

KIRKSVILLE Daily Express

KIRKSVILLEDAILEXPRESS.COM

WEDNESDAY

DECEMBER 8, 2021 | \$2



Ring in the season: Annual Christmas parade returns

Photos from the 2021 Kirksville Kiwanis Christmas Parade, held on Saturday, Dec. 4.
NEMO PHOTOGRAPHY



Truman State passes 85-cent raise for staff members. Union says that's not enough

Austin Miller
Daily Express

Featuring a large, inflatable rat and many chants, staff members from Truman State's physical plant department rallied in front of the Student Union Building Saturday for higher wages from the university.

Roughly 35 people, which includes Truman staff members who are part the LIUNA Local 955 Union, Teamsters, and representatives from Missouri Jobs with Justice, stood outside calling for higher pay.

The rally coincided with a Board of Governors meeting where an 85-cent-per-hour increase for all staff members was approved for 2022. The union members demonstrated because they believe that is too low and felt the university never wanted to negotiate.

"That's not enough because that doesn't pay my bills," said Melinda Lewis, who has worked as a housekeeper at the university for 12 years. "I'm like them, I have utility bills, food bills, I need a new car, I have house repairs that need to be done, I have to drive 30 miles into town and 30 miles home. I need a living wage."

LIUNA Local 955 began overseeing Truman's physical plant staff group earlier this year after it decided to change unions. There are about 71 staff members in the physical plant department, and longtime union steward Dan Robbins said about half of those are part of the union. In total, there are about 650 employees on campus, with 350 being staff.

Negotiations between the union and university began earlier this year, with meetings in July, October and last week. The union's main asks were for a \$15 minimum starting wage, a higher wage scale, and for the university to sign a collective bargaining agreement with the union.

"All we want to do is go home after eight hours, take our boots off, and sit down and relax," said Robbins, who has worked at the university for 24 years and been the union steward for 20. "... But (several people) are going home after eight hours here, putting their boots back on and going to work somewhere else just to make a living."

Lewis said she worked a second job at Walmart for about six years, stopping two years ago because it was too physically taxing. Now, she's trying to save money so her grandson can attend college and become an attorney.

"But I don't see that happening on \$12 an hour," Lewis said.

Dave Rector, Truman's vice president of administration and finance, said the union's propositions couldn't be met by the university. As enrollment has declined and state appropriations fluctuate, the university can't do all of those.

But what was proposed earlier this year and passed on Saturday was to make full use of the 3.7 percent increase in state appropriations this year — which equaled \$1.5 million — for pay raises for everyone at the university. For staff members, that equates to 85 cents an hour, or \$1,760 annually.

The starting hourly wage for a housekeeper at Truman will go from \$10.63 in 2021 to \$11.48 in 2022. That's an eight-percent increase for the lowest-paid position. And that increases over time at the university. A starting groundskeeper wage will go from \$11.05 to \$11.90, a 7.7 percent increase.

Building trades and grounds mechanics staff members will all make more than \$14 an hour, mechanical services will be more than \$15, and controls technicians will make more than \$20 an hour.

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Staff members with Truman's physical plant department and LIUNA Local 955 demonstrate outside of the Student Union Building on Saturday, Dec. 4, for higher wages from the university. AUSTIN MILLER

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OBITUARIES INSIDE

Dale Watson, age 84



ADAIR COUNTY Covid-19 DASHBOARD

New Reported Weekly Cases	14	
Active Covid-19 cases on Dec-3-2021	6	100%
Ages 0-10	4	3%
Ages 11-20	16	13%
Ages 21-30	37	29%
Ages 31-40	11	9%
Ages 41-50	22	17%
Ages 51-60	14	11%
Ages 61-70	14	11%
Ages 71-80	6	5%
Ages 81-90	3	2%
Ages 91-100	0	0
% Ages 51-90	51	40%
% Ages 0-30	57	45%
K-12 Positive cases	10	8%
Higher Ed positive cases	9	7%
Adair residents hospitalized for Covid	5	4%
Positive males reported	57	45%
Positive females reported	24	55%

WEEK Ending Dec 3, 2021

- Use masks indoors including all schools, businesses and public places.
- Get vaccinated if you are 12 years of age or older.
- Avoid gathering with other people whenever possible.
- Get tested for Covid-19 if you think you have been exposed to this virus.
- Wash your hands often and disinfect whenever possible.
- As with any virus or other disease, please stay home from work and school if you are sick.
- Postpone traveling until the number Covid-19 positive cases improves.
- Please contact others if you are a positive case for Covid-19 or a close contact to a positive contact. This is particularly important for schools and employers.
- Get a Covid-19 booster when available.
- Covid-19 two shot series for those ages 5-11 now available. Please register at 660-665-8491.

A case update from the Adair County Health Department.

Adair Co. Health Dept. reports 40 new cases, 4 deaths from COVID-19

The Adair County Health Department

Monday evening, the Adair County Health Department confirmed 40 new cases of COVID-19 since Friday and four more COVID-related deaths of residents whose cases were previously reported. There have been 3,953 cases in the county of which 134 are currently active, 3,778 people have left isolation, and 41 residents have died. Two female residents passed away Friday, Dec.

3, including a 69-year-old at Hannibal Regional Hospital and a 74-year-old at Boone Hospital. Two male residents passed away yesterday, Dec. 5, at Northeast Regional Medical Center. They include an 80-year-old male admitted Nov. 30 and a 59-year-old admitted the day he passed. One of the four residents was fully vaccinated. New cases involve females ages 1, 2, 6, two age13, 17, 20, 22, 25, 26, 31, 46, two age 49, 52, 61, 66, 67 and 95. Males are ages 5, 6, 15, 20, 21, 22, 26, two age 28, 31, 32, 34, 41, 49, 53, 54,

58, two age 60, 64 and 68. Among the 40 new cases, 18 reside at addresses with at least one other confirmed case, seven are in the K-12 schools sector, and two are skilled nursing facility employees. Four cases are associated with another congregate living facility, two as residents and two as employees. Three cases are breakthrough infections. The Adair County Health Department recommends that all county residents ages 5 and older get vaccinated against

COVID-19. Vaccines are easily accessible, free, and continue to demonstrate that they prevent serious illness, hospitalization, and death. A list of upcoming pediatric and adult COVID vaccine clinics at the Adair County Health Department appear on its website at adair.lphamo.org. Tomorrow, Dec. 7, there is an adult vaccination clinic and Thursday, Dec. 9, there is a pediatric vaccination clinic. Residents must register for the clinics by calling the Health Department at 660-665-8491.

In Your Own Backyard: Kirksville events for Dec. 9-15

Submitted by Debi Boughton

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.

Thursday, December 9

Today is National Christmas Card Day. People have been mailing Christmas cards since the nineteenth century when it only cost a penny to mail a postcard. Most early Christmas cards were post cards. Today, families often send out photo cards or Christmas letters with annual updates. Mail someone you love a Christmas card today.

Friday, December 10

Curtain Call Theater hosts the classic holiday film, *Miracle on 34th*

Street, at 7:00 p.m. in the Curtain Call Theater Building, 512 W. Elizabeth Street. For costs and more information go to: <https://www.facebook.com/CurtainCallKirksville/>.

Saturday, December 11

Breakfast with Santa, sponsored by Kirksville Parks and Recreation is at 8:30 and 10:00 a.m. at Mi Casa Mexican Restaurant, 512 S. Baltimore. For costs and more information call 660-627-1485. Children ages 4 and under eat free. Register at: parks.kirksvillecity.com or get tickets at the Parks and Recreation office.

Saturday, December 11

Enjoy the Truman State University Symphony Orchestra concert at 7:30 p.m. in the Ophelia Parrish Performance Hall on the Truman campus. For more information call 660-785-4417.

Sunday, December 12

You are invited to a Celebrating Christmas Thru Music at 4:00 p.m. at the former Novinger Methodist Church, 606 Davis Street in Novinger Missouri. There will be vocals, congregational singing, and tours of the historic building. This event is coordinated by Novinger Renewal. For more information call 660-342-6455.

Tuesday, December 14

The Missouri Conservation Department has a virtual program at 4:00 p.m. called *Animals in Winter*. Learn who migrates and who hibernates. Find out how animals cope with the cold. Join them to read *Animals in Winter* by Henrietta Bancroft. Registration is required at: Events1MissouriDepartmentofConservation.s3licensing.com. For more information call 660-785-2420.

RALLY

Continued from Page A2

“We know that the starting salaries are not as competitive as they should be, but we also have the issue of long-term employees,” said Rector during Saturday’s Board of Governors meeting. “So we’ve been working towards

trying to address both of those. The tension, obviously, is always between the employee who’s been here 15 or 20 years versus the new employee, and the pressure we have as salaries are pushed up by the state minimum wage. That’s the reason really for this rationale of having a flat amount as a raise.” “What it does is, it gives

the lower-paid employee a higher percentage increase. ... The idea is to try and benefit the individuals on the lower side of the pay scale as much as possible.” This increase comes as Missouri’s minimum wage increases to \$11.15 an hour in 2022 and \$12 in 2023. However, public entities don’t have to meet the minimum wage, though the university knows it can’t expect to offer wages below minimum wage and still fill positions. All of the physical plant staff wages will be over \$11.15 in 2022, though the starting salaries for groundskeeper and housekeeper will be below the \$12 mark for 2023. So another increase is likely then.

To implement the universal \$15-an-hour starting wage, Rector said that would cost the university an additional \$435,000. And to implement the wage scale the union wanted, that would add another \$1 million. Additional vacation time for employees with 20 years of experience was also approved, and the university now provides union brochures to new physical plant staff. Rector said those items show the university negotiated in good faith. Another disagreement between the university and union is how fringe benefits are used as part of the calculus. First-year employees get 24 paid days off. And if they are part of the university’s middle insurance tier,

health, dental and vision insurance are all free. Rector said that equals out to roughly \$8,000 per year per employee. While the physical plant staff members like those benefits, they don’t feel insurance should be such a determining factor in their wages. Prices for food, utilities and just about everything else have been increasing, and the pandemic continues to factor into the economy. Recovery for the university is a hurdle, but people making \$12 an hour will feel that harder, Lewis said. “I agree that recovery is going to be hard, but your people out here who are paying higher food prices, higher utility bills, we can’t recover,” Lewis said. Robbins is a second-gen-

eration Truman worker and union steward. He said his dad worked at the university for 27 years. He said his love of mechanical work has kept him at the university. Though he was able to support a family over the last 20 years on his wages, he doesn’t think the next generation can. “I watched my dad raise me and my brother here. I enjoy the work. I’m a mechanic; I keep everything on this campus running,” Robbins said. “... I love what I do and that’s basically what has kept me. Things weren’t always as bad as they are now. I’ve raised my family off these wages. But now, with the price of everything going up, gas and stuff like that, these younger people can’t do it.”

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Truman keeps indoor mask policy to start spring semester

Austin Miller
Daily Express

Truman’s indoor mask mandate will still be in effect when students return for the Spring 2022 semester.

The university announced Monday that it will keep the policy in effect and will review it on or before Jan. 28.

Truman President Dr. Susan Thomas spoke about keeping the policy during Saturday’s Board of Governors meeting. With the omicron variant having been found in Missouri, she said additional time to monitor the university’s situation after winter break will be key.

Finals for the Fall 2021 semester end on Dec. 17 and the Spring 2022 semester begins on Jan. 10.

“We really do believe that the masking indoors as made a difference for us,” Dr. Thomas said. “Our numbers still stay well, well, well

below Adair County’s numbers, so we feel like — we get a million perspectives on this, but we feel like right now, we’re able to be back safely and do the things that we do with masking and keeping our numbers down.”

As of the university’s most recent case update, which came on Tuesday, Nov. 30, there were four active student cases and two active employee cases. Those are below the recent increase in cases Adair County has had over the last few days.

The Adair County Health Department reported 16 cases on Dec. 3, with 127 active cases in the county then. That is the highest number of active cases since Sept. 3, 2021.

Adair County had had 3,913 total cases since the first reported case on March 21, 2020. There have been 37 COVID-related deaths in the county.

Kirksville man charged after package theft, suspected in additional thefts

Daily Express staff

A Kirksville man was arrested and charged this week for stealing packages of someone’s doorstep.

Ely Bricen McKeehan, 19, was charged with one count of stealing — \$750 or more this week in Adair County Court.

On Dec. 1, Kirksville police were notified of a package theft at a home on March Drive. The homeowner located the suspected vehicle leaving the neighborhood. The homeowners had videos and photos of a male. Officers identified the suspect as McKeehan from previous contacts with him.

The stolen items include two Barn Owl cameras, mounting hardware and memory cards, totaling \$623. A second package, which had a pair of Ray Ban sunglasses valued at \$163.44, was also stolen.

Surveillance footage showed the packages being delivered by UPS around 2 p.m., with McKeehan arriving and taking them around 4:35 p.m.

McKeehan told officers he didn’t steal the packages. He also has a pending charge for theft from Farm and Home in November, and several other package thefts have camera footage showing his vehicle.

OBITUARIES

Dale Watson

Thursday, December 2, 2021

Dale Gilbert Watson, 84, passed away in Alpharetta, Georgia, on Thursday, December 2, 2021.

Dale was born on August 29, 1937, in Kirksville, Missouri, to Melvin and Meda (Gunnings) Watson. Dale was preceded in death by his parents, his wife Virginia (Gardner) Watson, and his great-grandson, Gabriel Zane Watson.



On November 29, 1959, he was united in marriage to Virginia in Brashear, Missouri. To this union, three sons were born who also survive: Leon and his wife Kim of Canton, Texas; Carl and his wife Donna of Creston, Iowa; and Bryan and his wife Debra of Atlanta, Georgia.

Dale is also survived by eight grandchildren and eight great-grandchildren: Leon and Kim's children include their son Zane Watson and his wife Cassey and their daughters Riata and Isla, of Madison, South Dakota; daughter Shannon Bellis and her husband Garren and their children Beau, Kaeden, and Coen, of Athens, Texas; daughter McKenzie Wheatley and her husband Brandon and daughters Skylar, Addison, and Morgan, of Wells, Nevada; and son Garrett Watson, of Syracuse, Kansas. Carl and Donna's children include their two daughters, Rebecca and Kelsey, both of the home. Bryan and Debra's children include their son Andrew of Littleton, Colorado; and daughter Sara, of Blacksburg, Virginia.

Dale was a resident of Northeast Missouri for much of his life. He was a graduate of Kirksville High School's class of 1955, and of the University of Missouri in Columbia, Missouri, from which he received both Bachelor's and Master's degrees. During his life, Dale was a member of the local agricultural community, and was selflessly dedicated to many members of the public in that regard. He worked for many years as an extension agent with the University of Missouri, based in Milan, Missouri, and in Carrolton, Missouri, and he was regularly published in multiple agriculture-related magazines and newspapers.

Dale was also active in community events. He was a committed member of the Kirksville Rotary Club, and enjoyed spending time with his many friends and neighbors. In his retirement years, he enjoyed traveling with his antique tractors to area parades and tractor shows.

A burial at the Highland Park Cemetery in Kirksville will be held at a later date under the direction of the Travis-Noe Funeral Home in Kirksville.

Missouri health director wanted to appeal judge's COVID ruling. AG Schmitt refused

Tessa Weinberg and Rebecca Rivas Missouri Independent

Attorney General Eric Schmitt will not appeal a consequential court ruling that strips powers from local health departments, despite a request from Missouri's state health director to do so.

In an email to The Independent, Schmitt's spokesman said the attorney general's office notified the Department of Health and Senior Services of its decision.

"We have informed DHSS that we will not appeal or take any further action in this case, and that they should begin enforcement efforts immediately," said Chris Nuelle, spokesman for the attorney general's office.

Lisa Cox, a spokeswoman for DHSS, confirmed the attorney general's decision Thursday, adding that "there are no plans to use internal or outside counsel" in order to pursue an appeal.

In a Nov. 23 call with local public health departments across the state, Adam Crumbliss, the director of DHSS' division of community and public health, said DHSS Director Donald Kauerauf had requested the ruling be appealed. Cox said Thursday that the department's general counsel made the request to the attorney general's office on Kauerauf's behalf.

"One other piece of news that I will share, is that the director did let me know just now that he has made a formal request to the state attorneys general to appeal the ruling in the litigation that Judge Green ruled on today," Crumbliss said on the call, a recording of which was obtained by The Independent. "And so I do anticipate we will see further activity on that front."

The ruling found that health orders intended to stop the spread of COVID-19 violated the Missouri Constitution. Cole County Circuit Judge Daniel Green declared certain rules "null and void."

However, a week later, Kauerauf indicated Schmitt's office still had not told the state

health department whether it intended to appeal.

"Although media reports indicate that the Attorney General's Office will not seek an appeal in this case, we are still waiting for confirmation of that fact directly," Kauerauf wrote in a Tuesday letter to public health department administrators, which was obtained by The Independent.

During the pandemic, Schmitt, who is running for U.S. Senate, has sued cities, counties and school districts over COVID mitigation measures they enacted, such as mask mandates.

Former Missouri Supreme Court Judge Michael Wolff said Thursday that Schmitt's conflict of interest in the case — pointing to his other lawsuits against mask mandates in schools — calls into question whether or not he should have been the attorney to defend DHSS in the first place.

"Lawsuits are legitimate because they have adversaries," he said. "It appears that there's no adversary here because the attorney general agrees with the decision."

Chuck Hatfield, an attorney who previously served in the attorney general's office under Democrat Jay Nixon, said it would be "extremely unusual" for the attorney general's office to go against the wishes of a client, in this case DHSS, the state agency it represented in the lawsuit.

"The idea that the attorney general can just go in personally, and because of his own personal feelings, stop appeals and dictate policy — if you allow that to happen, you basically have an attorney general running the entire state," Hatfield said. "And that's never how it's worked before, and it's not how it should work."

Previous administrations have wrestled with the same issue, Hatfield said, and typically the attorney general's office will allow state agencies or officials to hire outside counsel to represent them instead.

It's something Schmitt's office has done before. In an ongoing lawsuit between state Treasurer Scott Fitzpat-

rick and Secretary of State Jay Ashcroft, Schmitt backed out of the case, citing an undisclosed conflict of interest.

Instead, both sides of that lawsuit are being represented by private attorneys at a cost to taxpayers of more than \$800 an hour. Hatfield is representing Fitzpatrick's office in that lawsuit.

Neither Nuelle nor Cox clarified on Thursday whether DHSS has been given permission to use counsel outside the attorney general's office.

Nuelle said that by law decisions about litigation strategy are exclusively within the attorney general's authority and, "DHSS cannot proceed with an appeal without our approval."

Hatfield said in this instance, perhaps a third party could also attempt to intervene in the lawsuit and file an appeal.

The ruling issued by Green late last month has already caused a wave of uncertainty as the state health department and local officials parse through what it means.

St. Louis County Executive Sam Page insisted Monday that the county's mask order remains in effect, even as he said he would ask council members to approve a new one and written notices of the mandate were removed from the county's website, the St. Louis Post-Dispatch reported.

On the Nov. 23 call, one local health administrator asked Crumbliss if the ruling applied to the local authorities' response to COVID-19 or for all communicable diseases.

"I think it's exactly the right question," Crumbliss said. "Based on the ruling that Judge Green has issued, is that limited specifically to COVID or is that the broader powers of public health? And all I can tell you right now is I don't know the answer to that question."

In Kauerauf's letter on Nov. 30, he stated that DHSS is still reviewing and assessing the impact that the ruling has on "future public health activities as well as its relationship with LPHAs" and recommended that health departments consult with legal

counsel on what it may mean for them.

On the call, Kathryn Magers, administrator for Schuyler County Health Department in northeast Missouri, expressed concern about the ruling. She didn't understand what part of the state statutes were unconstitutional, and what the ruling meant for how they'll be able to combat and prevent other communicable diseases in the future.

"It just seems like this has set us back 50 years," Magers said. "Once they do it for one thing, it will be something else the next time and something else the next time."

The ruling is not final until 30 days after it is issued, which would be Dec. 22, Kauerauf wrote in his letter. From there, DHSS would also have another 10 days to appeal.

"If no one does, the director's position will not be preserved," Hatfield said.

In his ruling, Green wrote that the regulations he deemed unconstitutional "create a system of statewide health governance that enables unelected officials to become accountable to no one," and said that DHSS unconstitutionally granted too much power to individual local health officials and directors.

"A health agency director with the authority to shut down a school or assembly wields incredible power to coerce his subjects into submission," Green wrote in his ruling.

In Missouri, local health departments for decades have been permitted to quarantine people in order to prevent the spread of a contagious disease and protect public health, or close schools in order to do so.

It's unclear how much of that authority health officials retain after Green's ruling, as Kauerauf noted in his letter that the ruling didn't address existing regulations to require isolation of patients or quarantine of contacts.

"It's a big deal," Hatfield said of Green's ruling. "It takes away a lot of authority that I think has been taken for granted in non-COVID situations."

Missouri governor proposes \$15 minimum pay for state workers

David A. Lieb Associated Press

JEFFERSON CITY, Mo. (AP) — Missouri state employees would get a 5.5% pay raise and earn at least \$15 an hour under a proposal put forth Monday by Gov. Mike Parson to try to make the state a more attractive place to work.

Missouri's employees are among the lowest paid nationally, and many positions across state government are experiencing high vacancy and turnover rates.

"It is past time for us to make these investments in our state workforce," the Republican governor said in a statement.

Parson's pay plan would take effect Feb. 1 but first needs the approval of state lawmakers, whose annual session begins in January. The pay increase would cost \$91 million for the remainder of the 2022 fiscal year that ends in June and an additional \$218 million for the next budget year. More than half of that money would come from general state revenues, with the rest from other sources.

Missouri is not hurting for money. The state ended its 2021 fiscal year in June with a record cash balance of \$2.4 billion. Part of that was due to a pandemic budget technicality that allowed some 2020 income tax payments to be

delayed into the 2021 budget year. But economic indicators show Missouri's revenues have continued to fare well.

Sales tax revenues in November were up 22% over the same month a year ago, according to figures released Monday by the Office of Administration. Individual income tax collections for last month were up 20% over November 2020.

Parson's newly proposed pay raise for state employees would be in addition to a 2% increase already scheduled to take effect in January. While setting a base wage of \$15 an hour, the plan also would adjust the pay for other workers to lessen the compression of the pay scale. The governor described the additional 5.5% pay raise as a cost-of-living increase.

Parson said the state's direct-care staff and front-line workers often make less than those in entry-level retail positions in the private sector. Among the lowest paid state employees are highway workers, attendants in veterans' nursing homes and residential aides for vulnerable children, he said.

Parson's announcement included supportive written statements from the Republican chairmen of the House and Senate budget-writing committees.

Trial underway for wife in death of Missouri snake breeder

Associated Press

COLUMBIA, Mo. (AP) — A Missouri woman shot and killed her husband at his snake breeding business because she was the beneficiary of his \$1 million life insurance policy, which would have helped her financially struggling spa business, a prosecutor said Monday.

Lynlee Renick is on trial for first-degree murder in the June 8, 2017 death of her husband, Ben Renick. Prosecutors and the defense gave their opening statements on Monday.

She initially told police that her husband was crushed to death by one of his snakes at his breeding and sales business in New Florence, according to authorities.

After shell casings were found at the scene, investigators believed an intruder killed Ben Renick. His wife was not charged until January 2020 after an ex-boyfriend reported to authorities that she had killed her husband.

Defense attorney Tim Hesemann argued Monday that another of Lynlee's Renick's ex-boyfriends, Michael Humphrey, was responsible for Ben Renick's death. He acknowledged Lynlee Renick was with Humphrey on the night of the killing but said she was not present when her husband was shot, KMIZ-TV reported.

Hesemann said on June 8, 2017, Lynlee Renick and Humphrey went to the snake farm to talk to Ben Renick about divorcing his wife. He said Lynlee Renick heard several shots as she was taking out the trash, KOMU reported.

Humphrey was convicted of first-degree murder in October. In a deal with prosecutors, the sentence will be reduced after he testifies against Lynlee Renick. He also led investigators to the weapon used in the killing.

Prosecutor Kelly King said in her opening statement that Lynlee Renick and Ashley Shaw, an employee at her spa, enlisted Humphrey to help with the killing.

King said Lynlee Renick didn't want to divorce her husband because she thought he would take the couple's

children and because she was the sole beneficiary of his \$1 million life insurance policy.

At the time he was killed, Ben Renick was in the process of selling his snake breeding business for an estimated \$1.2 million.


Shaw testified Monday that she was aware of problems in the Renicks' marriage and that the spa was in financial trouble. She said Lynlee Renick said divorce was not an option and asked her to help murder her husband.

Shaw said she provided Percocet that Lynlee Renick put in a milkshake and gave to her husband in a first attempt to kill him. After that failed, the two women enlisted Humphrey to help with the killing, she said.

Shaw reached a deal with prosecutors and was not charged in the murder.

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Sources: 2018 NNA Readership Survey and 2016 Nielsen Scarborough, Research R2.

US trade deficit narrows in October as exports rebound

By **MARTIN CRUTSINGER**
AP Economics Writer

WASHINGTON (AP) — The U.S. trade deficit narrowed to \$67.1 billion in October, the lowest in six months, after hitting a record high in September. A big rebound in exports helped to offset a much smaller rise in imports.

The October deficit was 17.6% below the all-time peak in September of \$81.4 billion, the Commerce Department reported Tuesday. It was the smallest monthly deficit since a \$66.2 billion imbalance in April.

The strong rebound in exports is seen by economists as evidence of global supply chains beginning to untangle, and they believe smaller deficits this quarter could give a solid boost to overall U.S. economic growth.

There were gains in numerous export categories, suggesting that a recovering global economy is beginning to boost demand for U.S. products. Americans' demand for imports had been racing ahead of export

sales as the U.S. economy recovered more quickly than other countries from the pandemic.

In October, exports rose 8.1% to \$223.6 billion while imports were up a much smaller 0.9% to \$290.7 billion. The deficit is the gap between what the United States exports to the rest of the world and the imports it purchases from foreign nations.

The politically sensitive trade deficit with China, the largest with any country, fell by 14% in October to \$31.4 billion. For the first 10 months of this year, the deficit in goods trade with China is running 13.7% higher than a year ago.

America's overall deficit trade deficit totaled \$705.2 billion so far this year, 29.7% above the same period a year ago. Trade flows were sharply curtailed last year as the COVID pandemic restricted economic activity.

Part of the October increase in exports reflected a surge in oil exports, reflecting a return to more normal operations at Gulf Coast refineries which had been

shut down by Hurricane Ida.

Big gains in U.S. auto exports and imports suggest that the global computer chip shortage which had crimped auto production was beginning to ease, a trend that has been noted by leaders in the auto industry.

Andrew Hunter, senior U.S. economist at Capital Economics, predicted that an improving trade picture would add around 1 percentage point to U.S. economic growth in the current October-December quarter. He expects the gross domestic product to expand at an annual rate of 6.5% this quarter, a significant improvement from the modest 2.1% growth rate in the third quarter.

While the trade report offered evidence that supply chain problems were easing, Hunter noted that while the number of waiting ships anchored off U.S. ports has declined in recent weeks they remain at "historically high levels."

He also cautioned that the emergence of the new omicron variant and the travel restric-



In this April 9, 2021 photo, cargo containers are shown stacked near cranes at PortMiami in Miami. The U.S. trade deficit narrowed to \$67.1 billion in October, after hitting a record high the previous month, as a big rebound in exports helped to offset a much smaller rise in imports. The October deficit was 17.6% below the September record of \$81.4 billion, the Commerce Department reported Tuesday, Dec. 7, 2021. WILFREDO LEE - STAFF, AP

tions that have been re-instated could dampen services trade in coming months.

Tuesday's report showed that the deficit in goods totaled \$83.9 billion in October while America's surplus in services trade, which includes airline and other travel payments, totaled \$16.8 billion.

Attorney says Meadows won't cooperate with Jan. 6 panel

By **ERIC TUCKER and MARY CLARE JALONICK**
Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — In an abrupt reversal, an attorney for former White House chief of staff Mark Meadows said his client will not cooperate with a House committee investigating the Jan. 6 Capitol insurrection, citing a breakdown in negotiations with the panel.

Attorney George Terwilliger said in a letter Tuesday that a deposition would be "untenable" because the Jan. 6 panel "has no intention of respecting boundaries" concerning questions that former President Donald Trump has claimed are off-limits because of executive privilege. Terwilliger also said that he learned over the weekend that the committee had issued a subpoena to a third-party communications provider that he said would include "intensely personal" information.

Terwilliger said in a statement last week that he was continuing to work with the committee and its staff on a potential accommodation that would not require Meadows to waive the executive privileges claimed by Trump or "forfeit the long-standing position that senior White House aides cannot be compelled to testify" before Congress.

"We appreciate the Select Committee's openness to receiving voluntary responses on non-privileged topics," he said then.

A spokesperson for the panel did not have immediate comment on Terwilliger's letter. The committee's chairman, Mississippi Rep. Bennie Thompson, said last week that Meadows had been engaging with the panel through his attorney, producing records and agreeing to appear for an initial deposition.

Thompson said the committee would "continue to assess his degree of compliance with our subpoena after the deposition." He has said that any witnesses who don't comply will be held in contempt of Congress.

In halting cooperation, Terwilliger also cited comments from Thompson that he said unfairly cast aspersions on witnesses who invoke their Fifth Amendment right against self-incrimination. A separate witness, former Justice Department official Jeffrey Clark, has said he will invoke those Fifth Amendment rights.

"As a result of careful and deliberate consideration of these factors, we now must decline the opportunity to appear voluntarily for a deposition," Terwilliger wrote in the letter.

The reversal comes as Meadows has been receiving attention for a new book, released Tuesday, which revealed that Trump received a positive COVID-19 test before a presidential debate and was far sicker than the White House revealed at the time.

Trump — who told his supporters to "fight like hell" before hundreds of his supporters broke into the Capitol and stopped the presidential electoral count — has attempted to hinder much of the committee's work, including in an ongoing court case, by arguing that Congress cannot obtain information about his private White House conversations.



This image released by Disney+ shows, from left, Paul McCartney, George Harrison, Ringo Starr and John Lennon in a scene from the nearly 8-hour Peter Jackson-produced documentary "Get Back." UNCREDITED - HANDOUT ONE TIME USE, DISNEY+

And in the end: A fan's notes on Peter Jackson's Beatles doc

By **HILLEL ITALIE**
AP National Writer

NEW YORK (AP) — Peter Jackson's Beatles documentary "Get Back" runs for nearly eight hours and the only real criticism you can make is that it doesn't last longer. For dabblers and other newcomers, it's a prime introduction. For the Beatles fanatic, and we are a vast and obsessive community, every moment offers some kind of revelation or random pleasure, along with glimpses of what was to come and what might have been.

A few notes from one fanatic:

A MOMENT'S NOTICE

"Get Back" closely follows the band in January 1969 as it hurries to record an album and plan a concert for an intended television special, what became the 1970 album and documentary "Let it Be." It's the most in-depth look we've ever had of the Beatles at a given moment, but should not be mistaken for more than a given moment. The Beatles were in transition in January 1969 as they had been all along. A documentary set six months earlier or six months later likely would have told a very different story. A documentary set two years earlier might have seemed like distant history. A documentary set two years later, when they were no longer together, would have been a retrospective.

THE YOKO FACTOR

Jackson's film sets a far brighter mood than "Let it Be," which for the Beatles and the public alike has served as a grim finale. But the Beatles were undeniably in the early stages of breaking up. Their founder, John Lennon, had left his wife for Yoko Ono midway in 1968 and was openly losing interest in the group (Did Yoko, who sits silently through much of the recording sessions, break up the Beatles? Directly, no. But indirectly, yes. Beyond their talent, the magic of the Beatles was in their chemistry, in their total commitment to the music and to each other, a rich and intricate balance fatally upended once John's passions turned elsewhere.)

MCCARTNEY'S TIME

For partisans who like to choose between Lennon and Paul McCartney, this is a prime argument for McCartney, the maturing of "The Cute Beatle"

and a master craftsman's surrender to deeper, even unwanted feelings. Shaken he may lose the band, and the songwriting partner, he loved above all else, McCartney responded with the bittersweet 1968 epic "Hey Jude" and with the somber "Let it Be," "The Long and Winding Road" and other works he brought to the January sessions. While Lennon turns up with little new material, McCartney is so inspired he conjures the riff and title for "Get Back" in a matter of seconds. A song which he sketched out on film and ended up on the "Abbey Road" album may have best defined his thinking: "Carry That Weight."

GRUMPY GEORGE

If George ("The Quiet Beatle") seems uncommonly grumpy at times, it isn't just out of frustration with getting his songs accepted, or with Paul's controlling manner. He had spent part of 1968 with Bob Dylan and the Band in Woodstock, New York, thriving on the kind of easy camaraderie that George rarely finds anymore with the Beatles. He will summon it during "Get Back" when he steps in to help Ringo Starr write "Octopus's Garden," adding guitar parts and suggesting lyrics in a casual and understated manner, as if just one of countless favors exchanged over the years.

OUT OF THE PAST

Time is the film's unspoken theme. The Beatles were all 28 and under, but they seem unrecognizable from the fresh, cheerful "Mop Tops" of five earlier. The whole project was a self-conscious effort to "get back," and free themselves from their own legend. They chase an unreachable past, telling war stories, jamming on oldies such as "Shake, Rattle and Roll" and "Rip it Up." They resurrect an early, obscure Lennon-McCartney song, "One After 909," and shout out an old Liverpool folk number, "Maggie Mae." (Not to be confused with the Rod Stewart hit.) But they are still "The Beatles." John's wry closing words as they finished their fabled rooftop concert: "I hope we've passed the audition."

INTO THE FUTURE

Part of the tension in watching "Get Back" is knowing what will come next. "Get Back" was filmed soon after John had met the notorious music

manager, Allen Klein, whose other clients included the Rolling Stones. The Beatles have been leaderless since Brian Epstein died suddenly in 1967, and Lennon is smitten with the profane (and unscrupulous) American, heartened that he seems to know his music better than Lennon himself does. By the spring of 1969, Klein will have signed up the Beatles, over McCartney's well-founded objections, and help turn what might have been an amicable parting into a legal and verbal war that will blow the band apart in 1970. Watching Lennon rhapsodize over Klein, even as recording engineer Glyn Johns warns him that he found Klein to be strange and self-involved, is like watching a horror movie in which the hero prepares to open a creaky door. "Don't do it, John!"

The presence of keyboardist Billy Preston, who joins the Beatles on "Get Back" and other songs, and a conversation in the Abbey Road studio between John and George suggest another path. George wonders if he shouldn't release a solo record, and John, who already has made an album of experimental music with Yoko, sounds supportive. Neither suggest that the Beatles themselves should stop. For those who wanted the Beatles to stay together forever — or on the far side of ever — this may have been the way, with the Beatles no longer an all-consuming unit of four, but an open-ended community for group and side projects, joined by wives and friends and session players.

IN THE END

One of the film's final scenes finds the Beatles crowded together in the control room at Abbey Road, listening to their new music. They're not alone. Yoko is there, but so is Ringo's first wife, Maureen, head shaking happily in time to the beat, and Linda Eastman, two months away from marrying McCartney and joined by her young daughter from a previous relationship, Heather, whom McCartney banters and plays with as if he had been raising her all along. The Beatles and their lovers smile and laugh and clasp hands. It's a moment of joy before darker times, our heroes caught up in the music — a force stronger than all their differences, as it remains so now.

AP National Writer Hillel Italie has been ranting about the Beatles since childhood. His favorite Beatle is Jimmie Nicol.

Kirksville Daily Express

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

Judge or Division:
PROBATE

In the Estate of NORMA JEAN RUGGLES, Deceased.

Notice to Creditors
(Small Estate)

To All Persons Interested in the Estate of NORMA JEAN RUGGLES, Decedent.
On November 15, 2021, a small estate affidavit was filed by the distributees for the decedent under Section 473.097, RSMo, with the Probate Division of the Circuit Court of Adair County, Missouri.
All creditors of the decedent, who died on July 29, 2021, are notified that Section 473.444, RSMo, sets a limitation period that would bar claims one year after the death of the decedent. A creditor may request that this estate be opened for administration.
Receipt of this notice should not be construed by the recipient to indicate that the recipient may possibly have a beneficial interest in the estate. The nature and extent of any person's interest, if any, may possibly be determined from the affidavit on this estate filed in the Probate Division of the Circuit Court of Adair County, Missouri.
Date of first publication is November 24, 2021.
Linda Decker
Adair County Circuit Clerk
PUBLICATION DATES: DECEMBER 1, 2021 and DECEMBER 8, 2021

Case Number: 21AR-PR00129 (Date File Stamp)

IN THE CIRCUIT COURT OF ADAIR COUNTY, MISSOURI
JUVENILE DIVISION
Russell Steele, Judge

In the Interest of)
N. R. R.) Case Number: 21AR-JU00084
Male)
DOB: 10/29/2017)
Age: 4)

Notice Upon Order for Service by Publication

The State of Missouri to: UNKNOWN FATHER

You are notified that an action has been commenced against you in the Juvenile Division of the Circuit Court of Adair County, Missouri, the object and general nature of which is to terminate your parental rights in and to N.R.R., a minor child born October 29, 2017.
The names of all parties in this action are stated in the caption above and the name and address of the Juvenile Office attorney is:

C. David Rouser
ROUSER LAW OFFICE LLC
400 N. Franklin Street
Kirksville MO 63501
(P) 660.665.7515
(F) 660.665.7514

You are further notified that, unless you file an answer or other pleading or otherwise appear and defend against this action within 45 days after _____, judgment by default will be entered against you.

Dates of Publication: December 1, 8, 15 and 22, 2021

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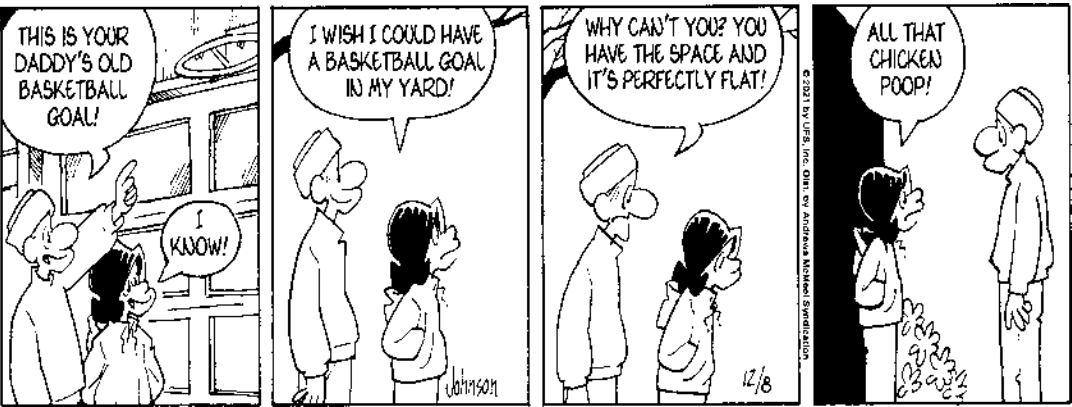
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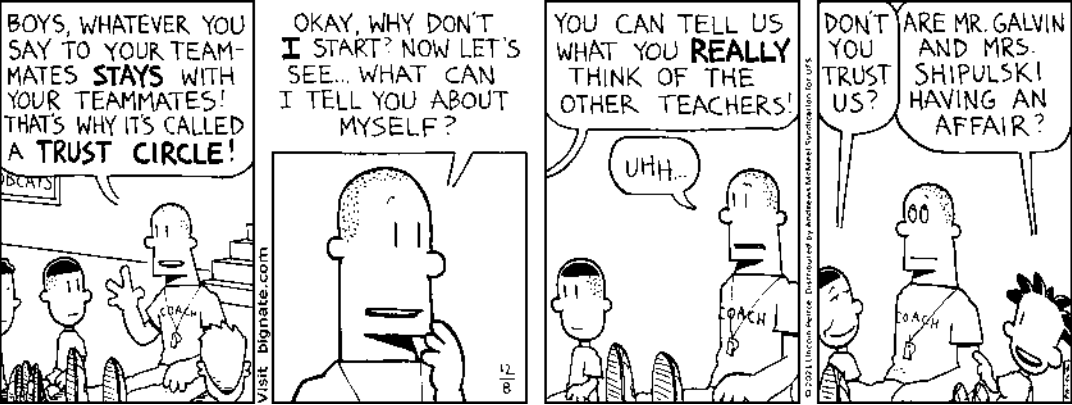
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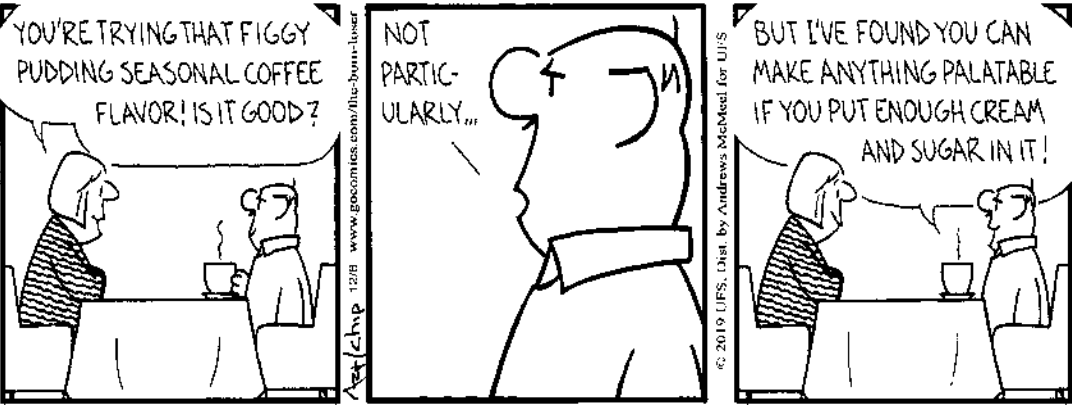
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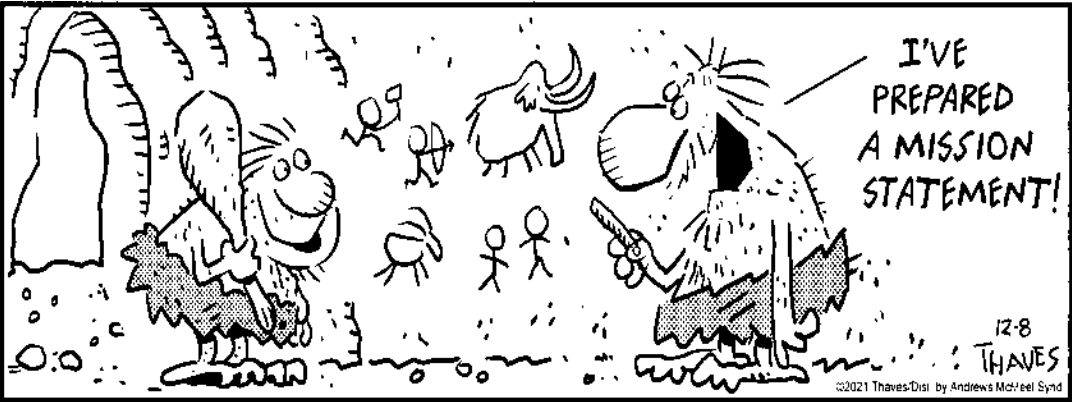
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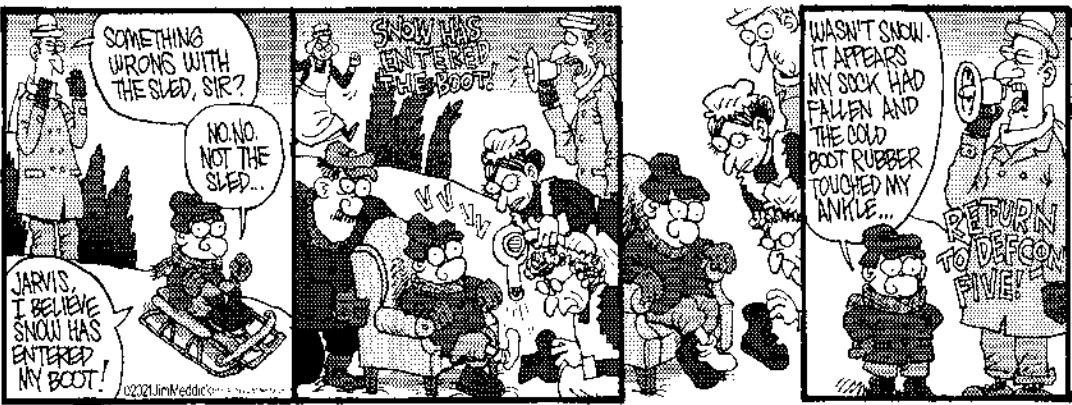
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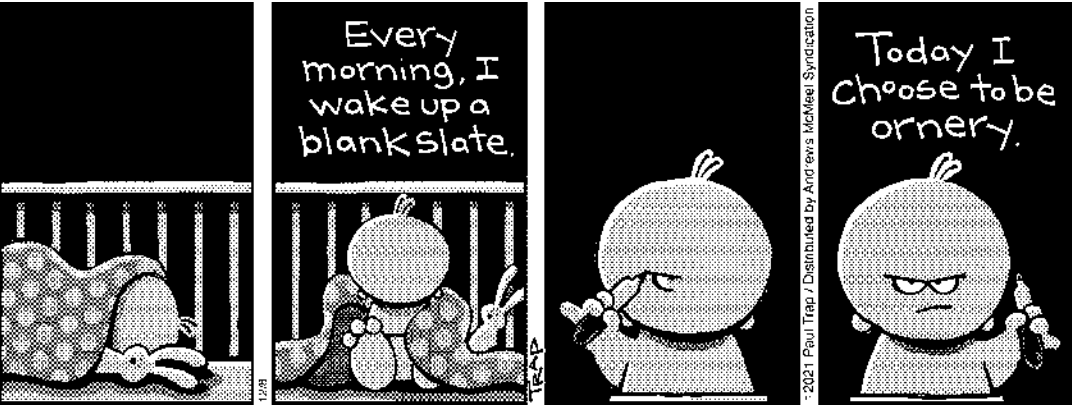
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MONTY



THAT A BABY



SUDOKU

Here's How It Works: Sudoku puzzles are formatted as a 9x9 grid, broken down into nine 3x3 boxes. To solve a sudoku, the numbers 1 through 9 must fill each row, column and box. Each number can appear only once in each row, column and box. You can figure out the order in which the numbers will appear by using the numeric clues already provided in the boxes. The more numbers you name, the easier it gets to solve the puzzle!

PREVIOUS ANSWER

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

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

CROSSWORD

- ACROSS**
- 1 Cave dweller
 - 4 Ginnie or Fannie
 - 7 Carpet thickness
 - 11 Powdery residue
 - 12 She, in Paris
 - 14 Siberian river
 - 15 Maude portrayed
 - 16 Intentions
 - 17 Light browns
 - 18 Rocket problem
 - 20 Sea animal
 - 22 Storage container
 - 23 Canine comment
 - 24 Loosen
 - 27 Good-looking
 - 30 Lows
 - 31 Opposing forces
 - 32 Pen part
 - 34 Golf tee
 - 35 Stripe
 - 36 Luigi's farewell
 - 37 Defeated ones
 - 39 Very very
- DOWN**
- 10 End of a threat
 - 13 Made a try
 - 19 Long-legged wader
 - 21 Veep's boss
 - 24 Sports off.
 - 25 Eggnog time
 - 26 Fast food order (2 wds.)
 - 27 Time beyond measure
 - 28 College credit
 - 29 Dishonest one
 - 31 More distant
 - 33 Jungle crusher
- 40 Permit**
- 41 X-ray kin**
- 42 Priest's domain**
- 45 Orchestra member**
- 49 Exiled Roman poet**
- 50 Island off Italy**
- 52 Coral island**
- 53 Cowboy — Autry**
- 54 Shower, maybe**
- 55 Mind reading**
- 56 Assns.**
- 57 Pamplona shout**
- 58 Joey or Kiki**

Answer to Previous Puzzle

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

1	2	3		4	5	6		7	8	9	10
11				12			13		14		
15				16					17		
18			19			20	21				
			22			23					
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30				31				32		33	
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	37		38				39				
			40			41					
42	43	44				45			46	47	48
49				50	51			52			
53				54				55			
56					57			58			

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HERMAN



ASTROGRAPH BY EUGENIA LAST

Set goals and pour your time and skills into making your dreams come true. Refuse to let anyone discourage you or meddle in your plans. A positive attitude, realistic approach and moderate budget will get you where you want to go. Be passionate and determined.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 23-Dec. 21) -- Go directly to the source, speak up and don't let anyone mess with you. Situations that involve controlling individuals will reveal your strengths and weaknesses. Don't give in or give up.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19) -- Keep emotional matters to yourself, and it will be easier to go about your business without interference. Sort out your thoughts and figure out what you will do next.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 19) -- Surround yourself with people who have something to contribute. Walk away from situations that are volatile or might make you look bad. An argument will put you in a vulnerable position.

PISCES (Feb. 20-March 20) -- Sharing too much information will give someone the edge in a competitive situation. Don't present or promote what you plan to do until you have everything in place.

ARIES (March 21-April 19) -- Call on friends and allies, and you'll get the backup you need to get things done on time. Use your intelligence, knowledge and experience to outmaneuver any rival.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20) -- Stay on course, regardless of what others do or say. Avoid outlandish ideas and wasteful expenditures. Pick

your battles wisely and put your efforts where they will help you get ahead.

GEMINI (May 21-June 20) -- Live and learn. Use your experience and knowledge to work toward your dreams, hopes and wishes, and you will be satisfied with what you accomplish. Don't expect everyone to be happy for you.

CANCER (June 21-July 22) -- Pay attention to what everyone is doing, and you'll pick up ideas that will help you get things done on time. A change someone makes will help you and may spark a partnership.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22) -- Sit tight and take a logical approach to change. Don't try to fix what's working. Give yourself time to think and plan. Being patient and finding new ways to use what you already have will pay off.

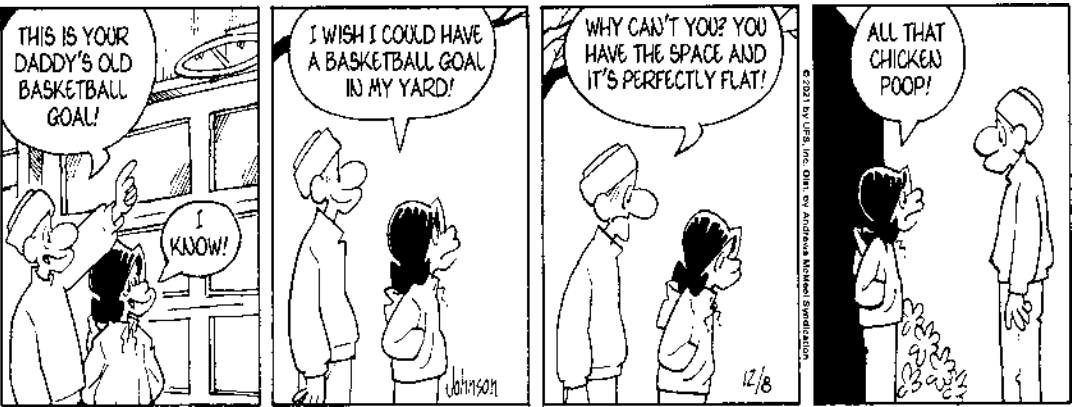
VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22) -- Say only what's necessary and truthful. Don't engage in gossip or criticism. A positive attitude and suggestions will help you stir up enthusiasm and encourage others to pitch in.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 23) -- Take pride in what you do to help others. Keep an open mind and offer innovative solutions to others. Build strong alliances, and you will find the road to success. Concentrate on equality, balance and integrity.

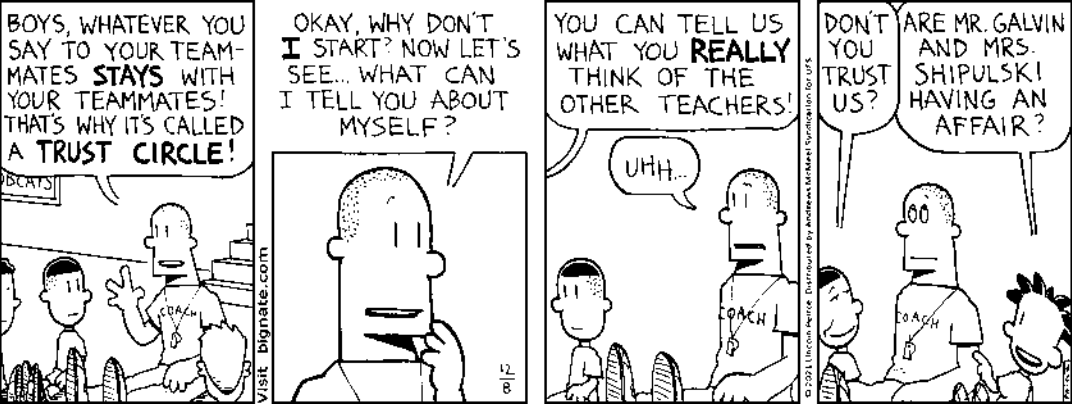
SCORPIO (Oct. 24-Nov. 22) -- Evaluate your lot in life and consider feasible adjustments that will get you closer to your dreams. Everything comes at a price, and putting in the effort will be necessary if you want to succeed.

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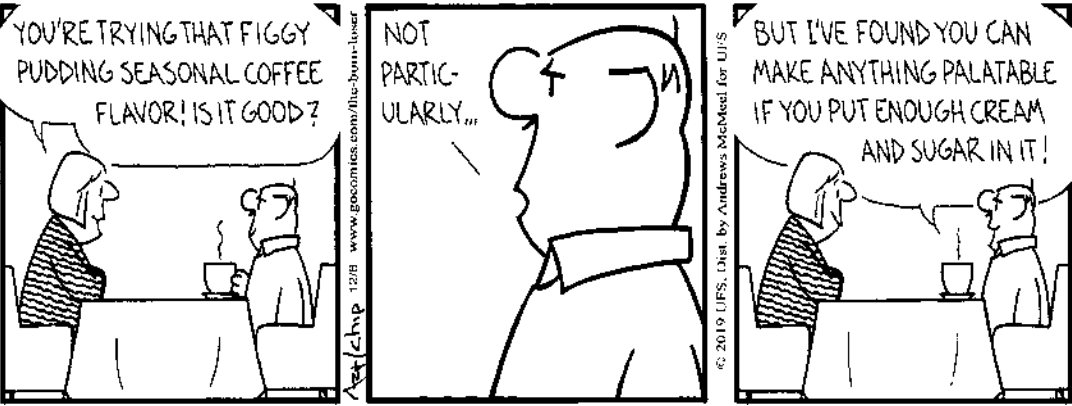
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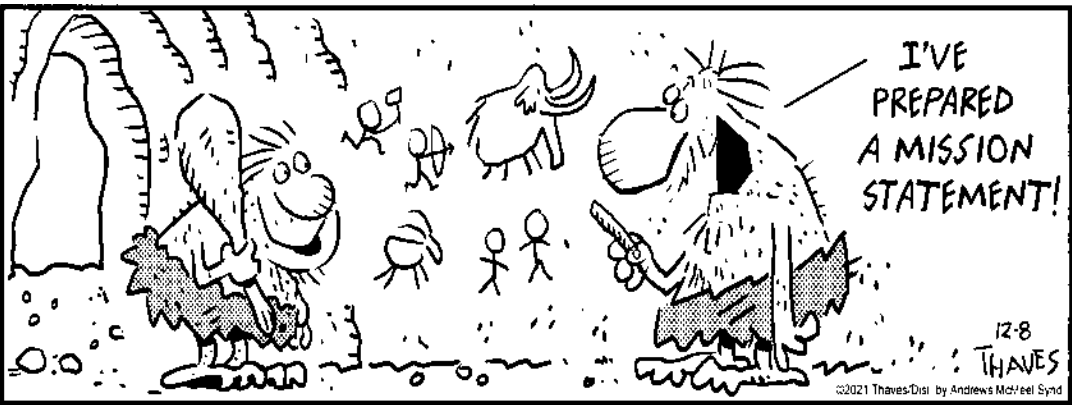
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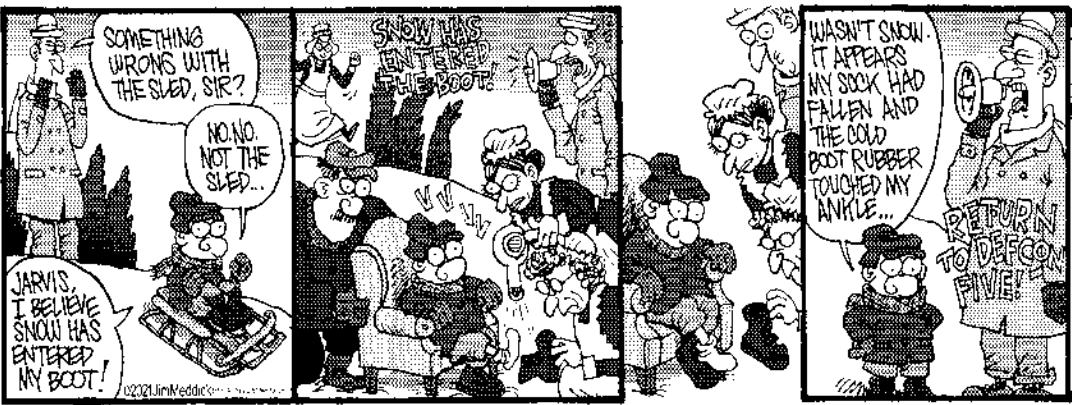
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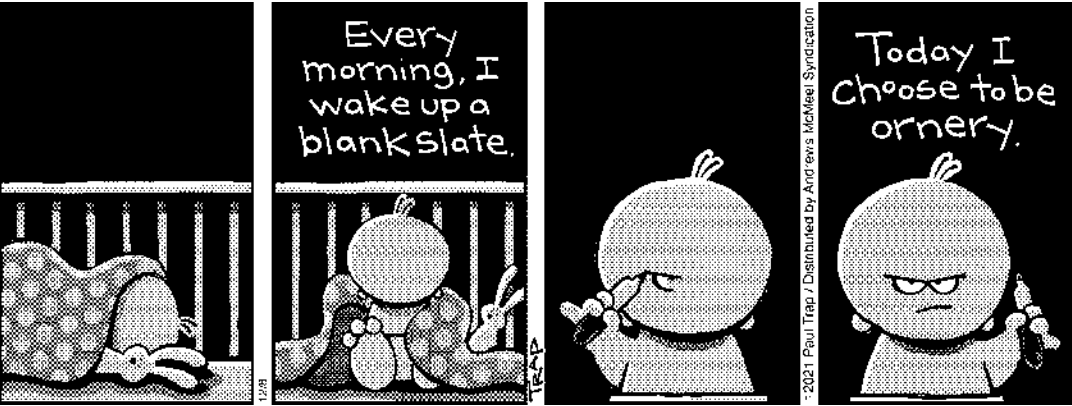
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4	5	9	2	8	1	3	6	7
1	7	2	4	3	6	9	5	8
8	6	3	9	7	5	4	1	2

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

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- 16 Intentions
- 17 Light browns
- 18 Rocket problem
- 20 Sea animal
- 22 Storage container
- 23 Canine comment
- 24 Loosen
- 27 Good-looking
- 30 Lows
- 31 Opposing forces
- 32 Pen part
- 34 Golf tee
- 35 Stripe
- 36 Luigi's farewell
- 37 Defeated ones
- 39 Very very
- 40 Permit
- 41 X-ray kin
- 42 Priest's domain
- 45 Orchestra member
- 49 Exiled Roman poet
- 50 Island off Italy
- 52 Coral island
- 53 Cowboy — Autry
- 54 Shower, maybe
- 55 Mind reading
- 56 Assns.
- 57 Pamplona shout
- 58 Joey or Kiki
- DOWN
- 1 Pamper
- 2 On the ocean
- 3 Melt
- 4 Stinker
- 5 Even up
- 6 Horror flick street
- 7 Defer (2 wds.)
- 8 Big rug exporter
- 9 Sp. or Ger.

Answer to Previous Puzzle

Y	E	P		H	O	P	S		A	M	M	O		
O	A	R		O	V	E	N		B	E	A	M		
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W	E	N	T		A	M	E	N		A	M	P		
L	O	G	E		T	A	N	G		S	E	T		

10 End of a threat

13 Made a try

19 Long-legged wader

21 Veep's boss

24 Sports off.

25 Eggnog time

26 Fast food order (2 wds.)

27 Time beyond measure

28 College credit

29 Dishonest one

31 More distant

33 Jungle crusher

35 Hive occupants

36 Muse of history

38 Downward trends

39 Polished

41 Exxon mergee

42 Comic swamp critter

43 State definitely

44 Onion goody

46 Overshot the puck

47 Info request encl.

48 Variety

51 Mekong native

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HERMAN



ASTROGRAPH BY EUGENIA LAST

Set goals and pour your time and skills into making your dreams come true. Refuse to let anyone discourage you or meddle in your plans. A positive attitude, realistic approach and moderate budget will get you where you want to go. Be passionate and determined.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 23-Dec. 21) -- Go directly to the source, speak up and don't let anyone mess with you. Situations that involve controlling individuals will reveal your strengths and weaknesses. Don't give in or give up.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19) -- Keep emotional matters to yourself, and it will be easier to go about your business without interference. Sort out your thoughts and figure out what you will do next.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 19) -- Surround yourself with people who have something to contribute. Walk away from situations that are volatile or might make you look bad. An argument will put you in a vulnerable position.

PISCES (Feb. 20-March 20) -- Sharing too much information will give someone the edge in a competitive situation. Don't present or promote what you plan to do until you have everything in place.

ARIES (March 21-April 19) -- Call on friends and allies, and you'll get the backup you need to get things done on time. Use your intelligence, knowledge and experience to outmaneuver any rival.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20) -- Stay on course, regardless of what others do or say. Avoid outlandish ideas and wasteful expenditures. Pick

your battles wisely and put your efforts where they will help you get ahead.

GEMINI (May 21-June 20) -- Live and learn. Use your experience and knowledge to work toward your dreams, hopes and wishes, and you will be satisfied with what you accomplish. Don't expect everyone to be happy for you.

CANCER (June 21-July 22) -- Pay attention to what everyone is doing, and you'll pick up ideas that will help you get things done on time. A change someone makes will help you and may spark a partnership.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22) -- Sit tight and take a logical approach to change. Don't try to fix what's working. Give yourself time to think and plan. Being patient and finding new ways to use what you already have will pay off.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22) -- Say only what's necessary and truthful. Don't engage in gossip or criticism. A positive attitude and suggestions will help you stir up enthusiasm and encourage others to pitch in.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 23) -- Take pride in what you do to help others. Keep an open mind and offer innovative solutions to others. Build strong alliances, and you will find the road to success. Concentrate on equality, balance and integrity.

SCORPIO (Oct. 24-Nov. 22) -- Evaluate your lot in life and consider feasible adjustments that will get you closer to your dreams. Everything comes at a price, and putting in the effort will be necessary if you want to succeed.

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The Scotland County girls basketball team hoists its trophy after defeating Schuyler County on Saturday to win the Tri-Rivers Classic. AUSTIN MILLER/DAILY EXPRESS

Scotland girls hit key shots late to win Tri-Rivers Classic title game over Schuyler

Austin Miller
Daily Express

It’s a rare occasion if Emiley Dial passes up an open 3-point shot. But early in the third quarter of Saturday’s Tri-Rivers Classic title game against Schuyler County, the Scotland County senior did just that. She air-balled a 3-pointer in the second quarter, then not having the confidence to try again for a while. So when she was left open in the corner in the third quarter, she paused, dribbled a bit, then passed away. She wouldn’t hesitate again, burying a 3-pointer with 3:18 left in the third quarter — the first points of the quarter — to put Scotland ahead. The Tigers found some momentum from there, finishing off the Rams for a 40-35 win. “I wasn’t shooting very good, and my coach told me, ‘You’re going to make one eventually, just keep shooting.’ So I was hesitant then, but then I shot the next one on the next possession,” Dial said. “... It felt really good. It made me feel like my shot was down and I could start shooting more and making more shots.” Dial then hit two 3-pointers in the fourth quarter to put some more distance in front of the Rams (4-1). Abby Curry also hit a crucial 3-pointer in the fourth quarter, putting Scotland up 30-27 with 5:18 left. That was just enough breathing room to hang on. Even though Schuyler had more field goals on the after-

noon, those 3-pointers and a bunch of free throws put Scotland ahead. “Emiley and Abby both hit one down that stretch that was kind of a momentum changer,” said Scotland (4-0) coach Cory Shultz. “We were kind of in a dry spell, then they hit a few of those big shots to put us over the edge. “(Both teams) know each other well, so nobody’s going to score a whole bunch,” Shultz said. “Coming down the stretch, we did what we needed to, and get it done.” Scotland, ranked 10th in the first state coaches poll of the season, went 10-for-19 from the free-throw line, compared to Schuyler going 6-for-15. That many missed free throws weighs heavily in such a close game. The Tigers also had a limited bench Saturday as several players were gone to Hawaii for a school band trip, leaving Scotland with just two reserves to use. Schuyler coach Tom Kirkland felt his team just wasn’t ready for Saturday’s game. The Rams pressed in the first half, playing fast to try and wear Scotland down. That’s a tough feat to accomplish against Scotland, but Schuyler succeeded fairly well at that strategy. The Rams led 18-17 at halftime, in large part to eight huge points from Sidney Aeschliman in the second quarter. But the Rams didn’t press much in the second half, and Kirkland thought they didn’t look like them-

selves because of it. Instead of being the ones trying to make Scotland rush on offense, the Rams rushed themselves and had too many turnovers in a one-possession game. “We knew it was going to be a defensive battle. We felt we have a better offensive presence this year, and so far this season we have,” Kirkland said. “But our two leading scorers were held to three points and (seven) points, and our sixth man off the bench led us in scoring. ... We need our leaders to be ready for that challenge and we didn’t get it done today.” Those top scorers Kirkland mentioned are MaKinley Aeschliman and Jacie Morris. And Sidney Aeschliman led the Rams with 12 points off the bench. She’s someone Kirkland will probably have to create more minutes for with how she’s playing to start the season. For Scotland, forward Alaynna Whitaker had 12 points, with Dial and Hannah Feeney — who was named the tournament’s MVP — both had 11 points. The Tigers fed Whitaker early and often — many times to a fault in the first half. A bunch of lobs into the paint were turned away by Schuyler’s defense, but Whitaker found success with the touches she got. Whitaker against Schuyler’s Kait Hatfield is a tough matchup for both girls, so that wasn’t what Shultz wanted to do. “That was by no means the gameplan when we came in,” Shultz said.

“But she was playing well and could’ve had a few more if we had made better passes to her. I think we did force it a little bit, but ... we liked what we saw and kept going to it.” It’s still very early in the season, but Saturday’s loss stings the Rams. They hoped to win their home tournament for the first time and entered as the top seed. And it’s more momentum on the side of Scotland County. The Tigers have won four straight meetings with the Rams, including last year’s district title game in Queen City. These two teams will undoubtedly see each other several more times this season, and likely with a district title on the line once again. “Our last (four) losses, dating back to last year, are to the same team,” Kirkland said. “Girls want it really bad and are hungry for it. But at that same point, it’s early enough in the season that there’s always another niche that we didn’t pick up on today that we can use moving forward.” The Tigers are happy to keep their winning streak over Schuyler going. And though they have their sights on larger hardware this year and getting back to the Final Four, Saturday is a step in that direction. “They’re really fun (games) for us, and I’m sure it is for them, too,” Dial said. “Us and Schuyler are rivals, so it’s nice to start the season with a dub and know that maybe we’re the better team around here.”

O’Neil, Miñoso, Hodges, Kaat, Oliva, Fowler get baseball HOF

Ben Walker
Associated Press

Buck O’Neil never uttered a single word of bitterness or regret about not being elected to the baseball Hall of Fame. Till the end, he urged those who loved and rooted for him to do the same. Now, long after a near miss that left many wondering if he’d ever make it, they can rejoice. O’Neil, a champion of Black ballplayers during a monumental, eight-decade career on and off the field, joined Minnie Miñoso, Gil Hodges and three others in getting chosen for the Hall of Fame on Sunday. Former Minnesota Twins teammates Tony Oliva and Jim Kaat also were elected along with Bud Fowler by a pair of veterans committees. “Jubilation,” said Bob Kendrick, president of the Negro Leagues Baseball Museum in Kansas City, Missouri, that O’Neil helped create. “While we’re all sad that Buck is

not here, you just cannot not be happy for all of those who continued to beat that Buck O’Neil drum,” he said. Oliva and Kaat, both 83 years old, are the only living new members. Longtime slugger Dick Allen, who died last December, fell one vote shy of election. The six newcomers will be enshrined in Cooperstown, New York, on July 24, 2022, along with any new members elected by the Baseball Writers’ Association of America. First-time candidates David Ortiz and Alex Rodriguez join Barry Bonds, Roger Clemens and Curt Schilling on the ballot, with voting results on Jan. 25. Passed over in previous Hall elections, the new members reflect a diversity of accomplishments. This was the first time O’Neil, Miñoso and Fowler had a chance to make the Hall under new rules honoring Negro League contributions. The Major League Baseball color barrier wasn’t broken until 1947 by Jackie Robinson.

Last December, the statistics of some 3,400 players were added to MLB’s record books when the sport said it was “correcting a longtime oversight in the game’s history” and reclassifying the Negro Leagues as a major league. O’Neil was a two-time All-Star first baseman in the Negro Leagues and the first Black coach in the National or American leagues. He became the ultimate ambassador for the sport until his death in 2006 at 94, was posthumously awarded the Presidential Medal of Freedom and already is honored with a life-sized statue inside the Hall of Fame. For all O’Neil did for the game, many casual fans weren’t entirely familiar with him until they watched the nine-part Ken Burns documentary “Baseball,” which first aired on PBS in 1994. There, O’Neil’s grace, wit and vivid storytelling brought back to

See **BASEBALL**, Page A9

Bulldogs repeat as America’s Crossroads Bowl champions

Truman Athletics

Cody Schrader capped off his sensational sophomore season by rushing for 219 yards on 28 carriers and scored three touchdowns as the Truman repeated as America’s Crossroads Bowl champions with a 34-17 win over Hillsdale College on Saturday afternoon. Both teams used their first possessions of the game to consume 10-plus play drives but both had to settle for field goals. Josh Schiederer gave Truman the lead with a 26-yarder to cap a 12-play 63-yard drive and Julian Lee hit from 34 yards to finish a 10-play 40-yard drive with 3:51 left in the quarter. The Hillsdale defense denied the Bulldogs on a goal-to-goal situation and Schiederer trotted out and converted from 18-yards to put Truman up 6-3 for the only points of the second quarter. Hillsdale grabbed the lead on the first possession of the third stanza. Isaac TeSlaa got behind the defense for a 56-yard td reception from Garrit Aissen and the Chargers went up 10-6. Truman responded right back with a nine-play 63-yard drive that after two plays from the one, Schrader powered in for his first of three touchdowns on the day. Jake Closser picked off Aissen and returned the

ball 20 yards to set up Truman’s next scoring drive. Schrader would run for 17, 7 and 2 before Matt Hall was found in the back of the end zone by Nolan Hair and a 20-10 lead. The Bulldog defense forced a punt to start the fourth quarter and Truman used the chunk plays to march down the field. Jacob Morris caught a 13-yard pass, then Jaylen Jefferson ran for 21 yards on the next play. Schrader had runs again of 10, 23 and a final one of 23 to go over 2,000 yards on the season and into the end zone for a 27-10 Truman lead. Ben Watson, who was named the bowl’s Most Valuable Defensive Player, picked off Aissen in the end zone to thwart a Hillsdale scoring attempt. The Chargers got a strip-sack and fumble recovery by Alex Anschutz, who rumbled 88-yards for a touchdown to make it 27-17 with 2:48 left. Truman recovered the onside kick and on the first play from scrimmage, Schrader broke off a 44-yard touchdown run on his final rush of the season to give him 2,074 yards and 25 rushing touchdowns. Schrader was named the Offensive MVP of the game. The Bulldogs finish the 2021 season with a 9-3 record.

LOCAL ROUNDUP

Dec. 4

High school boys basketball

- Green City 68, Atlanta 58**
Green City - Wins Novinger Tournament, Laydon Fields, 25 points; Asher Buggs-Tipton, 14 points.
Atlanta - No stats reported.
- Novinger 66, Brashear 57**
Novinger - No stats reported.
Brashear - Brandon Jochimsen, 19 points, 11 rebounds; Carson Erwin, 17 points.
- Milan 57, Schuyler Co. 48**
No stats reported.
- Knox Co. 58, Scotland Co. 52**
No stats reported.
- Kirksville 57, Monroe City 54**
Kirksville - No stats reported.

High school girls basketball

- Green City 38, Atlanta 28**
Green City - Wins Novinger Tournament, LillyAnne McCabe, 10 points.
Atlanta - No stats reported.
- Milan 54, North Shelby 47**
Milan - Cady Pauley, 38 points.
- Putnam Co. 47, Clark Co. 41**
Putnam - Claire Tipton, 32 points; Karley Seaton, 12 points.
- Knox Co. 45, Brookfield 41**
Knox - Brianna Miller, 14 points; Jen Hinkle, 11 points.
- Northeast 85, La Plata 69**
La Plata - Olivia Coy, 15 points; Claire Coy, 15 points.
- Kirksville 51, Monroe City**
Kirksville - No stats reported.

High school wrestling

- Kirksville @ Pleasant Hill Tournament**
Kirksville - 2nd place finish as team; Jaden Crisp, 4th place at 113 pounds; Chance McKim, 5th place at 120 pounds; Ty Rachinski, 4th place at 132 pounds; Lane Patterson, 5th place at 138 pounds; Dominic Cahalan, 2nd at 160 pounds; Ryan Harvey, 5th place at 170 pounds; Jack Thomas, 4th place at 182 pounds; Colton Hannah, 2nd place at 220 pounds; Bryce Kertz, 1st place at heavyweight.
- Dec. 3**
- High school girls basketball**
- Novinger 40, Macon JV 31**
Novinger - Abbi Fountain, 23 points.
- Brashear 44, Kirksville JV 30**
Brashear - Aubrey Borgmeyer, 11 points.

Putnam County boys win Tri-Rivers Classic one year after taking last

Austin Miller
Daily Express

What a difference one year makes.

This time last year, Putnam County and North Shelby played in the seventh-place game at the Tri-Rivers Classic, trying to stave off a last-place finish at the tournament. The Midgets barely fielded a team as COVID protocols kept several players out of action. And they wasted a 20-point lead in that game, losing to North Shelby by one point.

This year was a different story as both teams battled Saturday for first place this time around. And the day belonged to the Midgets, running away with a 79-58 win.

“It’s definitely been a work in progress over the last few years,” said Putnam coach Kyle Fleshman. “These guys have come a long way from last year. I remember we played North Shelby and I

think we were up about 20 at half. Then their press caused us to turn it over again and again and again. That’s something we’ve really been focusing on for really the last year.”

The Midgets (4-0) are in a diametrically opposed position compared to last year. Fleshman joked that practice is a big difference for this year’s start. The Midgets had hardly any practice time before playing in last season’s tournament. That’s one mile marker to see how the team has advanced.

Another is seeing how they fared against a style of play they had such a hard time with. North Shelby’s (2-1) fullcourt press gave the Midgets fits. On the way to redemption this time around, they had to beat Milan’s press in the first round. Putnam handled North Shelby’s defense well this time, with its own defense being a big factor in Saturday’s result.

Fleshman doesn’t think

he has the fastest team around, but he’s got plenty of length to get in the way of opposing offenses. The Midgets get in the way of passes and then take off in the other direction.

“That’s probably the biggest shocker and surprise for us,” Fleshman said. “Because we’re not the fastest people. Our five guys, they aren’t going to win too many foot races, but they’ve got quick hands and anticipate really well.”

That’s a great sign early on after the team spent so much time working on that end.

“Definitely put in a lot of hard work, that’s for sure. Put in a lot of hours,” said forward Landon Wood, who scored 14 points on Saturday.

Wood continues to be a force in the paint. When you pair that with great outside shooting like the Midgets had Saturday, that’s a deadly combo. Zach Heidenwith, who was selected as the tour-



Putnam County's Zach Heidenwith drives past a North Shelby defender during Saturday's Tri-Rivers Classic title game. AUSTIN MILLER/DAILY EXPRESS

nament MVP, had a team-high 21 points Saturday, hitting 5 3-pointers.

“That inside-out is key for us, definitely,” Fleshman said. “Tonight, our shooters really stepped up and we hit a lot. And when we played Milan the other night, Wood stepped up and had 27 for us. It’s gonna be hard for teams to pick their poison as to whether we’re scoring inside or out.”

Owen Ream added 16 points for the Midgets and Gage Pearson reached double digits with 10.

So how do the Midgets keep it rolling? For a program that has been stuck around .500 the last three years, how does this team get over that hump and make a run?

Putnam is playing with a lot of confidence for the first time in a long time. They’re starting to see themselves as favorites entering games. There was plenty to clean up Saturday since several turnovers prevented the Midgets from winning by even more, though North Shelby should get some credit for that.

But knowing where they’ve been before, the Midgets aren’t planning

to be satisfied with one weekend in the first month of the season.

“In my mind, we can always be better,” Heidenwith said. “We can not turn the ball over as much, we can always shoot better, we can always draw more fouls. It’s all of those small things.”

“We’ve still got a lot to prove,” Fleshman said. “I think a lot to still prove. Gallatin’s still the big team in our conference and we have them in two weeks. They’re going to be the team to beat and they beat us by 30-something last year.”

BASEBALL

Continued from Page A8

life the times of Negro Leagues stars Satchel Paige, Josh Gibson and Cool Papa Bell, plus the days of many more Black players whose names were long forgotten.

Kendrick said it was too bad O’Neil won’t be in

Cooperstown for the induction ceremonies, “but you know his spirit is going to fill the valley.”

O’Neil played 10 years in the Negro Leagues and helped the Kansas City Monarchs win championships as a player and manager. His numbers were hardly gaudy — a .258 career batting average, nine home runs.

But what John Jordan O’Neil Jr. meant to baseball can never be measured by numbers alone.

O’Neil was a coach with the Chicago Cubs and enjoyed a prolific career as a scout.

His impact is visible to this day.

Along with his statue in Cooperstown, the Hall’s board of directors peri-

odically present the Buck O’Neil Lifetime Achievement Award to a person whose “whose extraordinary efforts enhanced baseball’s positive impact on society ... and whose character, integrity and dignity” mirror those shown by O’Neil.

In 2006, it appeared O’Neil would get to soak in deserved praise for his

achievements and advocacy when the Special Committee on Negro Leagues convened to study candidates for the Hall of Fame. The panel indeed elected 17 new members but O’Neil was not among them, narrowly missing out.

O’Neil was chosen to speak on behalf of those newcomers, all deceased,

on induction day. True to his nature, he didn’t emit a single word of remorse or self-pity about his own fate of being left out.

Two months later, O’Neil died in Kansas City. Later that year, former President George W. Bush honored O’Neil’s legacy with the Presidential Medal of Freedom, the nation’s highest civilian honor.



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