

## Local Schools



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# Congressman Smith Meets with Zalma Elementary Students

JANUARY 01ST 2019 BY DEE LOFLIN

## Congressman Smith Meets with Zalma Elementary Students

Zalma, Missouri- Congressman Jason Smith (MO-08) visited Zalma Elementary School this week to speak with more than 100 students and faculty members and answer their questions about how the government works.

Congressman Smith explained to the students his role in government as Representative for the people of Missouri's 8th Congressional District. He said there's two main roles of his job: voting on legislation his district supports and serving as their customer service representative with the federal government.

"Whether it's helping people receive their social security benefits, making sure our veterans are taken care of with the VA, or just helping any Missouri family deal with a federal agency, those are the most rewarding parts of the job," said Congressman Smith. "You see a real, positive impact in people's lives and it keeps you grounded on why you serve in the first place."

One student asked Congressman Smith why he would come to a small school like theirs.

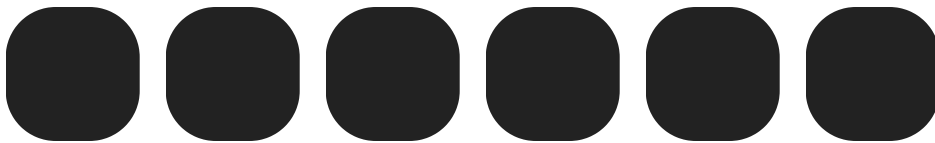
"I'm from a small town – I went to a small school myself," said Congressman Smith. "Small communities are just as important as large ones and it's important to me that I meet as many people as I can in southern Missouri. The more people I can meet in every nook and cranny in our district helps me better represent all of us in the U.S. House of

Representatives.”

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## Erika Jones Makes Dean's List with 4.0 GPA

JANUARY 01ST 2019 BY DEE LOFLIN

### Erika Jones Makes Dean's List with 4.0 GPA

Erika Jones of Dexter, Missouri has been named to the Dean's List of Three Rivers College for the Fall 2018 semester.

She maintained a 4.0 and is the daughter of Richard and Jeannie Jones.

Students are recognized for the outstanding academic achievement and must tain a 3.5 GPA or higher and a minimum of 12 credit hours during the semester.

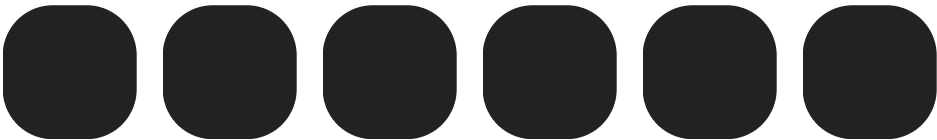
Three Rivers College recognizes and appreciates the time and effort required to achieve this success.

Congratulations Erika!

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# Bell City Students Raise Money for Children's Home

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Bell City Students Raise Money for Children's Home

Bell City, Missouri - The Bell City High School Student Council raised \$650 for the Stoddard County Children's Home.

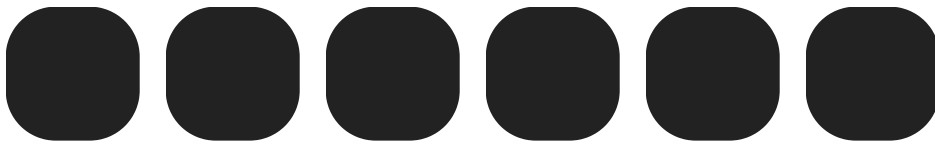
Pictured are the student council members and Tricia Abner, board member for the Children's Home.

"I am very proud of my students," commented Misty Everett, Student Council sponsor.  
"They raised quite a bit of money for children for Christmas."

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## November Athletes of the Month named

JANUARY 01ST 2019 BY DEE LOFLIN

### November Athletes of the Month named

Poplar Bluff, Missouri - The Mules Booster Club has named Kiley Bess and Tyler Cline of Poplar Bluff High School the November Athletes of the Month, presented by Academy Sports + Outdoors.

Tyler, a senior basketball player, averages 13 points, four rebounds, three steals and two assists per game. He won MVP for the game at the Norm Stewart Classic held Saturday, Dec. 1, in Columbia. His grade point average was 10.7 for the first quarter of the school

year, and 9.6 overall.

“Tyler has shown to be a young man of character, intelligence and talent,” his coach William Durden said. “Tyler is a relentless competitor and hard worker on the court and in the classroom. He displays the work ethic and leadership that every coach hopes for from his players. He does all of the little things to get the job done.”

Kiley, a junior basketball player, averaged 14.5 points and 7.2 rebounds per game during the recent SEMO Conference Tournament. She has already received six full-ride scholarship offers to National Collegiate Athletic Association Division 1 educational institutions. She is currently ranked 19th in her class with an 11.179 GPA.

“Kiley is growing into a great leader on and off the floor,” her coach John David Pattillo stated.

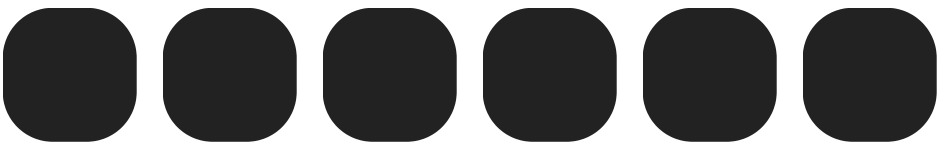
Pictured: Kiley Bess and Tyler Cline are awarded AOM plaques on Wednesday, Dec. 12, from Booster Club member Brian Taylor.

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

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## Foundation funds \$3.5K in teacher grants

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### Foundation funds \$3.5K in teacher grants

Poplar Bluff, Missouri - The Poplar Bluff School Foundation recently funded two 'innovative educational projects' valued at more than \$3,500 so students can collect data for NASA and participate in group activities using digital microscopes.

The foundation board unanimously approved the projects during a meeting held last month as part of the nonprofit's mini-grant program, which funds proposals based on merit above and beyond regular classroom budgets.

Board treasurer Emily Wolpers commented that Ashley DeBerry of the Middle School, the teacher over the NASA submission, went out of her way to receive a certification in Alabama over the summer; and new board member Bobbie Tinsley noted that 375 high school biology students would benefit from the microscopes.

### DIGITAL MICROSCOPES

"Instead of using microscopes one at a time, it'll be a shared experience," PBHS science teacher Gretchen Pendley said upon receiving the device. "Students can have that 'aha moment' together."

Pendley's colleague, Karen Harris, added: "I'll be able to point and show the students exactly what to find in an individual slide, as they'll be able to look up at the projector and see what I'm seeing."

The model, made by Wolfe, interfaces with a computer and projects high-resolution images on an interactive whiteboard. The microscopes can additionally create time-lapse video screenshots, the proposal explains.

The team of educators, also including Stephanie Hillis, plan to use the digital microscopes in January when they begin teaching photosynthesis in biology class. Students will follow

along with the instruction on regular compound microscopes already available in labs.

## **GLOBE CLASSROOM**

NASA-grade meteorology equipment—including a rain gauge, barometer, hygrometer, infrared thermometer and pH test strips—will be used by Middle School students in DeBerry’s fifth grade math and science classes come spring.

The GLOBE program will allow students to collect data for the region and enter it into the database to be made available to globe.gov visitors. “This is data that like,” DeBerry stressed, “NASA uses.

“Southeast Missouri will contribute and produce maps so data can be seen worldwide to gauge rain, average highs and lows, cloud coverage, temperature rating,” she continued.

DeBerry received her special training at the Marshall Space Center. Her principal, Dr. Brad Owings, noted that his favorite part about the new forged partnership with the National Aeronautics and Space Administration is that Poplar Bluff may be able to temporarily house a moon specimen under strict protocol. “We get to see moon rocks,” Owings exclaimed.

Teacher Gretchen Pendley points to cells on an aquatic plant leaf during her freshman advisory on Friday, Dec. 14, while student Hannah Tipton looks into the digital microscope and classmate Summer Worley observes the projection.

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

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