

KIRKSVILLE  
Daily Express

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SATURDAY

DECEMBER 25, 2021 | \$2



Kirksville City Hall.

## COVID cases increasing, health dept. continues mitigation work

The Adair County Health Department

With another 22 new cases of COVID-19 confirmed today, the overall case count in Adair County is now 4,287. It will likely exceed 4,300 as residents begin celebrating the Christmas holiday.

New cases involve females ages 2, 3, two age 16, 22, 23, 35, 37, 40 and 50. Males are ages 24, 31, 34, two age 39, 40, 42, 43, 48, 49, 53 and 80. Two cases are in the K-12 schools sector and two are breakthrough infections.

As the Omicron variant spreads throughout the country, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) states that vaccination and boosters continue to provide the best protection against severe illness, hospitalization and death.

The Adair County Health Department recommends that all county residents ages 5 and older get vaccinated against COVID-19. Vaccines are easily accessible and free.

A list of upcoming pediatric and adult COVID vaccine clinics at the Adair County Health Department appear on its website at [adair.lphamo.org](http://adair.lphamo.org). There is an adult vaccination clinic scheduled for Tuesday, Dec. 28, and pediatric vaccination clinics on upcoming Thursdays, Dec. 23 and 30. Residents must register for the clinics by calling the Health Department at 660-665-8491.

COVID-19 is not the only communicable disease the Adair County Health Department takes steps to mitigate among county residents. Any public health issue is a concern for every public health department in the state of Missouri and is at the heart of what public health departments do.

"During the past 10 days or so, most residents have heard news about rulings or opinions expressed by various individuals, including Missouri Attorney General Eric Schmitt," said Jim LeBaron, administrator of the Adair County Health Department. "There have been multiple confusing issues raised about Missouri's public health statutes and the tools public health departments, like the Adair County Health Department, use to mitigate not only COVID-19, but other communicable diseases as well. I want to assure our residents that we continue six key efforts in our Communicable Disease Program, no matter what that disease may be."

According to LeBaron, the Adair County Health Department:

1. Will continue to investigate all reportable infectious diseases and make recommendations per the CDC guidelines (for example, active tuberculosis).
2. Will continue to contact positive COVID-19 disease cases in households and advise those individuals that they avoid contact with others per the CDC guidelines and to seek consultation from their healthcare provider.
3. Will continue to ask positive COVID-19 disease cases to inform their close contacts of possible exposure to this contagious disease. They should

See **HEALTH**, Page A2

## Council approves 2022 budget, puts hold on storage development

Austin Miller  
Daily Express

The Kirksville City Council's final meeting of 2021 was a busy one.

Approval of the 2022 budget and discussions on the future of the vacant JC Penney and Gordmans stores were just a few of the items on the docket.

### 2022 Budget

Monday's meeting started with the approval of the 2022 city budget, which has \$41.1 million in expenditures. It is a 3.5 percent increase from the amended 2021 budget.

The breakdown of city departments is: water, sewer, trash and stormwater services make up 34 percent of the budget; emergency services is 20 percent; public works, streets, codes and engineering is 16 percent; recreation services is 7 percent; central garage and self-insurance is 3 percent; transportation services is 2 percent; community and economic

development, administrative services, information technology and lodging tax pass-through makes up 18 percent.

Infrastructure improvement and capital replacement amounts to \$14.4 million, roughly 35 percent of the total budget.

### Indoor storage at former JC Penney, Gordmans locations

A developer's plan to turn the former JC Penney and Gordmans stores into a climate-controlled self-storage business hit a snag Monday.

The council was set to vote on updating the city's permitted use table so storage facilities could be located in C-1 and C-3 zones with a special use permit, as well as the specific special use permit for these addresses.

The council declined the permitted use table change, instead preferring that the Planning and Zoning Commission separate indoor and outdoor storage facilities in the permitted use table.

Currently, the table only says "mini warehouse and self-storage facilities." Wanting to prevent more traditional outdoor storage units from being mixed in with retail storefronts and to keep the aesthetic look of retail, the City Council opted for this change.

Mayor Zac Burden said he wouldn't want outdoor storage units at the Kirksville Renaissance shopping center.

"If we were looking at the same address in a similar situation for a different type of storage facility, I would not be inclined to approve such a special use permit," Burden said. "It sounds like maybe the council is thinking we want to build that into the table, as opposed to that just being a consideration at special permit time."

Council member John Gardner said the change would also prevent businesses from pursuing one type of business in an area the council wouldn't approve.

See **COUNCIL**, Page A2

## Kirksville man charged following multiple break-ins on same night

Daily Express staff

A Kirksville man was charged this week after allegedly breaking into two residences and stealing electronics.

John Proffer, 29, was arrested on Dec. 19 and charged with two counts of second-degree burglary, one count of stealing and one count of second-degree damage.

That night, a resident on East McPherson reported

someone burglarized their apartment. According to court documents, that resident told police a TV, Xbox and soundbar were stolen from their apartment, and there was a person inside the neighboring apartment that was not supposed to be in there.

Proffer was found inside the neighboring apartment, hiding behind clothes in a closet. He told police the apartment belonged to his

uncle and that he was allowed to stay there. The missing soundbar was also found in the apartment, though the other missing items were not.

There was also a small safe that had been heavily damaged. A small axe and other knives were sitting in front of the safe. Proffer told police the safe was in the same condition as when he entered the apartment.

Police eventually learned the safe had previously not

been damaged and was in fact empty.

A few hours later, officers were called back to the area after the landlord spotted someone standing outside the previous residences. Officers then found Proffer again inside a vacant residence.

Proffer has previous charges from this year, including receiving stolen property, several stealing charges, and second-degree burglary.

## Divide among Missouri Senate Republicans reopens in run up to legislative session

Rudi Keller  
Missouri Independent

A meeting last week among GOP state Senators that excluded members of the conservative caucus has reignited the Republican factional infighting that's been dormant in recent months only because lawmakers are not in session.

Part of the discussion, organized by Senate GOP leadership

about the upcoming session, was how to deal with the conservative group, which includes seven of the 24 Republican members, sources told The Independent.

"I think there are some folks who would like to see the session be productive," said Senate Appropriations Committee Chairman Dan Hegeman, R-Cosby, who was present at Wednesday's meeting.

Asked if holding meetings without significant portions of the GOP caucus was a path to success, Hegeman said: "I don't have an answer for you."

Sen. Denny Hoskins, R-Warrensburg, and a member of the conservative caucus, said the meeting will make the Senate a more difficult place to work.

"Some Republican senators want to get stuff done and some Republican senators, includ-

ing the conservative caucus, want to get conservative things done," Hoskins said. "I would say that's one of the differences. I wasn't at that caucus meeting, and don't know what moderate or liberal positions they wanted to support."

Neither Senate President Pro Tem Dave Schatz nor Majority Leader Caleb Rowden responded to requests for comment from The Independent.

Lawmakers return Jan. 5 to Jefferson City with a packed agenda.

An appropriation bill to distribute almost \$2 billion in federal education funds to school districts must be passed by March 24. Gov. Mike Parson wants them to pass a pay raise for state workers in the first month.

See **SENATE**, Page A3

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**OBITUARIES INSIDE**

Marion Lewis Halley, 71     Stephen L. Crockett, 74





## OBITUARIES

### Marion Lewis Halley

Monday, December 20, 2021

Marion Lewis Halley, 71 of Kirksville passed away Monday, December 20, 2021.

The son of James W. and Bertha A. (Bozarth) Halley, he was born August 29, 1951 in Adair County, Missouri.

Marion is survived by one brother, Don Duane Halley and one sister, Ruth Moore. He was preceded in death by his parents.

Marion will be cremated and no service will be held.

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



### Stephen L Crockett

Tuesday, December 20, 2021

Stephen L. Crockett, 74 of Brashear passed away Tuesday, December 20, 2021 at the LaBelle Manor.

The son of Norman and Madeline (Smith) Crockett, he was born November 16, 1947 in Ottumwa, Iowa. On May 15, 1993 in Brashear, Missouri he was united in marriage to Rhonda L. Krogmeier.

Stephen is survived by his wife, Rhonda; one son, Brandon Mihalevich and wife Pam of Brashear, MO; two grandchildren, Gus Mihalevich and wife Erin of Gibbs, MO, and Harli (Mihalevich) Bender and husband Cody of Kirksville, MO; three great granddaughters, Grace-Lyn Mihalevich, Macy Bender, and Asyllinn Mihalevich and one great grandson, Greyson Mihalevich.

He was preceded in death by his parents.

Stephen grew up in Brashear and graduated from the Brashear High School. He owned and operated Steve's garage in Brashear and Crockett Dozing until he retired.

He enjoyed hunting, fishing, gardening, tractors and pulling tractors. He loved spending time with his grandchildren and great grandchildren.

Visitation will be from 1:00 to 3:00 p.m. Friday, December 24, 2021 with funeral service at 3:00 p.m. at Davis-Playle-Hudson-Rimer Funeral Home. Burial will be in Sabbath Home Cemetery, east of Kirksville, Missouri. Memorials are suggested to the family.

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



Shoppers are reflected in a window as they walk down Oxford Street, Europe's busiest shopping street, in London, Thursday, Dec. 23, 2021. FRANK AUGSTEIN - STAFF, AP

## UK data suggest hospitalization is less likely with omicron

By JILL LAWLESS  
Associated Press

LONDON (AP) — Preliminary data suggest that people with the omicron variant of the coronavirus are between 50% and 70% less likely to need hospitalization than those with the delta strain, Britain's public health agency said Thursday.

The U.K. Health Security Agency findings add to emerging evidence that omicron produces milder illness than other variants — but also spreads faster and better evades vaccines.

The agency said that based on cases in the U.K., an individual with omicron is estimated to be between 31% and 45% less likely to attend a hospital emergency department compared to one with delta, “and 50 to 70% less likely to be admitted to hospital.”

It cautioned that the analysis is “preliminary and highly uncertain” because of the small number of omicron patients in hospitals and the fact that most were in younger age groups. As of Dec. 20, 132 people had been admitted to U.K. hospitals with confirmed omicron, of whom 14 -- aged between 52 and 96 -- died.

Scientists caution that any reductions in severity need to be weighed against the fact that omicron spreads much faster than delta and is more able to evade vaccines.

The agency's research said the protection a booster shot of vaccine gives against symptomatic omicron infection appears to wane after about 10 weeks, though protection against hospitalization and severe disease is likely to hold up for longer.

UKHSA chief executive Jenny Harries said the analysis “shows an encouraging early signal that people who contract the omicron variant may be at a relatively lower risk of hospitalization than those who contract other variants.”

But she added that “cases are currently very high in the U.K., and even a relatively low proportion requiring hospitalization could result in a significant number of people becoming seriously ill.”

U.K. Health Secretary Sajid Javid said the emerging information about omicron was “encouraging news,” But he said it was “not very clear yet ... by how much that risk is reduced” compared to delta.

The analysis follows two studies, from Imperial College London and Scottish researchers, that found patients with omicron were between 20% and 68% less likely to require hospital treatment than those with delta.

Data out of South Africa, where the variant was first detected, have also suggested omicron might be milder there.

Even if the early studies are borne out, the new variant could still overwhelm health systems because of the sheer number of infections. The British health agency said omicron appeared able to re-infect people more easily than previous variants, with 9.5% of omicron cases found in people who had already had COVID-19 — a figure it said was likely an underestimate.

Countries around the world are looking closely at Britain, where omicron is now dominant and where COVID-19 cases have surged by more than 50% in a week.

Britain reported 119,789 lab-confirmed COVID-19 cases on

Thursday, the highest yet during the pandemic and the second day the number has topped 100,000.

Britain's Office for National Statistics estimated that about 1 in 45 people in private households in England — 1.2 million individuals — had COVID-19 in the week to Dec. 16, the highest level seen in the pandemic.

Britain's Conservative government this month reinstated rules requiring face masks in shops and ordered people to show proof of vaccination or a negative coronavirus test before entering nightclubs and other crowded venues in an attempt to slow omicron's spread.

The government said Thursday it would not impose any new restrictions before Christmas, but might do so soon after.

Officials also urged people to get tested regularly and cut back on socializing. Many in Britain have heeded that advice, leaving entertainment and hospitality businesses reeling at what should be their busiest time of the year.

The government has offered grants and loans to support restaurants, bars, theaters and other venues, but many say it is not enough to stop them going under.

Rules set by the U.K. government apply in England. Other parts of the U.K. — Scotland, Wales and Northern Ireland — have set slightly tighter restrictions, including the closure of nightclubs.

The government is hoping vaccine boosters will provide a bulwark against omicron, as the data suggests, and has set a goal of offering everyone 18 and up a third shot by the end of December.

Follow AP's coverage of the pandemic at <https://apnews.com/hub/coronavirus-pandemic>.

## PRICES

Continued from Page A2

Republicans contend that the sizable gains in inflation are evidence that President Joe Biden's economic policies are not working and are actually harming Americans whose incomes are not keeping up with rising prices.

The administration, however, points to the nation's rapid re-opening following a pandemic-triggered recession, an economic event that is unprecedented in our lifetimes.

Suppliers have been unable to keep up with demand, pushing prices up sharply and clogging the nation's ports with goods that can't be unloaded fast enough.

The Federal Reserve last week announced that it was accelerating the pace of change to fighting inflation pressures with an expectation that it could raise interest rates next year by possibly three

times to slow growth and keep inflation from getting out of hand.

While the Fed has stopped calling the inflation increase transitory, Biden administration officials continue to insist that the price surge being seen now will start to fade next year as supply chain problems get resolved. They noted that energy prices including the cost of gasoline have already started to fall.

The government reported Wednesday that the overall economy, as measured by the gross domestic product, grew at an annual rate of 2.3% in the July-September quarter, up from a previous estimate of a slightly slower 2.1% gain.

Economists are expecting more rapid growth perhaps as high as 7% in the current quarter although some analysts are saying that rebound could be jeopardized if the new COVID omicron variant keeps spreading and triggers another shutdown of the economy.

## SENATE

Continued from Page A1

Funding Medicaid, with an expanded eligibility forced on Republican opponents by an initiative petition, will also require an early supplemental appropriations bill. The state holds an unprecedented general revenue surplus and has other money on hand that the expense can be covered in a variety of ways.

And candidate filing opens Feb. 22, putting lawmakers under pressure to finish a new congressional map for the state's eight districts.

The Republican factionalism will be overlaid by ambition.

Schatz is running for U.S. Senate. Sens. Mike Moon and Eric Burlison are both seeking the 7th Congressional District nomination. Sen. Rick Brattin is running for the 4th Congressional District nomination, and Hoskins

is considering it.

Many bitter words passed between the GOP leadership and the conservative caucus this year. The most recent, and among the angriest, was the debate over a rules interpretation during the September veto session.

Sen. Bob Onder, R-Lake St. Louis, accused GOP leaders of “subverting the democratic process with cheap parliamentary tricks” that create an “oligarchy where a couple folks in leadership” make all decisions.

Rowden shot back that Onder and the conservative caucus were turning the Senate into a “clown show,” later saying the chamber was being forced to take pointless votes to “appease children.”

Passing a bill in the Senate requires 18 votes. By the end of the 2021 session, the partisan split in the Senate was 17 Republicans generally aligned with the leadership, seven in the conservative caucus

and 10 Democrats.

The strength of the conservative caucus minority was most apparent on the bill to extend Medicaid provider taxes vital to funding the state's share of the program. Conservative members demanded language limiting the choice of contraceptives for women on the program and barring Planned Parenthood from serving as a Medicaid provider.

The result was a stalemate, accusations of treachery during negotiations, and the fight carried over into a special session. On a crucial Senate vote, 11 of 24 Republicans sided with the 10 Democrats to defeat both proposals.

Appropriations bills are the only thing lawmakers are constitutionally required to pass, and Hegeman said his job is to bridge the factions.

“I like to work with all of my colleagues in the Senate,” he said. “I work with all of them. We will agree on some things, and

not agree on other things. That is part of the process.”

The conservative caucus wants to put its stamp on the early legislation, Hoskins said.

One aim is to undermine Medicaid expansion, he said. Discussions about the Missouri Supreme Court decision that found the state was obligated to pay the cost out of existing appropriations are focused on whether language barring use of the money could succeed, Hoskins said.

“I believe some attorneys have offered language we could use that would meet the goals if we tried to do that,” Hoskins said.

The pay raise proposed by Parson should be taken out of funds already appropriated for jobs that are not filled, he said. Hoskins is a member of the Appropriations Committee.

Departments should be required to justify keep-

ing slots that have been unfilled for months or years, he said.

If everything was in one supplemental spending bill, the total would be several billion dollars. Hegeman said he prefers to combine all early spending items in one bill.

The pay raise is urgent, he said.

“We have got to do something to try to attract and retain state employees where we desperately need staff to help the most frail and fragile people in the state,” Hegeman said.

The factional alignments on redistricting could be the most complicated. Some Republicans want to rearrange the districts so it is likely the state would elect seven Republicans instead of the current six.

The district that would be targeted would be the 5th District, currently held by Rep. Emanuel Cleaver of Kansas City.

Hegeman, who is vice chairman of the Select

Committee on Redistricting, said he would oppose that effort.

“I am a classical conservative,” Hegeman said. “I think the districts kind of form up and represent Missouri very well the way they are.”

Last week's meeting will erode any remaining trust between the conservative caucus and leadership, Hoskins said.

“If the Republican leadership that was elected by the entire Republican caucus is scheduling meetings and not including the entire Republican caucus, that will obviously be detrimental to getting things done this session,” he said.

That could enhance the position of Democrats as majorities form issue-to-issue.

“Philosophically we are pretty far apart,” Hoskins said of Democratic Floor Leader John Rizzo. “But we both know that we are men of our word and if we say something we will follow through and do it.”

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**NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING BEFORE THE PLANNING AND ZONING COMMISSION OF THE CITY OF KIRKSVILLE, MISSOURI**

Notice is hereby given that the Planning and Zoning Commission of the City of Kirksville, Missouri will conduct one (1) public hearing at Kirksville City Hall, 201 S. Franklin St., 6:00 pm on Wednesday, January 12, 2022, concerning: a nomination to designate 1003 E Illinois St. as a Historic Landmark with Historic zoning, an overlay of the current zoning.

**Notice of Disability Accommodations**

Any person with a disability desiring reasonable accommodation to attend this meeting may contact the City Clerk at 660.627.1225 to make such arrangement.



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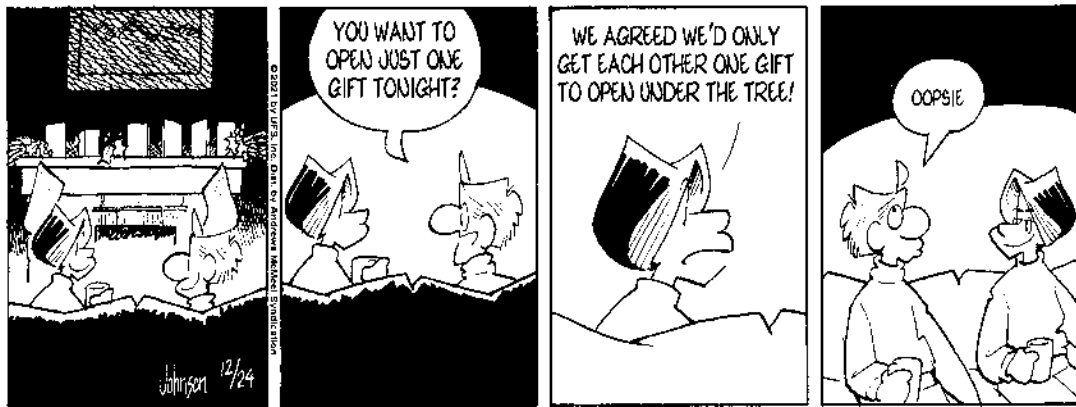
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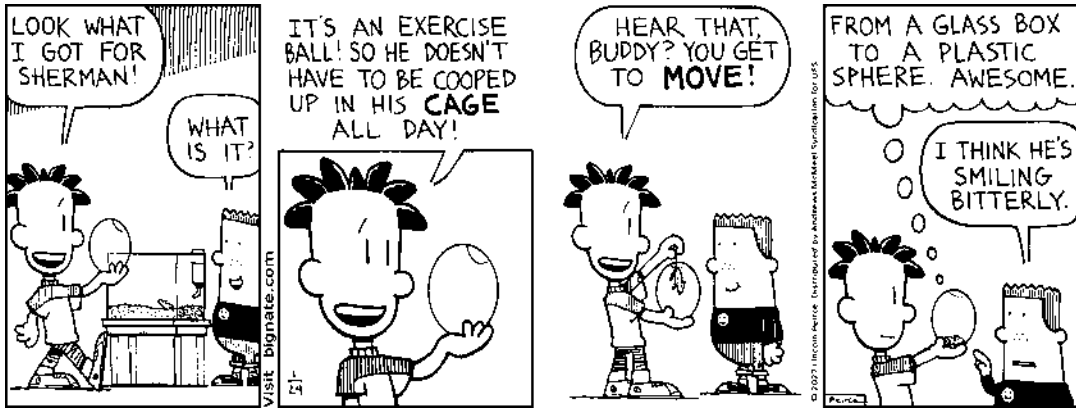


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**SUDOKU**

**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!

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

**PREVIOUS ANSWER**

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

**CROSSWORD**

- ACROSS**
- 1 Fall guy
  - 4 Sports off.
  - 7 Pinnacle
  - 11 Shade of a color
  - 12 Popeye's hi
  - 13A Barrymore
  - 14 Potato st.
  - 15 Burn slightly
  - 16 Bud holder
  - 17 Environment
  - 19 Helen, in Spanish
  - 21 Ultimate degree
  - 22 Irritates
  - 23 Fountain in Rome
  - 26 Downward slopes
  - 28 Tire filler
  - 29 Nippy
  - 31 Collar style
  - 35 Runs for fitness
  - 37 Join forces
  - 39 Key point
  - 40 Weight
  - 42 UHF part
  - 44 Firewood quantity
  - 46 Exercise place
- DOWN**
- 1 Wedge
  - 2 Car import
  - 3 Sound of thunder
  - 4 "I see" (hyph.)
  - 5 Ostrichlike bird
  - 6 Ceremonial fire
  - 7 Unfavorable
  - 8 Kind of phone call
  - 9 Butte cousins

Answer to Previous Puzzle

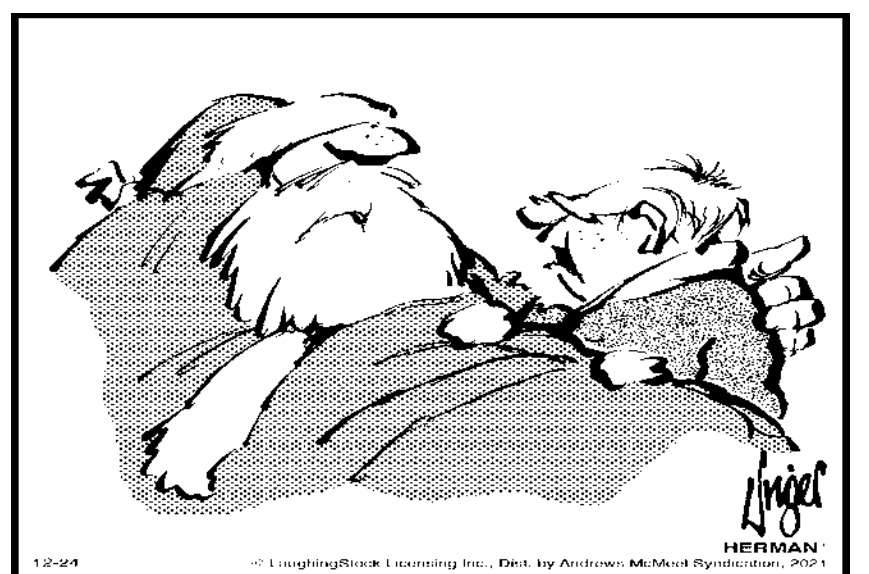
L	A	M	B	A	X	E	C	B	S			
A	R	L	O	N	I	N	E	E	L	K		
G	A	L	L	T	I	D	I	L	E	I		
B	E	E	F	S	S	E	A	L	E	D		
R	O	Y	I	H	O	P						
P	H	L	O	X	L	E	N	A				
O	O	P		H	A	N	G	B	A	C	K	
P	E	N	A	L	I	Z	E	T	O	E		
	Y	I	P	E		O	M	E	G	A		
A	H	E	M		U	T	E					
C	L	A	S	P	S		S	T	A	B	S	
A	C	T		E	C	R	U		S	L	A	M
M	O	C		D	O	E	R		L	U	G	E
P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

- 10 Bleater
- 12 Mild acid
- 18 Mdse. bill
- 20 Edge
- 23 — Mahal
- 24 Guanabara Bay port
- 25 Foot-pound relative
- 26 Simpleton
- 27 Sick (hyph.)
- 30 Ill-mannered one
- 32 HBO alternative
- 33 Not just my
- 34 Cagers' org.
- 36 Prawns
- 38 Affluent person
- 41 Newspaper execs
- 43 — tzu ("Tao" author)
- 44 — blanche
- 45 Pungent veggie
- 46 Recipe verb
- 48 — Thompson of films
- 50 Fitness centers
- 51 Patrick's domain
- 52 Typical DeMille flick
- 53 Terrible
- 55 Dog days mo.

1	2	3		4	5	6		7	8	9	10	
11				12					13			
14				15					16			
17			18				19	20				
			21					22				
23	24	25				26	27					
28					29	30			31	32	33	34
35			36			37			38		39	
			40	41				42	43			
		44	45					46				
		47				48		49		50	51	52
53						54	55			56		
57						58				59		
60						61				62		

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**HERMAN**



"I lie awake nights wondering how you get a 10-speed bicycle down a chimney."

**ASTROGRAPH BY EUGENIA LAST**

You are right on target. You are smooth, confident and ready to make the most of what you've got. Your instincts and insight are keen, and your power of persuasion is primed and ready. Preparation will pay off, and positive lifestyle changes will take place. A partnership looks promising, and contracts will be beneficial.

**CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19)** -- It's all about giving, sharing and making the world a better place. Refuse to let the little things get to you. Put on a happy face and be kind to others. A positive change will surprise a loved one.

**AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 19)** -- Keep busy; too much idle time will result in an unnecessary feud. Keep your life simple and your emotions under control. Offer kindness, understanding and a helping hand to those in need.

**PISCES (Feb. 20-March 20)** -- A kind gesture toward someone who can influence your goals will pay off. Use your charm to persuade others to help you gain ground and deal with a matter that concerns you. Be part of the solution.

**ARIES (March 21-April 19)** -- Slow down, get the facts and pace yourself. Refuse to let an emotional issue stop you from having a good time. Enjoy what life has to offer, and ignore anyone who upsets you.

**TAURUS (April 20-May 20)** -- An emotional moment will overwhelm you. Invest in something that interests you. Someone will do something that takes you by surprise. Be gracious when accepting a proposal. Romance is favored.

**GEMINI (May 21-June 20)** -- A change may not be what you want or anticipate, but it will turn out well. Sit back and let things unfold naturally.

Be open to suggestions and willing to do your fair share. Avoid anger.

**CANCER (June 21-July 22)** -- Do something with a loved one. Talk about the future and set common goals. Combining your skills and effort will help turn your dreams into a reality. Joint ventures will enhance your life.

**LEO (July 23-Aug. 22)** -- Consider the improvements you want to make and start talking about the resolutions you plan to put into play. Let your enthusiasm build, and listen to the suggestions friends and relatives make.

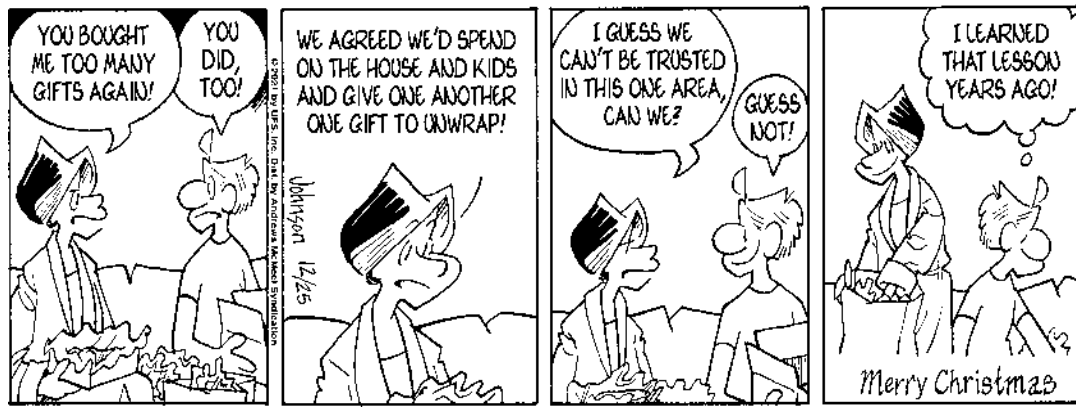
**VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22)** -- Live in the moment and think positively. Recognize what you have and extend a warm welcome to friends and family. The joy you offer others will encourage better relationships and a bright future.

**LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 23)** -- Be gracious about what you receive. Give what you can and be mindful of what you say. Help a cause and spread joy to those who look sad or lost. Be the bright light that warms the room.

**SCORPIO (Oct. 24-Nov. 22)** -- Tone things down. Find peace in observation and joy in what others offer. Relax, and let the magic of the moment lead to answers that have eluded you in the past. Change is upon you, and good things are yet to come.

**SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 23-Dec. 21)** -- Distance yourself from anyone who makes you angry. Keep the peace at gatherings. It's in your best interest to take the high road and show patience and goodwill. Protect your reputation.

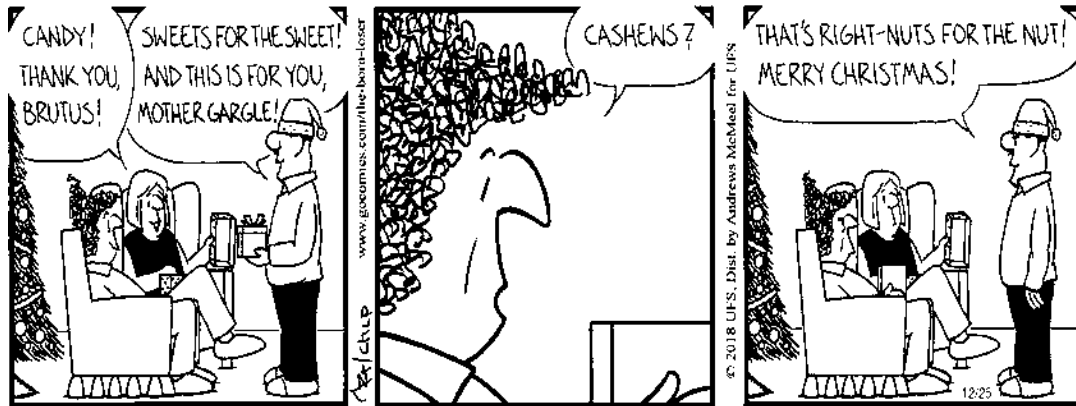
**ARLO AND JANIS**



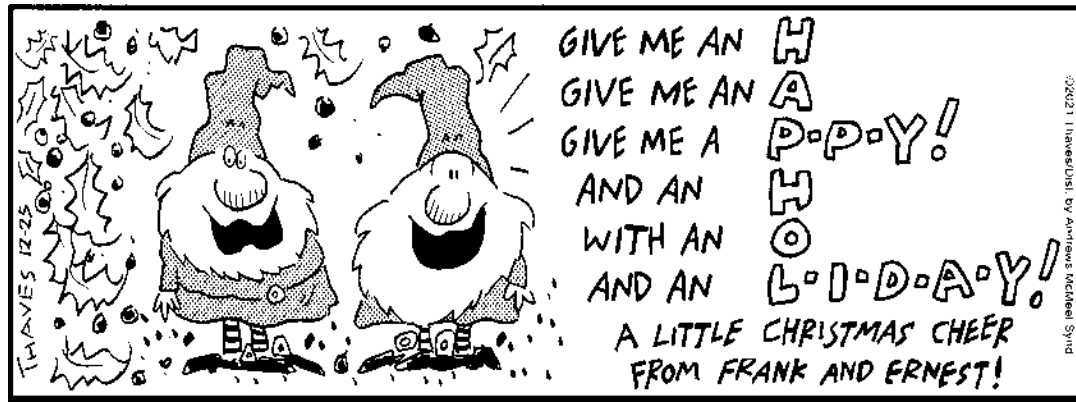
**BIG NATE**



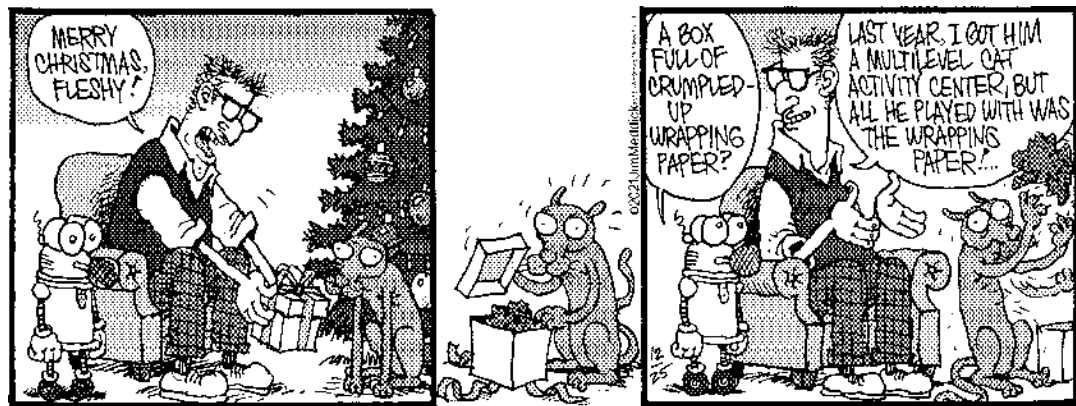
**THE BORN LOSER**



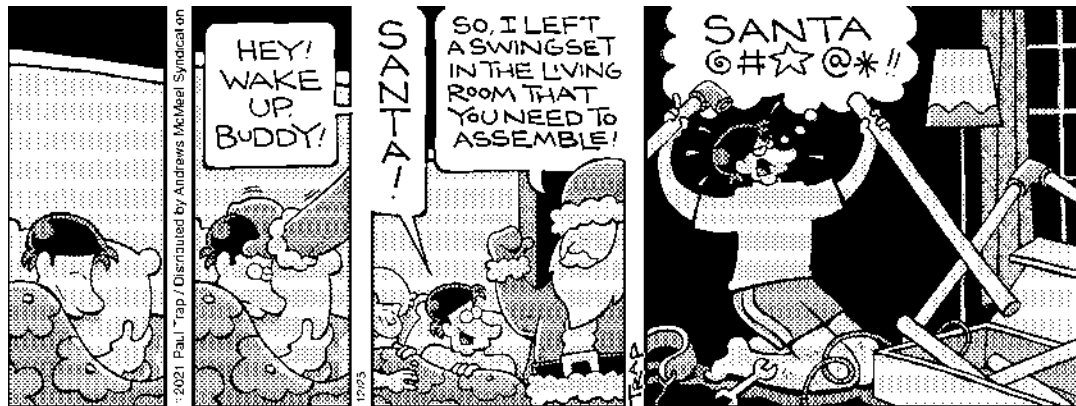
**FRANK AND ERNEST**



**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**

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

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

**CROSSWORD**

**ACROSS**

- Aquarium
- Big burger
- Unsightly
- Small bird
- Future fish
- Piped up
- Ess molding
- Hardened, as cement
- Make like a snake
- Unwritten tests
- Whiff
- 22 24-hour period
- Duffer's goal
- craftsy
- Rescue price, maybe
- Settle up
- Stun
- Woosnam of golf
- Pants problem
- Pen brand
- Strong soap
- Vandalize
- Rodeo gear

**DOWN**

- Telephone ABC
- Ship of myth
- "Faint heart — won ..."
- Works clay
- Like a damp rock
- Cato's hello

**42 Barely get by**

**43 Phoenix cager**

**44 Hard sell, maybe**

**46 Utah city**

**49 Lowly laborer**

**50 Jackie's second**

**52 Road map nos.**

**54 Enthralled**

**55 Goalie's org.**

**56 Draw on glass**

**57 Assayers' samples**

**58 Big parties**

**59 Stop sleeping**

**7 Unwitting tool**

**8 Auditorium guides**

**9 Run fast**

**10 Tilt to one side**

**11 Fabric meas.**

**19 Put down**

**21 Thrash with a stick**

**24 Spring mo.**

**25 Attack**

**26 The strong silent —**

**27 Road rally**

**28 Greases**

**29 The "Say Hey Kid"**

**33 Prefix for classic**

**35 Swelter**

**36 Reykjavik's nation**

**39 Boxers' ploys**

**40 Carry**

**41 Greeley or Mellon**

**43 Makes dirty**

**44 Scorch**

**45 Bishop of Rome**

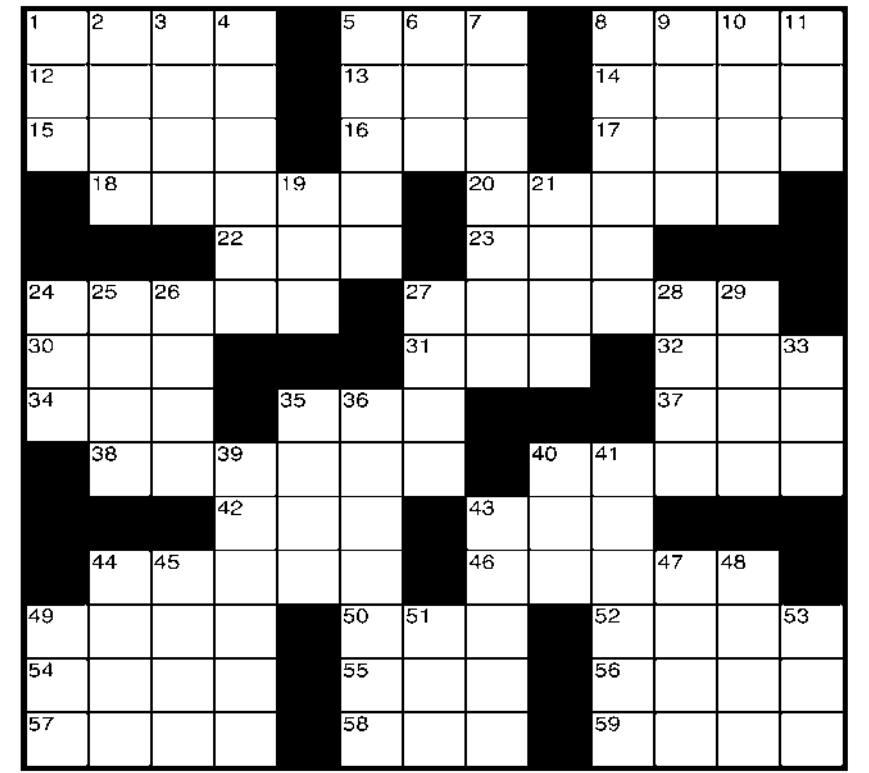
**47 Comics' Miss Kett**

**48 Giraffe feature**

**49 Ski instructor**

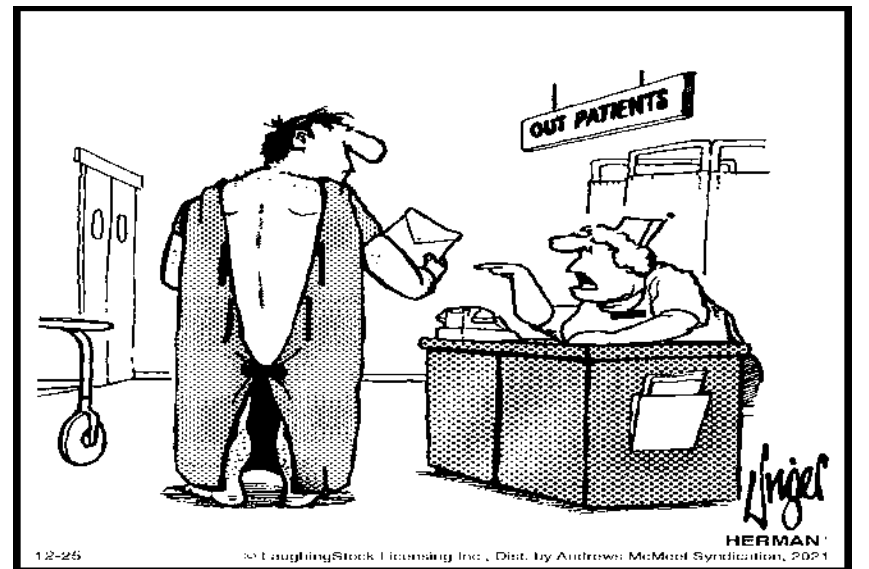
**51 Frat letter**

**53 Not he**



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**HERMAN**



"Go across the square, pass the nurse's residence, up the steps, through the main lobby and second door on your left."

**ASTROGRAPH BY EUGENIA LAST**

Consider the possibilities. Turn a dream into a reality. Put a strategy in place and discuss your plans with someone you respect. A positive change at home or to how you handle personal matters will help you head in an inviting direction. Don't hesitate to take advantage of an opportunity. Live in the moment and do what makes you happy.

**CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19)** -- Share your thoughts and enjoy time with friends or relatives. Changing how you approach others will prompt them to show interest in something you want to pursue.

**AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 19)** -- Don't shy away from letting others know how you feel. Be bold, and you'll find out what's possible and how best to move forward. It's up to you to act if you want things to change.

**PISCES (Feb. 20-March 20)** -- Work in conjunction with others, and good things will transpire. Helping people will make you feel good and inspire you to make a difference every day of the year, not just on special occasions.

**ARIES (March 21-April 19)** -- A positive mindset will make a difference during negotiations. Choose your battles wisely and focus on what makes you happy and helps you stay out of trouble. Make an end-of-year to-do list.

**TAURUS (April 20-May 20)** -- You can enjoy a fun day with family and friends or spend time doing something that puts a twinkle in your eye. Generosity and wishing others well will boost your morale and inspire you to make a difference.

**GEMINI (May 21-June 20)** -- You can acknowledge others' success, but you should refrain from making a fuss or showing envy. The less you share about your personal life, the better. Be gracious, appreciative and loving. Listen and learn.

**CANCER (June 21-July 22)** -- Pay attention to what others want. Your actions will turn a difficult day into one of joy for you and those around you. Surprise someone with a special gift, thought or show of affection.

**LEO (July 23-Aug. 22)** -- Someone will exaggerate or make you feel inadequate. Rise above any controversy you face and offer kindness, understanding and a fun-loving approach to life, love and happiness.

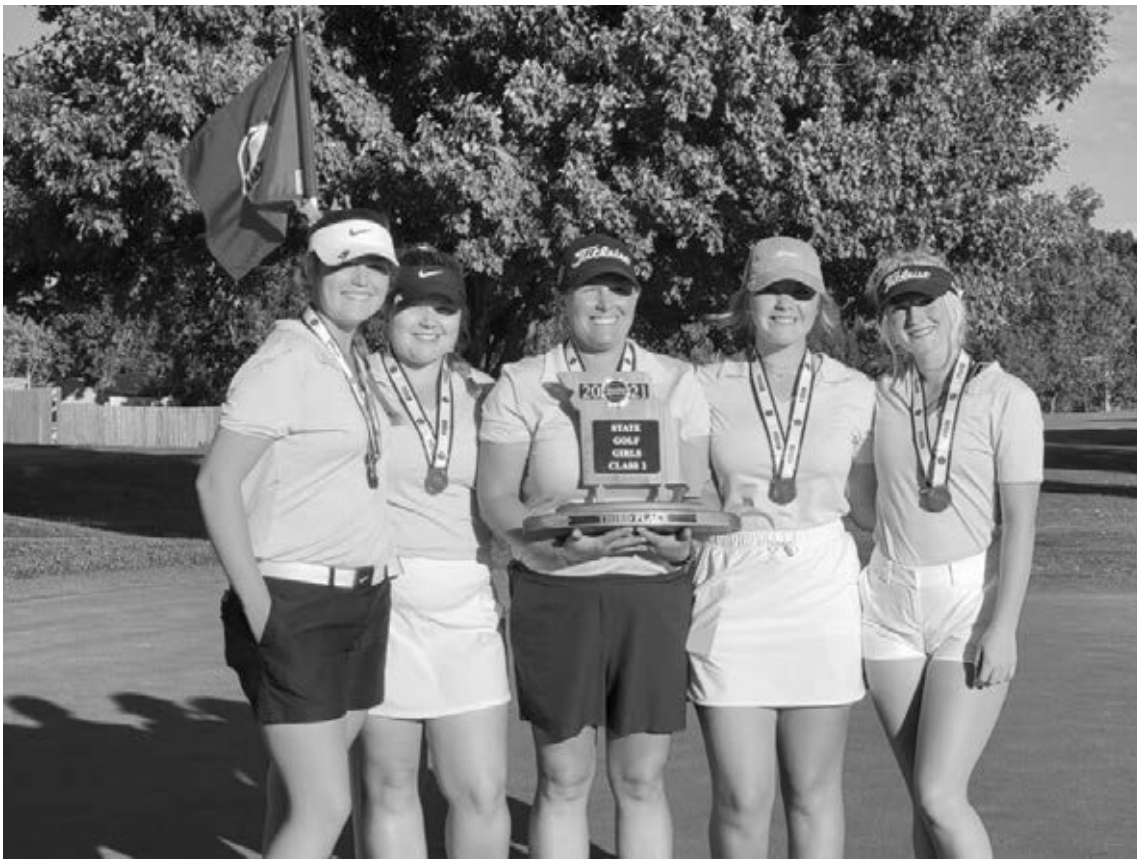
**VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22)** -- Take control before someone steps in front of you. Pay attention to what's being said and done, and carefully monitor situations from a distance. Steer clear of family feuds and manipulative individuals trying to stir up trouble.

**LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 23)** -- Concentrate on what you need to accomplish. Being disciplined and maintaining a calm and peaceful attitude will help you avoid a discussion that is bound to put you in a no-win situation.

**SCORPIO (Oct. 24-Nov. 22)** -- It's up to you to bring about change. Consider what makes you happy and head in that direction. Curb indulgent spending, and you'll feel better about yourself. A kind gesture will bring you closer to a loved one.

**SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 23-Dec. 21)** -- Refuse to let anyone bait you into an argument. Refrain from sharing your plans and beliefs. Being a good listener will save you from an uncomfortable situation. Get along with everyone.

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Members of the Kirksville girls golf team pose after taking third place in the 2021 Class 2 State Tournament. Pictured left to right: Addy Davis, Maya McKiver, coach Emily Powell, Morgan Lunsford, Anna Jenkins.

## 2021 in review: Kirksville girls golf finishes 3rd at state

Austin Miller  
Daily Express

The Kirksville girls golf team put together its best season in 15 years with a third-place finish at the Class 2 state tournament this fall.

Bolstered an incredible first season by freshman Addy Davis, the Tigers secured a ton of gold this fall. Kirksville won its third straight North Central Missouri Conference title, with Davis winning the individual title.

The Tigers followed up with a team district title, then advancing to a great showing in the state tournament.

Davis had the top individual state score for the Tigers, earning all-state honors with her seventh-place 169 (84, 85). That's the best performance ever by a Kirksville freshman. Morgan Lunsford tied for 38th with a 201 (104, 97), Maya McKiver tied for 41st with a 202 (105, 97), and Anna Jenkins tied for 59th with a 218 (105, 113). Senior Delaney Maag was a crucial piece of the Tigers'

regular-season success but just missed the cut for state.

Though golf is an individual sport and the players were always separated across the courses they played on, this was as tight-knit as a team can be.

"I always tell people it's like, we have so much trust and confidence in each other because we have spent time together on the course since junior golf when we were 5 and 6," said McKiver back on Oct. 19 after state. "That's just a connection that's unbeatable. The past couple of weeks, we've talked about our vibes with each other. We're all the way across the course, but we know when we're doing well or bad with the feelings we put towards each other."

Jenkins wasn't thrilled with how she started the first day of the two-day tournament. But she settled in once she remembered what — and who — she was playing for.

"I was thinking, 'What am I doing this for?' This season, all the work coach put into

this team, all the memories we made — that's what I'm doing it for," Jenkins said. "I thought how all of my teammates are trying their best to shoot their best score, so I need to try my best to shoot a good score, too."

This was the highest team finish for Kirksville coach Emily Powell, who was quick to think back to all the previous players and teams she's had with the program. Included in those groups were plenty of teams Powell saw great potential in. But this was the group that brought state hardware back with her.

Even better news for the Tigers is that all four state qualifiers will be back on the course in 2022. They have their eyes on surpassing what they accomplished in 2021.

"Whatever you put your mind to, you can do it," said Davis after the state tournament. "I believed in them, and I think they believed in themselves after the first day when we were in third place. Today just kind of proves what we can do."

## Army stuns Missouri in Armed Forces Bowl on last-second FG

Associated Press

FORT WORTH, Texas (AP) — Cole Talley kicked a 41-yard field goal as time expired and Army rallied to beat Missouri 24-22 in the Armed Forces Bowl on Wednesday night.

After the Tigers took a 22-21 lead on a touchdown with 1:11 to play, third-string quarterback Jabari Laws led Army (9-4) downfield to the Missouri 24-yard line, setting up Talley's game-winner.

Talley, who went to high school about 60 miles east of Fort Worth in Rockwall, Texas, said he was thinking about the brotherhood of Army football players when he went out for the final kick.

"I'd do anything for them, and they'd do anything for me," said Talley, who missed his only two previous attempts this season from beyond 40 yards — including a 43-yard try in the first quarter.

"We trust Cole," Army coach Jeff Monken said. "What a great way for the team to end the season and these seniors to end their careers."

One of those seniors was Laws, who was the Black Knights' starting quarterback in 2019 before a knee injury

sidelined him. He didn't play at all last season following a second surgery.

"I feel like I'm in a movie right now," said Laws, who was 2-of-4 passing on the final drive.

Army backup quarterback Tyhier Tyler came on after starter Christian Anderson injured an ankle late in the third quarter and threw a 14-yard touchdown pass to Brandon Walters to give the Black Knights their first lead, 21-16. Anderson and JaKobi Buchanan scored on TD runs of 22 and 10 yards, respectively, for Army.

Redshirt freshman quarterback Brady Cook threw a 6-yard touchdown pass to Keke Chism with 71 seconds left to put the Tigers (6-7) ahead, but his two-point conversion pass sailed over the head of an open Dawson Downing in the end zone. Cook also ran for a 30-yard score in his first collegiate start.

"I did some good things," Cook said. "Missed the throw when it mattered most."

Missouri played without second-team All-America running back Tyler Badie, who was

See MISSOURI, Page A9



Army defensive back Leo Lowin (31) moves in to make the stop on Missouri quarterback Brady Cook (12) as he runs the ball in the first half of the Armed Forces Bowl NCAA college football game in Fort Worth, Texas, Wednesday, Dec. 22, 2021. AP PHOTO/EMIL LIPPE

## 2021 in review: Scotland girls hoops rides defense to 4th in state

Austin Miller  
Daily Express

Behind one of the most battle-tested resumes possible and one of the best defenses in the state, the Scotland County girls basketball team made a run back to the Final Four this past March.

The Tigers went 22-7 and took fourth in Class 2. They largely thrived in close games, particularly toward the end of the regular season and into the postseason.

In the Class 2 District 6 title game against Schuyler County, both teams were tied at 30 with five minutes left. Nine fourth-quarter points from Hannah Feeny and big shots from Aayla Humphrey helped the Tigers pull away for a 42-36 win and their second straight district title.

And unlike the year before, Scotland's run didn't end in sectionals. The Tigers went south and beat New Haven 48-45 in sectionals. That propelled the Tigers to a home quarterfinal game in Memphis against Eugene.

That was another close game, with the Tigers riding clutch baskets from



Members of the Scotland County girls basketball team celebrate with fans after defeating Eugene in the state quarterfinals on March 6, 2021, sending them to the state Final Four. AUSTIN MILLER/DAILY EXPRESS

Fenny, Alayna Whitaker and free-throws from Emiley Dial to win 36-33.

Holding opponents to 37.3 points per game was the key for Scotland's success.

"I feel like our defense gets in the other team's

heads and that's an advantage for us," said Dial after the Eugene game. "If they shut down, it's easier for us to pick up on that."

That win sent Scotland to the Final Four for the second time in program history, both coming un-

der coach Cory Shultz. That last trip came in 2017.

"This is what we've worked for since fourth grade," said Feeny, who was an all-state selection. "My sister's class went to state, so we've all

been there, we went to the games, we know the feeling. We just wanted to be in it.

"It's a great feeling knowing that we're going to go down there, we get to feel all the hype. That's all we wanted this season,

to go far. We made it far."

Cardiac kids most of the year, the Tigers couldn't get that same magic to go their way at state. They got down early in the semifinals against Wellington-Napoleon, unable to rally and losing 47-34. They had a similar start against Blue Eye in the consolation game and lost 59-52. Subtract the ugly first quarter of that game and Scotland won the final three quarters 38-37.

After COVID pauses, losing one player early to a torn ACL, and all of the many off-the-court issues that people have dealt with the last two years, the Tigers created a great spark of joy for their community.

"To get back to where we were last year — we did that, surpassed that and made it to the Final Four," said Shultz after the Blue Eye game. "That speaks a lot for these girls and the adversity. We had snow days and breaks for COVID ... but to finish through all of that was pretty special."

Scotland has kept its momentum rolling into the 2021-22 season. The Tigers have started 7-0 and won the Tri-Rivers Classic.

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NEWS MEDIA  
ALLIANCE



# NHL announces players won't be allowed to go to Olympics

By **STEPHEN WHYNO**  
AP Hockey Writer

The inevitability sunk in for Steven Stamkos a full day before the NHL made it official that players would not be allowed to participate in the Beijing Olympics.

Left off Canada's Olympic roster in 2010, injured after being named to the team in 2014 and unable to go in 2018 because the NHL opted out, the Tampa Bay Lightning captain crystallized what it meant that the pandemic was wiping out participation at the 2022 Beijing Games, too.

"That was my third legitimate chance of playing in the Olympics, and here I am sitting (here) probably not even going to get to play a game," Stamkos said. "It's disappointing, but at the same time there's not much that we can do."

Commissioner Gary Bettman made the announcement Wednesday, making official what seemed inevitable in recent days when a rash of positive COVID-19 test results caused several teams to shut down and the list of postponed games ballooned to 50. The league will use the previously scheduled Feb. 6-22 Olympic break to make up those games and others that need to be rescheduled.

"Given the profound disruption to the NHL's regular-season schedule caused by recent COVID-related events ... Olympic participation is no longer feasible," Bettman said. "Our focus and goal have been and must remain to responsibly and safely complete the entirety of the NHL regular season and Stanley Cup playoffs in a timely manner."

In a separate statement, National Hockey League Players' Association executive director Don Fehr said that while there was a clear path to Beijing before COVID-19 intervened, the Olympic break is now needed to make up games.

Stamkos, Swedish teammate Victor Hedman and many of the NHL's best players may have missed their Olympic window entirely after growing up hoping to one day represent their country on sports' biggest international stage. Hedman said Tuesday, "Us to not be able to go, it's going to hurt for a while."

The International Olympic Committee said it is disappointed for players who pushed for the agreement to go to Beijing. The extension of the collective bargaining agreement between the NHL and NHLPA included Olympic participation, though that was contingent on pandemic



FILE -Russia forward Yevgeni Malkin seals off the puck from USA defenseman Ryan McDonagh in the first period of a men's ice hockey game at the 2014 Winter Olympics, Saturday, Feb. 15, 2014, in Sochi, Russia. NHL players will not take part in the upcoming Winter Olympics in Beijing after all. MARK HUMPHREY - STAFF, AP

conditions that ultimately proved too daunting to overcome.

"We made this a big part of our collective bargaining agreement as the players to try to bring the Olympics back," U.S.-born Winnipeg Jets forward Kyle Connor said. "Whether there's circumstances around going to China and with COVID and everything, whether there was going to be fans, I think it still would have been a great tournament, great hockey."

International officials and national federations must now pivot to Plan B for a second consecutive Olympic men's hockey tournament without NHL players. USA Hockey said it will soon announce new management and coaching staffs, and Hockey Canada is expected to draw from the executives, coaches and players who took part in an international tournament in Moscow this month.

Former Montreal Canadiens coach Claude Julien is the leading candidate to be behind the bench for Canada, which left with the bronze medal in 2018 when NHL players did not go to Pyeongchang, after back-to-back gold in 2010 and 2014.

Russians won gold in South Korea playing under the name Olympic Athletes from Russia, part of the fallout from years of doping disputes. Expected to play in Beijing as the Russian Olympic Committee, the team is now the favorite given the talent available in the Kontinental Hockey League.

"We continue to look forward to the participation of the world's best hockey players from the other elite ice hockey leagues around the world in Beijing," the IOC said in a statement. "Their performances in Pyeongchang achieved a large international broadcast audience and demonstrated the exciting, passionate ice hockey that we can expect, which, as in 2018, will be followed by fans from all around the world."

The U.S. and Canada could choose from a mix of professionals from European leagues and college players. The lack of NHL participation turns the tournament from a competition featuring the best players in the world back into what it looked like prior to 1998.

"Although we are disappointed to receive this decision by the NHL and NHLPA, we nevertheless fully understand the circumstances that forced this action to be taken," International Ice Hockey Federation president Luc Tardif said in a statement. "It was a shock to see how COVID-19 affected the NHL schedule almost overnight, and we understand the NHL's decision is in the best interest of the health and safety of its players."

The NHL's focus is on completing an 82-game regular season for the first time since 2018-19. The schedule already was extended through April, with the playoffs going to the end of June, with more than two weeks off in between for the Olympics.

When Olympic participation was confirmed in September, teams were sent two versions of the NHL schedule. The sheer volume of postponements forces the league to use that break for makeup dates, rather than folding later games into February and move up the start of the playoffs.

Despite the NHL not being part of the Olympics for just the second time since Nagano in 1998, Bettman, Fehr and Tardif expressed optimism about a return for 2026. That's not much of a consolation for Stamkos on the verge of his 32nd birthday, but it could allow Auston Matthews, Connor McDavid, Nathan MacKinnon, Connor and others to get their first chance in Milan and Cortina.

"If the next one's in four years, I'll be 32 and I know I'll be still playing my best hockey, but we'll see," U.S.-born Jets goaltender Connor Hellebuyck said. "We'll see if it's the same story."

"Obviously in the second half the turnover was huge," Drinkwitz said. "Disappointed for our team, especially our seniors. Just a difficult way to lose the game."

## THE TAKEAWAY

Missouri: The Tigers were hampered going in by a short-handed secondary that then lost multiple players in the first half. Army threw one pass in the first half, good for 42 yards, and was 5 for 8 in the second half for 53 yards. The Black Knights entered 128th out of 130 FBS teams, averaging 94.8 yards passing per game. Army: The Black

Knights snapped a seven-game losing streak to Power Five teams with their first win since 2017. There were some close calls during the streak, including to Oklahoma (28-21) and Michigan (24-21).

## FIVE-TOOL PLAYER?

Army senior linebacker Arik Smith was selected the game's most valuable player with 12 tackles, 2½ for loss, and two sacks. Monken was impressed by Smith's maturity as a recruit, learning on a home visit that Smith finished the family basement.

"Plumbing. Electrical. Finish work. All of it," Monken recalled. "I mean,



Kansas City Chiefs tight end Travis Kelce celebrates after the Chiefs defeated the Los Angeles Chargers in an NFL football game Thursday, Dec. 16, 2021, in Inglewood, Calif. The Chiefs won 34-28. MARCIO JOSE SANCHEZ - STAFF, AP

# Chiefs with no new COVID-19 positives; Gordon, Gay return

By **DAVE SKRETTA**  
AP Sports Writer

KANSAS CITY, Mo. (AP) — The Kansas City Chiefs had no additional positive COVID-19 tests Wednesday, one day after seven players were added to the reserve list, a promising sign that an outbreak that infected 16 players in all may have subsided.

Now, the question facing the Chiefs — and many other teams — is whether they will have such stars as wide receiver Tyreek Hill, tight end Travis Kelce and defensive tackle Chris Jones available in time for Sunday's game against Pittsburgh.

Or for that matter, whether they will even play the Steelers on Sunday.

"It's part of the world we live in today," Chiefs quarterback Patrick Mahomes said after Wednesday's practice. "Guys have done a good job so far of trying to stay away from people. But at the end of the day, COVID can hit anyone. We have a lot of great guys in the locker room. We have full trust they can get the job done."

The Chiefs had as many as 16 players on the reserve list this week — 13 from the active roster and three from the practice squad — but got a couple of them back Wednesday.

Wide receiver Josh Gordon and linebacker Willie Gay Jr., both of whom missed last week's win over the Chargers, were cleared to return to practice and should be available Sunday.

Jones also missed the game against Los Angeles, but has not been cleared to return to practice.

Still on the reserve list with Hill, Kelce and Jones are starting defensive backs Charvarius Ward and Rashad Fenton; starting linebacker Nick Bolton; kicker Harrison Butker; starting right tackle Lucas Niang and backup offensive lineman Kyle Long; backup tight end Blake Bell; backup safety Armani Watts.

In some positive news, cornerback L'Jarius Sneed returned to practice Wednesday. He's missed the past two games since his older brother, TQ Harrison, was stabbed to death in his hometown of Minden, Louisiana.

"L'Jarius has gone through a couple rough weeks here," Chiefs coach Andy Reid said, "but he's in a good place and ready to go. That's great, great to get him back in there. I think it's good for our team. I also think it's good for him overall to keep his mind off the other thing, and be able to move forward from there."

Reid said he's not aware of any discussions to move the game against Pittsburgh from Sunday. The NFL pushed three games back in Week 15 to provide teams that were particularly hard hit by COVID-19 with more time to clear players for kickoff.

That means the Chiefs, trying to protect the No. 1 seed in the AFC playoff race and clinch their sixth straight AFC West title, are busy getting a whole slew of fill-ins ready to go for a game with major postseason implications.

Gordon and Byron Pringle are in line to get more playing time alongside wide receiver Mecole Hardman should Hill be unable to play. Hill is second in the league to Cooper Kupp with 102 receptions this season.

The Chiefs already have tight end Jody Fortson on injured reserve. Losing Kelce and Hill leaves only rookie Noah Gray on the active roster at an important position in the Kansas City offense.

Andrew Wylie would slide back into the starting job at right tackle. He's played extensively this season with starter Mike Remmers on injured reserve and Niang having missed several games with a rib injury.

On defense, the Chiefs remain hopeful that Jones will test negative and be

available against Pittsburgh. The Chiefs struggled to get pressure on Chargers quarterback Justin Herbert when he was out of the lineup last week.

Gay's return should help the Chiefs deal with the potential loss of Bolton, their standout rookie linebacker, who leads the team with 102 tackles despite not assuming a starting role until midway through this season.

In the defensive backfield, Sneed is expected to start opposite Mike Hughes, who has played well the past several weeks at cornerback. Tyrann Mathieu, who tested positive for COVID-19 before the season, would continue to start alongside Juan Thornhill at safety with Daniel Sorensen backing them up.

The Chiefs added Elliott Fry to the active roster to handle kicking duties with Butker out.

"Listen, we have plenty of bodies and guys that want to play, so nothing has really changed," Reid said. "We went this long without (an outbreak) and now we're kind of working through it. You see different teams going through these stretches where that happens, and that's kind of where we're at. I don't know what is going to happen going forward."

NOTES: Practice squad wide receivers Gehrig Dieter and Daurice Fountain and linebacker Darius Harris also remain on the reserve list. ... Defensive end Joshua Kaindoh was at practice Wednesday, a sign that he's been designated to return from injured reserve. The rookie was placed on IR in October with an ankle injury and now has 21 days to return to the active roster. "He's made great progress and we're glad that he's back and healthy," Reid said, "and we'll just see how things go here."

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## MISSOURI

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held out by coach Eliah Drinkwitz in advance of the NFL draft. Starting quarterback Connor Bazelak was sidelined because of a leg injury.

Cook completed 27 of 34 passes for 238 yards and ran for 53 more.

Buchanan led Army in rushing with 68 yards on 21 carries. Elijah Young was the Tigers' top rusher with 75 yards on 13 carries.

In the second half, Missouri was stopped on downs at the Army 43 and lost a fumble by Downing at Army's 48.

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