



## Tigers softball stars McCarty and Stuart sign with colleges

SPORTS, 8A

# Kirksville Daily Express

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Cole Findling is taken down by a dragon during the conclusion of "Shrek The Musical." PHOTOS BY AUSTIN MILLER/KIRKSVILLE DAILY EXPRESS

## Developer ponders purchasing Kirksville Renaissance

Plan would be to repurpose JC Penney and Gordmans stores into storage units

**Austin Miller**  
Kirksville Daily Express  
USA TODAY NETWORK

A commercial developer is interested in acquiring the former JC Penney and Gordmans stores in Kirksville, but it wouldn't be selling shirts and sweaters.

Assistant City Manager Ashley Young briefed the Planning and Zoning Commission on Wednesday, Nov. 10, that a developer is pondering purchasing that whole strip mall — the Kirksville Renaissance — on the south side of town. Its intent would be renovating one or both of the former stores into climate-controlled self-storage units.

Coincidentally enough, Young had just attended a conference in St. Louis where re-purposing big box retail stores in storage facilities was discussed. Its one method to reclaim the

See RENAISSANCE, Page 12A

## 'Shrek The Musical' brings laughs, heart



Chance McKim, who plays Donkey, dances alongside Juni Alberts, Julia Chapman and Alexia Leasure, during a rehearsal of "Shrek The Musical."

**Austin Miller**  
Kirksville Daily Express  
USA TODAY NETWORK

Turner Petersen does quite a bit of work to try and embody a giant green ogre.

Standing at 6-foot-2, he has a natural physicality for the role of Shrek in the upcoming production of "Shrek The Musical," though some large boots and a fake belly will help him out. And he'll obviously need some makeup to become green.

But to inhabit the spirit of an ogre, he's trying to become more grumpy. "I've tried to get more annoyed at stuff recently," Petersen said. "I feel that is very in character. ... Just finding something I don't like and thinking about it."

Unable to name the primary source of his agitation, co-stars Laura Hudson (who plays Fiona) and Chance

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A map of how the Kirksville Renaissance mall is zoned. The former Gordmans is part of a C-3 zone, while the former JC Penney is in a CP-1 zone. CITY OF KIRKSVILLE

## Kirksville Commons keeps growing with Old Navy addition

**Austin Miller**  
Kirksville Daily Express  
USA TODAY NETWORK

The Kirksville Commons shopping center continues to grow, with an Old Navy soon joining its ranks.

This year, a Kentucky Fried Chicken restaurant and a T-Mobile store have opened. A Wendy's restaurant was also built this year and is set to open soon. With a major retail store on the way, that continues to be important real estate.

"We're glad to see the Kirksville Commons development continue to expand," said Assistant City Manager Ashley Young. "That's in no small part

because the City of Kirksville played a very important role in that development happening at all."

The Kirksville City Council passed an ordinance in 2016 to create the North Baltimore Community Improvement District. That created a taxing district where a 1-percent sales tax is incurred by customers, which then helps offset the cost of developing the area.

Hobby Lobby was the first store to open under that CID in 2017. Since then, it has been a domino effect for growth. Marshall's PetSmart, Shoe Sensation and Arby's followed in 2018. With that

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Kirksville Commons shopping center continues to grow. AUSTIN MILLER/KIRKSVILLE DAILY EXPRESS

### Having a plan

State aims to recruit and retain teachers amid shortage, 2A

### Baffled by inconsistencies

Parents get upset when school rules are lacking regarding COVID-19, 4A

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## NEWS



Teacher Nicole Petrich teaches students last year in a classroom at Oak Terrace Elementary School in Highwood, Ill. NAM Y. HUH/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

## State aims to recruit, retain teachers amid shortage

**Roger McKinney**  
Columbia Daily Tribune  
USA TODAY NETWORK

A new initiative from the Missouri education department aims to relieve the teacher shortage being felt around the state.

The Missouri Department of Elementary and Secondary Education this week launched TeachMo.org, calling it a "digitally powered recruitment platform" to identify and cultivate new teachers. It's a collaboration with TEACH, a national, not-for-profit organization.

The plan also will include \$50 million over the next three years for retention and recruitment.

In Columbia Public Schools, there is not yet a teacher shortage under the strictest definition, said Jennifer Ruktad, assistant superintendent for human resources.

"We are not currently experiencing a teacher shortage, if we would define that as literally not enough teachers to teach our classes, but yes, the applicant pool has been diminishing," Ruktad said. "The situation in our state and nation is very concerning, as the number of people in teacher preparation programs, people who complete those programs, people who begin a teaching job

and people who stay past five years have all declined in the last 10 years."

Enrollment in Missouri teacher preparation programs has declined more than 25% over the past 10 years, said Paul Katnik, DESE's assistant commissioner for educator quality.

The digital platform is meant to be a "one-stop shop" telling prospective teachers, "Here's what you need to know about the profession."

Of the more than \$50 million investment over three years, grants totaling around \$11 million will be used for recruitment, Katnik said.

"The other \$40 million will be used on the retention side to help (teachers) stay in the classroom," he said.

Any given year, 11% of Missouri teachers will leave the profession, he said.

The national average is 8%. "About half of the teachers in the state have less than five years of experience," he said.

The initiative also will include public service announcements and social media campaigns, he said.

The COVID-19 pandemic has exacerbated the teacher shortage, Katnik said.

"Our strategy is aimed at, 'You and I both had a teacher who helped us get where we are,'" Katnik said. "It is the profession that prepares people for all

other professions. The health of our state really depends on supporting and being thankful for them."

### Teacher preparation

Enrollment in the teacher education program at the University of Missouri College of Education has rebounded since a low point in 2017, said Jennifer Fellabaum-Toston, associate dean of student success and academic affairs.

There is a national trend in enrollment declines, however, she said.

The pandemic is partly to blame. "It's an extremely rewarding career, but it's a tough job," Fellabaum-Toston said.

The Missouri Partnership for Education Renewal at MU can offer support to teachers, she said. It has an early career scholars program that provides mentors to teachers early in their careers.

There's a weariness teachers and others are feeling, Fellabaum-Toston said.

"I think everyone is feeling the heaviness of the global pandemic," she said. "The people on the ground are often the folks who feel that most deeply."

There were 172 students starting the teacher education program in the fall, she said.

TeachMo.org, also known as Teach

Missouri, has promise, she said. She participated in a presentation about it as it was being developed.

"I'm excited to see where Teach Missouri takes us," she said.

Enrollment in the teacher education program at Columbia College has remained steady over the years, said Sandra Hamar, dean of the School of Humanities, Arts and Social Science.

She sees the teacher shortage in rural areas of the state, she said.

"This is not a brand new thing," she said. "It's reaching a more critical level."

TeachMo.org is a big push, but better funding for teacher pay also is needed, she said.

"Demands on the teachers are up," Hamar said. "I hope we can keep them in the classroom."

For those wanting to get into teaching, Columbia College offers evening and virtual courses on Zoom so students can stay in their current jobs while studying, she said.

The pandemic hurt education, Hamar said.

"The pandemic damaged the field of teaching from both sides," she said.

COVID-19 also has provided education students important lessons, said Molly Taylor, clinical director in

**See TEACHERS, Page 3A**



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## Addition

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CID incentive in place, businesses were attracted with the spot.

In 2019 and 2020, the North Baltimore CID had sales tax revenue of more than \$106,000. That grew in 2021 as new businesses opened, with the city anticipating more than \$135,000 in revenue for the year. With more development happening, the city has budgeted \$155,110 in sales tax revenue for 2022.

Kirksville has three other Community Improvement Districts (Baltimore Commons, Franklin Street and South 63 Corridor). Young said using those CIDs is an important method for the city.

"Our community and our region has reaped the benefits of this city's ability to utilize the appropriate economic development incentives to ensure that our community continues to grow," Young said.

Construction at the future Old Navy site has started, but Young said he didn't yet know an estimated date of opening. He said this was a deal that was in development for several years.

It was not made possible through the

city's agreement with NextSite, a marketing and consulting firm that the city has a three-year agreement with. The goal of that agreement is to help bring retail operations to Kirksville.

Young said the pandemic continues to affect NextSite, with many of the trade shows and conventions it uses being unavailable. He said some of those functions are picking up once again. Though the city hasn't yet gotten anything out of that agreement, Young expects that could change soon.

The city has asked NextSite to prioritize marketing vacant spaces in the city rather than green grass development. As the Old Navy development shows, the city has a track record of finding and making those opportunities happen. So its preference is to fill available buildings.

With growth happening at Kirksville Commons, and more expected in the coming years, the traffic situation will continue to be a focus. Getting the third lane constructed along North Baltimore will be a key part of that — and was a reason why the city applied for the Governor's Cost Share Program to help fund it.

After getting delayed, that construction project is set to happen next year, with a bid to be awarded in January.

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# LGBTQ community isn't waiting for Equality Act to pass

Advocates establish their own safe and welcoming spaces

Claire Thornton USA TODAY

WASHINGTON — When driving home to see family, Rachel Pike bases the six-hour trip to Madison, Ohio, on which gas station convenience stores have single-stall restrooms with doors facing the outside of the building. That way, Pike can avoid uncomfortable glances and tense encounters with people who think they're in the wrong bathroom.

"It is shocking to people who don't live like this," said Pike, who is gender-queer and uses the gender-neutral pronoun "they." "Using a restroom shouldn't have to be so scary."

President Joe Biden vowed that enacting the Equality Act, which prohibits discrimination on the basis of gender in public accommodations such as stores and restaurants, would be a top priority in his first 100 days in the White House. That deadline is long gone, and the Equality Act languishes in the Senate despite support from the majority of Americans.

LGBTQ advocates said they don't have a choice but to try to create safe places for their community on their own, without the help lawmakers promised.

Through community building and political organizing, LGBTQ advocates try to make public spaces, schools and federally funded programs, such as day care, safer and more accessible for their communities, which increasingly include people who are transgender or nonbinary.

This year, Pike became a leader among the country's LGBTQ social activists, hosting live events on Instagram and collaborating with dozens of other queer and lesbian bar owners to raise money for business costs amid the pandemic.

Pike and their fiancée, Jo McDaniel, signed a lease this month for a new LGBTQ bar called As You Are in Washington. The couple said they want to create a place where no patrons fear being treated differently because of their gender identity.

"We want to be able to hang out with people that are different from us and the same as us and just be safe," Pike, 36, said.

Even though there's growing support for LGBTQ rights among Americans, conservative state lawmakers passed a record number of bills this year restricting the rights of transgender kids — which the Equality Act could overturn if passed.

In the run-up to the 2022 midterm elections, conservatives rally their base by seizing on issues such as restricting athletes to sports corresponding to their assigned sex at birth.

Transgender Americans said they are increasingly becoming political pawns.

"We find ourselves in this game, this social game" said Professor Talia Bettcher, who teaches transgender studies at California State University, Los Angeles. "Our entire social life is subject to rules, and it's subject to rules that half the time we don't even think about."

This spring, transgender activist Carmarion Anderson-Harvey spent hours on the floor of the Alabama Legislature speaking against two state bills that would restrict transgender kids' access to school sports and health care.

Anderson-Harvey started her work advocating for LGBTQ rights during the HIV/AIDS epidemic. She said seeing more than a generation's worth of anti-LGBTQ rhetoric from elected officials motivates her to keep fighting on behalf of trans kids as the Alabama state director for the Human Rights Campaign.

"These lawmakers are finding ways as a political score to marginalize the most marginalized of the LGBTQ community, and now they went a step further into our youth community," Anderson-Harvey said.

In April, Alabama's bill that would have banned best practice medical care for transgender youth died in the state Legislature after trans kids and their parents spoke to lawmakers about the medical treatments they needed.

Alabama's governor signed HB391 into law, banning transgender students from playing sports with students who share their gender identity.

"The female would not have a chance competing against a male athlete," said the bill's primary sponsor, Republican Rep. Scott Stadhagen.

In March, during the first and most recent Senate Judiciary Committee hearing about the Equality Act, which would expand Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964 to include LGBTQ people and women and create additional protections for people of color, immigrants and religious groups, lawmakers focused their arguments against the bill mainly on the issue of transgender girls in sports.

A USA TODAY investigation found proponents of banning transgender girls from sports enabled coaches and

See EQUALITY, Page 4A



Camden Hargrove of Menomonie, Wis., says it's very important that his daughter Marietta and her sister feel proud. STEPHEN MATUREN FOR USA TODAY



Volunteers from Hope's Kitchen work during a meal service last year. PROVIDED BY HOPE'S KITCHEN

## Hope's Kitchen fundraiser brings in \$850 in first week

Kirkville Daily Express  
USA TODAY NETWORK

The annual Daily Express Hope's Kitchen fundraiser has raised \$850 through its first week.

The fundraiser opened Nov. 6, so this total and listed donations are those received between then and Nov. 15.

For those interested in donation, you may bring a donation to the Daily Express office (located at 701 East LaHarpe Street, Suite C) or mail it in. Donations can also be sent to A.T. Still University (800 West Jefferson

Street), with "ATSU/Hope's Kitchen" in the address line. And there is also a PayPal link available on the kitchen's website.

Here is the first batch of folks who have donated to the fundraiser:

Andrew Rowe; Terri Christman; Gene and Karen Croarkin; Betty Jay; In loving memory of John and Anna Giovannini by Marianna Giovannini; Charlie Thompson; Jacobs Land and Cattle Co; Larry Athon; Dave and Lynn Petre; Delgean and Dawn Burgin; Nicholas and Holly Bell; Curtis and Kira Burgin; Jacob Burgin; Ron and Sandi Darr; Grant and Garrett; Tysen and Kim Petre; Isabella.

## Hitting the road for the holidays?

Lauren Zumbach Chicago Tribune  
TRIBUNE NEWS SERVICE

People renting cars for holiday trips may be in for some sticker shock.

Rental car companies have brought in more vehicles since shortages sent prices sky-high this summer, but rates are rising again as more people prepare to hit the road over Thanksgiving and the winter holidays.

"The holidays are looking better than this summer, but I wouldn't be celebrating too much. It's still a pricey time to rent a car, and we predict that it will be for quite some time moving forward," said Matt Clarke, vice president of North America marketing at travel search company Kayak.

Just how much rates are expected to go up depends on who you ask and where you're renting.

Kayak estimates average rental prices in Chicago over Thanksgiving are about \$104 per day, up 90% compared with the same period in 2019. Nationwide, rates averaged \$97 per day, though New Yorkers are expected to pay even more: about \$135 per day over Thanksgiving.

Christmas rates in Chicago were about \$102 per day, up about 65% compared with 2019, according to Kayak.

AAA forecast a more modest increase, with an average daily car rental

rate of \$98 across 20 U.S. locations over Thanksgiving, up just 4% from last year but nearly 31% higher than 2019.

Finding vehicles can also be a challenge in certain areas. Victoria Park, 42, of Chicago's Lakeview neighborhood, booked a rental from Thrifty for a trip to Phoenix last weekend because her usual car rental company was sold out. But when her flight landed, Thrifty had closed early because it was out of cars, she said.

Other airport rental agencies were fully booked too. Park took an Uber to her hotel and eventually got a refund through American Express Travel, which she used to book the rental.

"I understand there's a shortage ... but at least let us know ahead of time. Even if they'd sent an email while we were on the plane, we could have made arrangements so we weren't just stranded," she said.

Drivers will also shell out more to fill the tank. Gasoline prices were 49.6% higher in October than they were a year ago, according to the most recent Consumer Price Index report from the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics.

More than 53.4 million are expected to travel for the Thanksgiving holiday, up 13% compared with last year and within 5% of 2019, AAA said in a news release Tuesday. About 90% of those travelers are expected to drive.

## Teachers

Continued from Page 2A

education. She places student-teachers in schools.

"It taught students a lot of lessons about turning on a dime," Taylor said.

Columbia College students also work with trauma-informed teaching to help students with emotional and behavioral issues, Taylor said.

### In the classrooms

More veteran teachers are considering retiring early because of the pandemic and its effects, said Noelle Gilzow, president of the Columbia teachers' union.

"This is a very tough year," she said. "We thought last year was tough."

Some students with behavior problems, likely a result of the pandemic, are acting out against teachers, sometimes aggressively, she said.

"It's just really tough," Gilzow said. "Teachers are getting hurt."

It's leading some teachers to second-guess their career choice, she said.

New teachers aren't as invested in the career and may be more likely to pursue other fields more quickly, she said.

The school district also sometimes is just a stopover for new teachers before they return to a district where they're from, she said.

Most community members support teachers, but a "loud minority" during the pandemic have sent a message that

they're not appreciated, she said.

"You have your heart in it, but maybe you're not feeling supported and you decide you can make more money elsewhere," Gilzow said.

Money must be part of the conversation and the solution, Gilzow and others said.

"Every single year, everybody gives it lip service" without taking action on teacher pay, said Todd Fuller, spokesman for the Missouri State Teachers Association, a statewide teachers' organization with headquarters on the University of Missouri campus.

Teacher pay has to be competitive with that of other professions, not just with teacher pay in other states, he said.

"Teachers should be paid their worth," Fuller said. "We don't see that."

Is the state's plan a good one?

"I think the DESE initiative is a step in the right direction," Fuller said. "Right now it's directed at individuals and how they can make a job change into the teaching profession."

Where it may be lacking is a focus on keeping veteran teachers in their jobs, he said.

"We have one of the longest tenure periods for teachers," Fuller said. "A lot of times new teachers decide in the first few years there's no loss in moving to another profession."

Teachers must be employed five consecutive years in the same school district to achieve tenure.

Teachers are feeling a lack of empowerment, he said.

# Parents baffled by inconsistencies in schools' quarantining, tracing rules

## But parents get equally upset when rules lacking

Sheila Mulrooney Eldred

Kaiser Health News

At this point in the coronavirus pandemic, most parents are familiar with "COVID notification" letters. But the letters' instruction on whether your kid must quarantine or not varies wildly from school to school.

In Minneapolis, students exposed to COVID-19 at school are supposed to quarantine for 10 days. In Minnesota's nearby Anoka-Hennepin school district, a single exposure does not trigger contact tracing or quarantining.

In Andover, Kansas, schools follow quarantine protocols set by county health departments. With students from different counties attending the same school, those sitting next to one another in classrooms could be quarantined based on two sets of rules.

In Anchorage, Alaska, and many schools in Texas, close contacts of classmates who test positive for the coronavirus are given the option to stay in class or to quarantine. In suburban Chicago, siblings of students with any symptom of COVID-19 are required to quarantine until their sibling tests negative.

The number and complexity of school quarantine policies – in Fort Mill, South Carolina, eight pages of guidance directs students when to quarantine – have left many parents with the impression there is little rhyme or reason in quarantining one student and not a classmate. Sometimes rules seem to vary within families: Christina Kennedy, a teacher in Bend, Oregon, got a call when her son was exposed to a positive case in August, and he was required to quarantine. But when her daughter was a close contact to a positive case, no call ever came.

"Unfortunately, we have a natural experiment going on across the country when it comes to schools reopening, particularly regarding quarantining," said Dr. Leana Wen, a public health professor at George Washington University. "Some of it is understandable, but there is a piecemeal approach for certain when it comes to various approaches."

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention's guidance calls for unvaccinated children exposed to someone who tests positive for the virus that causes COVID-19 to quarantine for a length of time determined locally. But a state or county or school district's decision to



Marion County Public School Bus Driver Terri Haynes sanitizes her bus before leaving the bus compound Aug. 16. "Unfortunately, we have a natural experiment going on across the country when it comes to schools reopening, particularly regarding quarantining," said Dr. Leana Wen, a public health professor at George Washington University. "Some of it is understandable, but there is a piecemeal approach for certain when it comes to various approaches." DOUG ENGLE/OCALA STARBANNER – USA TODAY NETWORK

impose a quarantine requirement is haphazard. An informal coalition that advocates for in-person learning, Ed300, found that 31 states are not automatically quarantining students from close-contact exposures.

"What we have learned from this pandemic is that when there is not a directive, school districts will behave autonomously and you'll get this kind of outcome – good, bad or otherwise," said David Law, superintendent of the Anoka-Hennepin School District.

Schools in his state act independently, Law noted.

That's true in many other areas, too. "Principals and county health officials have a lot of leeway," said Leslie Bienen, a parent involved with Ed300 and a faculty member at the Oregon Health & Science University-Portland State University School of Public Health.

"The quarantine could be seven or 14 days," Bienen said, and local officials have a lot of say in determining who qualifies as a close contact – defined by the CDC as being within 6 feet of someone for a cumulative total of at least 15 minutes over a 24-hour period. But the agency has also recommended that schools maintain at least 3 feet of distance between students.

Local control isn't necessarily a bad thing – schools should be the ones setting their rules, Wen said – but that's why things can look so different from one school to the next, no matter how close they are in proximity.

Kennedy, the teacher in Bend, Oregon, works at a private school, and her husband teaches at a public school her kids attend.

"The private school is much more

prone to shutting down entire classrooms than the public school," Kennedy said. "I know of three entire classrooms shut down since September at my private school," while none have been shuttered in the public system.

Districts in the same county, under the purview of the same public health officials, are handling guidelines differently, she pointed out. "Nothing is consistent. They say it's all based on science, but we're not allowed to question or point out anything. Why is it this way here and this way there? It's super-frustrating as a parent and as a teacher," Kennedy said.

Another frequent complaint: Policies differ depending on whether students are there for school or for after-school activities or whether an activity is a community or sporting event. "What really irritates our community is that you can show up for a community event at the school or spend four hours at a sporting event and no one gets quarantined, but you can sit next to someone for 40 minutes during the school day and be out of school for 10 days," Law said.

The confusion has left many parents wondering whether policymakers have done their homework.

Jessica Butler Bell, vice president of communications for Webster Elementary's PTA in California's Santa Monica-Malibu Unified School District, said parents are asking: "Are we really following the science? Or are we being too careful?" It has to be rooted in logic, and I think people are going, 'Have you thought this through?'"

Bienen co-wrote an opinion piece in *The Wall Street Journal* titled "It's Madness to Quarantine Schoolchildren," cit-

ing research showing that only a small percentage of students quarantined ended up testing positive for the coronavirus as a result of the school-based contact. The group also says data from Portland Public Schools shows students who attend Title I schools – those that receive special federal funding because they serve large numbers of low-income families – are more likely to be quarantined.

"Kids with means go on vacation or to their grandparents when they're quarantined," Kennedy said. "That's great for them, but what about kids who don't have parents at home? They're sitting at home with no learning, no food, no services. It exacerbates the inequities."

But parents get equally upset when rules are lacking: Wen said she has heard of parents doing their own informal contact tracing when they think their schools aren't doing a thorough job.

The complicated policies have other repercussions. Some parents grow reluctant to test their kids, Kennedy said, for fear that a positive test will force them out of school or activities. And at some schools, she said, teachers delay giving out seating charts to school nurses or other public health officials for contact tracing, knowing that kids may have to quarantine after the information is shared.

Some schools are piloting a possible solution: replacing quarantines with a "test to stay" policy. Under such a policy, any student considered a close contact would be able to take a rapid test and show a negative result to stay in school and avoid quarantine. CDC Director Rochelle Walensky recently noted "we are working with states to evaluate a test-to-stay policy as a promising potential new strategy for schools. And we anticipate that there will be guidance forthcoming."

Wen said she is optimistic the policy could help. "It's a way to prevent kids from being out of school."

In Santa Monica-Malibu, one frustration Butler Bell hears from parents is that there's no plan for ending quarantines and other layers of protection.

Parents often feel their concerns are not being considered, Kennedy said. "If (decision-makers) spent one hour inside an actual classroom, they would make different decisions."

*Kaiser Health News is a national newsroom that produces in-depth journalism about health issues. Together with Policy Analysis and Polling, KHN is one of the three major operating programs at Kaiser Family Foundation. KFF is an endowed nonprofit organization providing information on health issues to the nation.*

## Equality

Continued from Page 3A

parents to more easily scrutinize and target all female athletes, including cisgender girls, based on their physical appearance alone.

Voting data shows women – more so than men – are more inclined to back political candidates who stand for LGBTQ rights.

Nearly 4 in 10 (37%) of general election voters in the 2020 presidential election prioritized LGBTQ issues at the ballot box, and the majority (60%) of those voters were women, according to the Human Rights Campaign.

"Those that are the least among us have come together, so we can actually build a greater army to produce change," Anderson-Harvey said. "When that change happens in the women community, it transfers over to the LGBTQ community."

Women are more likely than men to identify as LGBTQ: 6.4% of adult women identify with the acronym compared with 4.9% of men, according to a Gallup poll.

### 'They can come and be safe'

Anderson-Harvey said she thinks all women and girls, both trans and cisgender, experience the outside world scrutinizing their bodies.

Camden Hargrove knows what that's like.

Hargrove, who was assigned female at birth and grew up as a girl, remembers getting cat-called in middle school by men speeding by, yelling out of car windows.

"It obviously doesn't happen to me now," said Hargrove, a trans man.

Throughout his adolescence in Rac-

ine, Wisconsin, Hargrove said, he didn't have a choice but to see the world around him through different, often contrasting perspectives.

Growing up in a mixed-race family, he said, he wondered why his white grandparents owned their home while his Black relatives rented government subsidized apartments in over-policed neighborhoods.

Because of his biracial and transgender identities, Hargrove, 31, said he's been forced to think about how people are treated differently because of how they look – either because of their race, gender or both.

"I have experienced the world in two different ways," he said.

Hargrove said after he medically transitioned in his early 20s, he started noticing men use more derogatory language to describe women in all-male social settings.

"It's just like how trolls online would never say that stuff to people in person," he said. "Dudes say a bunch of things together, alone, that they don't say out loud to females because they know it's disrespectful."

In Hargrove's family home in Menomonie, Wisconsin, where the bedroom floors are littered with children's books such as "Happy to Be Nappy" by bell hooks and "The Colors of Us" by Karen Katz, he said he teaches his two daughters, Joella, 13, and Marietta, 6, to be proud of who they are.

"It is very important for me to make sure they feel proud of being brown, they feel very proud and confident of being female, because I know how hard that struggle can be," he said.

This fall, Hargrove became the national organizing manager for the National Black Justice Coalition, one of the country's leading civil rights groups for Black LGBTQ people.

As part of his role, he worked with

two lesbian parents who said their family was discriminated against while trying to enroll their child in day care. They said their application was accepted, then rejected when both women showed up to the facility as a couple.

Hargrove said without sexual orientation and gender identity included in Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964, there's "no deterrent" for what happened.

The parents were connected with the Department of Education, which under President Biden has said Title IX prohibits discrimination against LGBTQ students.

For LGBTQ Americans to have lasting federal discrimination protections, Hargrove said, they need the security only the Equality Act can provide.

"Not all people currently have all of the rights," he said. "It's something that could create immediate, lasting change for an entire community of people and all of their family and loved ones."

In Hargrove's neighborhood in Menomonie, Joella follows in her dad's footsteps by acting as a support system for her transgender classmates.

Four teenagers from Joella's school come over to Hargrove's house on a weekly basis seeking solace, sometimes because people "deadname" or misgender them, referring to them using incorrect names and genders. The kids can stay for dinner or spend the night if they need to, Hargrove said.

"We can always be the place where people feel like they can come and be safe," Hargrove said. "We will always find a way to take care of those kids."

### Gender can influence interactions

When Pike asks for the single-stall restroom key at gas stations along their driving route, they are given either the men's or women's restroom key by the

person standing behind the cash register. "Whichever they gave me based on their assumption of my gender, I'd use it," Pike said.

At restaurants, Pike's teenage kid helps scope out the restroom situation ahead of time and often accompanies Pike to the bathroom, so they don't face any unwanted tension alone.

Bettcher said because gender is "written onto" people's bodies and the clothes they wear, gender can determine how they interact with each other.

"Sometimes people think of gender as specifically concerning the atomic individual. But to me, the key is to think of gender as relational. It's about how we interact with each other," said Bettcher, who created and helped implement policies for how the Los Angeles Police Department should interact with transgender people.

At their new bar in Washington's Barracks Row, Pike and McDaniel said, they'll have a zero tolerance policy for disrespecting someone's identity or behaving nonconsensually.

McDaniel, who has worked in the bar and restaurant industry for 16 years, said she's seen all too many times how anyone – regardless of gender – can behave inappropriately toward other patrons on a night out.

"The thing about toxic masculinity is you don't have to be a man to exhibit it," McDaniel, 40, said.

Even though As You Are will be mainly for queer Washingtonians, McDaniel said the relevance of people's LGBTQ identity will be secondary to their ability to do right by the people around them.

"It's not who you are or how you present," McDaniel said. "It's your behavior that will determine whether or not this place is for you."

# Readers share thoughts on neglected spouses



**Dear Annie**  
Annie Lane

**Dear Readers:** Many of you wrote about why the husband of “Neglected Spouse” has not had sex with her in years. We received quite a variety of opinions and comments; here is a sampling:

**Dear Annie:** “Neglected Spouse” wrote that her husband hasn’t shown interest in her sexually throughout their 30-year marriage. Your answer was thoughtful and encouraging. But I have experienced the same situation in my 37-year marriage because of something rarely discussed. People, especially men, who have autism spectrum disorders like Asperger’s syndrome sometimes act like the writer’s husband regarding sexuality. Asperger’s is a developmental disorder that can affect every part of life.

I’ve found peace with my autistic husband, and I hope that others may find their own peace.

*Been There*

**Dear Annie:** Reading the letter from “Neglected,” I was like, “I wrote it.” My husband and I had the same issues, only he showed signs of infidelity. We are now divorced.

I am in counseling, and I am happy. I am no longer bitter, so I can be cordial with the guy, who is obviously

not happy with his choices.

*Beautiful, Inside and Out*

**Dear Annie:** Unfortunately, her husband ignores the therapist option. This could be a chemical/libido problem. I’d say a doctor’s visit is needed for him. A hormone checkup may help!

*Reader in Italy*

**Dear Annie:** I empathize with the woman who is in a platonic relationship with her husband. I had a similar experience and relate to her need for closeness.

I struggled for seven-plus years with a husband who refused to discuss what was wrong. He pretended to be impotent. I discovered him in the kitchen during the night watching porn and masturbating. Still, he refused to discuss what was wrong except that it was “me.” He refused counseling.

We are divorced, and I am happier. My advice to “Neglected” is to let him go.

*Speaking from Experience*

**Dear Annie:** “Neglected Spouse” should consider that her husband is probably gay. I was married for 20 years to a man who pretended at first. He was a great actor. But eventually, he became emotionally abusive, saying it was my fault that he didn’t want to have sex with me.

I lost my sense of myself as a woman. I couldn’t leave the children, and I didn’t believe I could support them myself. He developed alcoholism, and Al-Anon finally helped me get myself back. My kids were grown when I left, and it took 14 years of being alone before I

could make another connection.

I met a wonderful man and had 20 years with him, both of us older and wiser and much happier. I wish I had had the strength to get out of that first marriage sooner. Tell her she can find someone who will love her for herself. And he should admit he is gay and find a man who will love him for himself!

*Married to a Gay Man*

**Dear Annie:** My spouse and I have both been married before. There was no wedding night; my husband had said he wanted to “wait till after marriage” but then said health issues made sex impossible. Coming home from work early, I found him in full performance, watching porn. He confessed to a porn addiction.

I sought a marriage annulment, but the lawyer scoffed and said I’d waited too long and “there are many reasons to be married.” We went to counseling and agreed that he’d abstain when I was home, and I would schedule time away. Fast-forward 12 years; we’re both retired. I have hobbies, volunteer work and friends, and I know that my happiness is no one’s job but mine.

*Not What I Expected, but OK in Nevada*

*“Ask Me Anything: A Year of Advice From Dear Annie” is out now! Annie Lane’s debut book – featuring favorite columns on love, friendship, family and etiquette – is available as a paperback and e-book. Visit [creatorspublishing.com](http://creatorspublishing.com) for more information. Send your questions for Annie Lane to [dearannie@creators.com](mailto:dearannie@creators.com).*



**Hints From Heloise**  
Heloise

## The key to coffee is moderation

**Dear Heloise:** My husband and I are wondering about the benefits of coffee.

I know it gives me a jolt of energy in the morning when I need it most, but my husband said it’s just a “junk food” that Americans are addicted to out of habit.

Is there any benefit to coffee other than the caffeine?

I drink my coffee black.

*Belinda M., Rockford, Illinois*

**Belinda:** Coffee is an old drink that goes back to around 850 A.D. in Ethiopia. People have been drinking it ever since its discovery. According to the website “Nourish by Web MD,” coffee might benefit your gut microbiome. It also contains a very healthy dose of antioxidants, and many people feel better after 3 to 4 cups of black coffee per day.

However, like so many things in life, the key is moderation. If you add sugar and cream, you are adding calories and fat to your coffee consumption, which may leave little benefit to drinking coffee. Coffee also can increase your blood pressure and should only be consumed after a doctor’s recommendation on when and how much coffee you can drink.

There are also medications and health conditions that might cause you to either limit or exclude coffee drinking.

*Heloise*

**Dear Heloise:** A lot of men won’t admit it, but some of us love to bake.

I’m one of those guys who enjoys a delicious cake or homemade pie. I would like to get the recipe for your Light Velvet Cake. I have a wonderful butter cream frosting recipe that I’ll use to frost the cake rather than the cream cheese frosting usually used. I plan to bring this cake to a family gathering at Thanksgiving.

*Joseph H., Port Huron, Michigan*

**Joseph:** I love to bake as well. The Light Velvet Cake is one of my favorites. You’ll need:

2½ cups unbleached flour  
1 egg plus 2 egg whites  
1 cup sugar  
1 cup canola oil  
1 teaspoon baking powder  
1 cup buttermilk  
1 teaspoon cocoa powder  
1 teaspoon white vinegar  
1 teaspoon baking soda  
1½ teaspoons vanilla  
½ teaspoon salt  
½ cup walnuts, chopped and toasted 8-10 minutes at 350 degrees in the oven, and divided

Combine all dry ingredients except the nuts in a large mixing bowl. Combine liquid ingredients in a separate bowl. Pour liquid into dry ingredients and mix well. Stir in ¼ cup toasted nuts.

Pour batter into three 8-inch round cake pans that have been sprayed with a nonstick vegetable coating.

Bake at 350 F for 25 to 30 minutes, until cake springs back when gently touched with a finger.

Allow to cool, then frost the cake.

Sprinkle the rest of the toasted nuts on top of the cake after frosting.

Enjoy!

This tasty treat can be found along with many other recipes in my pamphlet “Heloise’s Cake Recipes.” Just go to [Heloise.com](http://Heloise.com) or send \$3, along with a stamped, self-addressed long envelope to: Heloise/Cake, P.O. Box 795001, San Antonio, TX 78279-5001. There’s nothing like a homemade dessert to finish a meal.

*Heloise*

### IN YOUR OWN BACKYARD

*Debi Boughton, Kirksville Tourism director, has some suggestions for enjoying time “In Your Own Backyard.” For any activities, be sure to follow the CDC guidelines for health and safety. If you have ideas or suggestions, email [debi.boughton@visitkirksville.com](mailto:debi.boughton@visitkirksville.com).*

#### Nov. 18-21

The Kirksville High School Drama and Music Departments invite you to Shrek, the Musical, performed at the William Matthew Middle School at 7 p.m. Thursday-Saturday and 2 p.m. Sunday. For costs and more information, call 660-665-4631.

#### Thursday, Nov. 18

Opera fans are invited to the Truman Opera Theater at 7:30 p.m. in the Ophelia Parrish Performance Hall on the Truman campus. For more information, call 660-785-4417.

#### Saturday, Nov. 20

It is time for Christmas in Novinger. Enjoy the 35th Country Christmas Craft Festival at the Novinger

School and the Holiday Bazaar at the Novinger Community Center from 9 a.m.-3 p.m. and the Shopper’s Delight at the Novinger Fire House from 9 a.m.-4 p.m. For more information, call 660-342-6455.

#### Monday, Nov. 22

Spend \$10 or more at local businesses from now until Dec. 31 for the chance to win prizes. Deposit shopping receipt into a collection box on the counter of the participating business for a chance to win. Three winners will be picked Jan. 6 at the Kirksville Chamber of Commerce. For more information, go to [kirksvillechamber.com/shop-small](http://kirksvillechamber.com/shop-small).

#### Tuesday, Nov. 23

The Missouri Conservation Department is hosting its annual wreath making with Nature workshop for participants 18 and older. Participants, ages 14-17, are welcome to attend with an adult. There are two opportunities. One is from 1-3 p.m. and the other is from 6-8 p.m. Both take place at the Missouri Conservation Center, 3500 S. Baltimore. The event is free, but registration in required by 5 p.m. Nov. 21. Register at [www.mdc.mo.gov/events](http://www.mdc.mo.gov/events). For more information, call 660-785-2420.

## Obituaries

### TODAY’S OBITUARIES AND DEATH NOTICES

Name	Age	Town, State	Death Date	Arrangements
*Meline, Evelyn M. “Shorty”	94	Brashear, MO	13-Nov	Davis-Playle-Hudson-Rimer Funeral Home

**\* Additional information in display obituaries**

*Obituaries appear in print and online at [legacy.com/obituaries/kirksvilledailyexpress](http://legacy.com/obituaries/kirksvilledailyexpress)*

#### Evelyn M. “Shorty” Meline

**BRASHEAR** - Evelyn M. “Shorty” Meline, 94 of Brashear passed away Saturday, November 13, 2021 at Kirksville Manor Care.

The daughter of Charles and Opal (Walters) Eagle, she was born January 27, 1927 in Hurdland, Missouri. On October 10, 1945 in Brashear she was united in marriage to Rex Meline.

Shorty is survived by her two sons, David Meline and wife Nancy of Westmont, IL and Douglas Meline and wife Reta of Kirksville; three grandchildren, Timothy Meline, Brandon Meline, and Trey Meline; one step granddaughter, Carrie Theis; five great grandchildren; and one sister, Geraldine Fast of Ewing, MO.

She was preceded in death by her parents; and her husband, Rex on April 3, 2011.

Shorty grew up in Brashear and graduated from the Brashear High School in 1943. She graduated from Gem City Business School. Shorty and Rex have made their home in Brashear since 1950. They ran the Meline DX Station for 36 years until they retired in 1986. She also sold Avon for several years.

She was a member of the Brashear Community Bible Church since she was a little girl. She enjoyed spending winters in Florida, playing bingo and traveling. She was proud of the article she wrote on the Brashear community that was published in the Adair County Historical Society magazine.

Visitation will be from 1:00 to 3:00 p.m. Tuesday, November 16, 2021 with funeral service at 3:00 p.m. at Davis-Playle-Hudson-Rimer Funeral Home. Burial will be in Park View Memorial Gardens.

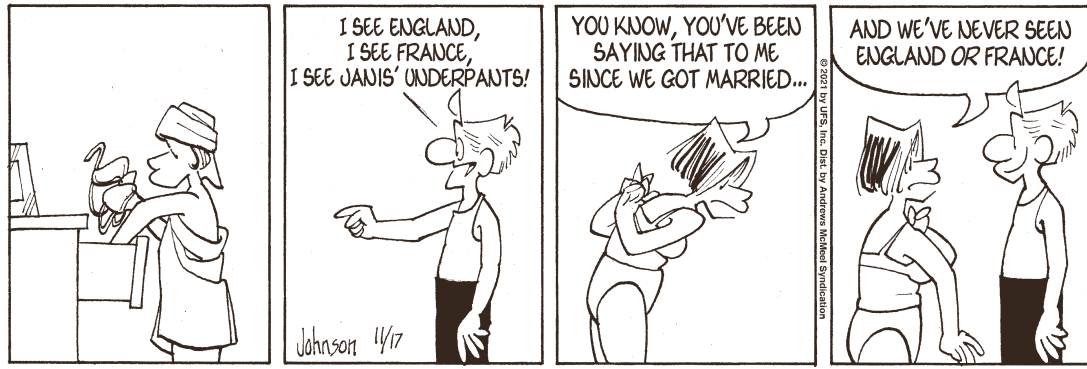
Memorials in memory of Shorty are suggested to the American Cancer Society.

Arrangements in the care of Davis-Playle-Hudson-Rimer Funeral Home; [www.davisplaylehudsonrimer.com](http://www.davisplaylehudsonrimer.com).



COMICS

ARLO AND JANIS



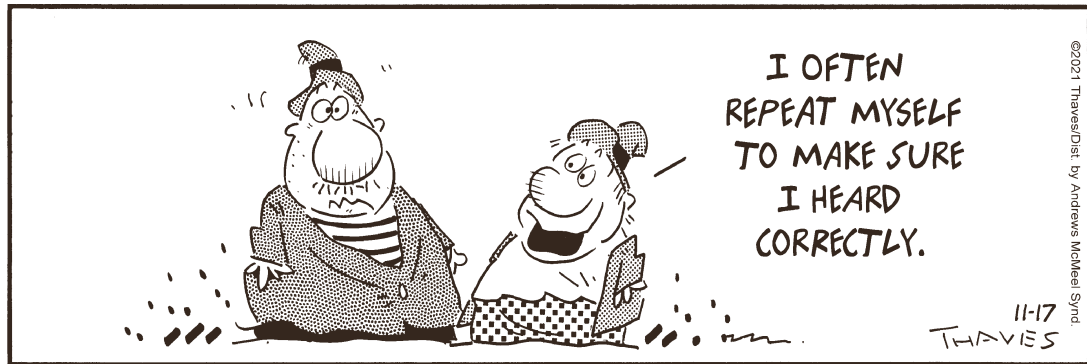
BIG NATE



THE BORN LOSER



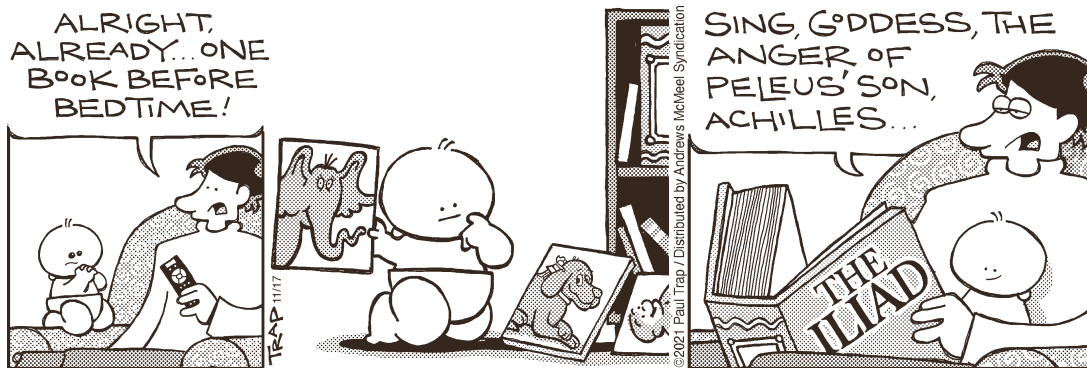
FRANK AND ERNEST



MONTY



THATABABY



SUDOKU

Each row, column and set of 3-by-3 boxes must contain the numbers 1 through 9 without repetition.

PREVIOUS ANSWER

3	1	6	2	5	4	8	7	9
7	8	5	3	1	9	6	2	4
4	2	9	8	7	6	3	1	5
8	9	2	5	3	7	1	4	6
1	5	4	9	6	8	7	3	2
6	3	7	1	4	2	9	5	8
5	7	8	6	2	3	4	9	1
2	6	3	4	9	1	5	8	7
9	4	1	7	8	5	2	6	3

6			4	2	8	1		
		7	9	3				
	2	3		6				9
9	8		4			6	1	
			2	1	6			
	6	2		9		7		5
	7			8		9	5	
				7	4	3		
		1	3	5	9			7

CROSSWORD

ACROSS

- 1 Capp or Gump
- 5 Drone or worker
- 8 "Diana" singer
- 12 Stead
- 13 Halloween mo.
- 14 Thoroughfare
- 15 Swing to and fro
- 16 Yon maiden
- 17 Springlike
- 18 Marty Robbins tune (2 wds.)
- 20 Suffix for silver or brass
- 21 Retiree's kitty
- 22 Sen. Kennedy
- 23 Whistle sound
- 26 Debonair
- 29 Fly ball paths
- 30 Veep's boss
- 31 Sporty truck
- 33 Apiece
- 34 Kind of advice

35 Make arrangements

- 36 Shade of meaning
- 38 Turns to liquid
- 39 Placed
- 40 Period
- 41 Fast horse
- 43 Fairly
- 46 With, to monsieur
- 47 Notch shape
- 48 Promises to pay
- 50 "Gee whiz!"
- 51 Household member
- 52 Columnist
- 53 Pay to the pot
- 54 ER personnel
- 55 Auditioned

DOWN

- 1 Politico
- 2 Cleopatra's river
- 3 Do business ones
- 4 Affluent ones
- 5 — nova

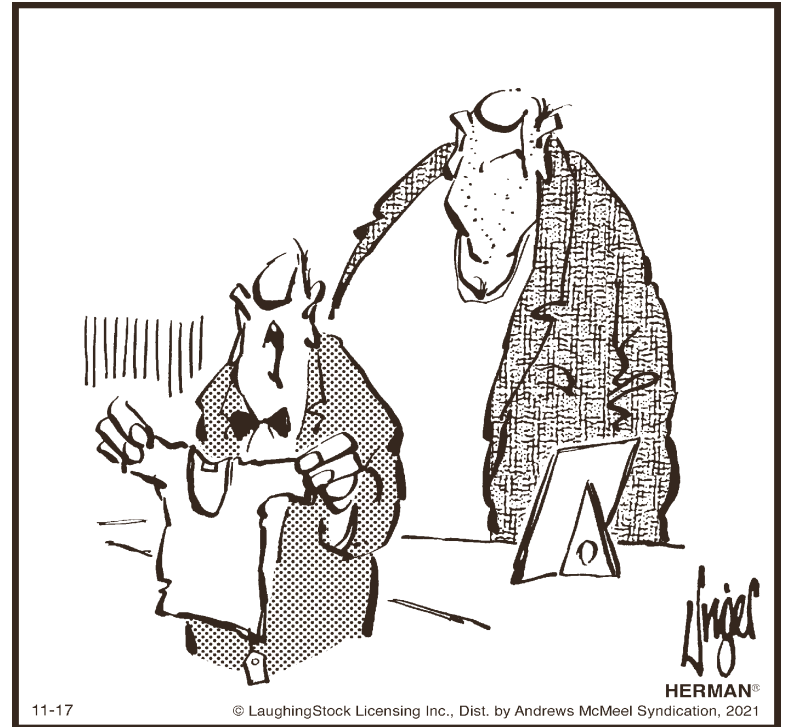
Answer to Previous Puzzle

HAW	JUAN	SETS
IRA	OHIO	KNOT
KEG	GORE	AGUA
ENOUGH	SATURN	
DANTE	DEL	
	IDEALS	FRO
DISC	AVE	LEAK
EDNA	RIG	ODES
BAA	UNDOES	
	PST	REACH
REPEAT	MARTHA	
AKIN	EGOS	LI
TENS	RARE	ANT
EDGE	MIND	SKI

1	2	3	4		5	6	7		8	9	10	11	
12					13				14				
15					16				17				
	18				19				20				
					21				22				
23	24	25				26				27	28		
29						30				31		32	
33						34				35			
	36					37				38			
						39				40			
	41	42							43		44	45	
46									47		48		49
50									51		52		
53									54		55		

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HERMAN



"Maurice, he got this home and it was too tight across his shoulders."

HOROSCOPE BY EUGENIA LAST

**Aries** (March 21-April 19): Take good care of your health. Pay attention to detail and how you present yourself at work or when dealing with anyone in a position of power. ☆☆☆

**Taurus** (April 20-May 20): Emotions will be difficult to control. Don't get bent out of shape because of what others do or say. Keep a positive attitude. ☆☆☆

**Gemini** (May 21-June 20): Go above and beyond the call of duty; your peers will look up to you. Learn from observation and experience. Invest more time and effort into updating your image. ☆☆☆

**Cancer** (June 21-July 22): Keep your documents in a safe place, and don't make promises you cannot keep. Concentrate on making positive changes that will benefit people in your community. ☆☆☆

**Leo** (July 23-Aug. 22): Say little and do a lot. If you fall short regarding responsibilities, someone will use it against you, and your reputation will be at risk. Do your best. ☆☆☆

**Virgo** (Aug. 23-Sept. 22): Chat with someone you enjoy being around. Make plans that will give you a chance to show off or do something nice for someone you love. ☆☆☆

**Libra** (Sept. 23-Oct. 22): Follow through and complete your to-do list before you move on to more enjoyable pastimes. If you neglect to do your fair share, you will face repercussions. ☆☆☆

**Scorpio** (Oct. 23-Nov. 21): Leave nothing to chance. Size up situations and make your mark. Look at the big picture, but limit expenses. Go the extra mile. ☆☆☆

**Sagittarius** (Nov. 22-Dec. 21): Adapt to the changes going on around you, and you'll find a way to take advantage of the trends that unfold. Curb your emotional reaction. ☆☆☆

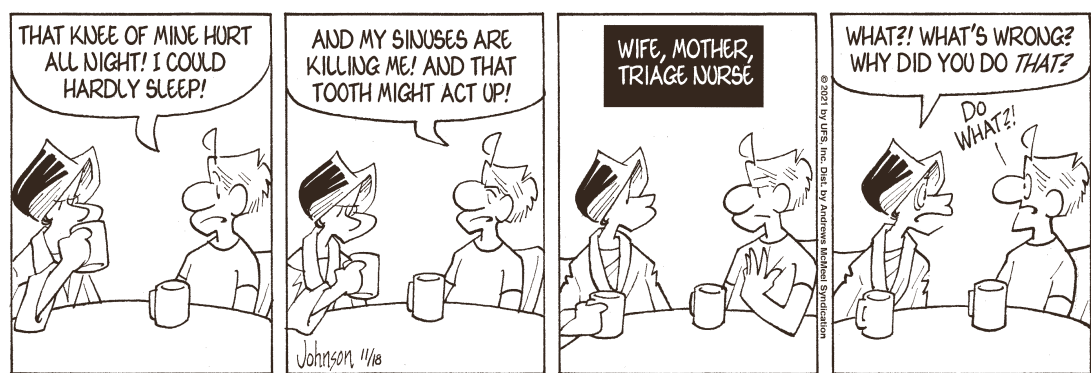
**Capricorn** (Dec. 22-Jan. 19): Alter the way you do things, and it will give you a new lease on life and love. A physical show of affection will encourage friends and family. ☆☆☆

**Aquarius** (Jan. 20-Feb. 18): Balance, equality and being fair will make a difference in the response you receive from friends, family or your lover. When in doubt, listen to reason. ☆☆☆

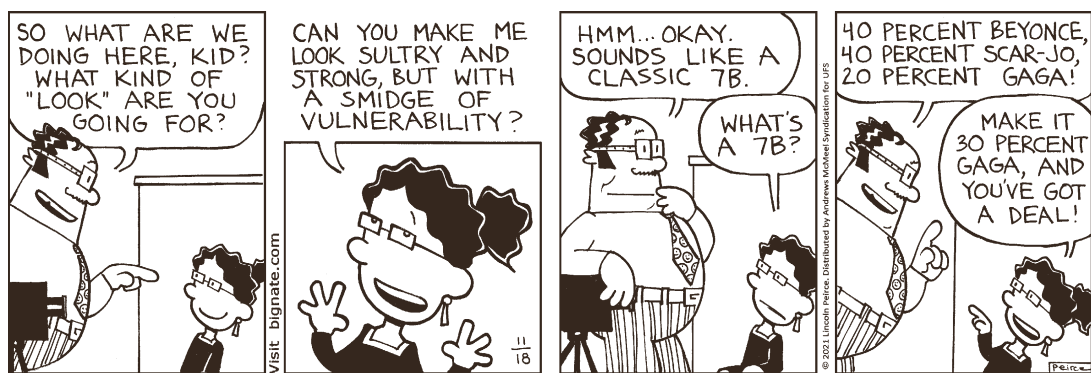
**Pisces** (Feb. 19-March 20): Dream on and let your imagination take over; follow your heart. Explore possibilities, but don't go into debt. Before you invest time and money, go over every detail. ☆☆☆

COMICS

ARLO AND JANIS



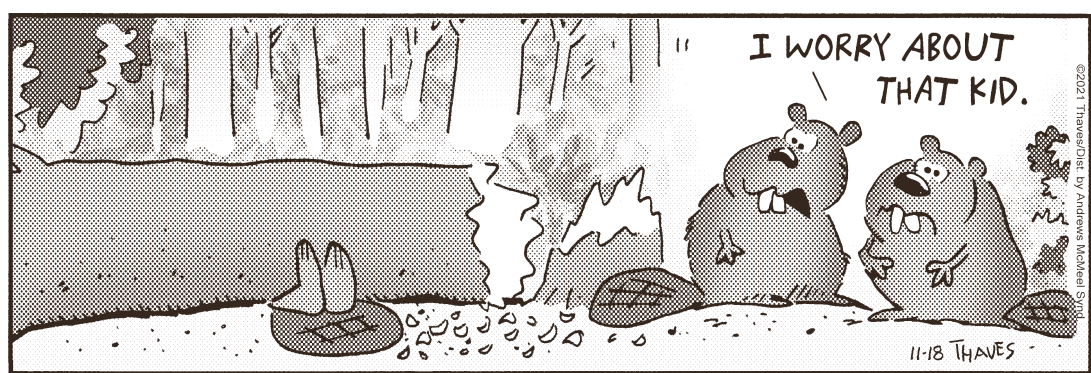
BIG NATE



THE BORN LOSER



FRANK AND ERNEST



MONTY



THATABABY



SUDOKU

Each row, column and set of 3-by-3 boxes must contain the numbers 1 through 9 without repetition.

PREVIOUS ANSWER

6	5	9	4	2	8	1	7	3
4	1	7	9	3	5	2	8	6
8	2	3	7	6	1	5	9	4
9	3	8	5	4	7	6	1	2
7	4	5	2	1	6	8	3	9
1	6	2	8	9	3	7	4	5
3	7	4	6	8	2	9	5	1
5	9	6	1	7	4	3	2	8
2	8	1	3	5	9	4	6	7

8	6	3	5		
		9	1		4
9		7	8		6
		6	4		2
	6				8
	2	3	1		
	3		2	9	7
5		1	4		
		4	7	2	5

CROSSWORD

**ACROSS**

- 1 Bay at the moon
- 5 Arctic native
- 10 Cliffside abodes
- 12 Disinclined
- 13 College unit
- 14 Sachet components
- 15 Self-confidence
- 16 Mensa stats
- 18 Orchestra leader — Baxter
- 19 Gases up
- 23 Cosmic force
- 26 Boxing legend
- 27 Porpoise relative
- 30 Threads
- 32 Flat
- 34 Wyoming range
- 35 Head-pieces
- 36 Quick letter
- 37 Oxford tutor

**DOWN**

- 1 Queen of Olympus
- 2 Assayers' samples
- 3 More spread-out
- 4 Luau welcome
- 5 "— had it!"
- 6 Court divider
- 7 Eurasian mountains
- 8 Large cay
- 9 Miss Trueheart of the comics

**38 Sass**

**39 Fix flowers**

**42 Pale gray**

**45 Sapporo sash**

**46 Cries loudly**

**50 Sounded**

**53 Serving of lamb**

**55 Cookie cooks**

**56 Reliable**

**57 One-celled animal (Var.)**

**58 Kennel sounds**

**Answer to Previous Puzzle**

ANDY	BEE	ANKA
LIEU	OCT	ROAD
FLAP	SHE	MILD
ELPASO	WARE	
IRA	TED	
TWEET	URBANE	
ARCS	PRES	UTE
PER	SAGE	PLAN
NUANCE	MELTS	
PUT	DOT	
ARAB	JUSTLY	
AVEC	VEE	IOUS
GOSH	CAT	ERMA
ANTE	RNS	READ

**10 Winning serve**

**11 Suppress**

**12 Altar area**

**17 On the — vive**

**20 Employed one**

**21 Trailing**

**22 Tijuana Ms.**

**23 Trim a doily**

**24 Two fives for —**

**25 Mr. Preminger**

**28 Sagan of science**

**29 Jai —**

**31 Jot**

**33 Mind reader's letters**

**35 Pick-me-ups**

**37 Smidgen**

**40 Poles**

**41 Organic compound**

**42 "Waterloo" pop group**

**43 Loud noise**

**44 Ocean fish**

**47 Canute's foe**

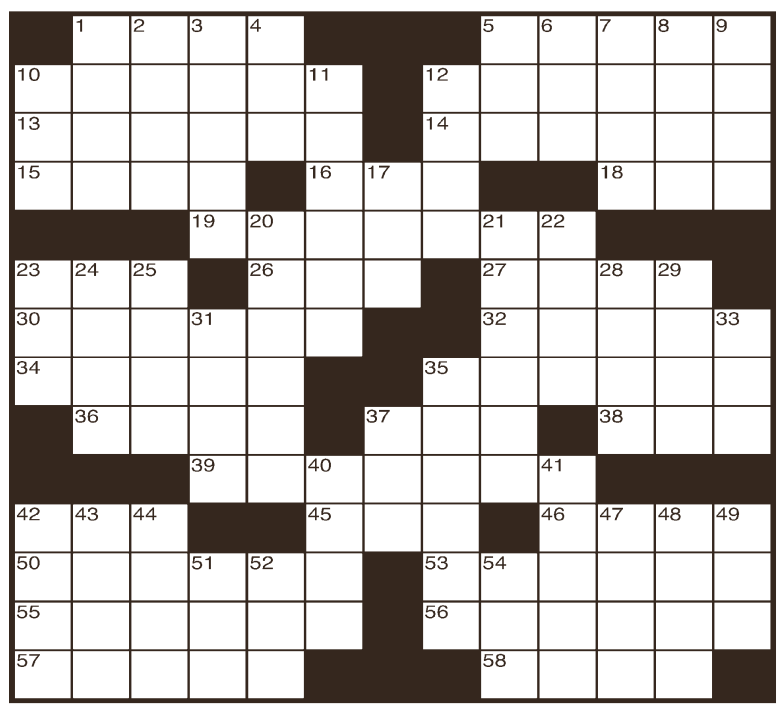
**48 Rose patches**

**49 Messy place**

**51 Yiddish "Mr."**

**52 Time period**

**54 Hagen of "The Other"**



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HERMAN



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"Table for 650."

HOROSCOPE BY EUGENIA LAST

**Aries** (March 21-April 19): Keep a close eye on what others do or say. Gather information, sort through your options, and make arrangements to help you put your plans in motion. ☆☆☆

**Taurus** (April 20-May 20): Make a physical change that will improve your health, state of mind and financial future. Size up a situation, and be prepared to do your own thing. ☆☆☆

**Gemini** (May 21-June 20): Put your everything into your responsibilities. How you conduct business will influence your reputation, position and chance to advance. ☆☆☆

**Cancer** (June 21-July 22): Change can be good if you implement it. Look for a way to use your attributes, and you will excel. Help from someone you least expect will encourage you. ☆☆☆

**Leo** (July 23-Aug. 22): Sit tight until you gather enough information to make a decision. An argument will leave you in a vulnerable position. Find a way to get along, and you will make progress. ☆☆☆

**Virgo** (Aug. 23-Sept. 22): Connect with people who have something to contribute, and you will find it easier to get things done on time. A networking function will help you understand. ☆☆☆

**Libra** (Sept. 23-Oct. 22): Set your sights on what you need to do, and get moving. Discipline will help you reach your destination and leave time to enjoy what you managed to accomplish. ☆☆☆

**Scorpio** (Oct. 23-Nov. 21): Take care of business. Once you act, you will feel relief and get a clear picture of what you want to do next. Embrace life, and entertain the possibility of new beginnings. ☆☆☆

**Sagittarius** (Nov. 22-Dec. 21): You'll gain ground if you work alone. Don't give anyone a chance to interfere or meddle. Forge ahead with a destination in mind and a well-thought-out plan. ☆☆☆

**Capricorn** (Dec. 22-Jan. 19): Feeling comfortable in your environment will ease stress and help you make better decisions regarding personal and professional matters. ☆☆☆

**Aquarius** (Jan. 20-Feb. 18): Separate what's necessary from what isn't. Moderate what others do and say, and adjust your plans to fit. Following someone else will lead to disappointment. ☆☆☆

**Pisces** (Feb. 19-March 20): Use your imagination to resolve issues that are standing in your way. A discussion with someone who can help will give you hope that change is heading your way. ☆☆☆

## SPORTS

## Tigers softball stars sign with colleges

McCarty intends to attend Truman while Stuart heads to Wayne State

Austin Miller  
Kirksville Daily Express  
USA TODAY NETWORK

Derek Allen won't ever forget the smiles of Sophie Stuart and Madi McCarty, two of his prominent softball stars over their careers.

Those two flashed smiles after a ton of wins and big moments in their careers, and those smiles were on full display Friday as both Stuart and McCarty signed their letters of intent to play collegiate softball.

Stuart will head to the Motor City next fall to play at Wayne State and McCarty will remain in Kirksville as a member of the Truman State softball team.

"I've worked a long time for this and I've worked my whole life for it, so it's not only exciting to know where you're going to be living for the next four years, but to know you're entering into a new family and new atmosphere," Stuart said. "Allen told me this isn't the end, it's only the beginning of a new chapter. I think he's right and I'm excited to start it."

"I'm just happy to play the sport I love at a school with a great education, and a school that's close to home," McCarty said.

Both players have been key fixtures in orange and black in their four years. McCarty was behind the plate and Stuart was in the circle to win a district title as freshmen in 2018 and have been crucial parts since then.

"I'm not going to take any credit for it," Allen said. "Those are two really good players. They've worked really hard to get where they're going. I'm just really proud of them. It's always nice, as a program, to claim girls going on to the next level, so I'm excited to see what they do. The future's bright for both of them."

McCarty committed to Truman last fall and never wavered in that commitment since then. She wanted to stay



"I'm just happy to play the sport I love at a school with a great education, and a school that's close to home," Kirksville catcher Madi McCarty said.  
PHOTOS BY AUSTIN MILLER/  
KIRKSVILLE DAILY EXPRESS FILE

close to home but didn't expect to stay so close. But she said she's happy to still be able to eat dinner at home and make her parents do her laundry.

McCarty hit .322 for the Tigers this past season with 18 RBI. She also stole 16 bases, getting caught just once. So she has plenty of athleticism that maybe goes under the radar. She said Truman coach Amanda Bradberry has talked with her about catching or playing the outfield. McCarty did have one start in left field this season.

She'll be happy no matter where she is on the field.

"I just want to have a positive mindset going in," McCarty said. "If I get to play, I'm going to be happy. Even if that means I'm just running bases, I'm good at that."

"She's just a grinder," said Allen of McCarty. "To go back there and catch as

many innings as she did throughout her career — and never complain once or want out. Just really smart. We could have next-level conversations on softball strategy, pitch-calling, those kinds of things that you can't always have with every high school player. Very intelligent, thought about the game really well."

Stuart chose Wayne State this past August after liking every aspect of the program and university. She wanted to get away from Kirksville for a few years before potentially returning to teach. Stuart is also excited to play for Wayne State coach Nicole Tines, a former pitcher at the university. Tines helped coach Wayne's Lindsay Butler into being the Division II National Player of the Year in 2016.

See **SOFTBALL**, Page 9A



Right: "I've worked a long time for this and I've worked my whole life for it, so it's not only exciting to know where you're going to be living for the next four years, but to know you're entering into a new family and new atmosphere," Kirksville pitcher Sophie Stuart said. "[Derek] Allen told me this isn't the end, it's only the beginning of a new chapter. I think he's right and I'm excited to start it."

## Late field goal by Indianapolis ends Truman's season

Austin Miller  
Kirksville Daily Express  
USA TODAY NETWORK

Three points were the deciding factor in Truman's effort to extend its campaign into the postseason.

An Indianapolis field goal with 19 seconds left put the Greyhounds ahead for 13-10 win over Truman on Saturday afternoon, ending the 2021 campaign for the Bulldogs.

In a dogfight between the top two defensive breeds in the Great Lakes Valley Conference, points were hard to come by. Immediately following the loss, Truman coach Gregg Nesbitt was honest about how tough the result was, but quickly maneuvered to thank his eight seniors for what they gave to the program.

"Right now, pretty discouraged," Nesbitt said. "There's not moral victories... But eight seniors that really turned the program around with back-to-back eight-plus win seasons. Battling through COVID and all the stuff they had to endure. They've left a legacy to be very, very proud of."

The winner of this game advances as the GLVC's representative for the second America's Crossroads Bowl, which Truman (8-3, 4-3 in GLVC) won the inaugural edition of in 2019. Sporting a stocking cap with the bowl game logo on Saturday, Nesbitt hoped his Bulldogs could've made a second run to that bowl.

After taking a 7-0 lead into halftime after a 76-yard scoring run by Truman running back Cody Schrader, Truman's offense only added three more points in the second half. That scoreless first half was UIndy's (7-4, 5-2 in GLVC) first since 2010.

Schrader's touchdown was setup by an interception by Ben Watson in the



Truman defensive linemen Robert Greco (51) and Jack Marth (50) chase after Indianapolis quarterback Bryce Stancombe during Saturday's 13-10 loss to the Greyhounds.  
AUSTIN MILLER/  
KIRKSVILLE DAILY EXPRESS

end zone to stop a long UIndy drive. The Bulldog secondary had two other interceptions that the offense couldn't make points out of.

The Greyhounds struck with a field goal on their first drive out of halftime. And Truman answered with a field goal off the foot of Josh Scheiderer on its next drive. Starting the fourth quarter, Indy recovered a rare Schrader fumble and turned it into a touchdown. The Greyhounds had a chance to go ahead

earlier on but missed a 25-yard field goal. UIndy then converted the kick it needed at the very end.

Schrader finished the day with 202 yards, averaging 6.7 yards per carry. He finishes the year with 1,855 rushing yards, the second-most in program history. And he has a hefty lead to finish as the top runner in all of Division II.

Nesbitt felt his offense didn't get enough done in the second half to win the game.

"We didn't play very well, offensively," Nesbitt said. "I thought their defense got the better of us much of the day. Cody got away on a 76-yarder, but other than that, it was rough sledding. You've got to tip your hat to them. They're a good defense and we couldn't create any field position with the offense in the second half."

Quarterback Nolan Hair was under

See **TRUMAN**, Page 9A





Kirksville's Keaton Anderson puts up a jumper for two points during the first half of last year's Macon Tournament title game against Moberly. AUSTIN MILLER/KIRKSVILLE DAILY EXPRESS

# More than meets the eye

## Kirksville boys basketball sneakily returns plenty of experience

Austin Miller

Kirksville Daily Express  
USA TODAY NETWORK

They may not go from cars to large robots, but the Kirksville boys basketball team is reminiscent of a Transformer this season.

Sure, the Tigers lost one of the best players in program history with the graduation of Noah Copeland. And they lost two other starters with Dylan Kinney and Lane Feeney. But the benefit to having so many sophomores play last season means the Tigers sneakily return quite a lot from last year's 16-7 team.

Returning starters Ike Danielson and Keaton Anderson logged a lot of minutes. Drew Chrisman was the sixth man and a solid defender. Though at JV last year, forwards Camden Dempsay and Nick Fortney played a ton and have transitioned well to varsity thus far. Add in seniors John Behnen, who had a role last season but was injured for most of it, and Owen Fraser, a highly touted lineman for the football team who hits the basketball floor for the first time in a few years, and coach Tyler Martin thinks his team is more experienced than it might seem.

"There's more than what meets the eye," Martin said. "... They've been through the rigors of a varsity season, and I think that'll pay off, even though on paper we look primarily like juniors. I think our guys have more experience than meets the eye."

Last season, the Tigers made a run back to a district title game, falling to rival Mexico, 62-51. For the then-sophomores, they may have been overwhelmed at times during that run, but that's part of growing up.

With that experience under their belt, knowing how tough it is to get to that point was a major takeaway.

"I learned that it's a grind — a lot more than people know," said junior



"As leaders, [we] have to push that on everyone else, for them to understand that it's a lot harder than they think," said junior point guard Ike Danielson.

AUSTIN MILLER/KIRKSVILLE DAILY EXPRESS FILE

guard Anderson.

"It's harder to get there than people think," said junior point guard Danielson. "Us, as leaders, have to push that on everyone else, for them to understand that it's a lot harder than they think."

Those two are the de-facto leaders for this team as the most experienced returners. It has been an adjustment for them to see themselves in that light since that wasn't their role last year. But Martin feels like they've inhabited those spots well so far. Anderson grew more vocal as last season went on. And Danielson just wrapped up a season as the football team's quarterback, so that was additional time to find who is as a leader.

"I think these guys have accepted and want to be in that position of, the next two years, they're the leaders of this team and this program," Martin said. "They've accepted that and they're ready for that. I think that also has helped their maturity as far as early-season practices. Their focus, in general, has been much better. We're driven to execute, listen a bit better. ... It's not just getting through a practice, it's making something of the time that we have."

Without Copeland, or a veteran forward in the paint, the Tigers' offense will be more guard-oriented this season. Danielson, Anderson and Chrisman will be asked to create a bit more.

As the forwards get acclimated, then Martin thinks the offense will have a good mix. He expects Dempsay, Fortney and Fraser to play important minutes this year, but that who gets what could change from game to game. Danielson and Anderson were quick to highlight how Dempsay and Fortney have developed. Then adding in Fraser, a Mack truck with great agility for his size, and the Tigers' front-court could surprise this season.

On defense, Martin wants to use more zone after playing man defense almost exclusively last year. Martin also likes to trap as needed, so with a year to adjust to that pace and how to do it properly, he plans to do more this year.

Looking at the North Central Missouri Conference's pecking order, Mexico and Fulton should still be quite good. The Tigers were 0-5 against those schools last season.

Kirksville opens the season at home Nov. 23, hosting Highland.

## LOCAL ROUNDUP

### Nov. 13

#### Men's college basketball

##### #6 Truman 90, Findlay 61

● Truman – Cade McKnight, 27 points, 5 rebounds; Dylan Peeters, 13 points, 11 rebounds; Elijah Hazekamp, 11 points, 11 rebounds.

#### Women's college basketball

##### Ursuline 87, #23 Truman 77

● Truman – Ellie Weltha, 17 points, 7 rebounds; Maddie Re, 17 points, 7 rebounds; Hannah Belanger, 16 points, 9 rebounds.

### Nov. 12

#### High school football

##### Class 2 District 7 title game

##### Maryville 33, Macon 6

No stats reported.

#### 8-man districts

##### St. Paul Lutheran 41, Knox Co. 26

No stats reported.

#### Men's college basketball

##### #6 Truman 87, Cedarville 80

● Truman – Elijah Hazekamp, 23 points, 7 rebounds; Masen Miller, 21 points, 7 3-pointers; Cade McKnight, 17 points, 9 rebounds.

#### Women's college basketball

##### Wisconsin-Parkside 78, #23 Truman 66

● Truman – Hannah Belanger, 28 points; Ellie Weltha, 23 points, 7 rebounds.

## Truman

Continued from Page 8A

duress all day, getting sacked three times. He finished the afternoon 7-for-18 for 68 yards.

Truman falls to 1-8 all-time against Indianapolis. The lone win came at Stokes Stadium in 2016. This wasn't the same Greyhounds team the Bulldogs played in the GLVC Championship game during the spring season early this year, but that is two wins in the calendar year for UIndy.

Nesbitt doesn't agree that UIndy has Truman's number since the Greyhounds have success against everyone.

"I think that's a misconception of media and fans," Nesbitt said. "They don't have our number — they've had everybody's. We're the one team that can play with them, and we're getting really close. We'll keep pounding that rock and it'll be our day one of these days."

With the season now over, Nesbitt said he grades this as an "outstanding" campaign. With eight wins this year and 10 in 2019, that's the first time since the 1960-61 seasons that the program had back-to-back eight-win seasons.

The Bulldogs bring almost everybody back for what should be a strong season in 2022.

Some more seasoning will do this bunch well. In losses this season to UIndy and Lindenwood, Truman had strong moments and leads that dwindled. Then there was a 27-21 loss on the road at Southwest Baptist, who went 4-7 this season.

Those are lessons to lean on going into next year.

"Well, 36 of the 44 on our two-deep are sophomores or freshmen," Nesbitt said. "If they work hard, I shouldn't be able to screw them up too much. We've got a chance to put together another good football team."

## Softball

Continued from Page 8A

At the time of her commitment, Stuart hadn't logged a ton of innings in the circle. Injuries, and the Tigers having another option with Audrey Danielson, kept Stuart at first base. But she was the heir apparent this season and ran away with the job.

Stuart had 138.1 innings pitched on her resume entering this season, with just 32 and 28 innings the last two seasons. The flashes she had shown before stayed bright this whole year. She went 19-4 with a 1.11 ERA and 241 strikeouts this season in 144 innings.

"(Wayne State) saw those flashes, and we saw those flashes too, we just had to get her healthy," Allen said. "She proved it through the course of 150 innings (this season)."

Having such strong pitching and catching has been a major part of Kirks-



Kirksville's Madi McCarty, left, and Sophie Stuart sign their letters of intent Friday, Nov. 12. McCarty signed with the Truman State softball team and Stuart signed with the Wayne State softball team.

AUSTIN MILLER  
/KIRKSVILLE DAILY EXPRESS

ville's success over the last four years. To have two pitchers head off to college (with Danielson currently a freshman at Missouri-Kansas City) and a catcher who learned and improved alongside

them, that was huge.

"If you don't have a pitcher and don't have a catcher — they're what keep you in games," Stuart said. "You can play all the defense you want, but if pitchers

give up hard hits and home runs, you can't defend that. Pitchers don't want to brag, but they're one of the most crucial positions, and so are catchers because they call the game."

# CLASSIFIEDS

**Notice of Sale**  
**IN RE:**  
**Shawna Beaty**  
 For default in the payment of rent due under a rental agreement with Ice House Mini Storage, the contents of the leased storage space number 84 will be sold for cash at public sale to the highest bidder on the 19th day of November, 2021 at 9:45 AM at 2609 N Baltimore to satisfy said debt and cost.  
KM-10KDE101

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**PASTURE AND HAY GROUND** Needed around Adair & Knox County. Please Contact 660-216-5887 or 417-773-2507  
**MISCELLANEOUS:**  
 Wevers Outside Wood Furnaces a dealer for Heatmor Stainless Steel Outside Furnaces, have an assortment of parts, line, and etc. Taking orders for new outside wood furnaces. Dealer for Heatmor Call 660-423-5242, cell 660-216-9885. Open 6pm-9pm Monday-Friday, Saturday anytime, call first.  
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**DIRT WORK** All types of excavation, reclaiming overgrown fields, including CRP and WRP. Building site preparation, terrace and tiling maintaining and creating new trails and crossings, rock hauling, Food plot development and maintenance. Leveling and grading, wetland construction and maintenance. Pond and lake cleaning and construction. Call for quotes. 660-342-2701

**FOR SALE:** 5 X 51/2 big round bales of mixed grass hay, Bailed dry no rain fertilized lab tested surface wrapped. Call 660-341-4031 Watson hay sales  
**FOR SALE:** 10% off Gloves from Nov. 15th to 30th Homemade Candies, fresh garlic, jams & jellies, spices, HONEY stainless steel kitchen wares, steam table pans and lids. Kerosene lamps and parts, some Aladdin parts. Poly and wooden clothes pins, Reg. and W.M. lids, glass jars, color books, boxed cards, children's books, Gift items, wooden handles - Puzzles. Train Track Candies & More 11538 Iceberg Ave, La Plata 3rd Lane to your Left.

**IN THE 2ND JUDICIAL CIRCUIT COURT, ADAIR COUNTY, MISSOURI**

Judge or Division: PROBATE	Case Number: <b>21AR-PR00118</b>	FILED 10/20/2021 LINDA DECKER ADAIR COUNTY CIRCUIT COURT (Date File Stamp)
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In the Estate of JASON L THOMPSON, Deceased.

**Notice of Letters of Administration Granted**  
 (Supervised Administration)

**To All Persons Interested in the Estate of JASON L THOMPSON, Decedent:**  
 On October 20, 2021, the following individual was appointed the personal representative of the estate of JASON L THOMPSON, decedent, by the Probate Division of the Circuit Court of Adair County, Missouri. The personal representative's business address is: Heather M. Thompson, 10925 State Highway B, Kirksville, MO 63501  
 The personal representative's attorney's name, business address and phone number is: Mark Williams, 1003 E. Jefferson, Kirksville, MO 63501, 660-665-7777  
 All creditors of said decedent are notified to file claims in court within six months from the date of the first publication of this notice or if a copy of this notice was mailed to, or served upon, such creditor by the personal representative, then within two months from the date it was mailed or served, whichever is later, or be forever barred to the fullest extent permissible by law. Such six-month period and such two-month period do not extend the limitation period that would bar claims one year after the decedent's death, as provided in Section 473.444, RSMo, or any other applicable limitation periods. Nothing in Section 473.033, RSMo, shall be construed to bar any action against a decedent's liability insurance carrier through a defendant ad litem pursuant to Section 537.021, RSMo.  
 Date of the decedent's death: September 9, 2021  
 Date of first publication: October 27, 2021

Linda Decker  
 Adair County Circuit Clerk

Receipt of this notice by mail should not be construed by the recipient to indicate that the recipient necessarily has a beneficial interest in the estate. The nature and extent of any person's interest, if any, can be determined from the files and records of this estate in the Probate Division of the above referenced Circuit Court.  
KM-10KDE11753

**Notice of Sale**  
**IN RE:**  
**William Fortney**  
 For default in the payment of rent due under a rental agreement with Ice House Mini Storage, the contents of the leased storage space number 124 will be sold for cash at public sale to the highest bidder on the 19th day of November, 2021 at 10:00 AM at 2609 N Baltimore to satisfy said debt and cost.

**Notice of Sale**  
**IN RE:**  
**Rob Champayne**  
 For default in the payment of rent due under a rental agreement with Ice House Mini Storage, the contents of the leased storage space number 53/54 will be sold for cash at public sale to the highest bidder on the 19th day of November, 2021 at 9:30 AM at 2609 N Baltimore to satisfy said debt and cost.  
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Unique Thanksgiving table settings will wow your guests.

ETSY/ANTHROPOLOGIE; PHOTO ILLUSTRATION BY RACHEL VAN BLANKENSHIP/USA TODAY NETWORK

Set the **mood** for dinner

Amanda Tarlton Reviewed.com | USA TODAY NETWORK

For as much as Thanksgiving is about being grateful for your blessings, it's also about the feast (turkey, stuffing, pumpkin pie, oh my!). But said feast needs to go somewhere. Enter the Thanksgiving tablescape, which is one of Pinterest's most-searched terms this time of year. ● There are plenty of ways to make your table more festive. We've rounded up 10 of the best Thanksgiving place settings you can get online right now, from handmade place cards to festive dinnerware to cloth napkins. Happy feasting!

### 1. Hand-cut word place settings

Grateful, thankful, blessed, gather – all words you'd use on Thanksgiving and thus, all words that deserve a spot on your table. These delicate place settings are cut by hand into a variety of holiday-themed words and are available in classy black or an unpainted version that you can decorate yourself.

**Get the Carpenter Farmhouse Thanksgiving Plate Settings from Etsy starting at \$4.92**

### 2. Charger plates

Charger plates are an easy way to elevate even the most basic dinnerware. Wayfair has a lot of pretty options great for Thanksgiving. You can opt for industrial-chic galvanized metal chargers or beaded gold ones for a more elegant feel. Bonus: You can use these for any occasion or party the rest of the year, too.

**Get the Gunmetal Gray Galvanized Plate Charger from Wayfair for \$9.15**

**Get the Reynold Bead Dot Design Elegant Decorative 4 Piece Melamine Charger Set from Wayfair for \$45.99**

### 3. Buffalo plaid napkins

Plaid is the unofficial pattern of fall. Sport it on your Thanksgiving table with these reusable cloth napkins, which come in 15 colors of buffalo plaid. They're wrinkle-resistant and machine-washable, and they're strong enough that they can withstand all the gravy, pumpkin pie and wine that might get

spilled on them.

**Get the Urban Villa Dinner Napkins (12-Pc) from Amazon for \$20.81**

### 4. Maple leaf place cards

For an autumn-inspired tablescape, sprinkle these maple leaf place cards around. Available in dark walnut, natural and red oak colors, they're hand-cut and made of durable plywood. You can order them blank or have them engraved with your guests' names. Plus, there's no minimum amount, so you can order as many or as few as you need.

**Get the My Coaster Shop Maple Leaf Place Tags from Etsy starting at \$1**

### 5. Fall-themed bohemian dinnerware

Leave it to Anthropologie to have some of the chicest plates for your Thanksgiving setup. These plates – which come in a large dinner size and a smaller side plate size—feature a decorative "Autumn's Bounty" print designed by artist Inslee Fariss. If you want to round out the set, you can also pick up matching bowls and cups.

**Get the Inslee Fariss Autumn's Bounty Dinner Plate from Anthropologie for \$19.20**

**Get the Inslee Fariss Autumn's Bounty Side Plate from Anthropologie for \$12.80**

### 6. Thanksgiving coloring placemats

Kids and adults alike will love coloring

in these placemats while they wait for dinner to be ready. If you want something you can print at home, these 8-inch-by-11.5-inch sheets are delivered in digital form, so you don't have to wait for shipping. Otherwise, you can snag these larger – and slightly more intricate—coloring placemats that come in packs of 12 for the whole family.

**Get the Sara Luke Creative Thanksgiving Printable Coloring Placemat from Etsy for \$5**

**Get the Tiny Expressions Thanksgiving Coloring Placements (12-Pack) from Etsy for \$16.99**

### 7. Wooden turkey place cards

That juicy Butterball turkey doesn't have to be the only bird on the table this Thanksgiving. You can also honor the holiday's main hero with these turkey place cards, which are made from lightweight wood. At just under four inches, they'll fit nicely atop a standard dinner plate and are engraved with each of your guests' names.

**Get the Riverbend Horse Ranch Wooden Turkey Place Cards from Etsy starting at \$4**

### 8. DIY place card kit

If you're crafty, you'll love this Thanksgiving DIY place card kit from Etsy. The set contains everything you'll need to put together eight pumpkin place cards, from precut cardstock to sticky foam dots. Reviewers say the cards are very easy to assemble, so it's a

task you could give the kiddos to complete while you're prepping dinner.

**Get the Thanksgiving Place Card Kit from Etsy starting at \$17.99**

### 9. Festive utensil holders

These petite paper bags pull double duty: You can use them on the table as utensil holders for each person's cutlery or you can use them as treat bags for take-home party favors. Made of recycled kraft paper and available in packs of 25, the bags can be personalized with the text of your choice, like your family's name or the year.

**Get the Details on Demand Thanksgiving Treat Bags (25-pc) starting at \$23**

### 10. Rustic place card holders

You have your place cards, but what about your place card holders? These wooden ones have hundreds of rave reviews on Amazon and are versatile enough that you can use them well after Thanksgiving. Made of real wood—that still has the bark on for a genuine forest feel—they're very sturdy and will look great dotting your holiday table.

**Get the Toncoo Wood Place Card Holders (20-Pc) from Amazon for \$13.99**

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*Prices were published at the time this article was published but may change over time.*

# Shrek

Continued from Page 1A

McKim (who plays Donkey) giggled. They felt either because the production dictates it, or just naturally, they become his source of annoyance.

"It is actually my co-star, Fiona," Peterson said dryly, making Hudson and McKim laugh.

Trying to frustrate Peterson is one of the most enjoyable parts in McKim's portrayal as Donkey.

"It makes my life a lot more enjoyable on stage whenever I can actually tell he's annoyed," McKim said.

This production is a bit of a return to form for the KHS theatre department. The fall musical is typically a major affair for the department and the community, but COVID-19 prevented a fall production last year. The department did do a smaller production of The 25th Annual Putnam County Spelling Bee in May.

But Shrek The Musical is quite a beast, featuring 28 performers and about 10 crew members. After holding auditions just after Labor Day, the cast and crew have been rehearsing since. They began working on just the music. Then, they slowly add lines, stage directions and other components before the final production hits the stage.

So the cast is tightening everything up before the show opens on Nov. 18.

Because it is the first fall musical in two years, features a large cast, and is based on a well-known property, expectations are high that the William Mathew Middle School Auditorium will be packed each night.

"Last year, we still got to perform, but because of COVID, it wasn't a big production and we didn't get to have this big cast," Hudson said. "So it's really exciting to see a lot of the underclassmen getting excited and being able to participate as well."

The musical stays quite faithful to the original film, which was released in 2001. The titular ogre goes on a fantastical journey beside his favorite donkey, saving a princess with a deep secret, and defeating the evil Lord Farquaad.

The cast fits in well with a comedy, nailing quips and jokes and also being comedic within the songs. And there's a fart and burp scene that they're all looking forward to doing in front of an audience.



Cast members of Kirksville High School's upcoming production of "Shrek The Musical" celebrate the big finale during a Nov. 11 rehearsal. PHOTOS BY AUSTIN MILLER/KIRKSVILLE DAILY EXPRESS

"I think our cast is super strong in comedy, so I think a comedy was a really good move," McKim said. "Because we're very good at hitting jokes and timing."

There's also a lot of ingenuity and craftsmanship on display. Cole Findling plays Lord Farquaad, who was a very short character in the film. So Findling stands on his knees the whole time, wearing catching gear to help his knees and shins. Tiny legs hang off of his torso.

"I think it's pretty fun. It definitely makes staying character a lot harder when I have to look at Farquaad," Petersen said.

There's also a large dragon that is maneuvered by several students. Who doesn't want to see that?

Though it is a comedy that features an ogre, fairy tale characters and farts, there is a lot of heart in the production that resonates with the cast. They hope the audience finds that as well.

"Donkey's main motive throughout the story is to find a friend, have a friend, and make that friend love him, which I guess is another thing that resonates," McKim said.

"But a theme I take personally from the show is, there's this song called



Cole Findling, who plays Lord Farquaad in Kirksville High School's production of "Shrek The Musical," sings during a rehearsal.

need to like yourself. I think that's the main theme of the show."

"Shrek's main character arc is that he learns to open up to people, and I think, me personally and a lot of people in general, can kind of relate to that," Petersen said. "If you're really a closed-off person and learn to open up over time, I think that's something people can relate to."

"Fiona's character kind of always wants to fit in," Hudson said. "She has her whole life planned out for her, and then her dream starts to come true, then it all goes wrong. I think a lot of people have that same feeling, that they want everything to correctly, but then it doesn't. But it all works out in the end, and I think that's an important message the show carries."

Tickets are on sale now at the Kirksville High School Office and the HyVee Customer Service Desk, costing \$5 for students and \$10 for the general public. Tickets also will be on sale at the door one hour before the performance, though those are based on available seats.

Showtimes are 7 p.m. Thursday, Nov. 18, through Saturday, Nov. 20. There will also be a 2 p.m. show Sunday, Nov. 21.

'Freak Flag' that's in it. It's about accepting yourself and knowing that not everyone needs to like you, but you just



A developer is interested renovating the former JC Penney store into a climate-controlled self-storage unit. AUSTIN MILLER/KIRKSVILLE DAILY EXPRESS

# Renaissance

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continued decay of malls and strip malls across the country. Hundreds of malls are expected to close across the country over the next five years.

"Those strip centers and those malls that are successful, that are not falling into disrepair, becoming blighted and ultimately getting demolished, they are adapting," Young said. "They are adapting to new consumer trends, the evolving economy and if they are to be successful, that typically involves a mixture of land uses."

The JC Penney and Gordmans closed in 2020 as both companies struggled at the national level due to the pandemic. Both stores had performed well in town before those companies opted to downsize. The Gordmans store was only open for about a year.

In order to make this move happen, the Planning and Zoning Commission and City Council will have to make some changes to city code. Right now, those buildings are zoned as C-1 and C-3 business districts. The city's permitted use table does not allow any storage facilities in those zones.

Young's proposal to Planning and Zoning is to update the permitted use table to allow a potential special use permit for storage facilities in those zoning districts. Right now, storage facilities are only allowed in areas zoned as light or heavy industrial. The city does not want to rezone these retail areas as industrial. So this would be the best

middle ground, Young said.

"It allows our business owners, our commercial developers, to be able to adapt and save these strip centers, but also preserves the control over land use that is so important for the Planning & Zoning Commission, and also for the City Council," Young said.

"As the economy changes, we need to stay on top of our permitted use table, and ensure that it isn't an impediment to positive commercial growth in the community," Young said. "And at the same time, it makes sense that we still are developing in the best interest of everyone involved, including the neighbors."

Young said the Planning and Zoning Commission would likely vote for the update at its Dec. 8 meeting. If the commission votes in favor of the change, that recommendation would then go to the City Council for approval at its Dec. 20 meeting.

Members of the Planning and Zoning Commission didn't really indicate their leanings on whether they were for or against Young's proposal. Though commission member Kelsey Aurand de Razo said just having some fluidity with the permitted use table could go a long way for economic growth.

"It behooves us to think about some degree of flexibility. ... Because we do have some strip malls in areas of town where there might be some good mixed-use scenarios that we could really consider and could potentially benefit the community," Aurand de Razo said. "Broadly speaking, the idea of some flexibility for those buildings, I think, seems very reasonable, as opposed to just leaving them abandoned."