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Abbie Lloyd Receives the 2024 Kyle Smith Memorial Athletic Scholarship

MAY 22ND 2024 BY DEE LOFLIN

Abbie Lloyd Receives the 2024 Kyle Smith Memorial Athletic Scholarship

On March 12th of 2022 while covering the Final Four Basketball Championship in Springfield, Missouri the community lost a great sports writer.

Kyle Smith was the Sports Editor of the Dexter Statesman and a contributor to SEMOBALL.com. He had a heart attack and passed away. He was my friend and mentor when it came to sports writing.

He was doing what he loved and that was covering Stoddard County sports. Kyle was at most every sporting event in the county and I spent a tremendous amount of evenings with him on the field or on the courts.

Kyle and I had a love for Diet Mtn Dew, Skittles and Twix Bars. We also ate a lot of hotdogs during football, volleyball, and basketball seasons. Many times we "fussed" over who got the left Twix or the Right Twix Bar!

Together with the Dexter Statesman former Editor, Josh Ayers, we decided to keep Kyle's memory alive by creating a Memorial Scholarship to a Stoddard County Athlete.

The first scholarship went to John Nimmo, Bernie Mules, in 2022, just a couple of week's after Kyle's passing. The last feature story Kyle wrote was about John and their run to the State Championship in basketball. It was printed after his passing. The second scholarship went to Cole Nichols of Dexter High School in 2023.

Kyle loved girls and boys basketball. He would sit on the floor taking photos and try to help them win. If he caught the ball out of bounds, he'd say, "I put some mojo on that ball, now it will get into the basket." If they were at the free throw line he'd whisper, "get in there! We need those points."

If one of them would make a mistake or get swatted down, he'd simply say, "Oopsies!" Kyle was a quiet man, but he also had a funny side too.

We know Kyle would have been so excited to see any Stoddard County team win, but especially his Bearcats. This year's scholarship went to a very deserving Bearcat, Miss Abbie Lloyd.

Lloyd is a three sport athlete playing cross country, basketball, and track/field; however she has excelled in track/field to earn a trip to the Missouri State High School Athletic Association's biggest event!

Just a few highlights from her athletic career at Dexter High School

- DHS varsity basketball point guard
- DHS cross country state qualifier three times
- DHS track and field sixth place State finish (pole vault) in 23'
- Current DHS pole vault record holder
- MSHSSA state qualifier seven times

Lloyd is a member of the National Honor Society, National Beta Club, Fellowship of Christian Athletes, Future Business Leaders of America, and Family, Career and Community Leaders of America regional officer.

Because of her outstanding accomplishments in sports, I can honestly say without a doubt Kyle would have written several feature stories about her athletic abilities and accomplishments. And I can see him clearly rubbing his hands together and saying, "I smell a feature story!"

Kyle would have been proud to see, senior, Abbie Lloyd receive the 2024 Kyle Smith Memorial Scholarship! Along with this \$500 scholarship, Lloyd received a 6 pack of Diet Mt. Dew and a "sharing" bag of Skittles!! What we didn't know is that Abbie loves Skittles and eats them before every track meet! 'Skittles Power!'

Pictured are Dee Loflin, ShowMe Times, Lloyd, and former editor of the Dexter Statesman Josh Ayers.

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Puxico VFW Installs New Officers

MAY 14TH 2024 BY DEE LOFLIN

Puxico VFW Installs New Officers

On 9 May 2024, the Puxico VFW Post 7822 installed their Officers for the upcoming fiscal year of 1 July 2024 through 30 June 2025.

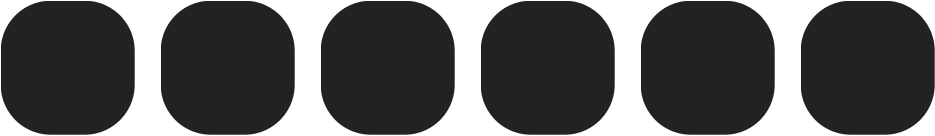
Installing Officer was William, 'Bill' Hemby, Past Commander of Post 7822, and the Commander when for the first time, the Post earned the All American Post Award.

Information submitted.

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Lowery Acres Holds Ribbon Cutting for The Market

APRIL 23RD 2024 BY DEE LOFLIN

Lowery Acres Holds Ribbon Cutting for The Market

Lowery Acres located in Puxico, Missouri have opened The Market. On Saturday during their grand opening day celebration they held a ribbon cutting for their new building.

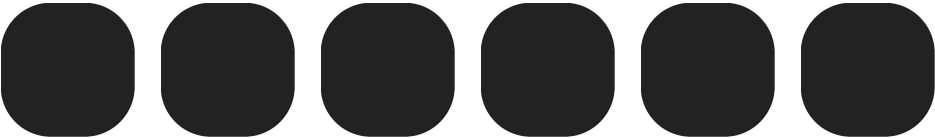
The Market will have local items such as Wagner Beef Co., local honey, local homemade candy, candles, t-shirts, strawberries, flowers, pots, and so much more. Of course they will also have numerous flowering hanging pots, vegetable plants for your garden, and more.

The Market is located at 20375 County Road 283 off J Highway. They are open Monday through Saturday from 8 until 5 and Sunday from 12 until 5 each week through the end of May.

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Bloomfield Chamber Holds Ribbon Cutting for Country Pickins'

APRIL 16TH 2024 BY DEE LOFLIN

Bloomfield Chamber Holds Ribbon Cutting for Country Pickins'

The Bloomfield Chamber of Commerce held a Ribbon Cutting for Country Pickins Flea Market in Bloomfield.

Located in the heart of our city, the Bloomfield flea market is a haven for collectors, bargain hunters, and anyone who appreciates the charm of the old and unique. Unlike traditional retail stores, every item here has a story to tell. From vintage clothing and antique furniture to handcrafted jewelry and rare books, there's always something new to discover.

Country Pickins Flea Market is a unique Flea Market offering clients a wide selection of quality products at great prices!

“We value our good relationship with our vendors and welcome you to visit us!”

There are four locations currently - Bloomfield, Poplar Bluff, Sikeston, and Doniphan.

Hours at the Bloomfield Location are Wednesday through Saturday 10 - 6, Sunday Noon - 6 and Monday 10 - 6. Closed on Tuesdays.

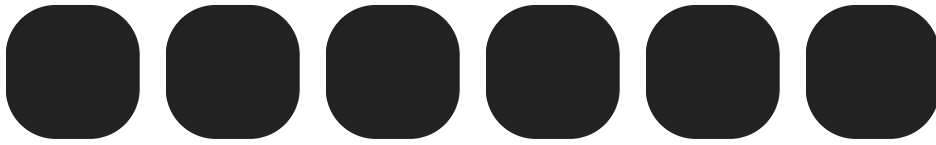
On May 3rd at 5 p.m. they will have a Sip N' Shop Event!

Follow them on Facebook by clicking [HERE](#).

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Speaker Set for 18FORE Life Banquet on May 31st, Reserve Your Tickets Now

APRIL 10TH 2024 BY DEE LOFLIN

Speaker Set for 18FORE Life Banquet on May 31st, Reserve Your Tickets Now

"We have an incredible lineup for this year's 18Fore Life banquet," commented Scott Kruse. "Your support has never been needed more as we pile up up close to 60 names on the waiting list, that's \$60,000 that is needed!"

The 18FORE Life banquet will be held on Friday, May 31st at the Elk's Lodge. Tickets are \$30 each so be sure to reserve your tickets now!

Professional Cellist Jenn Cornell will perform prior to dinner at 6:00.

Keynote Entertainer/Speaker will be Mack Dryden. He is a hilarious comedian and cancer survivor. He has even survived an African prison!! That will be an entertaining story.

"This dude is funny and will not only have use in stitches," stated Kruse, "But he will inspire and motivate with his message!"

The Love Offering recipient guest speaker this year will be Cody Fulkerson. He is a Dexter native and cancer survivor and will give his testimony. "If you haven't met Cody, you will be inspired by his determination, courage and faith!" continued Kruse.

Coach Jame Frakes will "Toast to Ben". He was Ben's college baseball coach at Dyersberg State. "Coach Frakes will have a couple of stories from some of Buzz's wilder days in college," Kruse said.

As always SEMO Selfie with Chad and Melanie Calvert will keep the funding with great music, karaoke, and of course the selfie booth. Silent Auction-some amazing autographed prints and other nice items will be available to bid on.

CELEBRATE~GIVE~REMEMBER "We are pushing towards \$4 MILLION in Love Offerings!!!!!!!"

CLICK HERE TO RESERVE YOUR TICKET!

The Ben Kruse 18 FORE Life Charity Golf Event is our staple event and the reason this charity organization was founded. In the fall of 2000, four friends stood around a kitchen late one night-early one morning and discussed the thought of organizing a golf tournament. They acted on the idea and in 2001, the first 18 FORE Life golf tournament took place on June 23rd! The goal of the charity, at the time, was to raise money for The V-Foundation. The group of volunteers quickly stumbled onto the idea of sending love offerings to area families fighting cancer. The immediate response from letters and thank you cards were impactful and proved something special was possible. In 2004, founder Ben Kruse was taken from us in a tragic accident. . The golf weekend is a party full of hugs, handshakes, laughter, smiles, and memories shared. Our tag line is Celebrate | Give | Remember and we are proud to say all of this is accomplished in a big way every first weekend in June as 500 banquet attendees and 386 golfers gather for a guaranteed great time

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