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## Puxico High School 2023 Commencement Held at the Arnold Ryan Gym

MAY 19TH 2023 BY DEE LOFLIN

### Puxico High School 2023 Commencement Held at the Arnold Ryan Gym

The graduating Puxico High School Class of 2023 held their Commencement Exercises on Friday, May 12, 2023. Class President, Ella McLain led with the Welcome followed by the Opening by Elizabeth Zych.

Pomp and Circumstance was played by the Puxico High School Band.

Superintendent Cindy Crabb introduced the School Board Members. High School Principal Gretchen Hill introduced the Salutatorian Miss Ella Nevaeh McLain.

Ella is the daughter of Michael and Lisa McLain and the granddaughter of Terry and Donna Scott and Stewart and Brenda McLain. She has followed a college preparatory curriculum and has maintained a 4.3325 grade point average. While in high school Ella has been active in Future Business Leaders of America, FCCLA, Sr. Beta Club and FCS.

In addition Ella has earned numerous awards such as Highest Honors all four years, placed 1st and 3rd in FBLA Districts, placed 1st and 5th in Sr. Beta Club at State, along with many other academic awards from her teachers.

Ella will attend Evangel University in Springfield, Missouri in the fall, where she plans on majoring Nursing. After she earns a Bachelor of Science Degree, she plans to pursue her Master's Degree. She wants to be a Travel NICU Nurse along with serving on medical

mission trips.

Mrs. Deborah Wilkerson, High School Counselor introduced the Senior Speaker Miss Destiny Griffin.

The students and their families then watch a graduation video of baby photos and senior photos.

Mrs. Cindy Crabb then introduced the Valedictorian Mr. Cole Barnfield.

Cole is the son of Chris and Traci Barnfield and the grandson of Larry and Vicki Barnfield of Puxico and Kimberly Brown of Greenville. He has followed a college preparatory curriculum and has maintained a 4.344 grade point average.

While in high school he has been active in baseball, basketball, Sr. Beta Club, Future Business Leaders of America, Scholar Bowl, and band. In addition Cole has earned numerous awards such as All-Conference and two time all District Baseball. Cole held the position of Sr. Beta Club President and Regional Leadership Representative which allowed him to attend the National Beta Leadership Conference in Orlando, Florida. He was also selected to Attend Missouri Boys State at Lindenwood University.

Cole will be attending Southeast Missouri State University - Cape Girardeau in the fall. He plans on majoring in Computer Science. After earning a Bachelor's of Science Degree his ultimate goal is to work for a major corporation like Microsoft.

Mrs. Deborah Wilkerson, High School Counselor, presented the senior awards and scholarships prior to the presentation of diplomas by Chad Payne, President of the Board of Education and Ms. Gretchen Hill, HS Principal. (Those awards and scholarships will be in next week's addition of the Puxico Weekly Press).

The Puxico School Song was sang by Mrs. Tonna O'Dell and Shannon Hanners.

Chloey Foster, Class of 2023 performed the Closing Remarks.

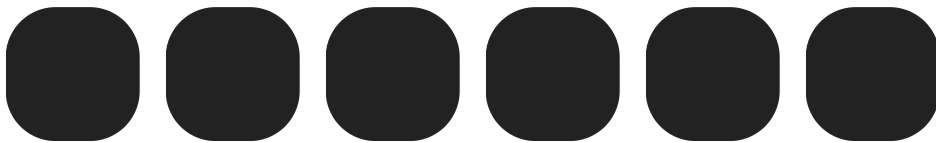
The Class of 2023 is as follows: Cole Barnfield, Ella McLain, Elizabeth Zych, Monica Par, Chloey foster, Adysen Shepard, Sara Woolard, Shelby Woolard, Isaac Hann, Duncan Crabb, Drake Guffey (In Memory), Seth Zimmerman, Corbin McGowen, Talley Burns,

Bailey Barks, Talon Burkman, Kelten Adams, Sierra Fleming, Jade Walker, Emily Day, Jessica Coleman, John Brotherton, Eric Riddle, Kaedan Thomas, Madison Martin, Destiny Griffin, Elizabeth King, William Rush, Kaylee Jordan, Abigail Runzi, Lanie Wilkerson, Kylee Carroll, Isabella Adams, Colton Jones, Colton McCollum, Billy Carter, Jr., John Sisk, Jr., Jera Backus, and Raigen Zoll.

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## 2023 Bernie Color Fun Run Registration Deadline is May 12th

APRIL 28TH 2023 BY DEE LOFLIN

[2023 Bernie Color Fun Run Registration Deadline is May 12th](#)

The Bernie Chamber of Commerce would like to invite everyone to our 2023 Bernie Color Fun Run! We started this event in 2022, and I think we all agreed that it turned out so much better than we could have even hoped for. It was a beautiful morning of community fellowship and fun, and we've all been looking forward to the next one ever since.

This year's event will take place on Saturday, June 3rd, beginning at 10AM, at the Bernie City Park. Registration will begin at 9AM, and each registered participant will receive their shirt and a color packet at that time.

Waves Mini Donuts will also join us that day from 9AM to 2PM.

Medals will be given to the top three finishers in two age groups: 13 & Up, as well as 12 & Under. Additional prizes may be given, if funds allow.

Water stations will be set up along the route, and light snacks (such as granola bars) will be available at the finish line.

The early bird registration will end on May 12th in order to have shirts in on time. Forms and payment may be turned in to any Chamber officer or board member, mailed back to the Chamber (in time to be received by May 12th), or can be turned in at our May 7th meeting. Same-day registration will also be open for a discounted price, with participants not receiving a shirt. (All of this information is included on the form.)

We would also welcome any volunteers that day. We need volunteers to help with parking, to help register participants, to toss color along the route, etc. If you have a group who would just like to gather and cheer on participants as they pass by on the route, that's great too! There's a job that day for anyone who would like one. We are also always grateful for prize donations from our community businesses. If you are interested in partnering with us or volunteering in any way, please let us know.

If participating in this isn't your thing -- we understand! Please consider helping us out by spreading the word. You can post registration forms at your place of business, forward to anyone you know who might be interested, etc. Every bit helps us out!

We hope you will consider joining us for a colorful day of good music and great fun on June 3rd!

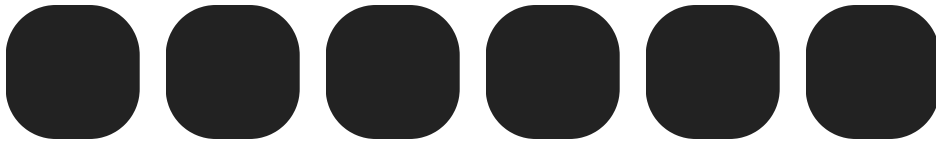
We look forward to serving our community in 2023

Bernie Chamber of Commerce

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## 2023 Dexter CTA Retirement Tea Featuring Deborah Kay Stogsdill

APRIL 20TH 2023 BY DEE LOFLIN

[2023 Dexter CTA Retirement Tea Featuring Deborah Kay Stogsdill](#)

The Dexter CTA held their Annual Retirement Tea at the Bearcat Event Center on Tuesday, April 18, 2023

Deborah Kay Stogsdill graduated from Southeast Missouri State University - Cape Girardeau with a Bachelor of Science in Elementary Education in 1992.

She spent eight years with the New Madrid County School District as a 4th grade teacher from 1993 through 2001.

She then worked as a 1st grade teacher at Bloomfield Schools until 2016.

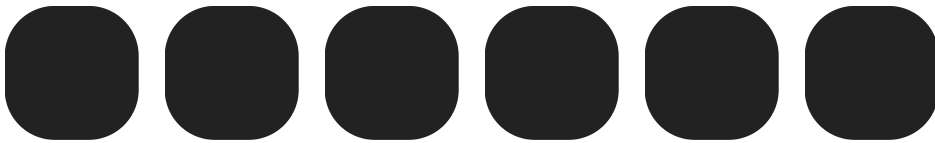
Stogsdill came to Central Elementary in 2016 where she served at a 4th grade teacher.

She retires with 7 of her 30 years spent in faithful and dedicated service to the Dexter Public Schools.

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## 2023 Dexter CTA Retirement Tea Featuring Amy Pixley

APRIL 20TH 2023 BY DEE LOFLIN

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Amy Pixley graduated from Oakland City University in 1994 with a Bachelor of Science in Elementary Education with Kindergarten.

She has taught at Clarkton Public Schools in Kindergarten from 1994 through 1997 as well as New Madrid County at Teaching for Tomorrow from 1997 through 2000.

In 2000, Pixley came to Southwest Elementary to teach Kindergarten.

She finishes her education as a Central Elementary 5th grade teacher.

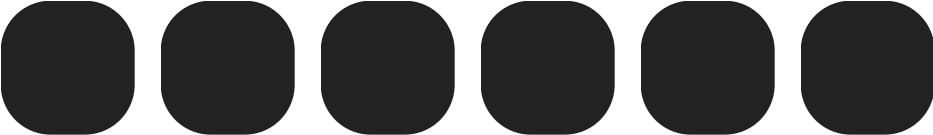
Pixley is retiring with 19 of her 29 years of faithful and dedicated service to the Dexter Public Schools.

Congratulations Amy Pixley on your retirement.

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# 2023 Dexter CTA Retirement Tea Featuring Laura Miller

APRIL 20TH 2023 BY DEE LOFLIN

## 2023 Dexter CTA Retirement Tea Featuring Laura Miller

The Dexter CTA held their Annual Retirement Tea at the Bearcat Event Center on Tuesday, April 18, 2023

Laura Miller began her career in education as the Dexter High School secretary in 1992.

In 1998 she became the Dexter School District Bookkeeper.

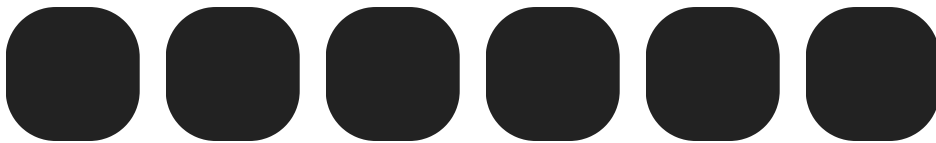
Miller will retire in December of 2023 with all 31 and 1/2 years of dedicated and faithful service to the Dexter School District.

Congratulations Laura Miller on your retirement.

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