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John Bruce Named Bloomfield Chamber City Personnel of the Year

MARCH 30TH 2023 BY DEE LOFLIN

John Bruce Named Bloomfield Chamber City Personnel of the Year

The Bloomfield Chamber of Commerce held their annual awards banquet on Thursday, March 30, 2023 at the Boathouse Wine Company.

John Bruce has lived and worked in Bloomfield his entire life. He is a 1982 graduate of Bloomfield High School and is considered a "fixture" of Bloomfield.

In the summer, you can usually spot John moving one of several yards around town after work. He seems to know everyone in town, and most of the town knows John.

He tries to help anybody in need and especially the elderly.

John began his career with the city in 1983 working mainly part-time for the street department. He was able to work more hours during the summer months mowing.

In 1993 John became a full-time employee for the street department for the city of Bloomfield and has been with the city ever since.

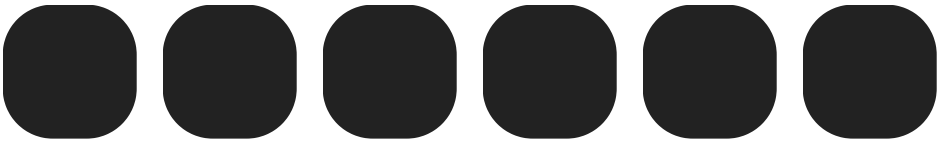
John has two grown children and two grandchildren.

You may find John working somewhere in the city and we are very grateful for his continued service to the people of Bloomfield, especially the elderly.

The Bloomfield Chamber was extremely proud to give John the City of Bloomfield Personnel of the Year Award!

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Aslin Farms Named Bloomfield Chamber Farm Family of the Year

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The Bloomfield Chamber of Commerce held their annual awards banquet on Thursday, March 30, 2023 at the Boathouse Wine Company.

Aslin Farms began in 1919 when Ernest and Eva Aslin, Robert's grandfather and grandmother and Nathan's great grandfather and great grandmother had 60 acres of land continuously. Through the years the amount of land added to the farm has greatly expanded.

Robert (Bob) Aslin and Nathan, his son, along with their wives, children, grandchildren, siblings, and extended family play a big part in the success of the Aslin Farm operation.

The Aslin family farm has approximately 2,300 acres. Their crops are made up of corn, soybeans and wheat. and they are also involved in the cattle business owning approximately 100 head. Of course, being smart farmers, they bale all the hay they feed to the cattle.

Some children graduated from school and wanted to move on to what they think are bigger and better thing, but not his family. When Robert was growing up he worked on the farm during the school year and once he graduated, he remained on the farm. Then his son, Nathan, worked on the farm during the school year and when he graduated, he remained on the arm and they have grown the operation to where it is today.

They have continued the heritage that Ernest and Eva Aslin began 104 years ago.

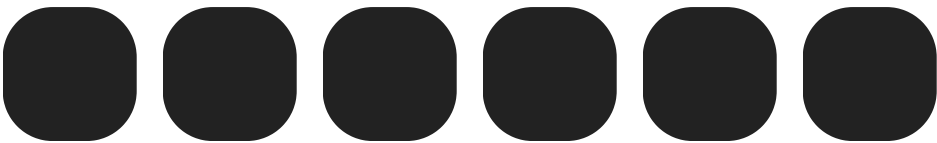
In 2019 the Aslin Family Farm was designated a "Century Farm" by Farm Bureau of Missouri.

It is an honor tonight to award the Bloomfield Chamber Farm Family of the Year to the Aslin Farms.

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Sonja Hobbs Named Bloomfield Chamber Teacher of the Year

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Sonja Hobbs Named Bloomfield Chamber Teacher of the Year

The Bloomfield Chamber of Commerce held their annual awards banquet on Thursday, March 30, 2023 at the Boathouse Wine Company.

Sonja Hobbs was named the Bloomfield Chamber Teacher of the Year.

She has been a valued member of the Bloomfield School staff for 25 years. For 23 years she was a teacher.

Hobbs graduated from the Bloomfield Class of 1992 and then earned an Education Degree at Southeast Missouri State University - Cape Girardeau.

She also obtained a Communication Disorders Degree as well.

The life an educator was a pick that came naturally coming from a family of educators. Her mom taught for thirty years and her dad taught for a brief stint as well. During her time as an educator at her alma mater she has taught kids ranging from Pre-K to the 6th grade. Spending time on 5th grade, Title I Reading, math and small group instruction. These were years where she had the chance to learn from some wonderful mentors.

She has also helped tutor and with the summer school program. her passion for teaching continued in 2018 when Hobbs became certified in a science-based reading program called connections OG in 3D. This program focused on a multisensory structured language approach which helped kids who showed signs of possible dyslexia. This was a life changing training for her, in which she was able to become a dyslexia interventionist.

In her down time though Sonja enjoys spending time with her family. her husband Michael and her son brant who followed in her footsteps to study at Southeast Missouri State University.

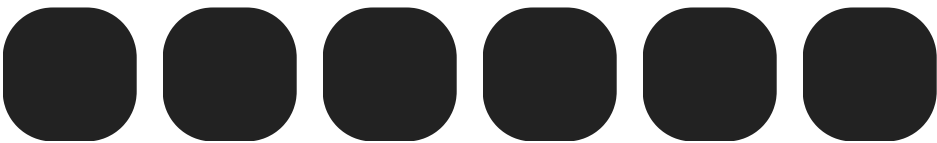
In the end Sonja has prepared and worked to perfect her craft to help students these last 25 years.

The Bloomfield Chamber was very excited to give Mrs. Sonja Hobbs the Teacher of the Year Award.

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Madison Glaus Named to the 2023 MBCA Academic All-State Girls Basketball Team

MARCH 22ND 2023 BY DEE LOFLIN

Madison Glaus Named to the 2023 MBCA Academic All-State Girls Basketball Team

Madison Glaus of Dexter High School has been named to the 2023 MBCA Academic All-State girls basketball team.

She is the daughter of David and Kara Glaus and is a senior at Dexter High School.

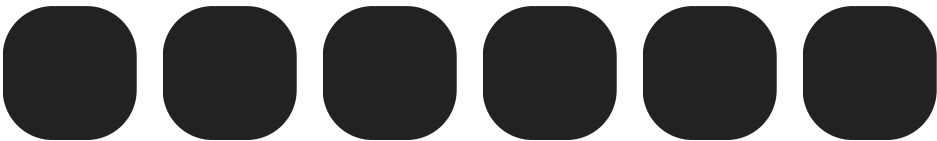
Seniors who met the qualifying criteria and were nominated were eligible for this team.

- 1) Player in good standing with team.
- 2) Possesses outstanding moral character.
- 3) Has ONE OR MORE of the following verified minimum scores (a. b. or c.):
 - a. ACT score of 27 composite or above
 - b. SAT score of 1280 composite or above
 - c. PSAT score of 185 selection index or moreand qualify with a
- 4) Grade-Point Average of 3.25 out of possible 4.0 (or equivalent on alternate grade scale)
- 5) Athletes must be nominated by their high school coach and their high school coach must be a member to nominate.

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Nichols Receives 2nd Annual Kyle Smith Memorial Scholarship

MARCH 12TH 2023 BY DEE LOFLIN

Nichols Receives 2nd Annual Kyle Smith Memorial Scholarship

In 2022 on March 12th 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 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.

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 the Bearcats win the Bloomfield Christmas Tournament, the SCAA Tournament, and most of all the first District

Tournament in 19 years. He would have written some amazing feature articles on all of them.

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, Cole Nichols receive the 2023 Kyle Smith Memorial Scholarship! Along with this \$500 scholarship, Nichols received a Diet Mt. Dew and a "sharing" bag of Skittles!!

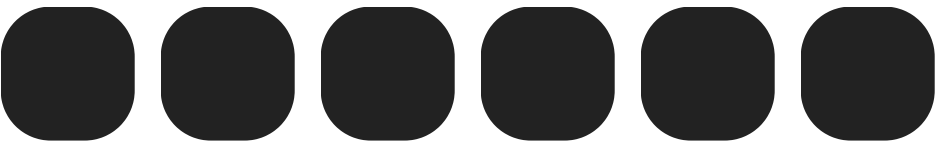
Nichols broke the record for most career points and was instrumental in helping the basketball achieve their district win.

Photo taken by Truman Krapf, Dexter High School senior basketball player.

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