St. Jude in the amount of \$47,748 on Friday, March 31, during a field trip they were awarded to the children's research hospital in Memphis.

The Poplar Bluff School District has raised a total of \$967,924 for the hospital since the campus community first began participating in Math-A-Thon in 1989. If the students reach their all-time goal next school year, R-I will be the first school system ever to donate more than \$1 million, according to district coordinator Jenifer Richardson, Oak

Grove principal.

During the visit, students—grades K through 8—learned about the work that St. Jude is doing to some day cure cancer by watching informational videos and participating in a historical scavenger hunt, while building chaperones and parents had a chance to tour the world-class facility.

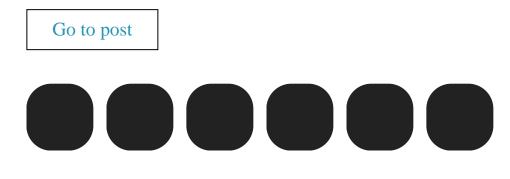
Past O'Neal Principal Lorenzo Sandlin initially took up the cause as a service project for the elementary school nearly three decades ago. Within several years, the initiative went district-wide, and has continued to gain support from the business community.

Pictured are students (in alphabetical order) are Madeline Allbritton, Truston Alexander, Brandt Bell, McKinzie Buenaga, Alyssa Cochran, Daine Dugas, Preston Ethridge, Rowan Gowen, Anna Lack, Naila Moreno, Kyleigh Moffitt, Eliana Persons, Colton Pigg, Charlie Raglin, Brooks Ray, Andon Ridenour, Dalton Rommel, Clayton Schalk, Bailey Smith, Lamonten Thomas, Clarissa Varner and Keaton Willcut; and building coordinators include Staci Barker, Angie Bowman, Sheila Boyles, Jennifer Nicolini, Jenifer Richardson, Ashley Robertson, Melanie Schalk and Jannette Walk.

Photo and article submitted by Tim Krakowiak, Communications/Marketing Director, Poplar Bluff R-I School District

LAST UPDATED ON MAY 22ND 2017 BY DEE LOFLIN

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Downtown Poplar Bluff Supplies Tower Gardens

MAY 04TH 2017 BY DEE LOFLIN

Downtown Poplar Bluff Supplies Tower Gardens

Poplar Bluff, Missouri - Downtown Poplar Bluff Inc. delivered the last of 10 tower gardens, valued at approximately \$9,000 total, to the R-I school district on Monday, April 24.

The tower gardens, which have the ability to produce year-round and include grade level curriculum, were secured through funding from the U.S. Department of Agriculture acquired by former downtown director Penny McGath.

"With tower gardens, students will be able to engage in hands-on learning through gardening," stated Jerrica Fox, McGath's successor. "Eating behaviors are learned early in life, and the key is to be educated. Through this grant, our schools are now able to incorporate nutrition education and the benefits of gardening in the classroom."

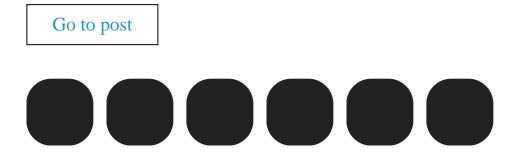
The grant is a component of a larger initiative to fund a market manager for the Poplar Bluff Farmers' Market and help sustain the operation annually from May through October. Last year the community portion of the proposal included a greenhouse project at the John J. Pershing VA Medical Center. In addition to providing tower gardens for R-I's four elementaries, along with the Middle School and Junior High, the money benefitted Twin Rivers as well.

The vertical, aeroponic gardens include a light kit and drainage system, plus cherry tomato, eggplant, bell pepper and gourmet lettuce seeds, among other features.

Shown in the provided photo: (From left) Paula Bradley, Erica Weadon, Valerie Duncan, Candace Hovis, Katelyn Campa and Kasi Stafford of Lake Road pose next to one of two tower gardens the elementary school recently received.

Article and photo provided by Tim Krakowiak, Communications/Marketing Director, Poplar Bluff R-I School District.

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