

# KIRKSVILLE Daily Express

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Kirksville Chief of Police Scott Williamson speaks during a July City Council meeting. CITY OF KIRKSVILLE

## 2021 in review: Kirksville hires new police chief

Austin Miller  
Daily Express

Kirksville's new Chief of Police came to the city earlier this year.

Scott Williamson was announced as the new police chief on May 11. He came to Kirksville after several years as a lieutenant with the Kauai Police Department in Lihue, Hawaii.

"This is an important position for the City of Kirksville, our department, and our community. I believe Scott will bring a mix of experience and skills with a natural sense of how to work with others, and a proven record of community outreach," said City Manager Mari Macomber in the release announcing Williamson's hiring.

Following the unexpected death of former chief Steve Farnsworth in October of 2020, deputy chief Justin Jones served as the interim chief. Macomber said city officials preferred to wait several months before filling Farnsworth's role.

"We had suffered a significant loss and we needed a little time to heal," Macomber said in April. "I'm not going to say everyone has reached that point of healing, but I didn't want to jump right into it."

She did Zoom interviews with 16 candidates in April and cut that list down to three finalists. Those finalists did ad-

ditional interviews in Kirksville, meeting with additional city staff members.

Williamson ended up being the guy, and because of his ocean-crossing move, he didn't begin the job until July. An Iowa native, Williamson had desired to move closer to home. He took a liking to Kirksville soon after starting in his new position.

"I love working with the people here," Williamson told the Daily Express in July. "Everyone works together. Everyone puts whatever they can forward to make the best area. Everyone looks out for the community, is what I've seen."

Before getting into law enforcement, Williamson served in the military. He began in the Air Force and had a stint in the Iowa Air National Guard. After a seven years away, he joined the Minnesota Air National Guard just before 9/11. After a few years of activations, including time in Germany, Williamson moved to Hawaii to begin police training.

Williamson started with the Kauai Police Department in 2008. He was promoted to sergeant in 2012 and moved to the Investigative Services Bureau to investigate sexual assault crimes. His experience in sexual assault investigations is

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The Adair County Courthouse. AUSTIN MILLER/DAILY EXPRESS

## 2021 in review: Adair County Courthouse begins makeover

Austin Miller  
Daily Express

In the April election, voters approved a quarter-cent sales tax proposal that is going toward construction and repairs of the Adair County Courthouse.

That measure got a "yes" on 55.77 percent of ballots in the election.

There are a litany of fixes that the Adair County Commission needed to be done.

"We've identified plumbing problems, electrical needs upgraded, HVAC, the building's leaking wa-

ter from the outside to the inside through the sandstone, the roof needs replaced and the gutters need work," said Presiding Commissioner Mark Shahan back in February. "So it's a substantial sum. With this engineering group, we did that assessment and determined it was more than what we can handle here, so we need to ask voters for a sales tax to help us get this work done now."

In February, Shahan ballparked the final total to be between \$3-5 million. Though with how construction costs have increased over the last year, the final price tag remains to be

seen. The sales tax will be in effect until that fund is paid for. Shahan also estimated the sales tax would generate about \$900,000 per year.

This sales tax came after a property tax levy in 2019. That levy was expected to generate about \$200,000 per year. First District Commissioner Bill King said that levy was helping cover maintenance that had been neglected due to not having the money to do so. But the levy wasn't raising enough for all of the fixes that were needed.

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## 2021 in review: Elections bring new faces to power

Austin Miller  
Daily Express

Elections in 2021 put plenty of new faces in charge of Kirksville and Adair County.

Two new names joined the Kirksville City Council this year, though only one came via election. John Gardner was elected to the one open seat, beginning his term in April. But after former councilmember Chuck Long resigned the day before the election, that seat was filled later on.

"It's been a great process and I'm extremely

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Members of the Kirksville R-III School Board pose before the 2021 high school graduation ceremony. Pictured left to right: Jeremy Houser, Nan Davis, Gayla McHenry, Angela Caraway, Nick Billington and John McConnell.

## 2021 in review: Medical marijuana dispensaries open in Kirksville

Austin Miller  
Daily Express

After years of discussion and legislative battles, medical marijuana arrived in force in Missouri this year. With that came three dispensaries in Kirksville.

In January of 2020, four businesses were awarded permits to open medical marijuana dispensaries in the city. The pandemic delayed many of those operations, pushing plans back for many months.

COVID cases among construction workers delayed businesses being built, then there were similar delays as vendors started growing. With demand greater than supply, businesses had to wait to have products on their shelves.

That was the case for Missouri Health & Wellness, located at 215 East Charles Street, which became Kirksville's first dispensary back on March 1. Kathleen Beebe, the company's regional manager, said cities away from

the metros were sought out, which is what drew them to Kirksville. The company also opened stores in Washington, Sedalia and Jefferson City.

Many of the early customers they had at each store were older folks trying to deal with various ailments and pain.

"That's the most rewarding part of the job," Beebe said. "I've heard some pretty tough stories of the illnesses people are dealing with. They may have tried regular pharmaceuticals

and it just didn't work for them, or they're trying something else to see if they can get relief from what they're dealing with."

Next to open was Heya Wellness, which happened in August. It is located downtown at 120 South Main Street.

And recently Bloc opened on Baltimore Street, right in front of Hy-Vee. Bloc comes from the Illinois-based company Justice Grown. It has licenses in Missouri, Utah, California, Pennsylvania, New Jersey and Massachusetts.

The fourth approved dispensary was for Agri-Genesis, which is run by Macon County native Richard Gunnells. So far the company has opened dispensaries named "Sunrise" in Macon, St. Louis, Kansas City, Maryville and Clinton.

The Missouri Department of Health and Senior Services said on Dec. 21 that medical marijuana sales in the state have topped \$200 million. More than 158,000 patients are active in the state's medical marijuana program.

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**OBITUARIES INSIDE**

No obituaries reported



## In Your own Backyard: Kirksville events for Dec. 30-Jan. 5

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](mailto:debi.boughton@visitkirksville.com).

### Thursday, December 30

Do you have lots of boxes and packaging to recycle from the holidays? The Kirksville Chamber of Commerce has partnered with Community Opportunities for a free community Holiday Aftermath Recycling Roundup. From now until January 3rd you can drop off cardboard, paper, aluminum cans, and plastic bottles at on of three locations. Trailers are set up at the Shrine Club parking lot, 2401 S. Baltimore; MRP Capital Group parking lot on north Baltimore behind the north Ayerco; and in Greentop at the corner of Main and 6th streets. For more information call 660-665-3766.

### Friday, December 31

The Moose Lodge, 2405 E. Illinois, is hosting the Fifty/Fifty Band at a New Years Eve Bash. Doors open early for Steak Night at 6:00 p.m. For costs and more information call 660-665-8300.

### Friday, December 31

Rock in the New Year at Wrongdaddys, 301 W. McPherson, Rock ‘til you drop with the band, Boot Cut, starting at 9:00 p.m. For more information go to: <https://www.facebook.com/events/4427663087317201/>

### Saturday, January 1

Start a healthy New Year with a first day hike at 10:00 a.m. at Thousand Hills State Park. This event is free and open to all ages. Join the park staff for a leisurely hike on Red Bud Trail. The hike will be approximately 2 miles long on rugged terrain. Wear weather-appropriate clothing and hiking shoes. Bring a water bottle. Dogs are welcome but must be leashed. For more information call 660-665-6995. Registration for this event is required at: <https://icampm01.usedirect.com/MSPWeb/Activities/Search.aspx>.

### Monday, January 3

Wondering what to do with your Christmas tree? The City of Kirksville offers a free Christmas tree drop off from now through January 7th. Christmas trees may be dropped off within the orange fenced-in area in the northeast corner of the Missouri and Main Street Parking lot. All decorations and lights must be removed. For more information call 660-627-1225.

## With low wages, Missouri disability service providers urge higher reimbursement rates

Tessa Weinberg  
Missouri Independent

For most of the last year, Life Unlimited has been unable to accept new residents.

At one point, the Liberty-based provider, which supports about 1,000 people with developmental disabilities through housing and other services like employment assistance, had 55 of its 330 positions open. Most were for direct support professionals that assist residents with their daily activities.

Julie Edlund, CEO of Life Unlimited, said other providers have had to send out 30-day notices letting them know that they would be unable to continue providing care.

Like many in the home and community based services industry, the organization is at “tipping point,” Edlund said.

“There are a lot of people on the waitlist. There are a lot of family members that are desperate,” she said. “There are a lot of individuals who don’t have family to take care of them, and they have nowhere to go to get services at all.”

As of last month, there were 465 people with disabilities waiting for residential services, according to the Department of Mental Health’s Division of Developmental Disabilities.

Like many industries, home and community based services providers, who assist people with disabilities and the elderly to help them live at home as independently as possible, have faced workforce shortages that have been exacerbated by the pandemic.

But Edlund is hopeful that the loss of workers can be stemmed by investments proposed in

President Joe Biden’s Build Back Better Act.

Included in the \$2 trillion federal legislation are provisions that would provide a permanent increase in the amount of federal Medicaid matching funds, ensure a program remains that helps funding follow people transitioning from institutions, like nursing homes, to a community setting and \$1 billion in grants to improve the industry’s workforce recruitment and retention strategies.

Investments in the home and community based services industry were trimmed down from a previous amount of \$400 billion allocated in the spending plan.

But the fate of the federal package hangs in the balance. It narrowly passed out of the U.S. House of Representatives last month, sending the bill to the U.S. Senate. On Sunday, a key senator said he would not vote for the spending plan, upending its future, while Senate Majority Leader Chuck Schumer vowed to press forward with the plan’s passage.

“We’re in a pretty desperate situation,” Edlund said, “if we don’t get this funding.”

### High turnover, low pay

Susie Schneider knew she needed help.

It had been her parents’ wish that her brother John, who has Down syndrome and was diagnosed with dementia, be cared for by family. John had lived with Schneider’s family for roughly 12 years until his dementia worsened.

He, “requires 24/7 care. Care that I am not qualified to give,” said Schneider, who now works as Life Unlimited’s chief employee engagement officer.

It was a difficult deci-

sion to move John into an individualized supported living setting. The process of applying took over a year, and in the meantime, Schneider got by with the help of hired personal care attendants. But the pay was low and turnover was high. Schneider estimates in a six month period, she had gone through at least one attendant a month.

“There were some that were supposed to show up, I never even met,” she said.

Eventually, John, 66, was placed in a Northland Life Unlimited home with two roommates, where two staff help 24/7.

In the five years John has lived there, staff have helped him transition from being fully mobile to now needing to use a wheelchair and receive assistance with tasks like eating, bathing and dressing. For Schneider, it’s been important that trained staff have been able to assist John long-term as his care and needs evolve over time as his dementia has progressed.

“If I could give them the world I would,” Schneider said of the staff. “What they do allows me to be able to sleep at night knowing he’s being taken care of.”

But even with reliable, long-term staff, low pay has continued to be a persistent issue that has contributed to direct support staff leaving for jobs that could offer better benefits and higher pay.

According to a 2019 National Core Indicators survey of 25 states and the District of Columbia, the turnover rate for direct support professionals ranged from 24% to nearly 65% and the median hourly wage was \$12.

In Missouri, the turnover rate was at 51.5%

that year with an average hourly wage of \$11.67.

This year, state lawmakers allocated over \$55 million to increase payments to providers, and the American Rescue Plan Act will help boost reimbursement rates with one-time funding.

“Presently, the funds in Missouri are set to pay people \$12 an hour, and that’s a raise,” Edlund said. “Five months ago, the rates were based at \$10 an hour, on average.”

Life Unlimited is able to offer \$14 an hour, in part, due to outside fundraising. But it’s not a sustainable solution, Edlund said.

“We’re taking a real risk. If those go away, we’re in trouble,” Schneider said of donations, later adding: “It’s squeezing everything we do. We’re all working three or four jobs to make it work across the board.”

In order to compensate for the 55 openings Life Unlimited has, some employees work upwards of 80 to 100 hours a week to help fill in at homes where staff must be present to assist medically fragile residents, Edlund said.

“The burnout is really, really hard right now,” she said.

An increased federal match included in the federal plan, would help ensure increases remain long-term, Edlund said. Advocates are also urging Missouri lawmakers to continue investments and increase reimbursement rates at a state level, too.

For Schneider, having consistent care she can rely on for her brother John helped give her a peace of mind.

“I’ve seen some very amazing people leave the field that they loved, because they couldn’t support their family,” Schneider said. “And that’s gut wrenching.”

## POLICE

Continued from Page A1

key experience, he said, in now leading his own station of officers.

“You bring in all the different moving parts of prosecution, investigation, support services in a case like that,” Williamson said. “In working with those outside teams, it allowed me to see not just the law enforcement perspective, but let’s look at the prosecution perspective, let’s look at the perspective of support services for victims, let’s look at how it fits in the community, and then the ongoing care, especially for child victims. Working on a team like that really gave me a much broader perspective of how the system works and how to work within that system to ensure we can provide the best service possible.”

Some early items he mentioned wanting to address with his department were with getting a forensic interviewer in the city and partnering with many local entities.

He recently proposed an update to the city’s vicious animal ordinance, which was approved by the City Council. And community policing is a focus of his going into 2022. He has budgeted an increase in patrols next year, and he has been talking with residents about reviving neighborhood watch programs.

Williamson also credited the work done by Farnsworth as a reason why the department was in good standing when he arrived.

“The loss of Chief Farnsworth is tragic. I honestly wish there was a different circumstance that I was even applying for this particular position,” Williamson said. “I know I can’t replace him. I know he was a fixture in the community, very well-liked and devoted much of his life to the community and law enforcement here. I can’t replace him. What I can do is fill the position and take all the good work he’s done and move forward with that.”

## COURTHOUSE

Continued from Page A1

Construction began fairly quickly after the sales tax was passed. Construction recently forced all offices to new locations for the time being.

## ELECTIONS

Continued from Page A1

fortunate to come out on top,” said Gardner to the Daily Express on election night. “I’m excited to get to work serving the city.”

Adopting a new process where the council solicits applications, it chose Jennifer Walston to fill Long’s spot. The city went on to codify that process later this year and it will be the standard going forward.

Three seats on the council are up for grabs next year. Mayor Zac Burden and Mayor Pro Tem Jessica Parks are up for re-election. As is Walston, which is for the one remaining year of Long’s original term.

Two new members also joined the Kirksville R-III School Board, as Angela

So several county departments are spread out around Kirksville for the time being.

As part of the construction, Shahan said maintaining the look of the building is important. With the courthouse being 120 years old, they want to keep it as true to history as possible while

updating many key parts.

“Another request that we want to hold strong is to keep the courthouse as authentic to history as possible,” Shahan said. “There will be some modernizations, but you want it to look good from the outside, and that’s what we’ll strive for.”

ward to working with the board, trying to move the Kirksville school district ahead.”

Two school board seats are up for election again in 2022, those of John McConnell and Gayla McHenry.

Three new members were elected to the Adair County Health Department’s Board of Trustees. Dr. Brenda Higgins, Curt Platz and Robin Jones Darr were the top three vote-getters in that race. Longtime incumbents Sharon Colton Tuttle and Theresa Hewitt did not get re-elected.

And though his election technically came in 2020, Eldon Grissom took over as Adair County’s new sheriff in 2021. Robert Hardwick retired after three decades and Grissom won the position.

Next year will see a

number of positions up for grabs via elections. Aside from the Municipal Election in the spring, the Primary and General Elections will decide several more. The seats for Associate Circuit Judge, Presiding County Commissioner, County Clerk, Collector of Revenue, County Treasurer, Recorder of Deeds, Prosecuting Attorney and Circuit Clerk will all be on the ballot.

A new Presiding Judge over the 2nd Circuit Court will also be decided next year. Judge Russell Steele will reach the mandatory retirement age of 70 in February. So Gov. Mike Parson will appoint an interim judge, then the General Election will decide who will serve the remaining two years on that six-year term.

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## Oklahoma sixth-grader praised for heroism twice in one day

Muskogee Phoenix

MUSKOGEE, Okla. (AP) — An Oklahoma sixth-grader was honored by law enforcement and school officials for his heroic actions not just once, but twice in the same day.

Earlier this month, Davyon Johnson used the Heimlich maneuver on a classmate who was choking on a bottle cap at his school in Muskogee. Later that same day, he helped a woman escape from a burning house, the Muskogee Phoenix reported.

Last week, Davyon was named an honorary member of the police and sheriff's departments at the Muskogee Board of Education meeting, the newspaper reported.

"I felt good, excited," Davyon said about the honor.

Principal Latricia Dawkins

called Davyon a "dual hero" and said the recognition couldn't have happened to a better person.

"He is just a kind soul and well-liked by his peers and staff alike," she said.

Dawkins recalled the incident that earned Davyon the honor. She said a student was trying to fill his water bottle and loosen the cap with his mouth. The cap slipped into his throat, she said.

The choking student stumbled into a nearby classroom, where Davyon happened to be, she said.

"Davyon immediately sprinted over and did the Heimlich maneuver," Dawkins said. "From the account of the witnesses, when he did it the bottle cap popped out."

Davyon demonstrated how he got behind the choking student, wrapped his arms around the student and "burped him, kind of."

Davyon helped a woman evacuate her burning house later that day.

"It was a disabled lady and she was walking out of her house," Davyon said. "She was on her porch. But I thought, being a good citizen, I would cross and help her get into her truck and leave."

He said the back of the house was on fire, "but it eventually got to the front of the house."

Davyon said he learned to do the Heimlich maneuver on YouTube and said it is a valuable procedure to learn.

"Just in case you're in the situation I was in, you can know what to do," he said.

Davyon's mother, LaToya Johnson, said she's not surprised he behaved the way he did. She said her brother, Wendell Johnson, is an emergency medical technician.

"I'm just a proud mom," she said.



Dayvon Johnson, a Muskogee, Oklahoma, sixth-grader who poses Dec. 15, 2021, is being praised by law enforcement and school officials for his heroic actions not just once, but twice in the same day. The Muskogee Phoenix newspaper reports used the Heimlich maneuver on a school mate who was choking on a bottle cap. Later that same day, he rescued a woman from a burning house. CATHY SPAULDING - MEMBER IMAGE SHARE, THE DAILY PHOENIX

## US tribes see hope for clean water in infrastructure bill

By GILLIAN FLACCUS, FELICIA FONSECA and BECKY BOHRER  
Associated Press

WARM SPRINGS, Ore. (AP) — Erland Suppah Jr. doesn't trust what comes out of his faucet.

Each week, Suppah and his girlfriend haul a half-dozen large jugs of water from a distribution center run by the Confederated Tribes of Warm Springs to their apartment for everything from drinking to cooking to brushing their teeth for their family of five. It's the only way they feel safe after countless boil-water notices and weeklong shutoffs on a reservation struggling with bursting pipes, failing pressure valves and a geriatric water treatment plant.

"About the only thing this water is good for is cleaning my floor and flushing down the toilet," Suppah said of the tap water in the community 100 miles (160 kilometers) southeast of Portland. "That's it."

In other, more remote tribal communities across the country, running water and indoor plumbing have never been a reality.

Now, there's a glimmer of hope in the form of a massive infrastructure bill signed last month that White House officials say represents the largest single infusion of money into Indian Country. It includes \$3.5 billion for the federal Indian Health Service, which provides health care to more than 2 million Native Americans and Alaska Natives, plus pots of money through other federal agencies for water projects.

Tribal leaders say the funding, while welcome, won't make up for decades of neglect from the U.S. government, which has a responsibility to tribes under treaties and other acts to ensure access to clean water. A list of sanitation deficiencies kept by the Indian Health Service has more than 1,500 projects, including wells, septic systems, water storage tanks and pipelines. Some projects would address water contamination from uranium or arsenic.

About 3,300 homes in more than 30 rural Alaska communities lack indoor plumbing, according to a 2020 report. On the Navajo Nation, the largest Native American reservation, about one-third of the 175,000 residents are without running water.

Residents in these places haul water for basic tasks such as washing and cooking, sometimes driving long distances to reach communal water stations. Instead of indoor bathrooms, many use outhouses or lined pails

called "honey buckets" that they drag outside to empty. Some shower or do laundry at community sites known as "washeterias," but the equipment can be unreliable and the fees expensive.

"You look at two billionaires competing to fly into outer space, yet we're trying to get basic necessities in villages of interior Alaska," said PJ Simon, a former chairman of an Alaska Native nonprofit corporation called the Tanana Chiefs Conference.

Many more tribal communities have indoor plumbing but woefully inadequate facilities and delivery systems riddled with aging pipes.

The coronavirus pandemic, which disproportionately hit Indian Country, further underscored the stark disparities in access to running water and sewage systems.

In Warm Springs, the water crisis has overlapped with COVID-19.

"During a worldwide pandemic, we've had a boil-water notice. How are we supposed to wash our hands? How are we supposed to sanitize our homes to disinfect, to keep our community members safe? How can we do that ... when our water isn't even clean?" said Dorothea Thurby, who oversees the distribution of free water to tribal members and food boxes to those who are quarantined.

A 2019 report by a pair of nonprofit groups, U.S. Water Alliance and Dig Deep, found Native American homes are 19 times more likely than white households to lack full plumbing. And federal officials note tribal members without indoor toilets or running water are at increased risk of respiratory tract, skin and gastrointestinal infections.

On the Navajo Nation, Eloise Sullivan uses an outhouse and often drives before dawn to beat the crowd at a water-filling station near the Arizona-Utah border to get water for the five people in her household. They use about 850 gallons (3,200 liters) a week, she estimated.

Sullivan, 56, doesn't mind hauling water, but "for the younger generation, it's like, 'Do we have to do that?'"

"It's kind of like a big issue for them," she said.

She once asked local officials what it would cost to run a water line from the closest source about 2 miles (3.2 kilometers) away. She said she was told \$25,000 and never pursued it.

Libby Washburn, special assistant to President Joe Biden on Native American affairs, recently told tribes the infrastructure bill included enough money to complete all the projects on



Dan Martinez, emergency manager for the Confederated Tribes of Warm Springs, pauses in the hallway of a storage building filled with donated water on Tuesday, Dec. 7, 2021, in Warm Springs, Ore. "The infrastructure bill brought joy to my heart because now it gives me hope — hope that it's going to be repaired," said Martinez, the tribes' emergency manager, who expects to receive federal funds to replace underground pipes and address the 40-year-old treatment plant. NATHAN HOWARD - FREELANCER, FR171771 AP

the Indian Health Service list. The agency said it's consulting with tribes and won't make allocation decisions before that process is over.

Until now, tribes and outside organizations have worked to address needs with their own funding, donations or federal money, including pandemic relief.

"If you live without running water, you understand the importance and the connection you have with it, deep down as a person, as a human being," said Burrell Jones, who sets up water systems and delivers water around Dilkon, Arizona, with Dig Deep's Navajo Water Project. "You can't exist without water."

Andrew Marks recently moved back to Tanana, a community of about 190 people in Alaska's interior. He initially relied on a washeteria but found the equipment unreliable. He now has running water and plumbing where he lives but hauls water for family members who don't.

"I believe if we had more people with water, more people connected to the grid, it would drastically improve their life," he said.

In Oregon, tribal officials have handed out about 3 million gallons (11 million liters) of water — almost all of it donated — from a decommissioned elementary school on the reservation. A steady stream of residents pick up a combined 600 gallons (2,270 liters) of water a day from the building. Former classrooms overflow with 5-gallon (19-liter) containers and cases of bottled water.

"The infrastructure bill brought joy to my heart because now it gives me hope — hope that it's going to be repaired," said Dan Martinez, the tribes' emergency manager, who expects to receive federal funds to replace underground pipes and address the 40-year-old treatment plant.

"If you came to work

one day and someone said, 'Hey, you need to go and find water for a community of 6,000 people.' ... I mean, where do you start?"

The money won't provide immediate relief. Funding to the Indian Health Service is supposed to be distributed over five years. There is no deadline for its use, and projects will take time to complete once started. The money won't cover operation and maintenance of the systems, a point tribes have criticized.

In Warm Springs, tribal members don't pay for their water, and proposals to charge for it are deeply unpopular. That provides little incentive for tribal members to conserve water and raises questions about how new infrastructure will be maintained.

"There are some Natives who say — and I believe this myself — 'How do you sell something you never owned? The Creator has given it to us,'" said Martinez, a tribal member.

Building out infrastructure in remote areas can be onerous, too. Most roads on the Navajo Nation are unpaved and become muddy and deeply rutted after big storms.

In Alaska, winter temperatures can fall well below zero, and construction seasons are short. Having enough people in a small community who are trained on the specifics of a water system so they can maintain it also can be a challenge, said Kaitlin Mattos, an assistant professor at Fort Lewis College in Colorado who worked on a 2020 report on water infrastructure in Alaska.

"Every bit of funding that is allocated is going to help some family, some household, which is wonderful," she said. "Whether it's enough to help every single household, I think, remains to be seen."

Fonseca reported from Flagstaff, Arizona. Bohrer reported from Juneau, Alaska.

## 2021 Notebook: The COVID-19 pandemic and the vaccine rollout

By The Associated Press

**THE BACKGROUND:** The year started with a lot of promise. The world had vaccines.

And even as the planet reached 2 million dead by the middle of the month of January, people in many of the hard-hit countries, including the United States and Britain, began rolling up their sleeves and receiving the life-saving shots.

The rollouts were rocky at times — production problems delayed deliveries and rich countries received the lion's share of the vaccines. But cases began to fall sharply in February, raising hope that a return to normal was near.

Then came delta. A highly transmissible variant of the virus swept across the globe as too many people remained unprotected. Some never had access, others, beset by rampant misinformation about the vaccines, refused to get the shots. Cases and deaths skyrocketed. Despite having vaccines, more people died in 2021 from COVID-19 than in 2020, the first full year of the pandemic. Many thousands of those deaths could have been prevented.

And even as the delta surge slows, we have a new variant: omicron, perhaps even more transmissible.

Here, some Associated Press journalists involved in the coverage reflect on the story and their own experiences.

LAURAN NEERGAARD, medical writer, Washington, D.C.:

The year started with an immense sense of hope because the vaccines were just beginning to roll out. Not only did one vaccine work, several different kinds worked and they worked incredibly well. It was a huge scientific achievement. And at first the story was about demand, how many people desperately wanted to get their shots while multiple companies were struggling to increase supplies of different vaccines made in different ways in different countries.

The surprise amid all of this hope was how quickly misinformation turned into its own epidemic. We expected some of that, of course. It is natural for people to ask questions, especially when they've been busy

living their lives and not hanging onto every scientific development. But there was a firehose of information that required sorting the real, quality science from the baseless claims. And the amount of active disinformation was stunning. I hadn't ever imagined having to write, "No, there are no chips inside the needles to track you." And over time the false claims grew more sophisticated than that. So with the complexity of reporting the international rollout, at the same time, you had to address outright lies that were turning people away with potentially deadly results.

We had to find new ways to do the job. ... Paralleling the pandemic was an epidemic of not just misinformation but disinformation. You couldn't just say, "Well, I fact-checked that," and move on. There's a public responsibility to make sure that we give every opportunity for our readers and our viewers to get the right information, to get the facts. Because the facts are critical not just to making choices about vaccines and other safety measures for yourself or your family, but to ending the pandemic.

So the challenge was figuring out how to tell the story again, and again and again and be fresh and you know, maybe try different ways that might get people's attention.

H E A T H E R HOLLINGSWORTH, reporter, Kansas and Missouri:

I live just 3 miles into Kansas, and Kansas and Missouri have both had their issues. They've got a lot of rural sections of the state, a lot of Evangelicals who've been sort of reluctant to get vaccinated and also to mask because the issue is of course, very political.

I first got involved in the national virus coverage in the fall. I have three children, but I felt like that sort of personal experience of struggling through this hot mess, honestly, kind of helped me. At first, I thought, "I don't know how to do this." What are we going to do with these kids? This is awful. But in some ways, I think it was an asset to live the same mess that everyone you're interviewing was living through.

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**NOTICE OF TRUSTEE'S SALE**

WHEREAS, Richard W. Hatcher Jr. and Latuana C. Hatcher, Husband and Wife, by their deed of trust dated the twenty-sixth (26th) day of August, 2009, and recorded in the office of the recorder of deeds for Adair County, Missouri, in Book 925, Page 760-770, conveyed to J Michael Conway, Trustee, the following-described property situated in the County of Adair, State of Missouri, to-wit:

All of Lots 8 and 9, Block 4, Still's Addition to Kirksville, Adair County, Missouri

which conveyance was made to the said J Michael Conway, Trustee, in trust to secure the payment of one promissory note in said deed of trust described;

WHEREAS, Wayne Blackman was appointed successor trustee pursuant to the terms of the deed of trust; and

WHEREAS, default was made and still continues in the payment of said note;

NOW THEREFORE, at the request of the legal holder of said note and in accordance with the provisions of said deed of trust, I, Wayne Blackman, Successor Trustee, will sell the property above described at public vendue, to the highest bidder for cash, at the South front door of the Adair County Courthouse, in the city of Kirksville, Adair County, Missouri, on January 7, 2022, between the hours of 9 o'clock a.m. and 5 o'clock p.m., and more particularly at 1:00 p.m., for the purpose of satisfying said indebtedness and the costs of executing this trust.

By: Wayne Blackman  
Successor Trustee

Publication Dates: December 15, 2022, December 22, 2021, December 29, 2021 and January 5, 2022

634030cb

**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 Rouner  
ROUNER 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 December 15, 2021, judgment by default will be entered against you.

Published December 15, 22, 29, 2021 and January 5, 2022

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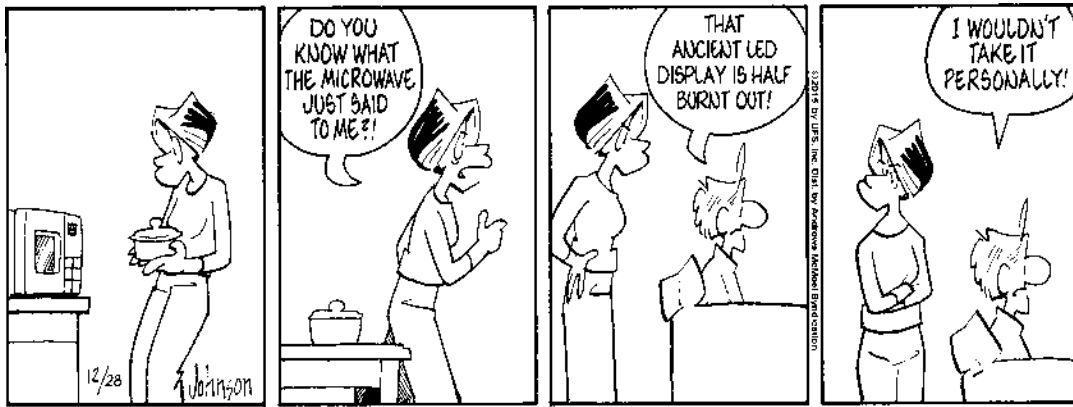
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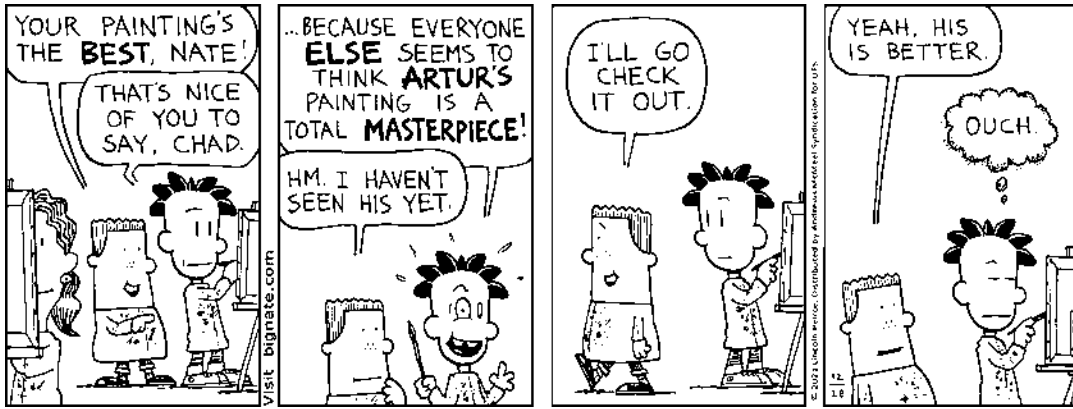
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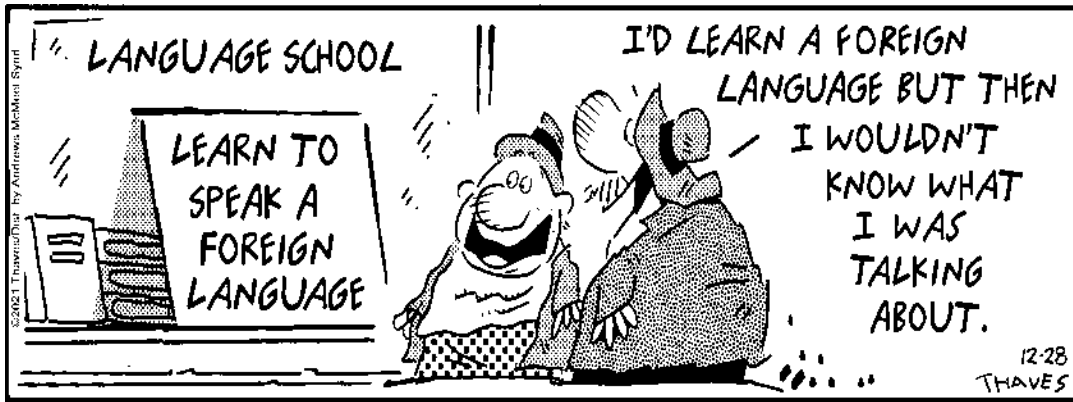
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**THE BORN LOSER**



**FRANK AND ERNEST**



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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!

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

**PREVIOUS ANSWER**

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

**CROSSWORD**

- ACROSS**
- 1 Ho-hum
  - 5 Insert sound effects
  - 8 Ranch segment
  - 12 Vacillate (hyph.)
  - 13 Happy — clam
  - 14 Ticket info
  - 15 Mr. Scrooge
  - 17 Alice's chronicler
  - 18 Bite off too much
  - 20 England's FBI
  - 21 Category
  - 24 Prop up
  - 26 Water, on the Seine
  - 27 Scatter-brain
  - 31 Fish-eating bird
  - 33 Distant
  - 34 Grabs a bite
  - 38 Pet lovers' grp.
  - 39 Mexican Mrs.
  - 40 Criticize
  - 41 Dives
- DOWN**
- 1 "So long!"
  - 2 Slow pitch
  - 3 Response on deck
  - 4 Accept, as a check
  - 5 Bewilder
  - 6 Tech support caller
  - 7 Minstrel
  - 8 — glance
- 44 Rhea cousin**
- 45 Piccolo kin
  - 48 Day one
  - 50 Ca++ or Na+
  - 51 City in Spain
  - 55 Checkbook no.
  - 57 King's government
  - 61 Unlikely story
  - 62 Throw in a lawn
  - 63 Put in a lawn
  - 64 Arctic transport
  - 65 Home tel.
  - 66 Vast ages

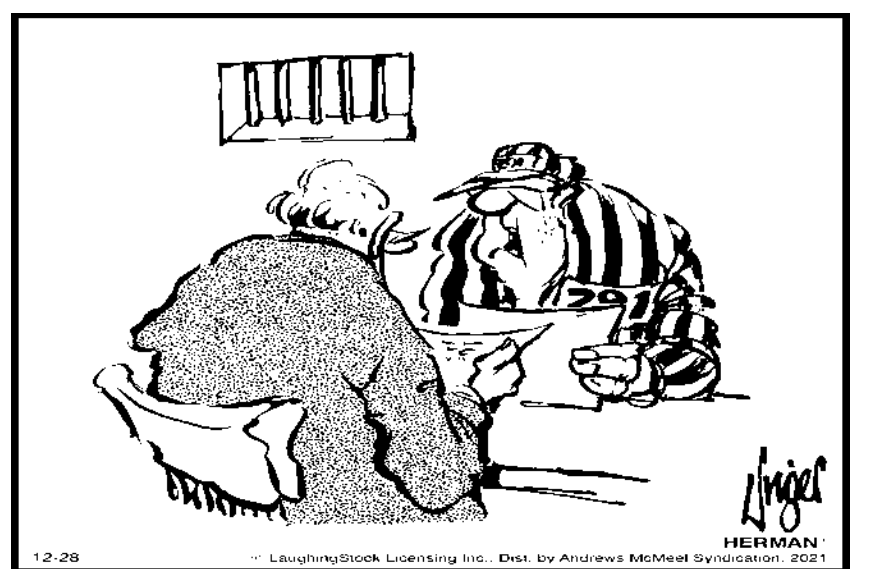


- 9 Roughly
- 10 Curio
- 11 Form a gully
- 16 Smooth and level
- 19 Kyoto sash
- 21 Turns right
- 22 Dodge City marshal
- 23 Now, to Caesar
- 25 Road map info
- 28 In that case (2 wds.)
- 29 Polynesian staple
- 30 Stole
- 32 Toward sunrise
- 35 Pub pints
- 36 Tractable
- 37 Black mark
- 42 Hose down
- 43 Pop-top beverage
- 45 Decrees
- 46 Not express
- 47 Dad's brother
- 49 From Oslo
- 52 Khayyam or Sharif
- 53 Mine find
- 54 Terminates
- 56 Danson or Turner
- 58 Corp. biggie
- 59 Biddy
- 60 Fabric meas.

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					63		
64						65					66		

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**HERMAN**



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**ASTROGRAPH BY EUGENIA LAST**

Timing is critical, and knowing when to start and when to stop will determine your success. Listen to your inner voice, and you will discover what works best for you. Embrace change and activate skills that can help you overcome obstacles. Push your emotions aside, let go of the past and do what makes you happy.

**CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19)** -- Take a unique approach to life. Make changes that will clear the path to a brighter future. Put your heart on the line and be honest about your feelings. Set your plans in motion.

**AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 19)** -- Don't believe everything you hear. Check the facts and walk away from any deal that asks for too much and gives too little. Go over personal paperwork to ensure you have everything up to date.

**PISCES (Feb. 20-March 20)** -- Keep your wallet in a safe place. The temptation to buy things you don't need will be high. Put more emphasis on making personal gains, stabilizing your future and improving your lifestyle.

**ARIES (March 21-April 19)** -- Listen carefully and observe how others react. Don't feel pressured to make a move if you are unprepared. Look to someone you respect for advice; you'll get a different perspective.

**TAURUS (April 20-May 20)** -- A change will spark your imagination and push you in a new and exciting direction. Express your desire to make a difference, and someone influential will support you.

**GEMINI (May 21-June 20)** -- What you know may not help you when dealing with your peers if you let your emotions get in the way. Stick to the

truth to avoid trouble and sticky situations. Protect your reputation.

**CANCER (June 21-July 22)** -- If you are fun to be with, everyone will want to be with you. Put on a happy face, share memories with a loved one and make plans. Taking control of your life will ease stress.

**LEO (July 23-Aug. 22)** -- Don't feel that you must follow the crowd or bend to someone's persuasive tactics. Change is good only if it improves your life. When in doubt, step back and gain some perspective.

**VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22)** -- Get in touch with someone who makes you laugh. Sharing your feelings and plans will encourage you to initiate a stabilizing lifestyle change. Focus on what you need to do.

**LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 23)** -- Emotions will surface regarding domestic matters. Don't act in haste or say something you'll regret. Bide your time, use your resources and ensure that the changes you make are warranted.

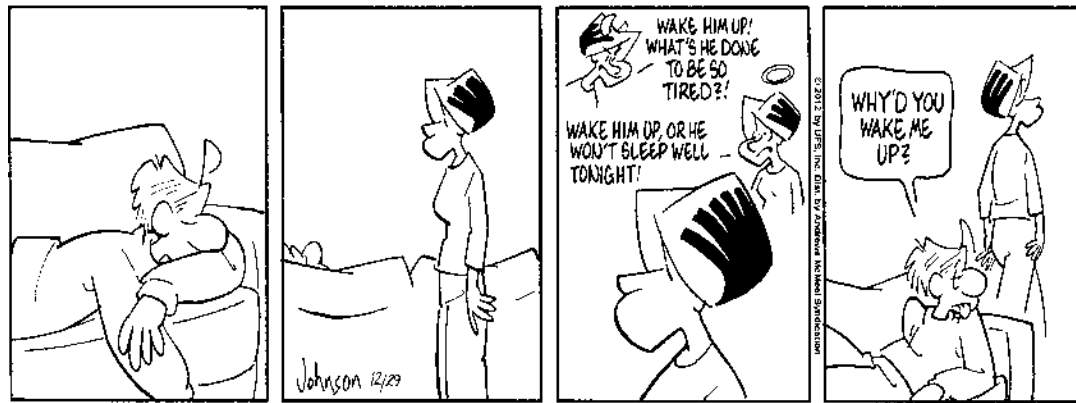
**SCORPIO (Oct. 24-Nov. 22)** -- You'll receive mixed messages from friends, relatives and colleagues. Don't rely on others. Do your due diligence, and leave no room for error. Say what's on your mind and get things done.

**SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 23-Dec. 21)** -- Research things that will help you get ahead. Learn all you can and be ready to stretch your mind. Don't let anger take the reins when progressive action can turn a negative into a positive.

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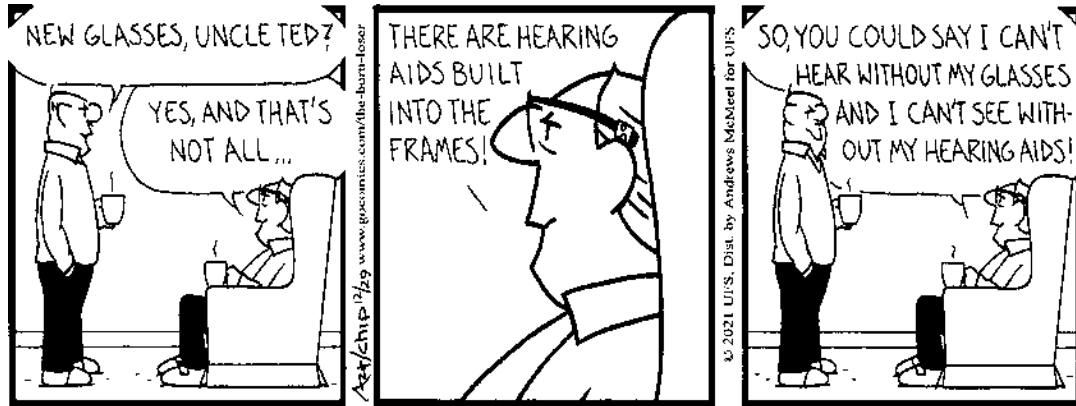
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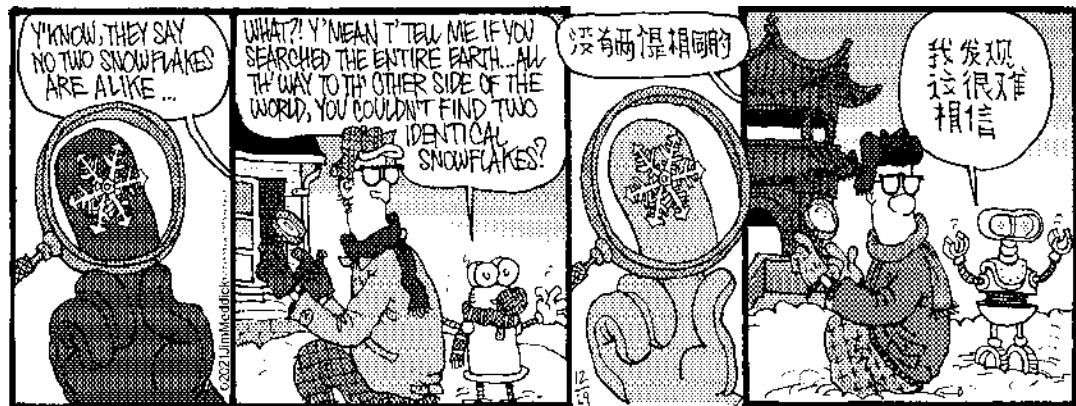
**THE BORN LOSER**



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**THAT A BABY**



**SUDOKU**

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

**PREVIOUS ANSWER**

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

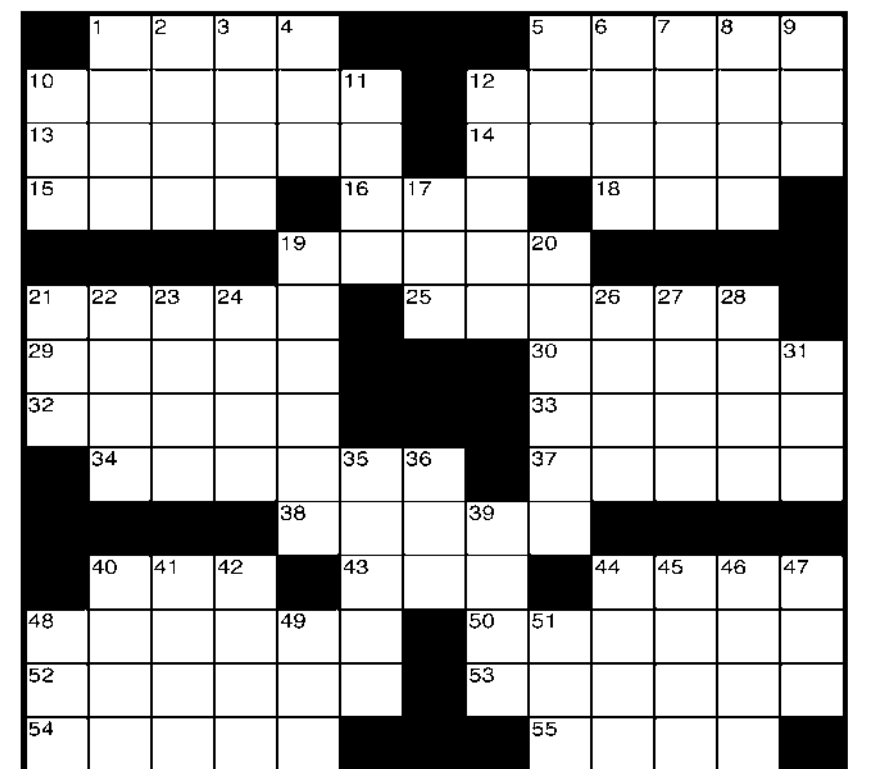
**CROSSWORD**

- ACROSS**
- 1 "Waterloo" group
  - 5 Full of energy
  - 10 Commotions
  - 12 Living room
  - 13 Shack (hyph.)
  - 14 Hard sells, maybe
  - 15 Forearm bone
  - 16 "Say what?"
  - 18 Folk song mule
  - 19 Smidgens
  - 21 Opposite of liability
  - 25 Looks forward to
  - 29 Cello cousins
  - 30 Sunfish
  - 32 Destroy data
  - 33 Sri —
  - 34 Hexes
  - 37 Go right in
  - 38 Is afraid of
  - 40 Kipling classic
- DOWN**
- 43 Double helix
  - 44 Be grouchy
  - 48 Languishing
  - 50 Pizza topper
  - 52 Trite phrase
  - 53 Harley competitor
  - 54 Full amount
  - 55 Lean and sinewy
- DOWN**
- 1 "The Mammoth Hunters" writer
  - 2 Grain husk
  - 3 — fide
  - 4 Museum contents
  - 5 Channel-surf
  - 6 Orchidlike flower
  - 7 Supplication
  - 8 Vote
  - 9 Cen. fractions

**Answer to Previous Puzzle**

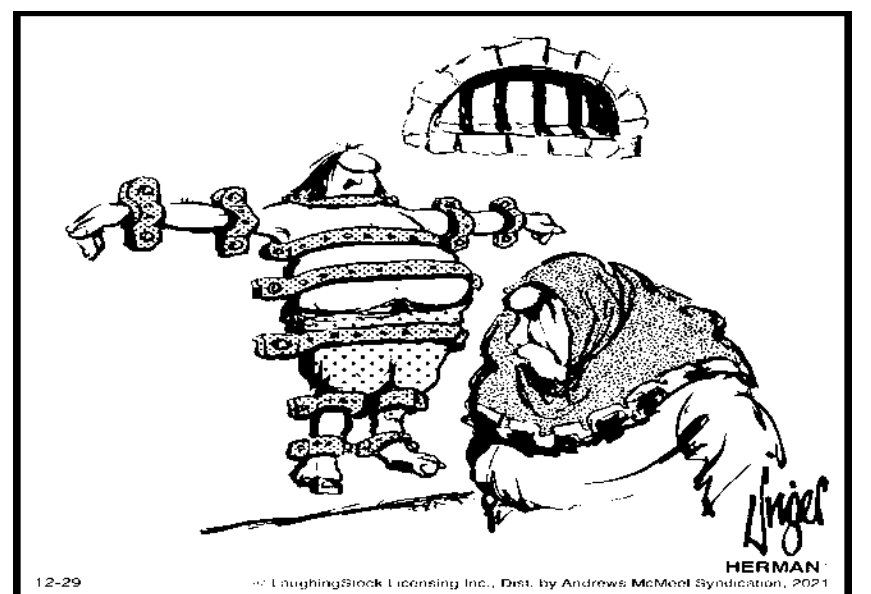
BLAH	DUB	ACRE		
YOYO	ASA	TIER		
EBENEZER	ARLO			
	OVERDO	ACID		
GENRE		BRACE		
EAU	NITWIT			
ERNE	FAR	EATS		
SPCA	SRA	SLAM		
	SWOOPS	EMU		
FLUTE		ONSET		
	ION	TOLEDO		
ACCT	MONARCHY			
TALE	ADD	SEED		
SLED	RES	EONS		

- 10 Cold-weather malady
- 11 Area of London
- 12 "Baloney!"
- 17 Ms. Hagen
- 19 Pays for —
- 20 Pricey furs
- 21 Hail, to Caesar
- 22 Gentlemen
- 23 Detergent
- 24 Otherwise
- 26 Baha'i origin
- 27 Circus arena
- 28 Benefit
- 31 Spoil
- 35 Flowerpot spot
- 36 Tokyo honorific
- 39 Spicy
- 40 About 2.2 pounds
- 41 Put one's foot —
- 42 Insignia
- 44 Turnpike rumbler
- 45 Just around the corner
- 46 Wan
- 47 Tiny legume
- 48 Interest amt.
- 49 Boston Bruins org.
- 51 Left, to Dobbin



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**HERMAN**



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**"What are my chances of time off for good behavior?"**

**ASTROGRAPH BY EUGENIA LAST**

Trust your instincts. Don't hesitate to make a move. Put your needs first, express your thoughts and feelings, and make changes that help you reach your goals. Be ready to take advantage when opportunity knocks, and use your insight and creativity to separate you from the crowd.

**CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19)** -- Step up and make a difference. The changes you implement will help you head into next year with optimism. Say what's on your mind and pursue what excites you. Forward thinking will pay off.

**AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 19)** -- Once you speak your mind, you cannot take it back. Problems will develop if you judge others too quickly. Focus on personal goals and improvements, not on trying to change someone.

**PISCES (Feb. 20-March 20)** -- Listen, learn and verify. The information you gather will help you make better decisions. Don't spend money unnecessarily or neglect to take care of matters you should address before the end of the year.

**ARIES (March 21-April 19)** -- Be careful. Don't let your emotions steer you in the wrong direction. Honesty is the best policy when it comes to financial and contractual differences. Keep a tight rein on your spending habits.

**TAURUS (April 20-May 20)** -- Change will excite you. Dig in and see what life has to offer. Explore something that interests you and consider if it's a viable or lucrative option. A partnership looks promising.

**GEMINI (May 21-June 20)** -- A laid-back attitude and approach will help you dodge a mistake. Spend more time on personal improvement and less on trying to change someone. You can be amicable without being gullible.

**CANCER (June 21-July 22)** -- Plan to do something you enjoy with a loved one. A change will lift your spirits and give you something new to explore. If you discuss your plans and intentions, you will receive valuable feedback.

**LEO (July 23-Aug. 22)** -- An emotional moment can limit progress if you aren't prepared to compromise. Look at every angle, and you'll find a way to appease others and satisfy your needs at the same time.

**VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22)** -- Share your intentions and make plans with a loved one. Make a change at home conducive to improving your life. Information you gather will provide insight. Romance is featured.

**LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 23)** -- Slow down and distance yourself from turmoil and chaotic people. Self-discipline, personal growth and exercise will encourage you to spend more time perfecting who you are.

**SCORPIO (Oct. 24-Nov. 22)** -- Emotions will lead to fluctuating circumstances. Be a good listener, think about what's going on around you and how others think and feel, and take a reserved approach. Keep life simple.

**SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 23-Dec. 21)** -- Use your energy wisely. Too much of anything will be your downfall. Focus on getting things done on time and moving on to self-improving activities. Close the year on a high note!

\*\*\*  
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# 2021 in review: La Plata softball takes 2nd in Class 1

Austin Miller  
Daily Express

One Final Four trip wasn't enough.

The La Plata softball team followed last year's run to a third-place finish with another Final Four trip this year, taking second in Class 1.

Due to the pandemic, last year's Final Four saw teams host the state semifinal games. Only the championship game was held in Springfield and there was no third-place game. So the Bulldogs were focused this year to get back and get the true Final Four experience.

"We talked the first or second day of practice and I said we have unfinished business," said La Plata coach Greg Buescher af-

ter the Bulldogs' quarterfinal win. "We wanted to get back to the Final Four. I feel like if (pitcher Olivia Coy) hadn't gotten hurt, we had as good a chance as anybody at winning the whole thing. You don't know that you would but you like your chances. So I told them that we had unfinished business, but we weren't going to talk about it anymore."

La Plata (26-8) started the postseason with wins over Green City and Schuyler County, winning its third district title in four years. They won a nail-biter over Canton in sectionals for the second year in a row, getting a 1-0 victory on the road.

Then the quarterfinal game was one for the record books. La Plata and



La Plata's Olivia and Claire Coy celebrate after defeating Atlanta in the state quarterfinals. AUSTIN MILLER/DAILY EXPRESS

Atlanta met in the quarterfinals, putting that rivalry on likely the largest stage it can be on. A two-run homer from La Plata's Pieper Wood gave her team the edge and a 3-1 win.

"I was really nervous, just (feeling) a lot of pressure," Wood said. "She threw me a pitch right down the middle and I took it. ... I didn't think it was over because of the wind. But when I rounded first, I saw it going back and my

sister, my coach (Summer Wood), was jumping and screaming. It was just so happy and exciting. It was a really good feeling.

"It's everything I wanted, dreamed of since I was little," Wood said. "To really get that state experience — it was our goal going into the season and now we're achieving it."

Once in Springfield for the Final Four, that true experience was altered yet again. Steady rain moved

all the games around and the Bulldogs got pushed back a day and to a high school field. They survived in the rain to grab a 3-1 win over St. Elizabeth.

And in the Class 1 state title game against Maysville, La Plata's offense was silenced by Maysville pitcher Hailey LeMunyon. It was a close game that delivered as a state title contest, but the Bulldogs came out with a 4-0 loss.

"I don't think we're sad

because we got second," said senior pitcher Olivia Coy. "We're happy with second place. Obviously, we would have liked to win the whole thing, but second's still really good. We're all just upset and emotional because it's the last time we'll ever play together with this team."

Losing such a strong senior class, the Bulldogs have a lot of work to do if they want a three-peat in 2022.

# 2021 in review: Putnam baseball makes 1st run to Final Four

Austin Miller  
Daily Express

The 2021 Putnam County baseball team made its mark as the best team in program history, knocking off a ton of firsts.

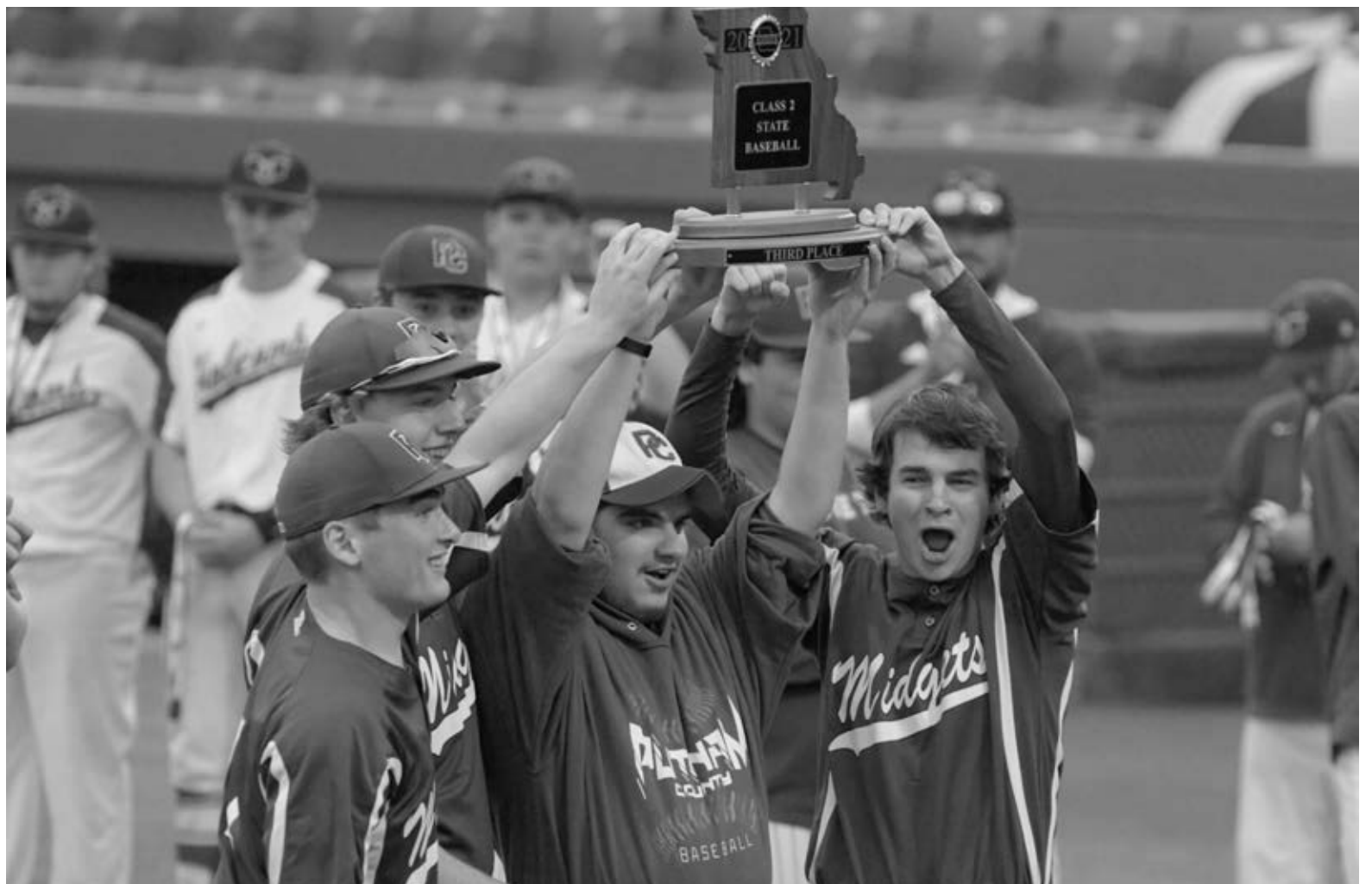
The Midgets won their first district title this spring, but didn't stop there and made a run to the Class 2 Final Four. Putnam took third place in Class 2, the best finish the program has ever had.

Putnam finished the season 20-3, one of the most dominant teams in the state.

"These guys never get down on themselves. They wanted it," said Putnam coach Blane Robinson after the Midgets' district title win. "They've been on the losing side of it a couple times. I think that just made us more hungry. Yeah, it was good getting here, but these boys weren't going home without the darn thing. Absolutely love it. Their hard work, dedication to the program — I absolutely love them."

Once down in Springfield, the Midgets raced out to an early lead in the state semifinals against Marionville. After a 5-0 lead through three innings, Marionville scored eight unanswered runs. Marionville then went on to win the state title.

Focused to rebound in the consolation game against Holcomb, Putnam had a disastrous start. The Putnam defense had several physical and mental errors, trailing 9-0 after two innings. But the Midgets chipped away at the deficit, scoring 11 unanswered runs to complete the comeback and win.



Members of the Putnam County baseball team hold up their third-place trophy from the 2021 Final Four. AUSTIN MILLER/DAILY EXPRESS

"We looked like the Bad News Bears for a while there, didn't we? That's something about this team I'll never forget," said junior Gage Pearson after the game. "We don't give up no matter what. The energy in the dug-out never quit. It was all there. It just felt so good to come back from that."

Carter Quint tied the game

with a triple in the sixth inning. Lance Fowler hit a leadoff triple to start the seventh, with Pearson belting another triple right after to go ahead.

"I've got a bunch of dogs, man. They don't quit until the last out's made," Robinson said. "The night before, I couldn't have scripted a better opening. Tonight, total opposite. That was

a disaster, for sure. But, like I said, I've got dogs. They've got grit, they want to play baseball, and that's what we did. We fought until the last out and came out on top."

Pearson turned in a monster year and was the Daily Express Player of the Year. He went 10-1 on the mound with a 2.34 ERA and 118 strikeouts. He also hit

.574 with 35 RBI, 26 runs, 11 doubles, five homers and three triples.

The Midgets return the bulk of their lineup in 2022, eager to top what they did in 2021.

"The outcome, first place, wasn't there for us this year. So we've just got to get back on the grind and get it next year," said catcher Zach Heidenwith.

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## 2021 in review: Truman makes Elite Eight run

**Austin Miller**  
Daily Express

It took more than two decades, but the Truman men's basketball team was elite once again.

The Bulldogs not only made it back to the NCAA Tournament after COVID-19 canceled the 2020 tournament, but then won a regional title and made it to the Elite Eight. Truman last accomplished that in 1999.

Truman finished the season 20-3, blistering through a Great Lakes Valley Conference-only schedule in the regular season to win that title. Though the Bulldogs were upended in the first round of the GLVC Tournament, a game held at Pershing Arena, they regained momentum in the NCAA Tournament.

The Bulldogs beat Ashland 82-63 in the first round of the tournament, then edging Missouri Tech with a 65-62 win for the regional crown.

GLVC Player of the Year and All-American Cade McKnight scored six straight points in the final two minutes of that game, which came after he sat a huge chunk of the second half due to foul



The Truman State men's basketball team poses together after defeating Michigan Tech and advancing to the Division II Elite Eight. TRUMAN ATHLETICS

trouble. He hit a go-ahead layup with four seconds left for a Truman win.

"Give credit to the guys, they stepped up, they hung in there and gave us a chance at the end," said McKnight, who

had a game-high 21 points against Michigan Tech. "I was just fortunate to be the beneficiary of some good passes at the end and knock a few down at the line."

"It was all will and

heart by our guys down the stretch," said Truman coach Jeff Horner.

The Bulldogs' Elite Eight meeting with Flagler was an awfully similar game, coming down to the wire. Truman's first-half

lead vanished and Flagler went on to a 70-69 win. McKnight had probably the best game of his career, scoring 34 points on 11-of-18 shooting from the field (5-for-9 on 3-pointers) and 13 rebounds.

McKnight averaged 18.1 points per game for the Bulldogs. Along with his conference honors, Horner was the GLVC Coach of the Year, and Masen Miller was the GLVC Freshman of the Year.

The Bulldogs were ranked in the top 25 for most of the season, reaching as high as No. 2.

Truman had to replace point guard Turner Scott and a few bench players for this season. The Bulldogs started the season ranked high before back-to-back losses pulled them down. The Bulldogs are 7-2 with the conference slate fully ahead of them now.

The Bulldogs hope and plan for another deep post-season run come March.

"We'll be back, I promise," Horner said after the Flagler game.

"It's kind of been a whirlwind of a season. It seems like it's gone quick, but at the same time it's been seven months with all of the COVID things," McKnight said. "... I think we can get back here next year. We know the work it takes, we know what we have to do every day, so I think that's the goal and the standard moving forward."

## 2021 in review: Green City baseball returns to the Final Four

**Austin Miller**  
Daily Express

This year belonged to the boys of Green City High School. This is just one of several entries the Gophers have during this look back at 2021.

But for now, the Gophers baseball team draws the attention of this article.

The Gophers went 13-4 in the spring, booking a trip back to the Final Four and grabbing third place in Class 1. The town waited decades for that first Final Four appearance in 2018. There wasn't nearly as long of a wait for the return trip.

"It only took me three years to get back," said Green City coach Dale Whitacre after a 12-5 win over Pattonsburg in the state quarterfinals. "I knew we had a good group coming up, and these seniors were freshman on that (2018) team. Most of them didn't play but they got to be there for the ride. Getting back there has been their goal

the last three years and they accomplished that tonight. I'm so proud of them."

Green City topped Novinger 5-2 to start districts, then blitzed Princeton in the title game for a 16-1 win. That marked the program's third straight district title (though there was no 2020 season due to the pandemic).

The Gophers then topped Canton 11-9 in sectionals with Aaron Peavler scoring the winning run. Senior reliever Eli Tipton secured the save in that win, then finished the job in the Pattonsburg win.

Green City had an uncharacteristic start in the state semifinals against Oran. They played tight and didn't have all of the usual Gopher energy. That sent them to a 10-3 loss.

But the team went back to formula in its third-place game with Leeton. The smiles returned, the pressure was off, and the Gophers played their brand of baseball.

After three scoreless innings, Green City's offense arrived and powered the Gophers to a 7-1 win. This third-place finish matches the third-place finish for the program in 2018.

Senior Riley Schoonover hit an RBI triple, screaming and smiling before he got to third base. Senior outfielder Chris Barto then delivered the dagger in the fourth inning with an inside-the-park home run.

"We had a good time today. We played and we had fun," said Schoonover. "That's what we should have done yesterday, honestly."

"We just realized we had to have fun to play good. So that's what we did. ... Talking the whole time, making jokes, we kept it 100 in the dugout."

Three of Green City's eight seniors — Schoonover, Barto and Landon Doosing — delivered an RBI in their final game.

"They're a great bunch. They were mainly our practice players, except for Riley, because they

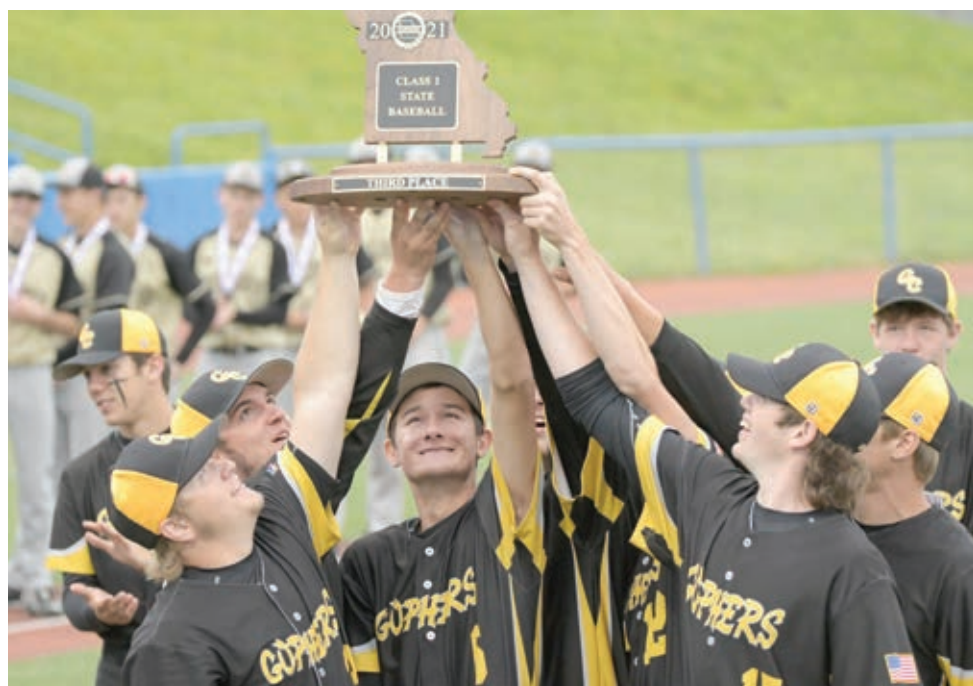
were freshman (in 2018)," Whitacre said. "But they got to see what it was like to be here, what it took to win, and to their credit, they put in the work to win. They haven't lost a district

game. I think they're 11-3 in the postseason. We've had a great run."

Junior Laydon Fields earned the win on the bump for Green City in that game, who allowed

just three hits in seven innings. He finished the spring 7-0 on the mound.

The Gophers bring plenty of player back as they look to conquer the spring again in 2022.



The Green City baseball team hoists its trophy after taking third place in Class 1 this spring. AUSTIN MILLER/DAILY EXPRESS

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# Kirkville Area Chamber of Commerce January 2022

Executive Director: Sandra Williams

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Collection boxes will be pulled off counters on Friday, December 31st. There are still a few more days to Spend \$10 at a participating locations, fill out a shop small ticket on-site and enter it into a collection box to be entered in to win gift baskets made up of items donated by participating businesses. We will draw for the winners January 7th.

[www.KirkvilleChamber.com/Shop-Small](http://www.KirkvilleChamber.com/Shop-Small)

**Save The Date**  
Kirkville Area Chamber of Commerce  
**Annual Banquet**  
Friday, March 25, 2022  
Moose Family Center

• Dinner • Cash Bar • Awards/Recognition

Our Kirkville Young Professionals Committee will join us for the evening to present its "5 Under 40" awards.

This award recognizes outstanding young professionals who have demonstrated dedication, excellence, and professional development, as well as a commitment to serving his or her community. Nominations will be judged by a panel of community leaders that are not board members of Kirkville Young Professionals.

**Criteria for selection**

- must be younger than 40 on October 10, 2021
- must demonstrate dedication, excellence, and professional development in his or her career
- must display a commitment to serving their community
- must not be a previous winner of the KVYP "5 Under 40" Award

Nominations are due by 5:00 pm, Wednesday, January 19. Nominate someone today by visiting:  
<https://bit.ly/NominateKVYP>

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Ends: Monday, January 3, 2022

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