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**WINNER ANNOUNCED FOR THE REGIONAL POETRY OUT LOUD
COMPETITION HOSTED BY THE ARTS COUNCIL**

CAPE GIRARDEAU, MO-- Saturday, January 19, the Southeast Missouri Arts Council hosted the Regional Poetry Out Loud Competition at Port Cape Girardeau. **Callie Lewis, of Arcadia Valley High School, was declared the Regional winner.** She will go on to attend the statewide competition as a representative of the Southeast Missouri Region.

The Poetry Out Loud National Recitation Contest for high school students encourages the nation's youth to learn about great poetry through memorization and recitation. This program helps students master public speaking skills, build self-confidence, and learn about their literary heritage.

The contest was created in 2006 by the National Endowment for the Arts and the Poetry Foundation, and is administered in partnership with the State Arts Agencies of all 50 states, the District of Columbia, the U.S. Virgin Islands, and Puerto Rico.

Please visit the Poetry Out Loud website at poetryoutloud.org for more information concerning this event.

The Arts Council of Southeast Missouri is located at 32 North Main Street in Cape Girardeau, MO. Galleries are open Tuesday- Saturday, from 10am to 4pm.