

No. 6 Truman looks to surpass last season's success

SPORTS, 8A



Kirksville Daily Express

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Council works to finalize \$41.1M budget

Austin Miller
Kirksville Daily Express
USA TODAY NETWORK

Kirksville nears the end of its annual budget process, with a 2022 budget of \$41.1 million awaiting approval next month.

After months of planning and discussion, a preliminary budget was looked over Monday during a City Council

study session. There is still time for the city to add and remove items, as the council will vote on approving the budget on Dec. 20.

The 2022 budget has about \$14.4 million in planned capital projects, which includes \$2.9 million to add a state-mandated disinfection process to the wastewater treatment plant, and \$1.1 million for construction and lining water and sewer mains. And \$250,000 has

been budgeted to demolish the old downtown water tower.

Roughly \$3.6 million is budgeted for street projects, with the city repaving between eight and nine miles of road each year. The city's Downtown Tax Increment Finance District will spend about \$1.7 million in continued work as part of its Downtown Revitalization Program. That includes facade improvements, sidewalks and a new parking lot

on the corner of Marion and Jefferson streets.

One incurring cost felt across all city departments is staff pay and benefits. The city has had trouble filling some vacancies over the past year, so to attract more qualified candidates, it has increased its pay schedule and retirement plan to bring those people in. So nearly

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The sidewalks around Detweiler Park in Kirksville were completed as part of liquidated damage work from Irvinbilt after the Aquatic Center's delay. And after nearly two years since they were planted, the trees in the park are getting taller.

AUSTIN MILLER/KIRKSVILLE DAILY EXPRESS

Progress continues at Detweiler Park site

Austin Miller
Kirksville Daily Express
USA TODAY NETWORK

Signage might still say "Future home of Detweiler Park," but the site is starting to look more like a park as progress continues in Kirksville.

Recently, the sidewalks around the park were completed as part of liquidated damage work from Irvinbilt after the Aquatic Center's delay. And after nearly two years since they were planted, the trees in the park are getting taller.

The park serves as a remembrance for two Kirksville cornerstones. One, it is named after longtime City Council-

member Richard Detweiler, who passed away in 2019. And the location is that of the former Kirksville High School, which was demolished in the spring of 2019.

And plans for the park remain the same as they have been.

"I've said before ... that this could be our prettier park," said Parks and Recreation Director Rodney Sadler. "People could come and take photos, have a nice picnic or something. But it's not going to be something that has a bathroom, or is over-programmed with basketball courts and baseball fields. It's just a small, half-block, neighborhood park that we hope people in the downtown

and surrounding area will really enjoy."

So what all is left to be done?

A gazebo is planned for the center of the park. Twice, the department has started the bid process for a gazebo made of recycled plastic, only to receive no bids. The department won a grant nearly two years ago for a structure made of that material. Sadler said only a few companies in the country make gazebos out of that material, and the material is hard to come by right now. He said he was told his department was lucky to get pool furniture at the Aquatic Center made from it.

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State sues over COVID vaccine private sector rules

Galen Bacharier
Springfield News-Leader
USA TODAY NETWORK

Missouri sued the Biden administration Friday morning after new federal rules requiring private employers to vaccinate their workforces were published.

The 11-state lawsuit comes a day after Missouri Attorney General Eric Schmitt pledged litigation "first thing" after new guidelines mandating all businesses with more than 100 employees to get vaccinated by Jan. 4. Those who do not wish to get vaccinated must under the new rules regularly get tested for COVID-19 and wear a face mask to work starting Dec. 4, and businesses who don't comply could face fines.

"The federal government should not be forcing private employers to require their employees to get vaccinated or foot the cost to test those employees weekly," Schmitt, a Republican running for U.S. Senate, said in a statement. "Local business owners have told me that the vaccine mandate would decimate their businesses, including some that have been around for decades, and they're certainly not alone - there are thousands of businesses in Missouri alone that could be negatively affected by this mandate."

The Occupational Safety and Health Administration did not determine a "grave danger" for employees and create a standard "necessary" to meet them, the lawsuit argues; instead, President Joe Biden "dictated his preferred policy to the agency in advance."

Schmitt and attorneys general from Arizona, Montana and Nebraska are leading the lawsuit, joined by Arkansas, Iowa, North Dakota, South Dakota, Alaska, New Hampshire and Wyoming, as well as several private businesses and organizations - including Doolittle Trailer Manufacturing, a Holts Summit, Missouri-based company.

The Friday suit, filed in the U.S. Court of Appeals for the Eighth Circuit, is the latest in a slew of litigation Schmitt has filed or been involved with against the Biden administration. He's leading a lawsuit with 10 other states pushing back on separate federal rules requiring federal employees and

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Senate Dem candidates talk climate, filibuster

Galen Bacharier Springfield News-Leader
USA TODAY NETWORK

Voters in Missouri got a look at where the state's Democratic candidates for U.S. Senate stand on a range of policy issues the evening of Wednesday, Nov. 3.

Spencer Toder, Tim Shepard, Lucas Kuncce, Jewel Kelly, Scott Sifton and Gena Ross all participated in a town hall in Hillboro, south of St. Louis. The event, sponsored by several Democratic groups in the region, served as a chance for the generally low-profile field to build out their policy platforms and convince voters which of them has the best chance to compete against the eventual Republican nominee.

Elad Gross, who ran against Republican Attorney General Eric Schmitt in

2020, moderated the forum and asked candidates questions on foreign policy, the spending packages currently being negotiated in Congress, tech companies, viability in the general election, climate change and the filibuster.

While offering their opinions on the issues facing Missouri and the U.S., some candidates touched on broader themes of electability, offering their backgrounds and personal experiences, and they all touted key parts of President Joe Biden's policy agenda. Here's how the Democratic field for U.S. Senate weighed in on a number of subjects.

The general election

The eventual nominee for the Democrats will have a steep hill to climb

against the Republican candidate, whose party currently holds every statewide office but one.

Sifton, a former state senator from St. Louis, touted the 2012 race that propelled him into Missouri's higher chamber in which he defeated an incumbent Republican. "I have proven repeatedly that I can beat tough, well-funded Republicans in competitive districts," he said.

The leading fundraiser in the field and a Marine veteran, Kuncce argued that his message of "changing who has power in this country" was one that could resonate with countless voters. Ross, a college professor who ran in 2020 in Missouri's 6th District, and

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Coping with challenges

Indigenous women with breast cancer face a harsh reality, **2A**

Bees, sheep crops

Solar developers tour multiple benefits, **11A**

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NEWS



Nicole Gonzales is the founder and executive director of the Changing Woman Initiative, a women's health collective focused on Native Americans. LAUREL MORALES/KJZZ

Indigenous women with breast cancer face harsh reality

Poverty, remoteness challenge access to care

Nada Hassanein
USA TODAY

Shannon Palmier felt a strange warm sensation in her chest, but she brushed it off.

It wasn't until the Oglala Lakota Tribe member had severe stomach cramps that she called an ambulance. While caring for her, the paramedic happened to remind Palmier to get a mammogram.

Palmier later did get screened, and a radiologist found a suspicious lump in her left breast that turned out to be cancerous. The retired food service worker was sent to her nearest cancer doctor — 120 miles away from her Pine Ridge Reservation in Rapid City, South Dakota.

Palmier, then 52, had a double mastectomy for her early-stage cancer. Several times a month, her husband would drive her more than 200 miles round trip for treatments.

In her rural, sprawling community of widespread poverty, there aren't spe-

cialty health services.

"I live in a desolate area," said Palmier, 61, adding that homes on the reservation, including her own, recently got street addresses. "Physicians will come here, but once they come here and they figure out how it is, they don't stay."

Among early-stage breast cancer patients, Native American and Alaska Native women have significantly higher rates of mastectomies and lower rates of breast-conserving therapy than white women, according to a recent study published in the *Annals of Surgical Oncology*. Breast-conserving therapy consists of lumpectomy and radiation, and it comes with less complications and pain and better quality of life, according to multiple studies.

The disparity could be explained by health care access barriers many Indigenous people on reservations face, experts say, including lack of on-site cancer care, transportation, insurance and patient education. Because breast-conserving therapy requires multiple, consistent trips to the doctor, it's not a feasible option for many rural Native American women, possibly leading to

the decision to have a mastectomy.

"That's where a substantial portion of the issue, I think, rests," said surgical oncologist Dr. Jennifer Erdrich, the study's lead author and tribal member of the Turtle Mountain Band of Chippewa. "If someone's in a very rural area and they have no subspecialty oncology services, and all their access is a general surgeon ... that surgeon's only choice he might be able to offer is a mastectomy."

The University of Arizona professor's study is believed to be the first examining breast cancer surgical patterns in Indigenous women and found disparities were even more stark between regions: In the Northern Plains, almost half of Indigenous women with early-stage breast cancer had mastectomies, compared with about 36% of white women.

Among Alaska Native patients, 47% were found to have gotten mastectomies versus just a third of white women.

Overall, across regions, the rate was 41% of Indigenous women compared with just 34% of white women.

Co-author Angela Monetathchi said

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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.

Nov. 11-13

• The Truman Theater Department performs Shakespeare’s “Much Ado About Nothing,” directed by Dr. Dana Smith, at 7:30 p.m. each evening in the James Severns Theater in the Ophelia Parrish building on the Truman campus. For costs and more information, go to boxoffice.truman.edu or call 660-785-4515.

Thursday, Nov. 11

• Today is Veterans Day. Veteran’s Day began in 1918 on Nov. 11 when the fighting seized at the end of World War I. You are invited to the local Veterans Day Ceremony at 11 a.m. at the Rieger Armory on Elson Street. For more information, call 660-627-1485.

• The Blessing of the Hunt, is at the NEMO Fairgrounds Multipurpose Building from 5-8 p.m. Free admission. The featured speaker is Mitchel Johnston, World Grand Champion Turkey Caller. For more information, call Cornerstone Church at 660-956-4480.

Saturday, Nov. 13

• Welcome Hunters! Today is the first Day of Firearm deer season. This season lasts until Nov. 23. For information and hunting licenses, go to mdc.mo.gov.

• The Union Temple annual Deer Hunt Breakfast and Lunch begins at 5 a.m. at the Union Temple Church, 16220 Millay Trail. From Highway 63 go west on Highway 11 for 10 miles and turn left onto CC then follow the signs to Millay Trail. Veterans are free. Lunch is served until 1:30 p.m.

Wednesday, Nov. 17

• The Truman State University Concert Band performs at 7:30 p.m. in Baldwin Hall Auditorium on the Truman campus. For more information, call 660-785-4417.

• The County Extension Center is providing a program on growing lavender in Missouri via Zoom from 6-8 p.m. To register, go to <https://extension.missouri.edu/events/lavendar-growers-workshop>.

Candidates

Continued from Page 1A

Toder, a St. Louis-based entrepreneur, both encouraged putting voters’ needs first; Toder said Democrats need to “stop talking and start listening,” and Ross urged the party to “move forward by learning from our past mistakes.”

Kelly, an Air Force veteran who has put mental health foremost at his campaign, said explaining the stakes of important issues to voters was key, that “communication matters.” Shepard, an LGBTQ+ rights advocate, wants to “break the cycle” where “bullies and demagogues who rely on fear can win,” focusing instead on popular policy stances.

Infrastructure & Build Back Better bills

Congress has for months been negotiating two spending packages prioritized by the Biden Administration — a \$1 trillion infrastructure bill and a \$3.5 trillion bill focused on social services and safety net spending (called “Build Back Better”).

Toder said legislators should prioritize the aspects of the bills “that make quality of life better,” and argued that “infrastructure isn’t just roads and broadband ... it’s all the services we need to have a functional society.”

Sifton admitted he was “not excited about some of what has fallen out of” the Build Back Better package during negotiations due to reservations by more conservative Democrats. But “Congress needs to act,” he said. Ross said she believed voters “have the right to push back” on politicians, saying she would “call them out every time” during negotiations on spending.

Several candidates argued the stalled negotiations were indicative of a systemic political problem. Shepard and Kunce both focused on the influx of money into politics; Shepard referred to the subject as an “interesting trick where billionaires are able to purchase elections.”

Kelly called for a more moderate approach, arguing that “you’re going to have to compromise” and “we have to start small to go fast.”

Climate

Much of the field’s thoughts on cli-

Several candidates argued the stalled negotiations were indicative of a systemic political problem. Shepard and Kunce both focused on the influx of money into politics; Shepard referred to the subject as an “interesting trick where billionaires are able to purchase elections.”

mate focused around passing the Build Back Better bill, which contains tax credits and policies that would mark the biggest clean energy investment by the federal government in U.S. history.

Sifton pointed to reduced costs of rooftop solar energy and incentives for U.S.-built electric cars within the bill, in particular. Shepard urged voters to make calls to Congress and put pressure on representatives. Kelly said the party needed to not only pass the bill, but also educate others about its specifics and impact.

But several candidates also took on the climate crisis from different angles. Ross said climate is a “health concern,” and urged for those in power to use “real, factual resources” in making their decisions. Kunce called it a “national security issue,” saying that framing could get “more people on board” and prompt Congress to invest in renewable energy domestically.

Toder urged radical investment and action on the issue, arguing that “there’s no amount of money we could spend that wouldn’t be justifiable.”

Big Tech

Nearly the entire field called for updated regulations on tech giants, who have come under more intense scrutiny in recent weeks after a Facebook whistleblower leaked a massive trove of documents detailing the company’s internal operations and global impact.

Shepard, Toder and Kelly urged for tighter regulations through the Federal Trade Commission and Securities & Exchange Commission. Toder, who said he’s spent time with tech startups, said he had “no interest in social media companies becoming the arbiters of whose voice should be disseminated.”

Sifton said the U.S. should work to beef up and “modernize” antitrust laws to handle the current tech landscape. Kunce called them “the Big Tobacco companies of our time” and called for the repeal of Section 230, which protects online platforms from lawsuits relating to content posted by a third party.

next year. Williamson said the ongoing pandemic has delayed a number of necessary training sessions that officers have to do, with some certifications expiring.

Another way to help keep training in good standing, the city budgeted \$50,000 to turn the old landfill into a shooting range.

Williamson also wants to increase public presentations and community engagement. Substantially increased foot patrols is a key part of that.

Fire and Emergency Response

Fire Chief Jon Cook said the priority for 2022 will be improving the department’s capabilities for specialty services, such as hazardous materials response and technical rescue skills. A HAZMAT trailer and additional self-contained breathing apparatuses, budgeted at \$95,000, is planned for next year.

He hopes an equipment storage facility, which has been talked about since 2019, will be completed in 2022. There is \$400,000 budgeted for that project.

The E911 Joint Services Board has a new strategic plan for 2022, aided by a \$50,000 expansion at City Hall, along with hopefully new equipment. The city has applied for a Community Development Block Grant for \$609,603.18, which

Ross said “education is the key” to understanding tech platforms’ role in society.

The filibuster

Almost every candidate was vocal and aggressive in calling for the abolition of the filibuster, a procedural tool in the U.S. Senate that allows the minority party to stall and effectively kill off legislation.

Shepard said it was “utterly and completely broken, and has been abused.” Toder called it a “racist tool used to make it harder for Black people to vote.” Ross argued that “business as usual is no longer acceptable.”

Others said the blame for that abuse should be directed at those holding office. Kunce said Republicans have “decided it’s a zero sum game, that it’s all about power.” Kelly said “whichever party that’s in power, they’re going to use the rules to their advantage.” Sifton, who said he has “spent more time filibustering bad legislation in Jefferson City than pretty much anybody,” argued that “Mitch McConnell has turned (the filibuster) into a stronger veto than the one Joe Biden has.”

China & Taiwan

The entire Democratic field came to the defense of Taiwan when asked about the current relationship between it and China, and called for the U.S. to conduct firm but peaceful negotiations and trade.

Kunce said the dynamics overseas underscored a need to invest economic resources at home, specifically for semiconductor production. Kelly believes the U.S. should “strengthen diplomatic initiatives” around the world, and Ross said she believes leadership should be “firm in our defense of Taiwan.”

Shepard said “we should welcome China to the world stage as a peer ... but send a message that we won’t accept aggressiveness.” Toder argued the country had global impact, pointing to Chinese-owned farmland in Missouri. Sifton said the “last half century of engagement with China has been difficult,” but believes “President Biden has us on the right track.”

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would cover a major system upgrade.

The Emergency Operations Center is also being relocated, moving from the police station to the basement of the Economic Development Alliance Building.

Parks and Recreation

The parks department has a number of projects budgeted for next year, such as drainage work at North Park (\$30,000), a skatepark facility (\$75,000) and updated/new bathrooms and Patryla Park and Spur Pond (\$173,110, coming from federal grants).

But the contractual service of an outside firm to conduct a survey of the park system, which will lead the department to creating a master plan that will guide department projects and programming for the following 10 years, is the department’s priority in 2022.

Sidewalks

The Baltimore construction project nears completion before the end of this year. So the planned sidewalk extension from New Street up to Highway 6 was pushed to 2022. That cost is budgeted for \$507,835, with the city getting funds from a grant.

Park

Continued from Page 1A

With a new City Council policy, he hopes getting that gazebo could be a bit easier. Last week, the council approved a change to its purchasing policy. Now, if a city department puts a project out to bid two times and doesn’t receive a bid either time, that department can then seek out and negotiate a deal with a vendor. So now the onus is on the Sadler’s department to find a vendor and use the grant it has been unable to.

Walking paths have been paved in the park, but there is a missing space in the middle. Without knowing the exact size of the gazebo — or if it will be level with the ground or elevated — Sadler said it didn’t make sense to pour concrete there yet.

An ornate water fountain has been planned, though Sadler remains a little pessimistic about that feature. He said his concern is with kids putting soap in it, or creating other headaches the parks department has to clean up.

Two other definite items will be a scenic entryway of some kind, and a memorial for the old high school. Several pieces of the old high school were kept and the plan is to use something as a dedication to the former building.

That could also lead into some community fundraising that Sadler thinks the project will need. To this point, the parks department hasn’t paid for any piece of the park. The trees there came from a grant. The gazebo will be paid for by a grant. And the sidewalks were poured since the Aquatic Center’s contractor missed its deadline. So some ingenuity has gotten Detweiler Park this far. The Detweiler family also donated \$10,000 toward the project.

“We want to make sure the Detweiler family remains involved in that, as well as (the Lakes, Parks and Recreation Commission). ... Everything that’s been funded so far hasn’t come from the Parks and Recreation Department,” Sadler said. “This has kind of been a side project, so we’re just trying to be good stewards of the city’s funds, and do as much as we can through grants and creative funding.”

Sadler has tossed around the idea of a brick donation community project. Since the old high school was made from brick, having a brick feature of some kind, possibly for the dedication area, is something Sadler would like to see. So his tentative plan would be for people to donate money, then their name would be on a brick on that feature. The entryway at Spainhower Field has a similar concept.

Still, with some remaining pieces left, Sadler said the park is still in line with the department’s internal timeline for completion.

COVID

Continued from Page 1A

contractors to get vaccinated by Nov. 22 and Jan. 4, respectively.

Gov. Mike Parson, also a Republican, issued a largely symbolic executive order last week banning state government agencies from forcing workers to cooperate with the federal employee rules.

Over the next month, the U.S. Department of Labor is taking feedback on whether or not the new rules for the private sector should be expanded to include smaller businesses. The OSHA rules also apply to state and local government employees in 26 states, including some led by Republicans that have blocked such requirements. Missouri is not among those states.

Republican elected officials have widely criticized the rules issued by the Democratic administration, often calling them federal overreach. When President Joe Biden first introduced them in September, Missouri Republicans in the executive branch and legislature urged resistance and action.

U.S. Sen. Roy Blunt on Thursday co-sponsored a resolution of disapproval condemning the new private sector rules.

“Given the significant labor force and supply chain problems we’re facing, the last thing our economy needs is to lose more workers because of this misguided, costly, and unworkable mandate,” Blunt said. “It is the absolute wrong approach to getting more people vaccinated and I will continue working with my colleagues to stop it.”

Several conservative lawmakers requested in September that Parson call a special session to preemptively ban vaccine mandates in private workplaces, but he declined to do so.

Budget

Continued from Page 1A

every department sees an increase in those areas next year.

And while the city is budgeting for equipment and other items to be purchased, there are still supply chain issues across the world that can delay many of those from happening. So there could be a number of purchases that get moved to 2023 as next year happens, and higher-priority items will be favored.

So here are some department-specific breakdowns of planned spending for next year.

Police

Kirksville Police Chief Scott Williamson outlined a number of improvements to the station for next year, saying the space can be used more efficiently. Currently, the booking area is downstairs. Williamson said having to walk a handcuffed person downstairs is a liability issue, and the space down there is cramped. So there is a section upstairs that has direct access to the outside that will be renovated to be the booking area.

There is \$10,655 dedicated to training

Atheists have highest rates of COVID-19 vaccination

Marc Ramirez
USA TODAY

Nicole Carr grew up attending a liberal Lutheran church in New Jersey. But as she got older, went off to college and left her family behind, she started to question the things she'd been taught — especially those associated with organized religion.

"I slowly realized the things I'd thought didn't make sense to me anymore," she said.

Carr, 55, now considers herself an atheist, part of a growing but misunderstood group that according to a recent Pew Research Center survey has the highest rates of vaccination against COVID-19 compared to its religious counterparts, some of whom harbor serious doubts about the efficacy and safety of the vaccines despite data indicating otherwise.

Nine in 10 Americans identifying as an atheist report being at least partially vaccinated against the virus, according to the survey of more than 10,000 adults conducted in late August. The number was higher than the 86% of Hispanic Catholics, and 82% of Catholics overall, who reported the same.

And it was notably more than Protestants, including 73% of white non-evangelicals, 70% of Black Protestants and just 57% of white evangelicals.

Among agnostics, the rate was 84%. "Part of the core of our life stance is trusting in science and reason, and making decisions based on evidence," said Carr, who serves as deputy director of the American Humanist Association, based in Washington, D.C., and who recently received a COVID-19 booster shot. "That, coupled with our belief in the importance of compassion, is why I think we're vaccinated at a higher rate than the typical population.

"We know the rates of vaccinated people versus unvaccinated people hospitalized due to COVID, and we trust that science."

As of Friday, the United States had recorded 45.9 million confirmed COVID-19 cases, with nearly 745,000 deaths attributed to the virus, according to Johns Hopkins University data. Nearly 191 million Americans — close to 58% of the population — have been vaccinated, according to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention.

Anjan Chakravarty, a philosophy pro-

fessor who focuses on atheism and secular ethics at the University of Miami, said that atheists being the most highly vaccinated group was "fascinating, but not surprising."

Because self-identifying as an atheist involves questioning whether belief in religious dogma is rational and what might instead make more sense, "it's very common for atheists and humanists... to have a very high regard for scientific investigation," he said. "It's hardly surprising that atheists, as a group, would be especially serious about following the advice of our best science."

Growing number of Americans eschew organized religion

About 4% of Americans identify as an atheist, meaning they don't believe in God or a spiritual force of any kind, according to separate surveys conducted by the Pew Center in 2018 and 2019, compared to just 2% in 2009. Agnostics also grew from 3% to 5% in the same time period, the center reported.

A quarter of Americans don't identify with any organized religion, according to the Public Religion Research Institute.

Atheists are far more plentiful in Western Europe — for instance, the Czech Republic, where 25% of the population identifies as such, Belgium (19%), Denmark (16%) and France (15%).

In the United States, most atheists are young white men, with a median age of 34, and tend to be more educated than many Americans: 43% have a college education compared to 27% of the general public.

While an atheist is someone who doubts the existence of a God, humanism goes further, Carr said. She pointed to the humanist association's tagline, "Good Without a God."

"To be a humanist, you believe the 'good' part is just as important as the 'without a God' part," she said. "This is the only life we have and it's up to us to imbue it with value and worth. Being good to each other is how we do that."

This year, the association, which now includes 240 U.S. chapters and affiliates, named Dr. Anthony Fauci, the nation's top expert on infectious disease, its 2021 recipient of its Humanist of the Year — not only for his work during the pandemic but for his openly humanist stance, Carr said.



Atheist Dan Courtney delivered the country's first secular invocation in July 2014 at a town board meeting in Greece, N.Y. A quarter of Americans don't identify with any organized religion, according to the Public Religion Research Institute. JAMIE GERMANO/USA TODAY NETWORK

"He has twice remarked that despite being raised Catholic and educated in Jesuit schools, he no longer identifies with organized religion," Carr said.

In a 2015 interview with C-SPAN, Fauci said: "I'm less enamored of organized religion than I am with the principles of humanity and goodness to mankind and doing the best that you can."

Science vs. faith: A deepening divide?

For some religious communities, opposition to vaccines can rest on more than safety or efficacy concerns: In February, the Catholic Archdiocese of New Orleans issued a statement advising against the Johnson & Johnson vaccine, calling it "morally compromised" for having been developed with cloned stem cells from aborted fetuses. Those same cells were used in tests for the Pfizer and Moderna vaccines but ultimately not in their production.

Neil Gross, a sociology professor at Col-

lege in Waterville, Maine, sees a growing distinction between two groups of people in the United States divided by the institutions and authorities they consider legitimate. One side follows science, the other faith and faith leaders, each with a deepening distrust of the other.

"That's playing out in a whole variety of areas," he said. "The vaccine is just one of them."

Fifteen years ago, Gross and colleague Solon Simmons of George Mason University surveyed 1,500 professors nationwide about their religious beliefs, finding much higher rates of atheism or agnosticism among those at elite research universities (37%) than at community colleges (15%).

Conversely, the share of those who believed in God was twice as high at community colleges (40%) as at the universities (20%). The survey also found belief differences depending on the academics' field of study: Those in psychology and biology were 61% atheist or agnostic, while 63% of those in accounting said they believed in God's existence.

Navy launches ship named for gay rights leader Milk

ASSOCIATED PRESS

SAN DIEGO — A Navy ship named for slain gay rights leader Harvey Milk, who served four years in the Navy before being forced out, was christened and launched in San Diego Bay on Saturday.

The replenishment oiler USNS Harvey Milk slid down the shipyard ways after a bottle of champagne was smashed on the bow by former Navy officer Paula M. Neira, clinical program director for the John Hopkins Center for Transgender Health.

Milk's nephew, Stuart Milk, and Navy Secretary Carlos Del Toro watched the traditional ceremony.

"The secretary of the Navy needed to be here today, not just to amend the wrongs of the past, but to give inspiration to all of our LGBTQ community leaders who served in the Navy, in uniform today and in the civilian workforce as well too, and to tell them that we're committed to them in the future," Del Toro said.

Del Toro said that, like many others, Milk had to "mask that very important part of his life" while he served in the Navy. "For far too long, sailors like Lt. Milk were forced into the shadows or, worse yet, forced out of our beloved Navy," Del Toro said. "That injustice is part of our Navy history, but so is the perseverance of all who continue to serve in the face of injustice."

Milk was one of the first openly gay candidates elected to public office. He was serving on the San Francisco Board of Supervisors in 1978 when a former political colleague, Dan White, assassinated him and Mayor George Moscone at City Hall.

In 2016, then-Navy Secretary Ray Mabus decided that six new oilers scheduled to be built would be named after civil and human rights leaders. In addition to Milk, they include Sojourner Truth, Chief Justice Earl Warren, Robert F. Kennedy, suffragist Lucy Stone and Rep. John Lewis of Georgia.

Del Toro told Mabus, who attended the christening, it was a courageous decision. "Ship names are important because they express what we value as a Navy and as a nation and communicate those values around the globe in every port of call," Del Toro said.

Stuart Milk, co-founder and presi-



David Campos, left, vice chair of the California Democratic Party, takes a selfie with Nicole Murray-Ramirez, center, an LGBT activist, holding a photo of Harvey Milk, and Bevan Dufty, right, director of the San Francisco Bay area rapid transit district, before the launching of the USNS Harvey Milk, a fleet replenishment oiler ship named after the first openly gay elected official Saturday in San Diego. ALEX GALLARDO/AP

dent of the Harvey Milk Foundation, thanked Mabus for providing the family details of his uncle's discharge from the Navy. "He has a less-than-honorable discharge. He was forced to resign because he was gay," Stuart Milk said, adding "we have to teach our history to prevent ourselves from going backwards and repeating it."

Although there is a process for reversing such discharges, he said it was important to not do that for his late uncle in order "to keep the memory of how we did not honor everyone in this very honorable service."

The naval tradition of having ship "sponsors" went to Neira and U.S. Sen. Dianne Feinstein, D-Calif., who was unable to attend.

Feinstein was in San Francisco City Hall when Milk and Moscone were shot and then made the stunning announcement of their deaths. The ship "will carry a rich legacy of civic leadership," Feinstein said in a letter read at the ceremony.

"When the Harvey Milk sails, she will send a very strong message both domestically and around the globe to everybody that believes in freedom and justice and liberty, that there is a place for you in this family," said co-sponsor Neira.



This is a welcome sign to the Oglala Lakota Nation in South Dakota. JIMMY EMERSON, DVM / FLICKR

Reality

Continued from Page 2A

previous research has explored rural and minority women's barriers to breast cancer care, including travel time, financial reasons, child care, caregiving and insurance. "A lot of papers touched on these different themes," said Monetathchi, who is Co-manche. "What's frustrating is that, since so many papers are touching on it, my question was, 'Why is it still happening, then?'"

Indigenous women, researchers say, have the lowest breast cancer survival rates of any racial group, and cancer is their leading cause of death. Indigenous people suffer alarming health disparities compared with white people, and they rely on the chronically underfunded federal Indian Health Service.

Hopi Tribe member Kellen Polingyumtewa is a program coordinator of a CDC-funded early detection program under Hopi Breast Cancer Support Services. The program helps coordinate transportation to appointments and sends mobile screening units through the Arizona reservation, he said.

The first known cancer clinic on a reservation opened on the Navajo Reservation just two years ago through the Tuba City Regional Health Care Corporation. It also serves the Hopi Tribe. Up to that point, the closest cancer clinic to the Hopi Reservation was at least 90 miles away in Flagstaff, Arizona. The recently opened clinic doesn't yet have the capacity to see all of Polingyumtewa's patients, he said, and for mammograms, diagnostic screenings or chemotherapy, most still have to drive the 180 miles round trip to Flagstaff.

Many patients rely on family members to drive them and end up feeling like a burden, he said. He has known

some patients to hitchhike or walk to appointments.

Polingyumtewa added that many Hopi breast cancer patients are uninsured and living below poverty. The new clinic started by a husband-and-wife oncology team with Tuba City Regional Health Care Center has been a welcome start, he said.

The pandemic made transportation harder. Contracts with nonmedical transportation came to a halt during social distancing and lockdowns.

"But people still needed their care. There were some that would walk. But there were some that didn't go at all," Polingyumtewa said.

The program is seeing the fallout of that now as more patients return with concerning symptoms. "Because of the barriers and the hesitancy to get access to their health care provider, oftentimes when they get to an oncologist or they get the diagnostics, it's stage 3 rather than stage 1," he said. "The options are limited. And, oftentimes, it results into a mastectomy."

Marc Emerson, an epidemiologist and professor at the University of North Carolina's Gillings School of Global Public Health, said prevention and early detection are difficult with limited resources.

Emerson, who is Navajo and Jemez, grew up on a farm in New Mexico's northwest Shiprock community on the Navajo Reservation. When his father was diagnosed with late-stage stomach cancer, Emerson used to drive him more than 200 miles south of Shiprock — about 3½ hours — to consultations and surgical treatments in Albuquerque, New Mexico. His dad eventually died of the cancer.

All difficulties — familial, financial, geographic — need to be taken into consideration to address the barriers, Emerson said.

"What's really critical is thinking about these more holistically," he said. "It's difficult, but I think it's critical in how we start to frame out and think about what inequity looks like."



Dear Annie
Annie Lane

Frustrated wife considers leaving marriage

Dear Annie: I've been married to a man for 17 years. But not long after the marriage, he stopped being a husband.

At first, we would talk, laugh and have fun. We would do things together, go places and, most of all, we would make love all the time. It's been 10 years since we have had sex.

When we did try, he couldn't fulfill. All he does now is pick fights. He blames me for things and does what he wants. He stays in the bedroom all the time. He yells when I ask for help with something.

He tells me I'm the crazy one. He makes me so mad that I hit him in the pocket and spend money. I know that's not the right thing to do. But I do it.

I ask him if he loves me and wants to stay in our marriage. He says yes, that he still loves me and wants our marriage to work.

However, when his best friend was alive, he would do everything for him, including giving him money. That was because his friend did not want to work. He lived in the mountains at our place until he died.

After that, things got worse. My husband, who I will call "Steve," bought a cabin in the mountains for his best friend's son.

He did this while telling me that we have no money to go away on a trip together.

You should know that I have kids from a previous marriage, and my ex-husband and I helped with some of their college expenses. My current husband, Steve, complained about that, yet at the same time, he is eager to give money to his dead friend's son.

So, do you think this is a marriage or just a convenience? Should I leave and quit wasting time? Please help.

Frustrated Wife

Dear Frustrated Wife: You do not have a spending problem. You have a husband with much bigger problems. Don't let them continue to be your problems. At the same time, getting his side of the story will require marriage counseling, and you both can find out for sure whether the two of you can change to make it a happy marriage.

"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 for more information. Send your questions for Annie Lane to dearannie@creators.com.



Hints From Heloise
Heloise

How to remove crayon wax from walls?

Dear Heloise: I'm a bachelor who just bought his first house.

The people before me left a messy microwave that I've cleaned but can't get the odor out of it.

In addition to that, their children used crayons to draw on the walls, which needs to be cleaned before I paint. The waxy crayons are hard to remove, so I need some help getting this clean.

What should I use?

Jake M., Cape Coral, Florida

Jake: You can easily remove the artwork the previous children left for you by sprinkling some baking soda on a damp sponge and gently rubbing the area in a circular motion.

As for the microwave that still retains an odor, try this: Put 2 tablespoons of baking powder into 1 cup of water in a microwave-safe bowl and turn on high for about 2-3 minutes or until the water boils and steams the microwave. It will also help any spills left in a microwave.

If you want some simple solutions to many of life's problems around the house, then you probably need my pamphlet "Heloise's Baking Soda Hints and Recipes." To get a copy, just go to www.Heloise.com or send \$5 along with a stamped, self-addressed envelope to: Heloise/Baking Soda, P.O. Box 795001, San Antonio, TX 78279-5001. This pamphlet is a handy little guide for many cleaning solutions.

Heloise

Dear Heloise: I have a teddy bear from my grandmother's childhood that I have on display in an antique buggy in a guest room. Sadly, he's gotten grimy after so many years, and I don't know how to clean him. Any hints you have would be greatly appreciated.

Paula N., Fitchburg, Wisconsin

Paula: Place the bear in a plastic bag and liberally sprinkle baking soda over the bear. After 24 hours, remove the bear from the bag and brush the fur. You'll be amazed at how much dirt comes off.

Heloise

Obituaries

TODAY'S OBITUARIES AND DEATH NOTICES

Name	Age	Town, State	Death Date	Arrangements
*Howard, William "Bill" Alexander	81	Kirkville	06-Nov	Davis-Playle-Hudson-Rimer Funeral Home
*Parsons, Phyllis Ann	85	Falmouth, MA	27-Oct	Chapman Funerals & Cremations
*Walker, Mary Lucille	93	Kirkville	03-Nov	Davis-Playle-Hudson-Rimer Funeral Home

* Additional information in display obituaries

Obituaries appear in print and online at legacy.com/obituaries/kirkvilledailyexpress

Mary Lucille Walker

KIRKSVILLE - Mary Lucille Walker, 93 of Kirkville, passed away Wednesday, November 3rd, 2021 at Northeast Regional Medical Center in Kirkville.

The daughter of John William and Mildred Mary (Karns) Perrin, she was born June 26th, 1928 in Marshalltown, IA. On October 22nd, 1949 in Kirkville, she was united in marriage to Robert Lee Walker.

Mary is survived by her sons, Alan Dale Walker and wife Jane Finney, DO and David Paul Walker and wife Traci; Daughters, Dorthy Ann Walker and Mary Jane Walker-Smith; Grandchildren, Ethan Paul Smith and wife Sarah, Dillon Christopher Walker, Sarah Danielle Walker and Jamie Marie Walker; Great Grandchildren, Malachi and Chance Smith; Brothers, Donald Perrin and Clarence Perrin and wife Darlene; and Sister, Dorthy Floyd and husband William.

She was preceded in death by her husband, Robert; parents, William and Mildred; infant son, Tommy; and sister, Dorris Carrel.

Mary grew up on the farm in Marshalltown. She moved with her family to Kirkville in 1940, graduating from Kirkville High School in 1946. After high school, she went to nursing school at what is now ATSU. She went on to work at Laughlin Hospital in the Pediatric department for many years. She was very patient about her work and loved children. After retirement, Mary loved quilting, camping, being on the farm and gardening. She was especially fond of growing flowers. She also enjoyed all her family events. She loved her family and also her dog Pollyanna.

Mary was a member of the Mary Immaculate Catholic Church and the Peacemakers quilting group.

Mary will be cremated and a graveside service will be held at a later date.

Arrangements in the care of Davis-Playle-Hudson-Rimer Funeral Home; www.davisplaylehudsonrimer.com.



Phyllis Ann Parsons

FALMOUTH - PHYLLIS ANN PARSONS - she was a wonderful mother, partner, friend, companion, wife, and Grammy, her most enjoyable role. And we could go on.

Phyllis Ann (Workman) Parsons, 85, of Falmouth formerly of Sharon, on Wednesday, October 27, 2021, at the height of the extraordinary storm last week. Born in Micola, Missouri, daughter of the late Roy Curtis and Imogene (Michie) Workman.

Born in her grandmother's house in southeast Missouri, she spent her childhood in several different towns throughout state. She graduated from high school in Kansas City before enrolling in Christian College in Columbia, MO.

They spent the first five years of their married life together with her husband as a Navy officer on public relations assignments in San Diego and Hollywood, CA, where they enjoyed many opportunities to interface with motion picture and television personalities on military assignments.

Although she left college when she married, she continued to value education — whether formal or informal — for her entire life.

The Navy moved them to California where their first son was born. A few years later, and after a few intermediate moves to new civilian public relations positions (St. Louis, Topeka, San Diego, Boston, Miami and New Orleans), they settled in Massachusetts where their second son was born, and where she lived for most of the rest of her life.

While her southern drawl mostly faded after living in New England for so many years, her southern hospitality never did. Superficially she may have had many hobbies, but most of them were simply excuses for her true passion — visiting with people. A trait she inherited from her parents and passed on to her children, she could enter any situation at any time and be certain to leave that encounter with a new friend.

For 65 years the beloved wife of Glenn H. Parsons, Jr. Devoted mother of Glenn H. Parsons, III and his wife Nancy, and Marc Parsons and his wife Jennifer. Adored grandmother of Glenn H. Parsons, IV and Cara Parsons. Dear sister of Curtis Workman. Loving aunt of Matt Workman and John Workman.

A Celebration of Life will be celebrated at a later date.

Remembrances may be made to the charity, COPD Advocacy, American Lung Association. For online guestbook and obituary please visit www.chapmanfuneral.com

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William "Bill" Alexander Howard

KIRKSVILLE -

William "Bill" Alexander Howard, 81 of Kirkville passed away Saturday, November 6, 2021 at his home.

The son of William "Bill" Alexander and Bess (Evans) Howard, he was born November 13, 1939 in Hannibal, Missouri. He was united in marriage to Sherry Pratte in Estes Park, Colorado in 1993.

Bill is survived by his wife Sherry; his children, Kelly Howard Taylor and husband Jeff of Prairie Village, KS, Kim Smith and husband Leonard of Cache, OK, Jason Howard and wife Jennie of Lagrange, GA and Kristin Howard of Winter Park, FL; seven grandchildren and four great grandchildren.

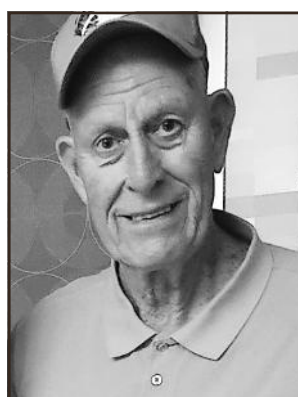
He was preceded in death by his parents.

Bill graduated from Hannibal High School in 1958 where he was a star basketball player. He continued playing basketball while attending Moberly Area Community College and then the University of Houston. After a stint in the United States Air Force he completed his degree at University of Florida. He worked as a Federal Air Marshal and flew international flights, and taught in the Lagrange, Missouri schools until the mid 1970's when he moved to Kirkville to complete two Masters at Northeast and began working for Kirkville Osteopathic Medical Center until retiring in 1995. After retirement he worked several years as a Park Ranger at Rocky Mountain National Park and as a volunteer DAV transport driver.

He was a very big sports fan, following all sports. He loved to travel and especially loved spending time with family.

Bill will be cremated and a memorial service will be held at a later date.

Arrangements in the care of Davis-Playle-Hudson-Rimer Funeral Home; www.davisplaylehudsonrimer.com.



Paying tribute to the life of your loved one.

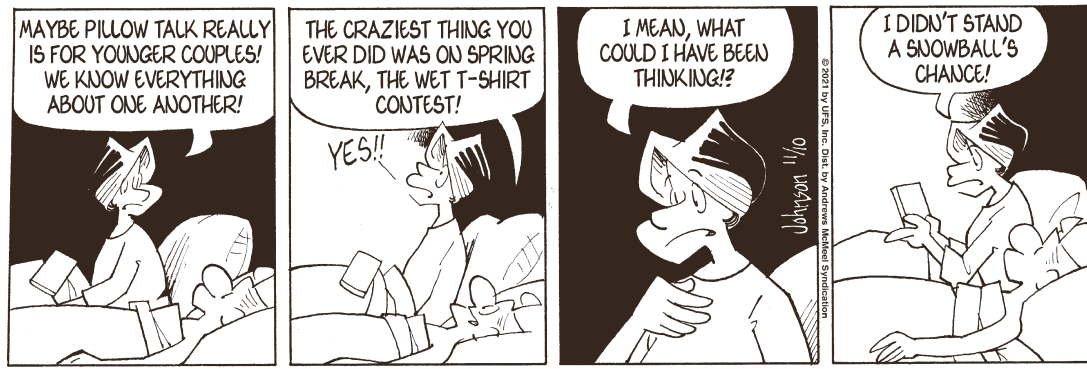


Perhaps they are not stars in the sky, but rather openings where our loved ones shine down to let us know they are happy.

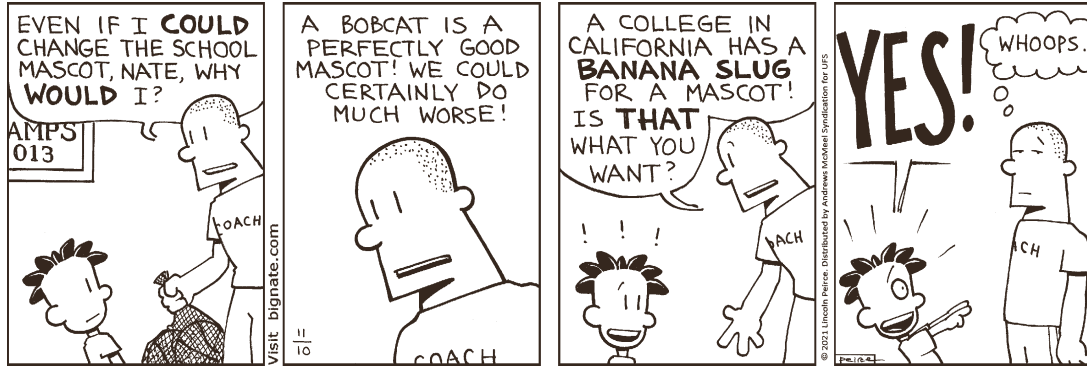
-Inuit saying

COMICS

ARLO AND JANIS



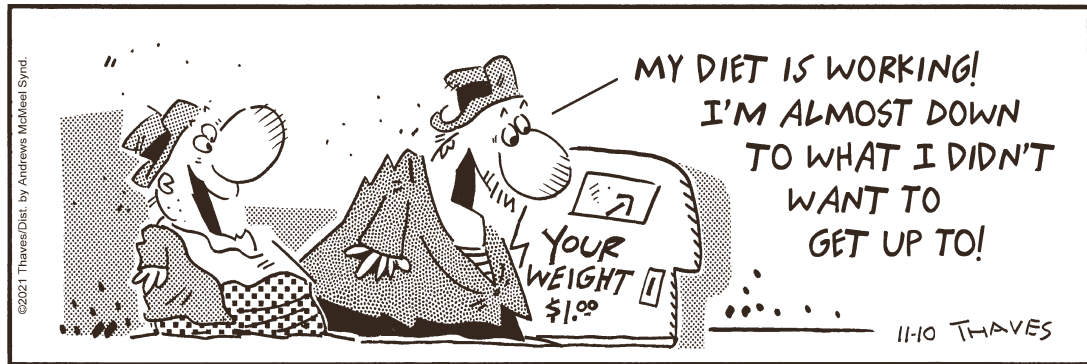
BIG NATE



THE BORN LOSER



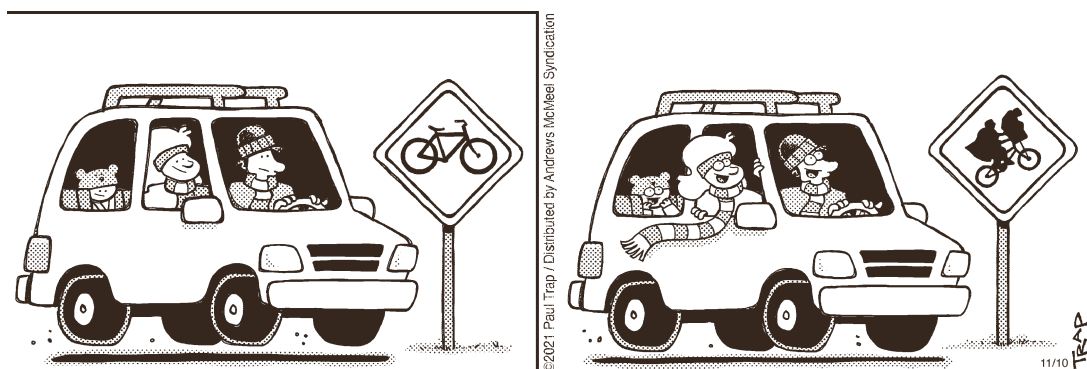
FRANK AND ERNEST



MONTY



THATABABY



SUDOKU

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

PREVIOUS ANSWER

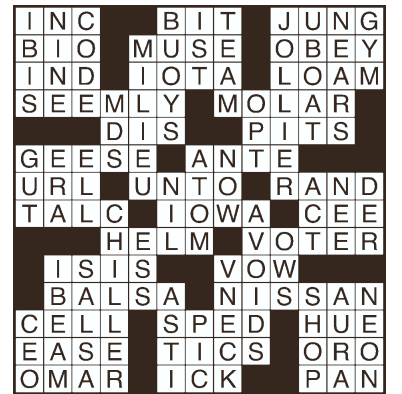
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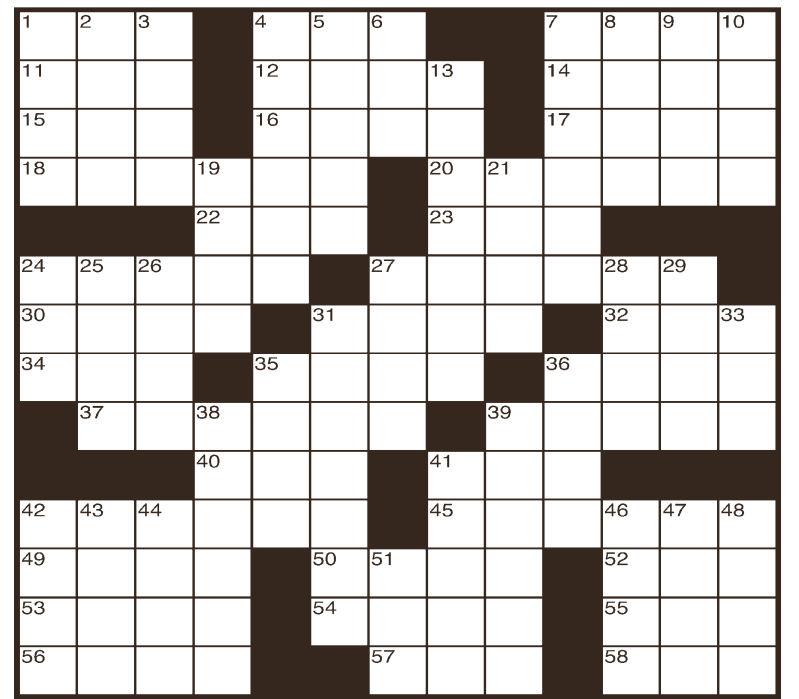
CROSSWORD

- ACROSS**
 1 Sporty truck
 4 Newsman — Donaldson
 7 Prefix for "trillion"
 11 Sprint
 12 Way up there
 14 "Bloom County" penguin
 15 Put in a kiln
 16 Mme. Gluck of opera
 17 Singer McEntire
 18 Incapable
 20 Lustrous fabric
 22 Wine category
 23 Fem. saint
 24 Veers off course
 27 Out of business
 30 Surround
 31 Campbell of country music
 32 Leaf out
 34 Kind of sale
 35 River source
- DOWN**
 1 Language of Pakistan
 2 Rotate
 3 One-name singer
 4 Sedimentary rocks
 5 Felt crummy
- ACROSS**
 36 District
 37 Like a used car
 39 Tendon
 40 Pollution control org.
 41 Mil. rank
 42 Succeeded (2 wds.)
 45 More frilly
 49 Do magazine work
 50 Terrible czar
 52 Ticket office notice
 53 Tie down
 54 DEA operative
 55 Literary collection
 56 Little child
 57 Casual wear
 58 Longing

Answer to Previous Puzzle



- DOWN**
 6 Movie studio
 7 Viennese desserts
 8 Fencing weapon
 9 Country cousin
 10 Strong — ox
 13 Gave a hard time
 19 Raised
 21 Like — of bricks
 24 Top NCO
 25 Untruthful one
 26 Impulse
 27 Outfitted
 28 Poet's black
 29 Frank Herbert saga
- ACROSS**
 31 Quivering dessert
 33 Drops on the grass
 35 Mesa dweller
 36 Metallic element
 38 Come to a boil
 39 Medium's session
 41 Dazzling light
 42 Thaw
 43 Call it —
 44 Pancake shape
 46 "By Jove!" (2 wds.)
 47 Marine bird
 48 Sorrel or bay
 51 Tub



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HERMAN



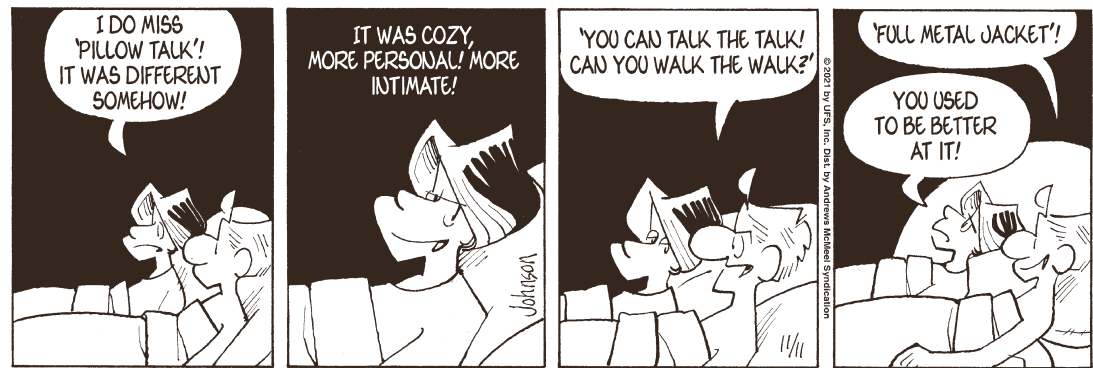
"Why don't you write more clearly? You left a \$400 tip."

HOROSCOPE BY EUGENIA LAST

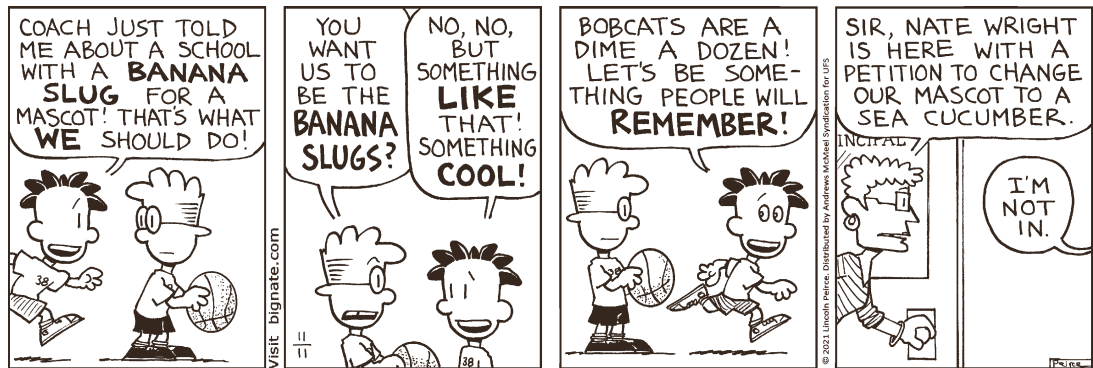
- Aries** (March 21-April 19): Check in with the people who have helped and offered you the best advice over the years, and you won't be disappointed. ☆☆☆
- Taurus** (April 20-May 20): Flipping from one thing to another won't get you very far. Consider your best path forward. Evaluate your current situation and your relationship with others. ☆☆
- Gemini** (May 21-June 20): What someone suggests may intrigue you, but before you decide to follow someone's lead, consider what's best for you. Focus on your strengths. ☆☆☆☆
- Cancer** (June 21-July 22): Mix business with pleasure, and you'll make headway. Entertain ideas and proposals you encounter, but don't negotiate without taking a closer look. ☆☆☆
- Leo** (July 23-Aug. 22): Slow down, rethink your strategy, make plans and surround yourself with people who are stable and receptive. Keep change to a minimum. ☆☆☆
- Virgo** (Aug. 23-Sept. 22): Listen and learn, but don't lose your identity. Add a unique spin to whatever you do, and you'll maintain your voice and gain respect and support. ☆☆☆
- Libra** (Sept. 23-Oct. 22): Take responsibility seriously, and you'll gain support. Make suggestions, and compromise if necessary to clear up unfinished business. ☆☆☆☆
- Scorpio** (Oct. 23-Nov. 21): Understanding will help when dealing with others. Say less and listen more. Don't be judgmental if you don't want others to judge you. ☆☆
- Sagittarius** (Nov. 22-Dec. 21): Explore your options, and make intelligent decisions. How you handle your money will determine what you can accomplish. ☆☆☆
- Capricorn** (Dec. 22-Jan. 19): Take a closer look at the way you present yourself to the world. An update will give you a fresh perspective on what's current. Embrace change at home and work. ☆☆☆
- Aquarius** (Jan. 20-Feb. 18): Don't limit what you can do because of what others suggest or pursue. Make decisions that suit your needs and will help you reach your goals. ☆☆☆
- Pisces** (Feb. 19-March 20): Don't trust anyone with your money, responsibilities or documents. Step in and do things for yourself to ensure you are happy with the results. ☆☆☆

COMICS

ARLO AND JANIS



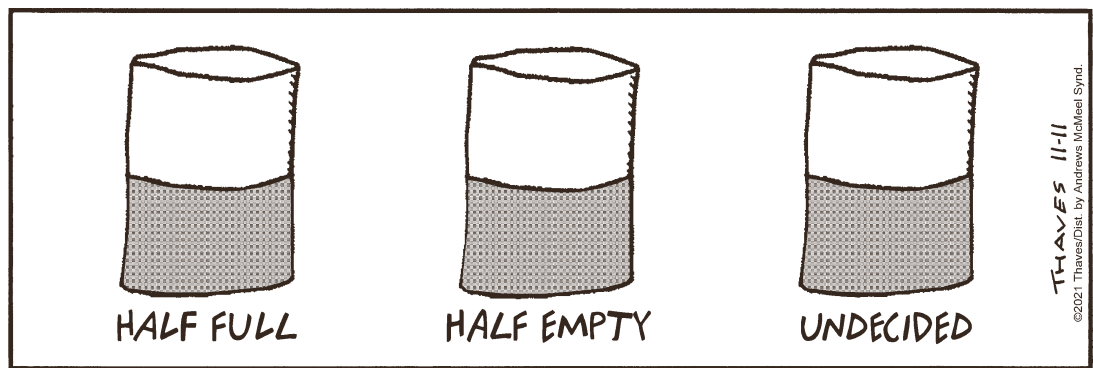
BIG NATE



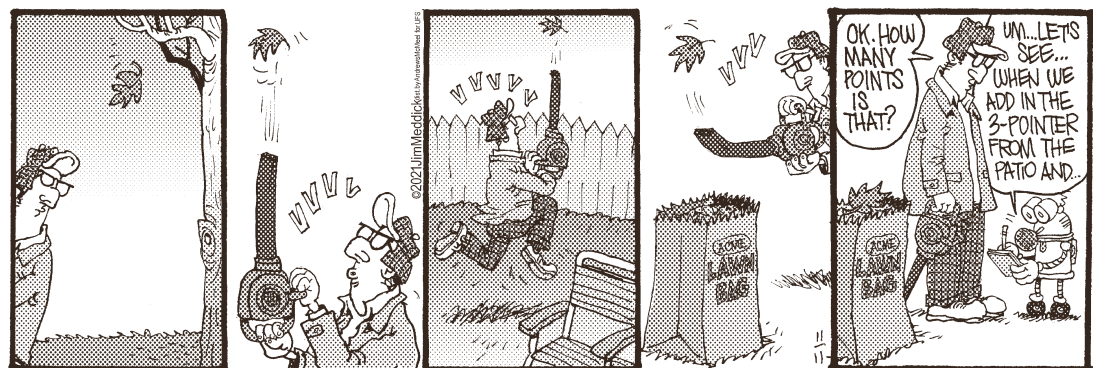
THE BORN LOSER



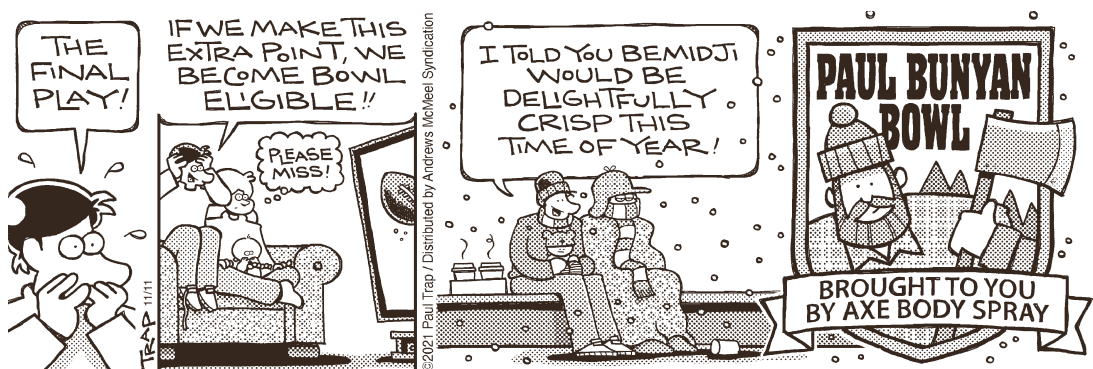
FRANK AND ERNEST



MONTY



THATABABY



SUDOKU

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

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	9			8			7	
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3				4	6			7
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		2	1	7		4		

PREVIOUS ANSWER

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

CROSSWORD

ACROSS

- Soon, to a poet
- Library unit
- Hosp. staffer
- Tiresome talker
- Buffalo's lake
- Rope-a-dope boxer
- Consumes
- La femme
- Cloister dweller
- Appear in court
- Elbow
- Vegas lead-in
- Implore
- Come to
- Drive-in employee
- Surrounded by
- "Big —" (Kerouac novel)
- Senorita's aunt
- Hamelin pest
- Pullet
- Pickle choice

DOWN

- Border on
- Muzzle
- Refinery shipments
- Cuddled
- Complaints
- Monsieur's airport
- Well output
- More astute
- Touch down

Answer to Previous Puzzle

U	T	E	S	A	M	T	E	R	A
R	U	N	H	I	G	H	O	P	U
D	R	I	A	L	M	A	R	E	B
U	N	A	B	L	E	S	A	T	E
	R	E	D	S	T	E			
S	L	U	E	S	C	L	O	S	E
G	I	R	D	G	L	E	N	B	U
T	A	G	H	E	A	D	Z	O	N
R	E	S	O	L	D	S	I	N	E
	E	P	A	G	E	N			
M	A	D	E	I	T	L	A	C	I
E	D	I	T	I	V	A	N	S	R
L	A	S	H	N	A	R	C	A	N
T	Y	K	E	T	E	E	Y	E	N

37 Piled high
40 Supermarket area
41 Support
42 Fem. honorific
43 Get clean
46 Flag-making material
50 Hard wood
51 Fossil fuel
53 Archaeologist's find
54 "Luck — Lady"
55 End of a threat
56 Darth's daughter
57 Lunch
58 Ruby and Sandra
59 Shortening

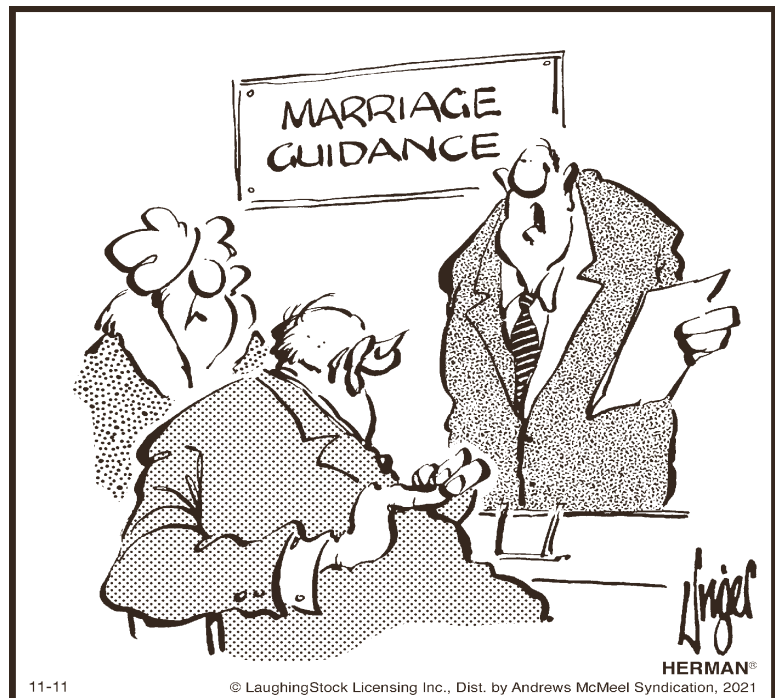
10 Electrical connector
11 Top digit
19 Scottish for John
21 "Yecch!"
23 Dobbin's digs
24 All-out fight
25 Asian nanny
26 Flying toy
27 Signaled
28 Elevator inventor
29 Disagreeable person
31 Farm building
33 Malt beverage

36 Purify, as water
38 Sigh of content
39 Did
40 Comic strip prince
42 Stubborn animals
43 — Zaharias of golf
44 Bewildered
45 Not this
46 Foundation
47 Thought
48 Roulette color
49 Tickled pink
52 Olsen of vaudeville

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HERMAN



"If she agrees to cook, I think you could spring for a 50-inch TV in the kitchen."

HOROSCOPE BY EUGENIA LAST

Aries (March 21-April 19): Dig in and get things done. Your performance will be what makes a difference to onlookers. Move forward with confidence, and do what you do best. ☆☆☆

Taurus (April 20-May 20): Size down, look for bargains and avoid promising more than you can deliver. Too much of anything will lead to unnecessary stress. ☆☆

Gemini (May 21-June 20): An intellectual approach to whatever you do, hard work and a positive attitude will help you excel. The research you do will boost your reputation. ☆☆☆☆

Cancer (June 21-July 22): Participate in a cause. You will face opposition but, in the end, it will give you a sense of satisfaction that you did something to stand up for your beliefs. ☆☆☆

Leo (July 23-Aug. 22): A change at home results from your professional goals and the people you deal with daily. Don't exaggerate or procrastinate. It's essential to keep everyone updated. ☆☆☆

Virgo (Aug. 23-Sept. 22): Make positive changes. Don't get involved in someone's lofty scheme. Look out for your interests, and maintain a healthy lifestyle. ☆☆☆

Libra (Sept. 23-Oct. 22): You need to destress. Having downtime, getting back to basics and letting go of things you cannot change will help you rethink your strategy moving forward. ☆☆☆☆

Scorpio (Oct. 23-Nov. 21): Research will pay off. Diversity is the spice of life and will help you stay balanced and informed. Be an observer and a reluctant spender. ☆☆

Sagittarius (Nov. 22-Dec. 21): Don't get ahead of yourself. Take a moment to look over the logistics and expenses of your plans. Evaluate the pros and cons. ☆☆☆

Capricorn (Dec. 22-Jan. 19): Pay attention to how you feel, look and handle emotional matters. Adjust your time, and focus your energy on what makes the most sense. ☆☆☆

Aquarius (Jan. 20-Feb. 18): Having an unrealistic view of what's possible will leave you falling short. Stick to basics, and you'll manage to get what's necessary out of the way. ☆☆☆

Pisces (Feb. 19-March 20): Take a creative approach to work, and you will stand out. Factor in expense, and you'll come up with a cost-efficient and popular plan among your peers. ☆☆☆

SPORTS

10 area players pick up all-state softball honors

Austin Miller

Kirksville Daily Express
USA TODAY NETWORK

A whopping 10 area athletes have been selected for all-state honors by the Missouri High School Fastpitch Coaches Association.

The all state teams have been released this week, slowly coming out since the season concluded last weekend.

In Class 1, state runner up La Plata had four players selected. Olivia Coy and Pieper Wood finished a four-peat, earning all-state honors each year of their career. They were first-team pitcher and infielder selections this season. Sophomore center fielder Paige Carvajal

earned all-state honors for the second straight season, a first-team outfielder this year. And Bulldog catcher Claire Coy was a first-team selection behind the plate.

Atlanta pitcher Abbie Farmer was also selected as a first-team pitcher.

Scotland County's Hannah Feeney (infield) and Schuyler County's Kait Hatfield (at-large) were second-team selections.

Moving to Class 2, Putnam County and Milan both had girls make the all-state team. Putnam's Claire Tipton was a first-team pitcher and Milan's Cady Pauley was a first-team utility.

And in Class 3, Kirksville's Sophie Stuart was a first-team pick as a pitcher.



La Plata's Pieper Wood finished a four-peat, earning all-state honors each year of her career. AUSTIN MILLER/KIRKSVILLE DAILY EXPRESS FILE

LOCAL ROUNDUP

Nov. 6

High school cross country

Class 1 state race

● Atlanta – Kyley Magers, 47th, 22:43.9; Carter Christensen, 113th, 19:47.0.

● Schuyler – Xavia Cullers, 55th, 23:01.2; Haylee Gordon, 80th, 23:43.0; Gabe Kimbrell, 58th, 18:48.4.

Class 3 state race

● Macon – Girls team, 13th; Brooklyn Anderson, 70th, 21:21.9; Sofia Burks, 87th, 21:53.7; Lindsay Burdin, 103rd, 22:27.7; Stella Burks, 130th, 23:28.0; Ellie Seiler, 147th, 24:23.3; Avery Fuller, 150th, 24:41.3; Kyleigh Roberts, 168th, 28:40.5; Ethan Glover, 136th, 18:58.4.

College football

Truman 44, McKendree 13

● Truman – Cody Schrader, 217 rushing yards, 3 TDs, 1 receiving TD; Nolan Hair, 11-for-17, 165 passing yards, 2 TDs; Jaylen Jefferson, 59 rushing

yards, 1 TD; Jacob Morris, 3 catches for 59 yards; Matt Hall, 3 catches for 58 yards, 1 TD.

Nov. 5

High school football

Jefferson City 61, Kirksville 19
No stats reported.

Macon 34, Palmyra 7

● No stats reported.

Gallatin 34, Milan 14

● Milan – Darren Doport, 102 rushing yards, 1 TD; Deric Doport, 81 rushing yards, 1 TD; Ahmet Niasse, 10 tackles, 3 for loss.

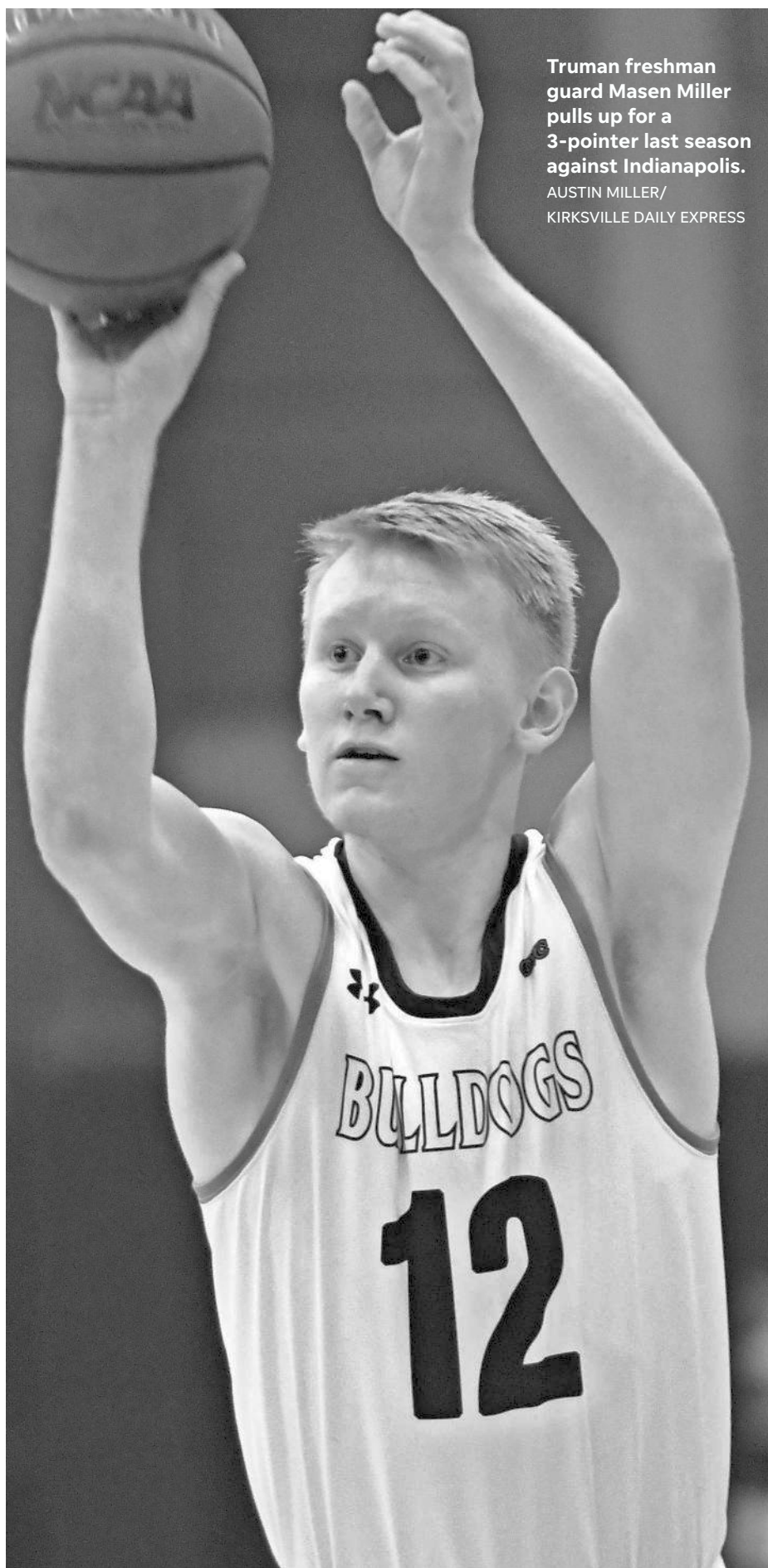
Knox Co. 60, Santa Fe 26

● No stats reported.

High school cross country

Class 4 state race

● Kirksville – Addy Jorn, 105th, 21:23.8.



Truman freshman guard Masen Miller pulls up for a 3-pointer last season against Indianapolis. AUSTIN MILLER/KIRKSVILLE DAILY EXPRESS

No. 6 Truman looks to surpass last season's success

Austin Miller

Kirksville Daily Express
USA TODAY NETWORK

Getting near the summit wasn't enough for the Truman men's basketball team.

Last year's 20-3 run saw the Bulldogs not only get the program's first NCAA Tournament win since 1999, but then snatch a few more en route to a regional title and Elite Eight appearance. After conference titles and NCAA Tournament berths the last two seasons, Truman is set for another strong year.

"The first year, we have the conference title and all that. People can say that was a fluke. Then the second year is a trend, and you solidify yourself in the third year," said redshirt junior forward Cade McKnight. "Then it's hard to argue with the results. It's taking care of business. What we have in place works, so we just have to trust that, and bring the new guys along with that mindset."

The Bulldogs return four starters from last year's team, now replacing point guard Turner Scott. Senior Hunter Strait likely inherits that position, and he stared as a shooting guard his sophomore season. McKnight is the reigning GLVC Player of the Year, Jeff Horner is the reigning GLVC Coach of the Year, guard Masen Miller was the conference's Freshman of the Year last season, forward Dylan Peeters was second-team all-conference, and Elijah Hazekamp had a strong first season in Kirksville after transferring.

An experienced group that starts the season ranked 6th in the country, the Bulldogs like the formula they have in place.

"We know how to play well together, we know our principles, our defense. We know what it takes to get there," said Miller, who averaged 11.1 points per game last season. "Now that we've been there, we don't want to just get back there, we want to go further."

And Horner doesn't feel like last year — as strong as it was — nourished his team's hunger. The Bulldogs are ranked 6th in the country, but were picked to finish 2nd in their division of the GLVC. Horner and the Bulldogs, though they don't put much stock into rankings, felt some motivation from that, too. That isn't something this team has been a stranger to in previous seasons.

"I think they're really hungry. The last couple years, we've had some people graduate, and some people put us not where we think we're at going into the season," said Horner, referencing preseason polls. "Those groups are hungry to prove them wrong. That's nothing against Brodrick (Thomas) or Turner or anything like that. Obviously, those two guys were huge pieces of our success. Now we're in that same situation again, where maybe (outsiders) thought someone was the key. I think these guys are hungry to prove otherwise and show we're a full program."

And aside from a strong starting five, Horner loves his depth on the bench this season. Sam Nissen has been a dependable defender off the bench. Sam Lock, Keaton Mitchell and Josh Ollendieck didn't get a ton of minutes last year, but Horner has seen growth. Center Owen Coburn played well in a limited role last season. Forward Eric Northweather came in last season as a true freshman a

See TRUMAN, Page 9A

5 overreactions in college football

Erick Smith
USA TODAY

It's easy to get too high or too low after each week's results in college football. Such is the nature of the sport that breeds emotional responses based on what happens positively or negatively every Saturday.

That's why we're here. A step back from the action can provide perspective that rightfully will temper some of the misplaced enthusiasm from positive performances and lift up those feeling down in the dumps after negative results from the weekend.

Week 10 had plenty of examples on both sides of the coin. Here are the five biggest overreactions from the action on the field.

● **The first playoff rankings determine the future.**

It's always important to remember that there are 12 or 13 data points for teams when the committee makes its final determination of the playoff field. When the first rankings were released, most teams had only eight. That leaves one third of the season - often with the biggest games - yet to be factored in.

So when you saw Oregon ahead of Ohio State in the No. 3 spot, that didn't mean the head-to-head result is always going to keep the Ducks ahead on Dec. 5. How you perform each week will have a big factor in how you are ranking in the next release. So, don't be surprised if there is some movement among the teams that won with Alabama, Oregon, Ohio State and Cincinnati all having close games in the fourth quarter. That could mean a boost for Michigan, which was impressive against Indiana and Oklahoma, which was idle.

● **The Big Ten East winner will make the playoff.**

That's the running expectation with Ohio State, Michigan and Michigan State each with one loss. There's a lot of football left in the final three weeks before the conference title game with Penn State capable of being a spoiler and the annual Buckeyes and Wolverines grudge match after Thanksgiving looming as a possible winner-take-all showdown.

There's one team that everyone is sleeping on. It's Wisconsin. The Badgers



Texas quarterback Hudson Card looks to pass against Iowa State on Saturday in Ames, Iowa. Iowa State won 30-7. JEFFREY BECKER/USA TODAY SPORTS

- after a slow start - have found their groove and won five consecutive games to establish themselves as the favorite in the West division. Should they get there, whichever team that arrives from the East will have a significant challenge. Wisconsin ranks first in total defense and rushing defense. It will slow down whatever offense it faces. The question will be if the improving offense can get to a level that allows it to pull an upset. There's still time for the Badgers to answer that in the affirmative.

● **Texas will be back.**

If you would have said after the Longhorns played for the title in 2009 that they wouldn't win the Big 12 and only finish inside the Top 25 three times between then and now, you'd have been asked to get your head examined. But that's exactly where things stand in Austin.

Texas has lost four consecutive games following Saturday's humiliating defeat at Iowa State and needs to win two of its

last three games to make a bowl in Steve Sarkisian's first season. Sarkisian has a massive task ahead of him to get the Longhorns into a place where they can simply compete in the SEC before eventually getting into contention for the College Football Playoff.

The move from the Big 12 was predicated on the expectation that recruiting would improve with the appeal of Texas players staying home to play in the toughest conference in the country. The sell, though, is going to be difficult. While new coaches typically get a honeymoon period with high school players, it becomes a harder sell the future as the program keeps falling behind in the present. Next season will be critical with the SEC move possible in 2023. If the program isn't ready, it's possible Texas gets completely left behind.

● **There's still a chance for Clemson to win the ACC.**

Mathematically, there is, but the reality is that the Tigers still have an immense

hill to climb just to win the Atlantic division with Wake Forest two games ahead and North Carolina State one game in front of them.

The chances would be better if Clemson was showing significant improvement that would provide optimism for their critical game against the Demon Deacon in two weeks that could be decisive. Saturday's defeat of Louisville was the fifth in five ACC victories that required a late defensive stop to secure the victory.

Before that game in two weeks, Clemson first must wait to find out how the Wake-N.C. State goes this week. The Wolfpack would be in strong position with a win, though the Demon Deacons would just need one more victory to secure the division.

There's also still the matter of Pittsburgh should everything work out perfectly. The Panthers have already beaten the Tigers and would certainly be favored in the second matchup in the title game. So Clemson fans can still hold out hope, but also must be realistic.

● **Anybody but Josh Heupel is SEC coach of year.**

Through the first half of the season, it seemed Kentucky's Mark Stoops would win this honor easily. Then this week, everything changed with Tennessee going to Lexington and defeating the Wildcats. At 5-4, the Volunteers are all but assured of going to a bowl game, something that seemed unlikely when Heupel was hired in the wake of Jeremy Pruitt's firing.

There were mass player defections from a team that had one of the worst offenses in the conference last season and a pending NCAA investigation was hanging over the program's head. But Heupel's offensive acumen is his calling card and he has wasted no time in building the group into one of the best units in the league.

Hendon Hooker, a transfer from Virginia Tech who arrived before Heupel was hired, started the season as a backup. But Joe Milton's injury opened the door and he walked through. Hooker has thrown for 21 touchdowns, is fourth in passer efficiency ratings and Tennessee averages more than 38 points per game. Makes you wonder what he will do with a full offseason next year.

Truman

Continued from Page 8A

bit overweight, Horner said, and is looking like the game-changer Horner recruited. Add in five more freshmen and Horner believes he has an excess of riches for putting rotations together.

"I definitely think this is probably the deepest team I've ever had since we've been here, and that's something exciting," Horner said.

So what did the Bulldogs learn from last year's run? For Horner, it was that sometimes you need a little luck on your side. In the regional title game against Michigan Tech, the Bulldogs converted an inbounds pass to McKnight at the end, winning 65-62. They attempted a similar play at a similar time against Flagler in the Elite Eight, and McKnight was blanketed, leaving Scott to attempt an acrobatic layup at the buzzer. It didn't fall and the Bulldogs lost 70-69.

The longstanding phrase is that, "Luck is what happens when preparation meets opportunity." Horner doesn't question his team's preparation.

"I think you need a little bit of luck, but I also think you have to create those lucky opportunities," Horner said. "We've got guys who play hard every night. That gives us a chance and that's all you can ask for."

The tournament also showed them that any empty possession can loom large.

"The margin of error at the elite level in the tournament," said McKnight of what his main takeaway from last season was. "We could've lost that Round of 16 game, and we could've won that Elite Eight game. It's the little possessions here or there that can make the difference. Every possession matters. It's that mindset that, every little detail here does matter, so everyday we have to focus on those things."

It's nearly impossible for McKnight to have a "breakout game" at this stage of his career, but the national tournament provided him one for the whole nation. McKnight was a force to be reckoned with in the Flagler game, scoring 34 points and grabbing 13 rebounds. If he hadn't earned his All-American status before that point, that game sealed it. Not only did McKnight pound the paint, but he went 5-for-9 from behind the arc.

McKnight said he spent the off-season continuing to polish his game. His



"I think [the Bulldogs] they're really hungry. The last couple years, we've had some people graduate, and some people put us not where we think we're at going into the season," said Truman men's basketball coach Jeff Horner, referencing preseason polls. "Those groups are hungry to prove them wrong. That's nothing against Brodrick (Thomas) or Turner or anything like that. Obviously, those two guys were huge pieces of our success. Now we're in that same situation again, where maybe (outsiders) thought someone was the key. I think these guys are hungry to prove otherwise and show we're a full program." Truman begins the season Nov. 12 against Cedarville. AUSTIN MILLER/KIRKSVILLE DAILY EXPRESS FILE

outside shooting continues to get better, and he'll likely play as more of a distributor this season. So he doesn't see that Flagler game as a one-off.

"I think I'm capable of doing that kind of thing night in and night out," McKnight said. "We definitely needed it that night. It's a lot better when you can have five guys scoring 15-20 points, but when it's needed, I feel like I'm gonna be able to step up and do that more this year. I think it will help us as well as a

team, get more focus drawn onto me, and that's going to open other guys up. So I have to be aggressive."

Ramping up the aggression is one facet Horner has emphasized to McKnight. The big man is a known commodity at this point, so opposing teams gameplan against him. Horner said there isn't a whole lot the coaching staff has changed to free McKnight up against double teams. It has been McKnight's own work to get stronger

and faster to break those defenses, as well as finding open teammates to take advantage.

"We feel like he's gonna be the best player on the floor every time we go out there, and we feel pretty good about that," Horner said.

Truman begins the season Nov. 12 against Cedarville. Its home opener comes on Dec. 2 against Missouri-St. Louis.

CLASSIFIEDS

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.

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.

FOR RENT:
 House in Lancaster, 3 bedroom, garage, stove and refrigerator. No pets, 1st month and deposit. 660-216-5655.

Two bedroom all eclectic duplex, stove and refrigerator, central air, off street parking, no pets. \$500/month plus same deposit. 660-665-2028.

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.

Upstairs one bedroom apartment, partially furnished. 660-665-1201.

GARAGE SALES:
 Word Alive Family Church, Hwy 63 N, Greentop, MO. Friday, November 12, noon to 6 p.m. and Saturday, November 13, 7 a.m. to 3 p.m. Inside yard sale. Recliner, toys, crafts, chairs, ice cream freezer, large bird cage and much, much more.

CLASSIFIEDS
WHERE BUYERS AND SELLERS MEET

MOBILE HOMES:
STOCK MOBILE HOMES AVAILABLE: We gottem, single and double 3 and 4 bedroom! Call Tuffy 573-657-2176 amegamobilehomes.com

AVAILABLE STOCK MOBILE HOMES immediately, double wide and single, 3 and 4 bedroom. 573-499-9993 columbiadiscountohomes.com

TRUE MODULARS 30 to 60 day delivery available, 3 and 4 bedroom. 573-657-7040 chateauhomes.net

TINY HOMES We gottem 573-881-3283

WANTED:
WANTED TO BUY: Harley Davidson's, any year, any condition, cash money. Days 660-263-1356 or 660-537-0068

WANTED TO BUY: Farm Machinery and Estates. Call James L. Johnston. 573-473-4904

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.

FOR SALE: New 3 pt. tillers, heavy duty, gear driven, 7' to 10' starting at \$3050. 660-874-4455

HANDYMAN: Install interior and exterior doors and windows, siding, decks, showers and toilets, flooring and drywall, roofs and dirt work. 660-956-5135.

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 5 1/2 big round bales of mixed grass hay, Baled 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.

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

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

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.

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IN THE CIRCUIT COURT OF ADAIR COUNTY, MISSOURI
 PROBATE DIVISION

IN THE ESTATE OF

ESTATE NO: 21AR-PR00098

KELLY M. AMES

NOTICE OF LETTERS GRANTED

TO ALL PERSONS INTERESTED IN THE ESTATE OF KELLY M. AMES, A DISABLED PERSON.

On the 12th day of October 2021, Rhonda Noe, Adair County Public Administrator was appointed conservator of the estate of Kelly M. Ames, a person adjudicated disabled under the laws of Missouri by the Probate Division of the Circuit Court of Adair County, Missouri.

The business address of the conservator is 300 North Franklin, Kirksville, Missouri 63501

All creditors of said disabled person are notified to file their claims in the Probate Division of the Circuit Court or be forever barred.

Date of first publication October 20, 2021.

Linda Decker
 Circuit Clerk of Adair County, Missouri

BIDS WANTED
 Moberly Area Community College, 101 College Avenue, Moberly, MO 65270 is accepting sealed bids for the purchase of a new compact track loader. Sealed bids must be received in the Office of Plant Operations, Room 136 of the Main Building, by November 12, 2021 at 11am. For specifications please visit www.macc.edu/bids or contact Tony Sloan at 660-263-4100 extension 11268. Moberly Area Community College reserves the right to accept or reject any or all bids and to waive informalities in the bid process.

BIDS WANTED
 Moberly Area Community College, 101 College Avenue, Moberly, MO 65270 is accepting sealed bids for the Kirksville Wind Energy classroom electrical upgrades. For specifications, please contact the College at 660-263-4100 ext. 11230 or visit our website at http://www.macc.edu/bids. Sealed bids are due in the Office of Plant Operations, room 136 of the Main Building, by 11am, November 16, 2021.

MACC reserves the right to accept or reject any or all bids.

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Wedding & Engagement Announcements



Garrett-Vogel Nuptials
 Allison Jean Garrett and Carter James Vogel of Moberly, MO, were united in marriage on May 18, 2019.

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Renewable source aids environment, economy in other ways

John Flesher and Tammy Webber
ASSOCIATED PRESS

MONTICELLO, Minnesota – Silflower was among native plants that blanketed the vast North American prairie until settlers developed farms and cities. Nowadays confined largely to roadsides and ditches, the long-stemmed cousin of the sunflower may be poised for a comeback, thanks to solar energy.

Researchers are growing silflower at nine solar installations in the Minneapolis area, testing its potential as an oilseed crop. The deep-rooted perennial also offers forage for livestock and desperately needed habitat for bees, butterflies and hummingbirds.

“We need a lot of plots spaced pretty far apart to measure silflower’s effects on pollinators,” said crop scientist Ebony Murrell of The Land Institute, a research nonprofit. “The solar industry is interested in restoring pollinator habitat. This seemed to be a good partnership.”

Solar is a renewable energy source that can help wean the world off fossil fuels that produce greenhouse gases. But it also could benefit the environment and economy in ways not as well known.

As the industry grows, solar arrays will sprawl across millions of acres – wasting farmland, critics say. But advocates see opportunities to diversify crop production and boost landowner income, while repairing ecological damage to ground plowed under or paved over.

“There’s lots of spaces where solar could be integrated with really innovative uses of land,” said Brendan O’Neill, a University of Michigan environmental scientist who’s monitoring how planting at a new 1,752-panel facility in Cadillac, Michigan, stores carbon.

Elsewhere, solar installations host sheep that reduce need for mowing. And researchers are experimenting with crop growing beneath solar panels, while examining other potential upsides: preventing soil erosion, and conserving and cleansing water.

Labs study mixed uses

The U.S. Department of Energy is funding a quest for best uses of lands around solar farms. The project, called InSPIRE, involves the National Renewable Energy Laboratory, Argonne National Laboratory and other partners conducting research at 25 sites nationwide.

The U.S. has about 2,500 solar operations on the electric grid, most generating one to five megawatts, according to the Energy Information Administration. A five-megawatt facility needs around 40 acres. While some occupy former industrial sites, larger installations often take space once used for row crops.

Depending on how quickly the nation switches to renewable electricity, up to 10 million acres could be needed for solar by 2050 – more than the combined area of Massachusetts and New Jersey, an analysis by Argonne found.

Solar developers and researchers hope projects with multiple land uses will ease pushback from rural residents who don’t want farmland taken out of production or consider solar panels a blight.



Sheep graze and rest at a solar farm at Cornell University in Ithaca, N.Y. Sheep are feeding at solar installations in more than 20 states, said Lexie Hain, director of the American Solar Grazing Association. HEATHER AINSWORTH/AP

“We need healthy agricultural communities, but we also need renewable energy,” said Jordan Macknick, the renewable energy lab’s lead analyst for InSPIRE.

Buzz and fuzz

At Cascadilla Community Solar Farm in upstate New York, sheep munch grasses among solar panels while bees and butterflies collect pollen from native flowers.

Cornell University researcher Niko Kochendoerfer says initial data from her three-year study shows light grazing produces abundant bees and wildflowers, while keeping plants from shading panels. Some rare bee species are turning up.

Farmers get \$300 to \$550 per acre yearly to graze sheep at solar sites, increasing farm income while sparing them the cost of renting or buying pasture, said Kochendoerfer, who owns about 400 sheep with her fiancée, Lewis Fox. Grazing is less expensive than traditional site management, she said.

Fox has sheep at solar sites from southern Pennsylvania to Vermont.

“Certain times of the year ... the sites will be like a butterfly house in a zoo – there’s just butterflies everywhere,” he said.

Sheep are feeding at solar installations in more than 20 states, said Lexie Hain, director of the American Solar Grazing Association and Fox’s business partner. It’s also happening in the United Kingdom, other parts of Europe, Uruguay and Australia.

Vegetables in solar shade

In Longmont, Colorado, Jack’s Solar Farm offers another example of solar meeting agriculture. Instead of wheat and hay as before, the farm’s 24 acres host 3,276 panels, generating enough power for about 300 homes. Beneath them grow tomatoes, squash, kale and green beans.

Researchers are comparing vegeta-

bles grown under panels six or eight feet off the ground with others in open sunlight. Results were mixed during the recently concluded initial season but shaded plants appeared to have a longer growing season.

“We don’t have to leave the soils underneath our solar panels across our country denuded or just left to weeds,” owner Byron Kominek said. “Elevating the panels a little bit more provides agricultural jobs as well as an opportunity to do more with the land.”

“Agrivoltaics,” or growing produce beneath panels, is especially promising in hot, arid regions, say experts who have planted cherry tomatoes and peppers beneath them at the University of Arizona’s Biosphere 2 laboratory.

Those crops usually match or exceed ones in a traditional environment, according to the team’s findings. With less direct sunlight, they lose less water to evaporation, reducing irrigation demand. And the plants keep panels cooler, boosting performance.

How widely such farming could happen remains to be seen, said Greg Barron-Gafford, a biogeography professor at Arizona. Large-scale agriculture requires mechanized planting and harvesting that might be difficult beneath panels.

“But the vast majority of farms across the country are small farms that are breaking even or losing money,” Barron-Gafford said, adding that leasing land for solar energy while still growing food could generate profits.

Pollinator habitat

While commercial prospects for agrivoltaics are unknown, scientists say it’s certain that solar grounds are ideal for native grasses and flowers that draw pollinators, many facing extinction.

A team led by Oregon State University researcher Maggie Graham reported this year that bees and other insects visit plants partly or totally shaded by panels. They also may pollinate crops in nearby fields, boosting yields.

Compared to farmland, solar sites planted with pollinator-friendly native vegetation would provide a three-fold increase in habitat quality for pollinators, a recent Argonne study concluded. Pollinator-friendly sites would have two-thirds more carbon storage potential, nearly one-fifth less water runoff and 95% less soil erosion than traditionally cultivated land, it said.

Some solar developers are resisting because plants for pollinators are more expensive than lawn used at many sites. But over time that’s offset by lower maintenance, said Reed Richerson, chief operating officer of U.S. Solar, a Minneapolis developer.

The popularity of saving bees and butterflies is attracting the likes of Walmart, which buys power from dozens of pollinator-friendly U.S. Solar installations.

More than a dozen states have standards or guidelines based on qualities such as ground cover density and diversity, and the amount of land involved.

“We wanted to avoid greenwashing – planting a little patch of clover and petunias and saying, ‘There’s my pollinator-friendly contribution,’” said Michael Noble, director of Minnesota-based Fresh Energy, which helped develop the standards.

Many more nature-based solar gardens are needed as global warming and species losses accelerate, said Rob Davis, spokesman for Connexus Energy.

Three years ago, he said, one of the Minnesota co-op’s solar projects risked rejection by a suburban planning commission until supporters brought up the pollinator benefits and their visual appeal.

“The technology of solar energy is unfamiliar and foreign,” Davis said. “But everyone understands what a meadow is.”

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Global sea level may rise up to 9 inches by 2100

3.5 trillion tons of Greenland’s ice sheet melted between 2011 and 2020, researchers say

Jordan Mendoza USA TODAY

Greenland’s ice sheet, the biggest ice sheet in the world behind Antarctica, has melted so much in the past decade that global sea levels rose by 1 centimeter, and sea levels could rise nearly a foot higher by the end of the century.

Research published in the journal Nature Communications on Monday says 3.5 trillion tons of Greenland’s ice sheet melted from 2011 to 2020, which would be enough to flood all of New York City in 14,700 feet of water.

The ice sheet covers more than 656,000 square miles, and if it were to fully melt, the global sea level would rise about 20 feet, according to the National Snow and Ice Data Center. While much of the ice sheet remains intact, researchers from the University of Leeds Centre for Polar Observation and Modelling in Northern England found it is melting at an exceptional rate, increasing 21% in the past 40 years.



An edge of the retreating Greenland Ice Sheet is viewed at “Point 660,” located 660 meters above sea level, on Sept. 8 near Kangerlussuaq, Greenland. This year will mark one of the biggest ice melt years for Greenland in recorded history.

MARIO TAMA/GETTY IMAGES

“Observations show that extreme melt events in Greenland have become more frequent and more intense – as well as more erratic – which is a global problem,” Lin Gilbert, co-author of the study, said in a statement.

The team used satellite data from the European Space Agency to estimate the elevation of the ice sheet, the first time a space object has been used to do so. The team found that from 2011 to 2020, the

runoff of Greenland’s ice sheet averaged about 357 billion tons a year.

That would, on average, raise the global sea level about 1 millimeter a year, but during that time, two years – 2012 and 2019 – experienced exceptionally more runoff than others as extreme weather led to, “record-breaking levels of ice melting.” In 2019, the runoff was about 527 billion tons.

The National Snow and Ice Data Cen-

ter said the sheet’s summer melt increased by 30% from 1979 to 2006 because of higher temperatures.

“Greenland is also vulnerable to an increase in extreme weather events,” said lead author Thomas Slater. “As our climate warms, it’s reasonable to expect that the instances of extreme melting in Greenland will happen more often – observations such as these are an important step in helping us to improve climate models and better predict what will happen this century.”

Slater added there are reasons to feel optimistic about not losing as much ice in the future, but his colleague and co-author, Amber Leeson, painted a dark future. Leeson said that by 2100, the global sea level can rise anywhere from 1 to 9 inches because of melting, which could be dangerous to coastal cities around the world.

“This prediction has a wide range, in part because of uncertainties associated with simulating complex ice melt processes, including those associated with extreme weather.”

Evidence shows that this past summer was already a significant one for the ice sheet. In August, it rained on the summit for the first time since weather recording began there in 1950.

Pepper adds a pop to savory mushroom beef stew

Laura Gutschke

Abilene Reporter-News
USA TODAY NETWORK - TEXAS

Make just about any savory dish without black pepper and you will appreciate its otherwise forgotten value by the flavor void resulting from its absence.

I tested a vintage mushroom beef stew recipe recently that featured a package of dry onion soup mix. After three hours of a slow braise in the oven, the chunks of meat were tender. And, the flavor was rich and complex, but it was missing ... something.

About five twists of the black peppercorn grinder over the stew remedied the problem. I stirred the ground pepper into the meat and thin, rich gravy, and the dish was complete. The only thing that would have made it better was if the pepper had simmered with the meat during cooking.

Where does black pepper come from?

When reviewing the recipe, I noticed pepper was not listed, but assumed it was in the onion soup mix, a packaged ingredient I rarely use. I discovered later that pepper is not included.

Pepper is a foundational ingredient in just about every regional cuisine of the globe. Why? Consider this summary in "Cooking A to Z" (1988), a 631-page encyclopedia of cooking techniques, ingredients and dishes from editor and writer Jane Horn and the California Culinary Academy:

"The importance of pepper to the world's cuisines and to world history cannot be underestimated. When Columbus and other explorers set off to search for trade routes to the Far East, they were hoping to find a shortcut to pepper. The pungent spice breathes life into dishes all over the world."

Pepper is short for the BB-sized peppercorns, not to be confused with the larger sweet and/or spicy chilies often called peppers. Peppercorns are berries from the piper nigrum plant native to the Indian subcontinent and in Southeast Asia.

What we call black pepper starts as unripe green peppercorns that are cooked and sundried, according to the



Black pepper adds heat and pungent flavor to foods. Freshly ground peppercorns are best. GETTY IMAGES

No peek stew

Makes 6 servings.

1-2 tablespoons extra-virgin olive oil

2 pounds lean chuck, cut into 2-inch cubes (or pre-cut stew meat)

Freshly ground black pepper to taste

1 package dry onion soup mix

1 (10 ½ ounce) can cream of mushroom soup

10 ounces ginger ale (or water)

1 (8-ounce) package fresh mushrooms, sliced

Optional: Cooked rice or egg noodles at serving

In a Dutch oven (or other ovenproof cooking vessel), heat the oil over

Farmers Almanac website. Green peppercorns also can be left uncooked and preserved a different way to maintain their color.

When peppercorns reach the fully ripened red stage, they are soaked to re-

move the flesh. The remaining whitish seed is dried and referred to as white peppercorns, which have a less pungent flavor than the black variety. Some cooks also prefer white pepper because it visually blends into a dish.

medium-high heat on the stovetop for 3-4 minutes. Add the meat and brown, stirring occasionally. While meat is cooking, heat oven to 300 degrees.

When meat is browned, add the black pepper, onion soup mix, cream of mushroom soup, ginger ale and fresh mushrooms. Stir just until combined and turn off stovetop. Place lid on Dutch oven and move cooking vessel to oven. Cook for three hours. Do not peek. (If you do not have a Dutch oven, brown the meat in a large skillet and cook the stew in a casserole dish that can be covered tightly with a lid or foil.)

Remove Dutch oven from oven and let stand 30 minutes before serving. Can be served with cooked rice or egg noodles.

How long does ground pepper retain its quality? I've read varying lengths of time, from three months to four years.

But, whole peppercorns stored in a cool, dark place can last for years. They are most pungent just before they are ground, according to "Cooking A to Z." That is why I keep a peppermill handy to dispense freshly ground black peppercorns during cooking.

The addition of black pepper is one of my updates to the No Peek Stew recipe below. The original is from Mrs. Bennie Eldred of Montgomery in the "Typically Texas Cookbook" (1989) by Texas Electric Cooperatives, Inc. The cookbook of recipes from rural electric cooperative members was first published in 1970.

Other updates are replacing the canned sliced mushrooms with fresh ones and modifying the instructions to include browning the meat first.

As for the recipe name, I suspect it is a way to remind cooks to keep the stew covered during cooking to maintain an even cooking temperature. That steady temperature will help break down the meat and create a harmonious flavor with the liquid and mushrooms.

Game day or turkey day, nosh on easy chicken ranch dip

Sharon Rigsby

Special to Tallahassee Democrat
USA TODAY NETWORK - FLORIDA

This recipe for chicken ranch dip, made with canned chicken, cream cheese, dry ranch dressing, scallions, and parsley, is so easy to make you will feel like a rock star in the kitchen. It's also an excellent appetizer or snack to whip up for your family or guests.

Sometimes called chicken cream cheese ranch dip, this tasty dip recipe with cream cheese is a crowd favorite and only takes five minutes to put together. My guess is you probably already have everything you need sitting in your pantry and fridge right now.

Since it's so quick to prepare and has such a short ingredient list, it's a wonderful addition to your game day, Super Bowl, or holiday party menus. It's also a flavorful snack, and I've been known to eat it with crackers for a quick lunch.

Special thanks to my friend Courtney Glazier who shared this recipe with me several years ago.

Easy chicken ranch dip

8 servings

8 ounces canned chunk white chicken breast (drained or one cup leftover cooked chicken, cut up)

8 ounces cream cheese (softened)

1 ounce Ranch dry salad dressing and seasoning mix or one package

3 scallions (finely minced)

1 tablespoon fresh parsley (minced)

Crackers or veggies for serving

Put the drained chicken, softened cream cheese, Ranch dry salad dressing mix, scallions, and parsley in a food processor fitted with a steel blade. Pulse until all ingredients are mixed well, and the mixture is smooth.

Serve with crackers or veggies for dipping.

Sharon's tips:

● I like to serve this dip with Triscuits, but you can use any sturdy crackers or veggies you have on hand.



Dive into a delicious chicken ranch dip. SHARON RIGSBY

Crunchmaster makes some delicious crunchy gluten-free crackers that go well with it as well.

● Chicken ranch dip will keep well covered in your refrigerator for three to four days. I have never tried to freeze it.

● You can substitute leftover cooked chicken for the canned chicken. You will need about one cup.

● To soften the cream cheese, leave it on the counter for about an hour before blending. Or, remove the wrapper and place it in a microwave for about 30 seconds. The biggest cause of lumpy cream cheese in dips is not making sure the cream cheese has softened before blending it with other ingredients.

● No scallions or parsley? No worries, make this dip anyway; it's still delicious!

● If you use canned chicken, be sure to drain it before adding it to the food processor.

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