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Baldwin Supports PBHS Driver's Ed Program

JULY 02ND 2019 BY DEE LOFLIN

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Baldwin Automotive Group has loaned a pair of 2018 Ford Escapes for students to use in the Driver's Education program available at Poplar Bluff High School.

The SUVs will serve to replace an older model Dodge Caravan and Ford Taurus owned by the R-I district, and repurposed in previous years to operate the summer school program. Baldwin Automotive even purchased and installed passenger-side brake kits for the sport utility vehicles, according to instructor Charley Harper.

"It's a great program for kids, no question about it," commented Baldwin General Manager Bruce Hutson, who helped facilitate the partnership. Hutson has known Harper since the two lived in Ironton in the late 1980s, and both wound up moving to Poplar Bluff to advance their careers.

Driver's Ed, which runs through June, serves around 70 high schoolers beginning at age 15. After participating in a series of classroom lectures, the student drivers spend four days behind the wheel with one of the instructors in order to complete the road safety course.

Harper, a PBHS Spanish teacher, leads the program with Mike Sowatzke and Mitch Davis, who both teach in the Social Studies Department. The faculty members have received certification through Missouri State University, one of three colleges approved by the Missouri Department of Elementary and Secondary Education.

Co-owner of Baldwin Automotive Group, Jeff Baldwin, said he could remember benefiting from Driver’s Ed back when he was a student. A graduate of the PBHS Class of 1978, Baldwin is happy the first driving experience for many of the participants will now be in a top-selling vehicle, he noted. The local car dealership has supported the program in the past.

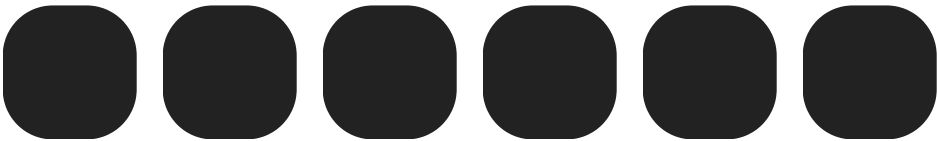
Pictured: With several participating students in the background, Jeff Baldwin (green shirt), co-owner of Baldwin Automotive Group, hands two sets of Ford Escape keys to PBHS educators (front row, from left) Mitch Davis, Charley Harper and Mike Sowatzke on Friday, June 7.

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

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O’Neal Receives \$2K Ronald McDonald Grant

JUNE 20TH 2019 BY DEE LOFLIN

O'Neal Receives \$2K Ronald McDonald Grant

O'Neal was recently awarded a \$2,190 grant from Ronald McDonald House Charities to increase technology at the elementary school.

Ten Chromebooks were purchased with the funding last week so the computers can be added to laptop carts in advance of MAP testing.

Intervention teacher Amber Foster applied for the grant with assistance from Krista Sells, reading instructor. They received notification of the award from the organization's grant committee in December.

"We were elated," Foster said. "The Chromebooks will permanently be added to existing carts throughout the grade levels as well as offer the SWIN/TRUST/FUN [classes] access to technology."

RMHC supports nonprofit children's programs in the areas of education, health and social well-being, and the cultural arts.

Pictured: Cheryl Farrow, McDonald's representative, awards O'Neal teachers Amber Foster and Krista Sells a technology grant in December.

Submitted by Tim Krakowiak, Communications/Marketing Director, Poplar Bluff R-I School District

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TCC Students Qualify Nationally for SkillsUSA

JUNE 20TH 2019 BY DEE LOFLIN

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Four Technical Career Center students have qualified to compete in the National SkillsUSA competition this summer.

Placing first and earning scholarships among 19 students who competed in the state competition held last month at the State Technical College of Missouri in Linn were: Isaac Branson in collision repair, Natasha Duelley in nail care, Sheila Wallace in barbering and Amber Whitworth in cosmetology.

"For them to be capable of competing on the national level, on that scale, after you prepare all the instruction and put in the time, means a lot to us," said building trades instructor Jody Cochran, the lead SkillsUSA adviser. "Big corporations and top-notch companies are gonna be on hand signing kids to go to work, conducting live interviews."

The 55th annual National Leadership and Skills Conference is slated to take place Monday through Friday, June 24-28, in Louisville, Ky. The Poplar Bluff SkillsUSA chapter has been fundraising, including raffling a four-wheeler, in order to participate.

SkillsUSA is a national membership association serving high school, college and middle school students who are preparing for careers in trade, technical and skilled service occupations, including health occupations, and for further education.

Competing at SkillsUSA Missouri were (in alphabetical order) Isaac Branson, Millie Cato, Jacob Clifford, Natasha Duelley, Cole Emmons, Jalen Hicks, Mariah Mitchell,

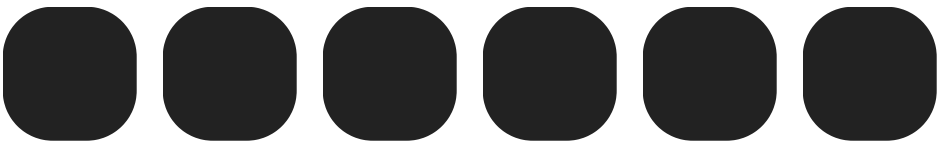
Austin Pullum, Alicia Reed, Michael Simpson, Elizabeth Snyder, Glen Thurman, Kayce Towner, Hannah Tutor, Sheila Wallace, Dale Wert, Amber Whitworth and Kayla Zachary. Not pictured was Britney Howery. Chaperone teachers included Susan Chronister, Jody Cochran and Alex Nicolini.

Submitted by Tim Krakowiak, Communications/Marketing Director, Poplar Bluff R-I School District

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Bubanovich earns \$1,000 Class of 1971 Scholarship

JUNE 20TH 2019 BY DEE LOFLIN

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Poplar Bluff High School senior Cara Bubanovich has been awarded the Class of 1971 Scholarship, valued at \$1,000.

Bubanovich was recently accepted into Missouri State University, where she plans to pursue a nursing degree, and one day receive her doctorate in nurse anesthesia.

Taking advantage of dual credit options at PBHS, Bubanovich completed a full course load through Three Rivers College, while managing to remain active in multiple clubs along with participating on the Competitive Cheer Squad.

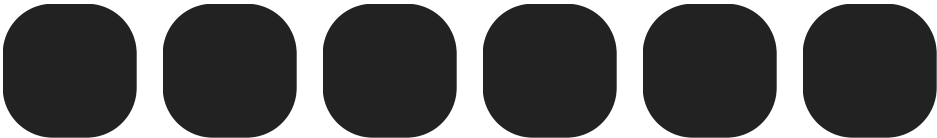
Pictured presenting Cara Bubanovich the Class of 1971 Scholarship on Thursday, May 2, is R-I Superintendent Dr. Scott Dill (left) and John Scott, school board president.

Submitted by Tim Krakowiak, Communications/Marketing Director, Poplar Bluff R-I School District

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Change of Command

JUNE 20TH 2019 BY DEE LOFLIN

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Poplar Bluff High School junior Elizabeth Shirrell has been named commander of the Pvt. Billie Kanell JROTC Battalion for the upcoming school year.

JROTC instructor Maj. Gregory Crites promoted Shirrell to succeed Cadet Lt. Col. Skylar Zitnak during the annual Change of Command ceremony held Friday, May 10, in the auxiliary gym.

“The senior Army instructor has reposed special trust and confidence in the patriotism, fidelity and abilities of Elizabeth Shirrell,” announced PBHS senior Josh Wicker, battalion operations officer. “In view of this special trust and confidence and demonstrated potential, she is hereby promoted to the rank of cadet lieutenant colonial effective 10 May 2019.”

Prior to the passing of the organizational colors, a total of 20 awards were presented to student leaders who have excelled in academics, discipline, physical fitness and public service. Freshman Pvt. Jacob Crawford was named cadet of the year, and the best company honor went to Bravo Company commanded by Cadet Capt. Michael Russell.

Among the event’s distinguished guests included R-I Superintendent Dr. Scott Dill, PBHS Principal Mike Owen, Terry Temples on behalf of the Daughters of the American Revolution, Eddy Justice representing the Sons of the American Revolution, Gary Scheel of the Sons of the Union Veterans of the Civil War, and U.S. Army Recruiting Command Sgt. 1st Class Jack Taylor.

As part of tradition, Elizabeth Shirrell’s mother Amy joins Maj. Gregory Crites in the Change of Command ceremony.

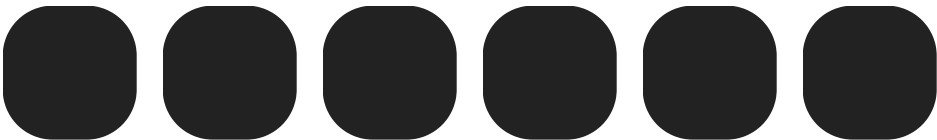
Pictured: Maj. Gregory Crites applauds this school year’s JROTC cadets following a successful event featuring friends of family of the students.

Submitted by Tim Krakowiak, Communications/Marketing Director, Poplar Bluff R-I School District

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