

Newport senior wins regional competition of Poetry Out Loud

Jordan Knouse, a senior at Newport High School, was the winner of the regional Poetry Out Loud competition on Jan. 31. The competition was held at the Perry County Council of the Arts' Landis House in Newport. Natalie Popp, a senior at Juniata High School came in second. Jordana Steffen, a freshman at East Juniata High School came in third. Each student had won their local competition.

The students choose three poems to recite from a list of 1,200 poems. At least one poem had to be 25 lines or fewer and one had to be pre-20th century. Jasmine Colbert, Jairee Counterman and Michael Nailor judged the contestants on their presentation. Tony Oliveri was the accuracy judge. Ariana Koch was the prompter. Jessi Burkholder served as tabulator. Jim Bricker was the emcee and Paul Beutel provided piano music during the scoring breaks.

Knouse was coached by teacher Elizabeth Helmick. She recited "Abandoned Farmhouse" by Ted Kooser, "Suppose" by Phoebe Cary and "Tear" by Linda Hogan.

Popp was coached by teacher Emily Wagner. She recited "Flowers" by Cynthia Zarin, "To be of use" by Marge Piercy, and "April Midnight" by Arthur Symons.

Steffen was coached by teacher Jennifer Hund. She recited "The Arrow and the Song" by Henry



POETRY TO THE EARS — Three students — (from left) Natalie Popp, second place; Jordan Knouse, first place; and Jordana Steffen, third place — competed in Poetry Out Loud in Newport on Jan. 31.

Wadsworth Longfellow, "Oranges" by Roisin Kelly, and "Her Dreams" by Nikki Giovanni.

Knouse will move on to the statewide competition in March.

(The poems can be found online at Search Poetry Out Loud).

Poetry Out Loud is a national arts education program that encourages the study of great poetry by offering free educational materials and a recitation competition for high

school students.

Poetry Out Loud helps students master public speaking skills, build con-

fidence, and learn about literary history and contemporary life through poetry.

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