

KIRKSVILLE Daily Express

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WEDNESDAY

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The Kirksville Aquatic Center. AUSTIN MILLER/DAILY EXPRESS

Kirksville police arrest wanted man after standoff

Daily Express staff

Kirksville police apprehended a wanted suspected following a standoff on Thursday.

Austin Triplet was arrested Thursday at residence at the 400 block of West Cottonwood after being wanted for several months.

On Nov. 28, 2021, Kirksville police responded to a male and female with gunshot wounds at Northeast Regional Medical Center. Triplet was the male shot in the case, with the incident happening near the intersection of Michigan and Osteopathy. Dylan Baker was charged in that incident.

But Triplet also received multiple charges after that incident, including delivery of a controlled substance, possession of a controlled substance, unlawful possession of a firearm and unlawful use of a weapon. He also had five probation warrants from Iowa and Kirksville Municipal court.

In subsequent investigations since, area law enforcement developed leads on Triplet's whereabouts. One of those leads indicated he was staying with Tasha McKim at a residence on West Cottonwood. Police made contact with McKim and told her about Triplet's wanted status.

A search warrant was issued for the residence and issued around noon on Feb. 3. The police department issued a release prior to, asking residents to avoid the area.

Triplet barricaded himself in the home before eventually surrendering. McKim was also taken into custody for hindering a prosecution.

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See **STANDOFF**, Page A3

City selects firm for comprehensive parks plan

Austin Miller
Daily Express

The city has reached an agreement with a firm for a proposed comprehensive parks plan.

After receiving 10 bids, the city has selected Landworks Studio out of Olathe, Ks. The Kirksville City Council then gave final approval at its Feb. 7 meeting.

Parks and Recreation Director Rodney Sadler said Landworks stuck out from when the application process started in November. A selection committee of Sadler, City Manager Mari Macomber, and Lakes, Parks and Recreation Commission member Tony Vazzana then reviewed the applications. Landworks came out with the highest score.

And the city's contract comes out to the exact amount it budgeted for: \$75,000.

Once completed, this master plan will guide the parks and recreation department for the next 10 years.

"What that's going to do over the next 10 years is it's going to provide us kind of a road-map for a lot of our capital expenditures," Sadler said. "This Aquatic Center is now finished. With how much we're

going to have each year to put towards capital expenditures, what's most important to our community?"

"We have a lot of opportunities already, and also looking at future development and what that's going to look like. We're hoping (Landworks) comes in to really work with our community members and residents, together with city staff and some selected city leadership, to determine what the next 10 years in our department is going to look like."

During a LPRC meeting on Feb. 2, Sadler said Landworks is working on a schedule for how the project progresses.

He said the first phase will be an information gathering stage. The firm will look through just about everything the parks department has done over the last five to 10 years. That includes attendance, programs, park functions, mowing, community demographics and many other metrics.

The next phase would see community involvement. There will be community forums where members of the public can make suggestions or say what needs they believe exist. Surveys will also be a piece of that.



Daily Express file photo of Kirksville Parks and Recreation Director Rodney Sadler. NEMO PHOTOGRAPHY

And the last part would feature designs based on that community feedback and data. Say the firm recognizes a major need for additional indoor activity space — which is al-

ready Sadler's assumption — then that's where the firm could showcase a facility plan of some kind.

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Missouri governor's 'Christian values' statement questioned

By JIM SALTER
Associated Press

Missouri Gov. Mike Parson has no "litmus test for appointments," his spokeswoman said Friday, despite a statement earlier in the week indicating he would only nominate a state health director who shared his "Christian values."

The Republican governor, a Baptist, was angered after the Missouri Senate effectively ousted Donald Kauerauf as director of the Missouri Department of Health and Senior Services. Though Kauerauf opposes government mask and vaccine mandates and opposes abortion, hardline conservatives in the legislature questioned if he was conservative enough.

In announcing Kauerauf's resignation on Tuesday, Parson wrote in a statement: "Don is a public health expert that is on record opposing masking requirements and COVID-19 vaccine mandates. He is outspokenly pro-life and morally opposed to abortion. Missourians know that I share these beliefs and would not have nominated someone who does not share the same Christian values."

The statement prompted some to wonder if only Christians need apply for top-level jobs in the Parson administration.

"I'm curious Governor, is this a standard you traditionally use?" Republican state Rep. Adam Schwadron of St. Charles wrote on Twitter. "Article



FILE - Missouri Gov. Mike Parson delivers his State of State address at the Missouri Capitol in Jefferson City, Mo., on Wednesday, Jan. 19, 2022. Parson's spokeswoman says the governor has no "litmus test for appointments," despite a statement he issued this week indicating he would only nominate a state health director who shares his "Christian values." DAVID CARSON - MEMBER IMAGE SHARE, ST. LOUIS POST-DISPATCH

VI of the US Constitution strictly prohibits a religious test as a qualification to any office or public trust. Considering that, I then must ask the question. Would someone who is Jewish, such as myself, be considered for nomination?"

But Kelli Jones, spokeswoman for Parson, said in an email that the governor's statement "was intended to point out that Don Kauerauf shared values that aligned with the Governor's and was not in-

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Leadership Northeast Missouri brings industry, community members together

Trevor McDonald
Hannibal Courier-Post

A team effort among communities in Northeast Missouri has led to an annual approach to discussing and addressing important topics affecting the region.

Carolyn Chrisman, treasurer for Northeast Missouri Development Partnership and executive director of the Kirksville Regional Economic Development Corporation, explained how collaborations with other economic development groups led to the team approach of Leadership Northeast Missouri.

The yearly leadership institute is in its fourth year after pausing in 2020, featuring six learning and networking opportunities in different communities throughout the region.

Chrisman explained how a model used by Leadership Northwest Missouri led to the annual program with efforts dating back to 2007.

"We really felt that leadership was needed — especially regional leadership," she said.

Chrisman stressed a team approach throughout the region is vital for

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OBITUARIES INSIDE

Jon Dee Riedl, 81



In Your Own Backyard: Kirksville events for Feb. 10-16

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.

Monday, February 14

Happy Valentine's Day! Did you know that in 1868, the British chocolate company, Cadbury, created Fancy Boxes in the shape of a heart, filled with chocolates for Valentine's Day. Boxes of chocolates quickly became associated with the holiday and still are today. So, give the gift of a heart box of chocolate candy or support our local florists and give flowers.

Tuesday, February 15

Children ages 5-16 and parents are invited to Paint the Ville at the new Kirksville Aquatic Center from 5:30 - 7:00 p.m. Paint a Valentine's Day Hedgehog. This includes all supplies needed. This class will be led by Paint the Ville instructor, Rachel Messer. Please dress for the mess. Register at parks.kirksvillecity.com For costs and more information call 660-627-1485.

Tuesday, February 15

The Adair County Health Department has scheduled an Adult COVID-19 vaccination clinic from 3:00-5:30 p.m. There is also one set for February 22. Pediatric clinics are scheduled from 3:00-5:30 p.m. on February 10, 17 and 24. All clinics are at the Adair County Health Department, 1001 S. Jamison. For more information call 660-665-8491.

Saturday, February 12

Beta Alpha Psi will host Volunteer Income Tax Assistance Program (VITA) sessions from 8 a.m.-3 p.m. in Violette Hall 1424 on the Truman campus. They will also have sessions on Feb. 26 and March 19. Bring: your social security cards for spouses and dependents; bank routing numbers and bank account numbers for direct deposit; wage and earnings statements such as W-2, 1098T and 1099; and a copy of last year's federal and state tax returns if available. VITA services will be completed by IRS-certified volunteers and will also offer free electronic filing to receive a faster return.

Saturday, February 12

Enjoy the Northeast Missouri District Jazz Band Concert at 7:00 p.m. in Baldwin Hall Auditorium on the Truman campus. Face masks required inside buildings on the Truman campus. For more information call 660-785-4417.



Kathleen Wolf, a volunteer with Birthday Blessings, letters names on Valentine's Day care packages headed to foster kids. PROVIDED

Service that helps with foster child birthdays now operating in Adair County

Daily Express staff

A new service that helps foster kids has opened in the area.

Birthday Blessings, a 501c3 non-profit, was created to provide a number of services to foster kids in the state. Last week, it began serving Adair, Knox and Lewis counties.

The organization sends birthday items to kids when their big day arrives. They also provide backpacks, books, school supplies or clothing and bedding as needed to kids who need them.

"We love spreading cheer to these challenged kids, but we also work very hard to meet their physical and emotional needs," said Shannon VonAllmen, who founded the charity, in a press release.

When a foster child has an upcoming birthday or needs another resource, their caseworker then sends a wish list

to Birthday Blessings. It includes some personal preferences so the child gets a tailored gift.

Amanda Byrd is a social services specialist at Adair County Children's Division, which has received the first two party bags for Adair County foster kids.

"The Birthday Blessings program shines a positive light for our foster children in Adair County. This program allows children in foster care to receive personalized birthday gifts," Byrd said in a press release. "The Birthday Blessings program gives our children a dose of positivity during some of the hardest times in their lives."

Birthday Blessings is based in West Plains and operates in 23 counties. They operate thanks to donations. For more information, visit birthday-blessings.com.

LEADERS

Continued from Page A1

growth.

The Leadership Northeast Missouri program was tweaked to be an ideal fit for the Northeast Missouri region.

For example, organizers changed a stipulation from the Leadership Northwest Missouri program calling for one representative from each county, so stakeholders from a wide variety of businesses and entities could join the class.

"We really wanted it to be more of a value-add, that we wanted companies, we wanted government entities, we wanted nonprofits — whoever had an interest — we wanted them to have the opportunity, regardless of where they came from," she said.

Focus areas have been selected based on their importance throughout the Northeast Missouri region.

The kickoff retreat in Kirksville will cover two half-days Thursday, April 28 and Friday, April 29. Team-building exercises will include axe throwing and finding a way out of escape rooms.

Workforce is the topic of the second stop in Edina, Mo., to visit the Knox County School District, which is a fully Apple-integrated school. Several activities and a student panel discussion are planned from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. Tuesday, May 24.

Broadband and agricultural technology are the focus areas for the next class from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. Thursday, June 23, in Ma-

con. Attendees will visit Chariton Valley Association to view projects to expand broadband access and bring more fiber optic connections to home.

In Canton, Mo., class members will learn more about transportation from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. Thursday, Aug. 4, with a tour of Lock and Dam 20 and discussions about grain and other commodities flowing through the port. The Missouri Department of Transportation will also share information about multi-modal transportation solutions.

The next session's focus will be on healthcare from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. Thursday, Sept. 15, in Hannibal. The class will gather at Hannibal Regional Hospital, learning about healthcare procedures and access to resources.

The final stop for the year will be in Madison, Mo., dealing with navigating government systems. The class will gather at the Madison Community Center, discussing the best ways to pursue community needs with representatives from government entities.

Chrisman is eager for another prosperous year of networking, sharing knowledge and considering new solutions in Northeast Missouri.

"We've already had probably a dozen people apply, and it's only been a short amount of time," she said. "So, we're really looking forward to it. We really look forward to the partnerships and where we're going."

Representatives from higher education institutions, community ac-

tion nonprofit agencies, transportation providers, hotels and other industries have been a part of the program in the past. Chrisman said the mix of different businesses and geographic locations during the year encourages networking and thinking outside of just one industry.

"It's really interesting, because we get people from around the region. This last year's class, we had people from Kirksville and Macon and Keytesville and Hannibal and Palmyra and other places," she said, noting applications have already come in from a handful of communities for the 2022 class.

Chrisman said the class size is around 18-22 people each year, with classes set at an ideal size for learning and providing the ability to move forward if participants need to be absent. Last year, a couple of people in healthcare and other industries needed to postpone their participation, which they can resume during the 2022 class.

Tuition for the Leadership Northeast Missouri Class of 2022 is \$350 per person, which includes course materials, a graduation gift, meals and refreshments. Transportation and lodging are not included.

Applications are due March 1. Participants may apply by emailing ashafer@kirksvillecity.com with the subject: Leadership Northeast Missouri or by mailing K-REDI Attn: Leadership Northeast Missouri 315 S. Franklin Kirksville, Mo. 63501.



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OBITUARIES

Jon Dee Riedl

Nov. 12, 1940 - Jan. 30, 2022

Jon Dee Riedl, age 81, died on January 30, 2022 at his home in Brighton, Colorado. He was born on November 12, 1940 to John W. Riedl and Margaret I. Riedl (Mattingley) on their farm outside LaPlata, Missouri (Adair County). He had one sister, Nannie Ellen. He grew up and went to school in the LaPlata/Kirkville area.



Jon married Norma Jean Alger on April 17, 1959 in Kirkville, Missouri. Three children Jon David, Beth Ann, Alan Douglas were born into this union. They later divorced.

Jon married Elaine M. Mutschler on February 27, 1981 in Salina Ks. They had a daughter, Jennifer Marie.

Jon was preceded in death by his parents; sister, Nannie Ellen; son, Alan, and former wife; Norma. Survivors: Include his wife Elaine of Brighton; Son, Jon Riedl of AZ; Daughter, Beth Greene (Pam Fleming) of TX; daughter, Jennifer Riedl-Obey (Bobby) of Aurora, CO. Grandchildren: Tyrone & Vycktoria Obey of Brighton; nephew, Tom Tuder (Chery) of Colorado Springs; several cousins and many friends.

Jon has chosen cremation. A celebration of life is scheduled for April 23, 2022 in Brighton CO Tabor-Rice, Brighton is handling the arrangements

In lieu of flowers: Memorial to Special Olympics of Colorado- (Athletes T and V Obey) or charity of your choice, or plant a tree

Missouri Supreme Court weighs law against federal gun rules

By SUMMER BALLENTINE
Associated Press

JEFFERSON CITY, Mo. (AP) — Missouri Supreme Court judges on Monday heard arguments in a lawsuit seeking to strike down a new state law barring local police from enforcing federal gun laws.

A lawyer for St. Louis, St. Louis County and Jackson County — which sued to overturn the law — asked judges to rule that the law is an unconstitutional violation of the separation of powers and to toss it out.

Attorney Robert Dierker called it the “Separation of Powers Destruction Act” during court arguments and said the law is “unintelligible” about which federal firearms laws Missouri police can or cannot enforce.

The law, passed last year by the GOP-led Legislature, declares “invalid” many federal gun regulations that don’t have an equivalent in Missouri law. These include statutes covering weapons registration and tracking, and possession of firearms by some domestic violence offenders.

Local departments are barred from enforcing them, or risk being sued for \$50,000 by private citizens who believe their Second Amendment rights have been violated.

The Justice Department has said that the Missouri state crime lab, operated by the Highway Patrol, is refusing to process evidence that would help federal firearms prosecutions because of the law, and the Highway Patrol, along with many other agencies, have suspended joint efforts to enforce federal firearms laws.

Judge Brent Powell questioned whether there’s any legal issue with pulling Missouri law enforcement from those federal programs.

“Isn’t it up to the General Assembly?” Powell asked Dierker. “They can decide if the state of Missouri will participate in these types of programs.”

The Missouri Attorney General’s Office, which is defending the law, argued that critics failed to take the right procedural steps in their lawsuit.

Solicitor General John Sauer told judges that a lower court should

weigh in on the constitutionality of the law before the Supreme Court rules on the merits of the case. He also argued that the plaintiffs should have asked a lower court to rule on which federal gun laws cannot be enforced by local police if there’s so much confusion about it.

Both the federal government and local Missouri law enforcement have criticized the law as hampering their response to crime.

“We are reaching out our hand in cooperation to the state and local agencies that have worked with us, because we want to work together to solve the problem of violent crime in this state,” Jeffrey Sandberg, a lawyer for the U.S. government, said during arguments. “But we are running into problems where there are people who want to cooperate with us, but they are mindful that they are making judgments on the spot about what would potentially put their agency’s budget at risk.”

Nearly 60 Missouri police chiefs in January came out in support of the lawsuit, saying that there’s confusion about exactly what police can and cannot do.

Republican officials rally supporters to push for ‘7-1’ Missouri congressional map

Tessa Weinberg
Missouri Independent

Ahead of an anticipated Senate debate on the proposed Missouri Congressional map, several GOP officials urged over 100 supporters gathered Monday in the Capitol to continue to press for a redrawn map that would add an additional seat in Republicans’ favor.

The House quickly sent the proposed Congressional map to the Senate in the first two weeks of the legislative session. That version, which was passed out of the Senate Redistricting Committee late last month, maintains the current partisan balance of the state’s Congressional delegation — six Republican seats and two Democratic seats.

Yet while the Senate has been mired in disagreement over the map, it has yet to be formally brought to the Senate floor for discussion.

Senators said they expect that to change Monday, with Sen. Bill Eigel, R-Weldon Spring, telling supporters holding signs that read “7:1” and “Missouri is a red state” to prepare for an “extended

debate” come Monday afternoon.

Conservative senators implored those in attendance Monday to continue to press for a 7-1 map and oppose the proposed map that they have argued would eventually cede an extra seat to Democrats and instead be a “5-3” map.

“It is the Pelosi map. It is the RINO map,” Sen. Bob Onder, R-Lake St. Louis, told demonstrators, referring to the acronym Republican In Name Only. “It is the sellout map. It is the bought and paid for map. It is the insider Jeff City swamp map intent on giving away one to two congressional seats to Nancy Pelosi and the congressional Democrats.”

Late last month, Senate Republican leaders said the debate had shifted from doing away with a safe Democratic seat based in Kansas City to how to make the 2nd Congressional District, represented by Republican U.S. Rep Ann Wagner, more secure.

Sen. Denny Hoskins, R-Warrensburg, said he is “trying to keep all my options open right now” and would have to see what a 6-2 map with Wagner’s district shored up would like. Ultimately, a 7-1 map that keeps both

Whiteman Air Force Base and Fort Leonard Wood in one district to gain a seat on the U.S. Senate Committee on Armed Services is ideal, he said.

In an interview, Onder promised a fight on the Senate floor if supporters of the House map were not willing to budge.

“We’d like a 7-1 map, at very least a strong 6-2,” Onder said, “but unfortunately Senate and House leadership has not been willing to budge.”

Republican leaders have raised concerns that a 7-1 map may be challenged in the courts, and that even if it did remain intact, a seat may swing in Democrats’ favor in a competitive election year.

Secretary of State Jay Ashcroft, who has lobbied for a 7-1 map, called those legal concerns “balderdash” Monday.

Missouri is required to maintain a minority-majority district in the 1st Congressional District, which encompasses St. Louis, under the Voting Rights Act, Ashcroft noted.

But he argued a majority-minority district didn’t exist across the state in Kansas City and Jackson County, and thus cracking

that district to bring in more Republican voters would not be in danger of being tossed by the courts.

Linda Rantz, a Linn resident who attended Monday’s rally along with her husband Craig, said they recently moved to Missouri from Washington, in part, because of the draw of the state’s conservative values. Rantz said she believes lawmakers should not compromise so early in the redistricting process and that if a map must go through the courts, so be it.

“We feel strongly that this is a very red state,” Rantz said. “And that rather than compromise down to a 6-2 based on the fear that it might go to a court that we do it the way we believe that it should be set up, which is a 7-1.”

To make clear her position, Rantz added to a sticker she wore on her shirt Monday, “7:1 is the compromise.”

The redistricting process has also become a talking point of the U.S. Senate race, with candidates like former Gov. Eric Greitens wading into the debate and drawing attention to conservative lawmakers’ clashes with Senate Republican leadership.

At Monday’s rally, U.S. Senate candidate and attorney Mark McCloskey was in attendance. In an interview, McCloskey said a 7-1 map accurately reflects the makeup of Missouri and its values.

“The Democrats would never give us a break. If they had super majorities in both houses, they would carve up Republican districts like there’s no tomorrow,” McCloskey said. “Time for the Republicans to show some spine.”

Conservative activists have been urging people to make their voices heard, and senators have said they’ve been inundated with calls.

Eigel questioned why Republican leadership wasn’t in favor of a 7-1 map, when he’s received visits and calls from conservative residents who want just that.

“Because they don’t have a governor leading them,” an attendee shouted.

Gov. Mike Parson will ultimately have the power to approve or veto any map that lawmakers pass. Last month, Parson told KCMO Talk Radio that he’s ultimately looking for a map that reflects Missouri’s Republican majority.

STANDOFF

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The Kirkville Police Department was assisted in the service of the search warrant by the Adair County Sheriff’s Department, Truman State University Police, Missouri State Highway Patrol, North Missouri Drug Task Force, Kirksville Fire Department, Adair County E911 Center, and Adair County Ambulance District.

The Kirkville Police Department would like to remind citizens that the criminal code 575.030 for hindering prosecution states it is unlawful for the purpose of prevent-

ing the apprehension, prosecution, conviction or prosecution of another person for anyone to harbor or conceal such person, warn such person of impending discovery or apprehension, except this does not apply to a warning given in connection with an effort to bring another into compliance with the law; or provide such person with money, transportation, weapon, disguise or other means to aid him in avoiding discovery or apprehension; or prevents or obstructs, by means of force, deception or intimidation, anyone from performing an act that might aid in the discovery or apprehension of such person.

PARKS

Continued from Page A1

Sadler said the plan is to have the plan completed by the end of October.

Carisa McMullen, the principal at Landworks, spoke at Monday’s council meeting. She said the firm has done projects for similarly sized communities, such as Smithville and Maryville. She said that background will be beneficial for now working in Kirksville.

And for the City Council, the citizen involvement aspect is a crucial part of the whole process.

“We’re really glad to hear about the community engagement that will be

happening with that,” said Mayor Zac Burden. “When we worked with our firm that developed the Aquatic Center, that was such an interesting time to hear about, frankly, some new ideas we probably weren’t thinking of had it not been for that engagement. So I’m excited about that. I hope our citizens are excited to offer that input to this, and I’m glad we can be partnering with your firm on this.”

With the Aquatic Center now completed, this master plan will be the guiding force of what the next projects are in the city.

The parks and recreation sales tax, which was passed in 2017, has generated about \$1.5 million

over the last few years for the department. The department has budgeted for about \$1.6 million for 2022. Sadler said it’s important to show those funds are being used properly to benefit the city. This plan will help, Sadler said. And if the department continues to show

that, the hope is to extend the sales tax after 2032.

“It would be nice to show people a gameplan of what it is we’re going to be doing with their funds and what it will look like if they renewed, and what that next 15 years could look like,” Sadler said.

PARSON

Continued from Page A1

tended to imply that he imposes a requirement that job applicants adhere to any particular religion.”

Parson, Jones said, “has never required a religious litmus test for appointments as evidenced by the broad spectrum of religious backgrounds of his appointees. Just because an appointee happens to possess values that align with the Governor’s Christian faith doesn’t mean that he requires them to adhere to his religion.”

Jones cited as an example Parson’s appointment of former state Sen. Jamilah Nasheed of St. Louis to the state Board of Probation and Parole. Nasheed is a Democrat and a Muslim.

Still, Parson’s statement drew plenty of criticism.

“The governor’s remarks are offensive and undermine our nation’s promise of religious freedom, which is the fundamental right to believe or not, as we choose, and to know that our government will treat us equally,” said Rachel Laser, CEO of Americans for Separation

of Church and State.

The Interfaith Partnership of Greater St. Louis, whose mission statement says it’s goal is to deepen “understanding, respect and appreciation among all persons across lines of religious difference,” expressed concern in an open letter to Parson.

“People of all faiths and no faith, in a variety of occupations and vocations, make significant contributions to our state and community every day,” the letter stated.

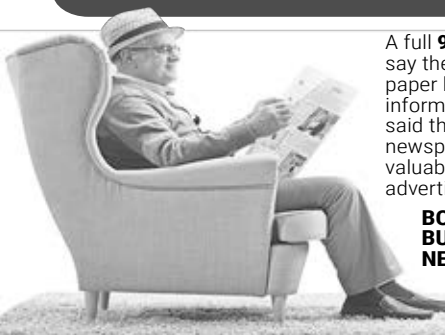
In a 2017 interview with the Jefferson City-based Christian publication

Word&Way, then Lt. Gov. Parson discussed the importance of faith in his role as a government leader.

“First of all, I can’t even begin to imagine to do these jobs if you don’t have faith,” Parson said. “I mean, if you’re not a believer, there’s no way, I believe, you can be a truly effective leader because when you are in this arena you are a leader. And to make decisions without faith, to me, would be impossible. I don’t know how you make the decision and how you’re going to affect the future if you don’t have belief and faith.”

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Attention local landlords

A.T. Still University (ATSU) Student Life will assist local rental property owners with listing their properties for incoming students from mid-January through June 30, 2022. If you are interested in listing a rental property, please contact ATSU Student Life at 660.626.2693 between the hours of 8:00 a.m.-5:00 p.m. Monday through Friday, or by email at studentlife@atsu.edu.



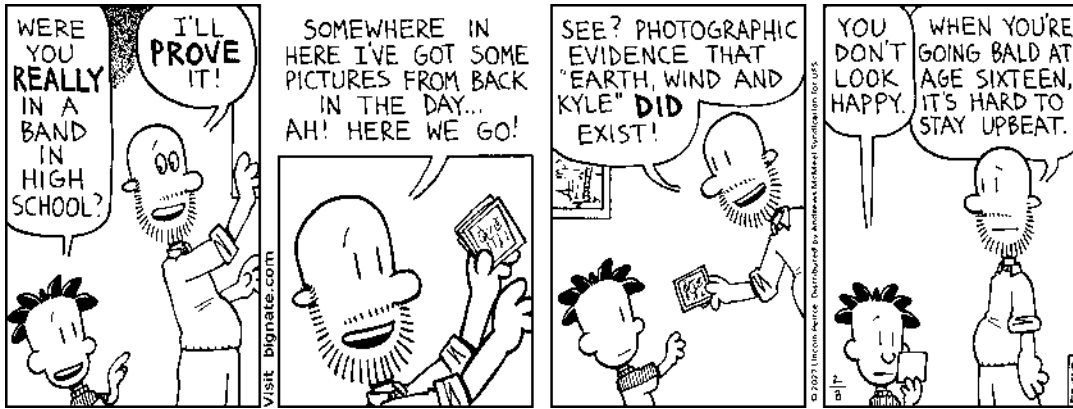
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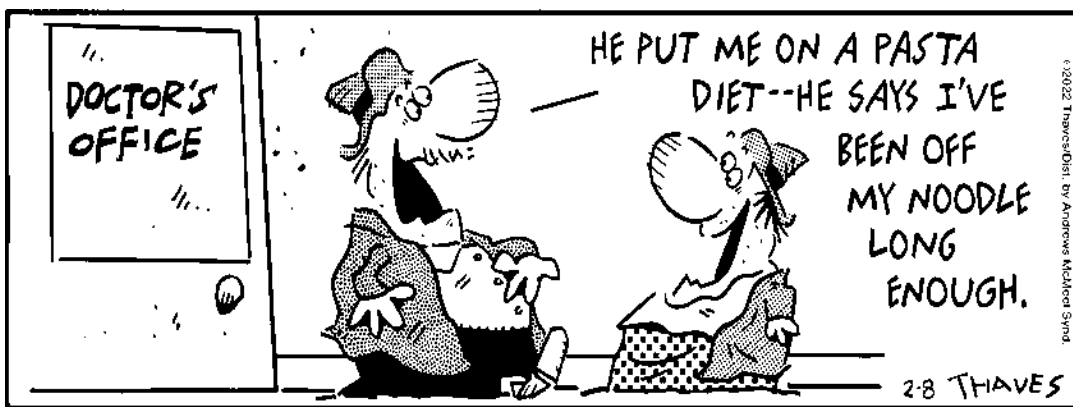
BIG NATE



THE BORN LOSER



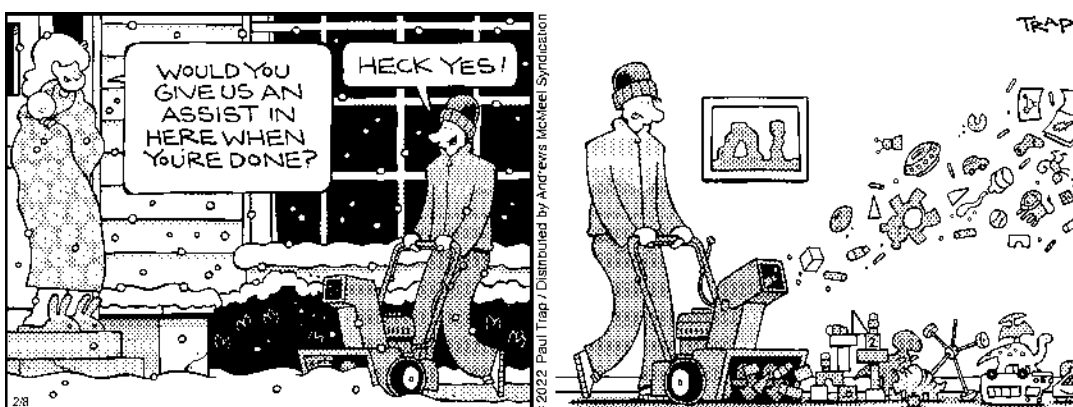
FRANK AND ERNEST



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!

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

PREVIOUS ANSWER

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

CROSSWORD

- ACROSS**
- 1 Glass container
 - 4 Avoid
 - 8 Resins
 - 12 Miner's load
 - 13 Gael republic
 - 14 Oregon, to Yves
 - 15 Doctors' org.
 - 16 Russo of film
 - 17 Goalie's feat
 - 18 Drowsed (off)
 - 20 Berlin article
 - 22 Famed fastballer
 - 23 Column order
 - 27 Dawdled
 - 31 Mont. neighbor
 - 32 Close tightly
 - 35 Feedbag tidbit
 - 36 Shortly
 - 37 Paris hub
 - 38 Dog sound
 - 39 Store event
 - 40 Muslim honorific
- DOWN**
- 1 Actress — Fontaine
 - 2 Knight's suit
 - 3 All set
 - 4 Venus' sister
 - 5 Rushed off
 - 6 Coffee maker
 - 7 Sine qua non

Answer to Previous Puzzle

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

- 8 Painter's undercoat
- 9 Ms. Hagen of films
- 10 Dallas cager
- 11 Fem. saint
- 19 Dawdle
- 21 Assistance
- 24 1492 caravel
- 25 Admired one
- 26 Long reed
- 28 Vincent van —
- 29 Indiana's Steel City
- 30 Reason d' —
- 32 Daytime drama
- 33 Therefore
- 34 "Woe is me!"
- 36 Fall flower
- 41 Tijuana Mrs.
- 42 Thin
- 44 Bordered
- 46 Keep occupied
- 47 Pause
- 49 Duke or count
- 50 Lawn invader
- 51 "Fancy" singer
- 52 Garden hose plastic
- 53 Guanabara Bay port
- 54 Not up to snuff
- 56 Grand Teton st.

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		

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HERMAN



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"You're missing a great movie!"

ASTROGRAPH BY EUGENIA LAST

Stand up for your rights. Let go of the past, and head in a direction that offers a better future. Refuse to make questionable or unnecessary changes. Keep the peace, but not at the expense of taking on something that doesn't interest you. Pursue what will make you happy.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 19) -- Take note of what others do and how they act. Keep your thoughts to yourself, which will help you assess what's going on without making waves. Time is on your side, and patience will pay off.

PISCES (Feb. 20-March 20) -- It's up to you to bring about change if that's what's required. Don't wait for someone to make a move when taking the helm and making things happen will bring higher returns.

ARIES (March 21-April 19) -- Watch, and you'll see a pattern form that will help you make up your mind. Call on someone who offers sound advice, and you'll come up with a plan that will put your mind at ease.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20) -- Don't let uncertainty hold you back. Check off all the boxes and forge ahead with confidence. It's up to you to make things happen and turn your ideas into something substantial.

GEMINI (May 21-June 20) -- Don't lose sight of your goal. Home in on your target and don't stop until you reach it. Steer clear of anyone who tends to meddle or entices you to be indulgent. Take your responsibilities seriously.

CANCER (June 21-July 22) -- Use your skills and knowledge to find a distinct way to get ahead. Team up with someone who has something to

contribute, or discuss your ideas with an expert who can help you focus.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22) -- Consider indecisiveness a red flag. Spare yourself the worry and stress of getting involved in something that makes you feel uneasy. Protect what you have worked so hard to achieve.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22) -- Live in the moment, observe what's going on around you and learn all you can to help you monetize your skills. If you socialize with like-minded people, promising opportunities will appear.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 23) -- Put a halt on joint ventures or shared expenses. Divvy up what's yours and what's not to protect against loss or do damage control. Go it alone if you want to get things done.

SCORPIO (Oct. 24-Nov. 22) -- You'll attract people who are disciplined and ready to take on additional responsibilities. Discussing your plans with a friend or relative will be enlightening.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 23-Dec. 21) -- Do what suits your needs and helps you stay on course. Taking care of your responsibilities will also keep a meddler at arm's length. A serious approach to your finances is encouraged.

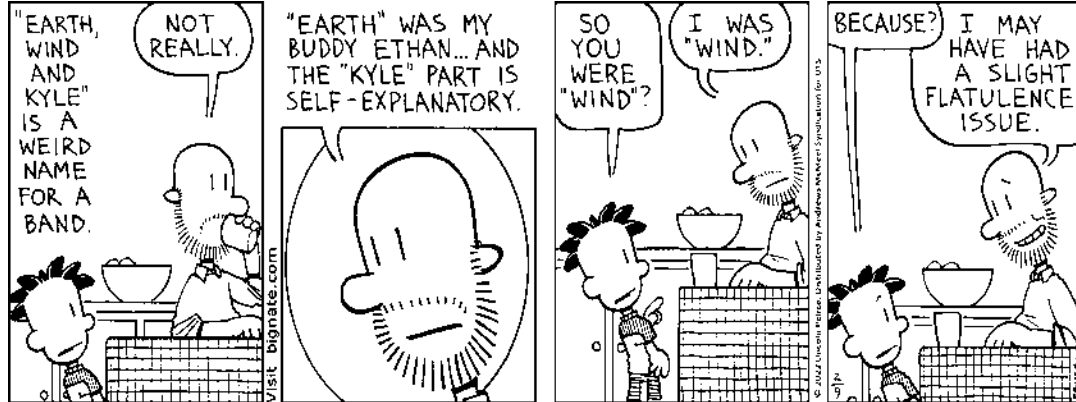
CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19) -- Pay attention to detail, organize your thoughts and incorporate changes at home and to your schedule to ensure you reach your objective. A kind word will lift someone's spirits.

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ARLO AND JANIS



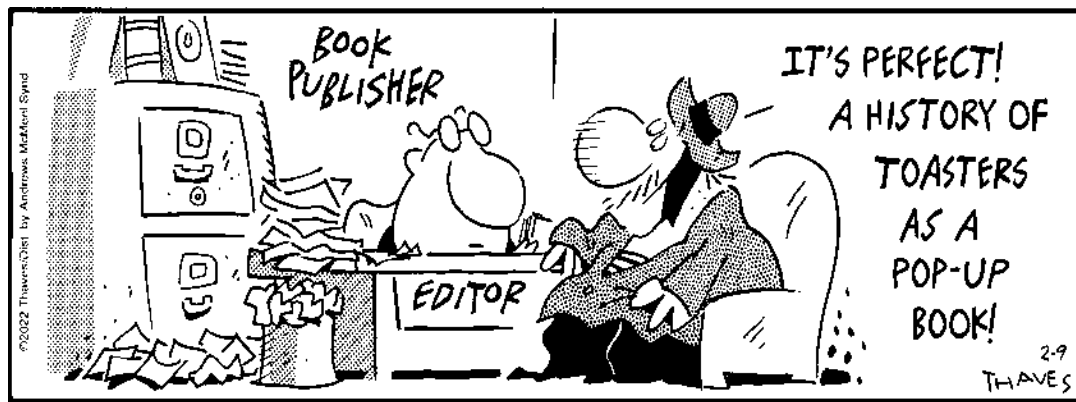
BIG NATE



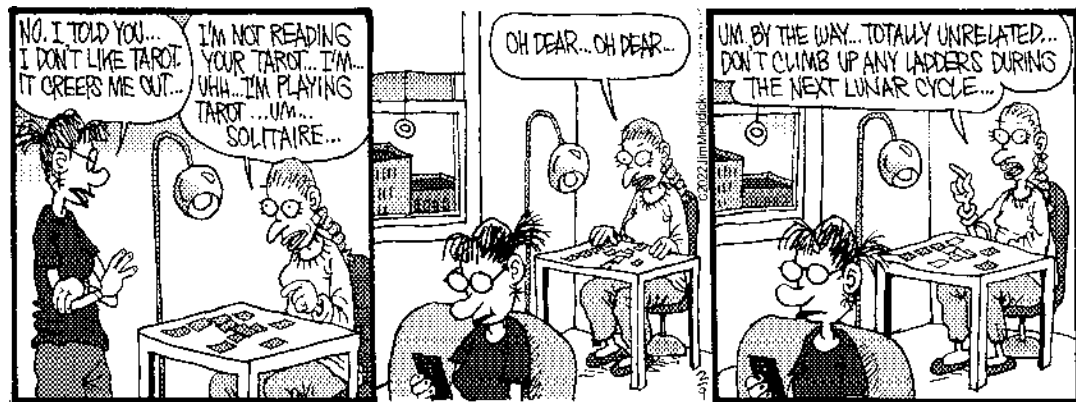
THE BORN LOSER



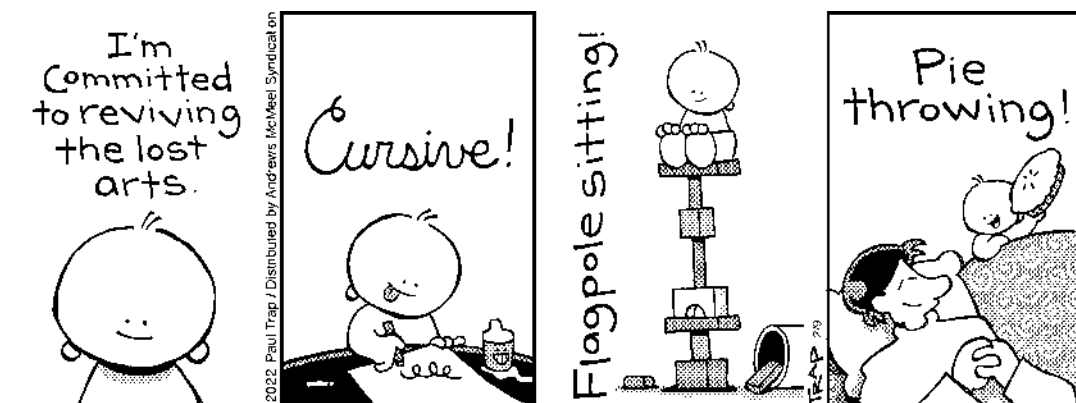
FRANK AND ERNEST



MONTY



THAT A BABY



SUDOKU

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

PREVIOUS ANSWER

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

CROSSWORD

- ACROSS**
- 1 Not soft or wilted
 - 6 Delhi currency
 - 11 Cup fractions
 - 13 Country
 - 14 Gorgon of myth
 - 15 Plan
 - 16 "— appetit!"
 - 17 Perjure
 - 18 Car grill cover
 - 20 Rightful
 - 22 Woolly animal
 - 25 — Paulo
 - 26 Orange root
 - 27 Get out of debt
 - 29 GI hangout
 - 30 High peak
 - 31 Cherish
 - 32 Actor Matt —
 - 34 Uncertain-ties
 - 36 Rickey ingredient
 - 37 Too plausible
- DOWN**
- 1 Net address suffix
 - 2 Regret bitterly
 - 3 Swing voter (abbr.)
 - 4 Cousteau invention
 - 5 Mexican coin
 - 6 Jaipur princess

Answer to Previous Puzzle

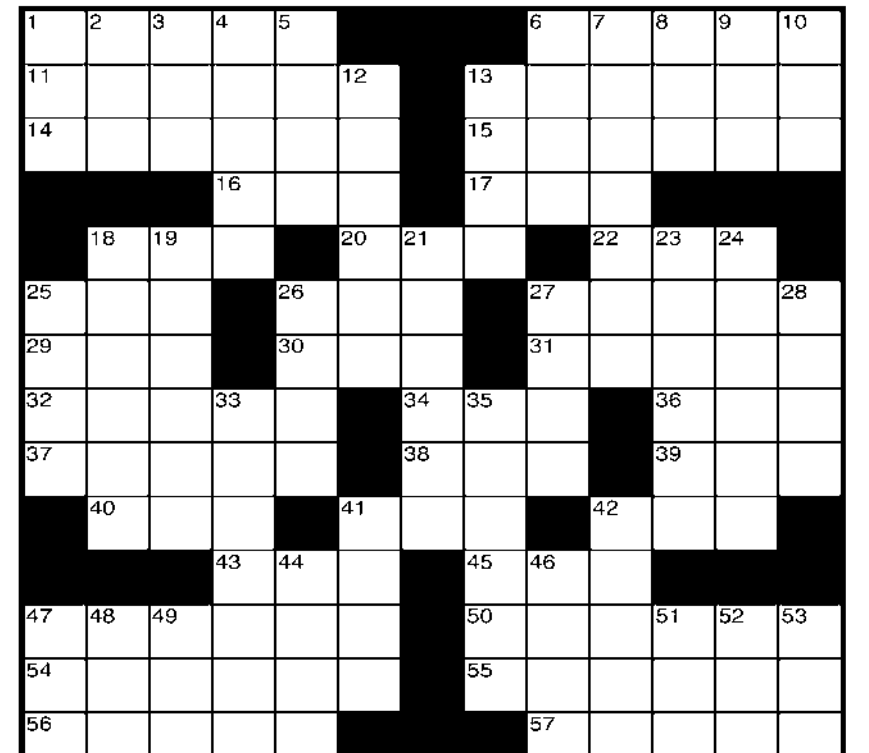
J	A	R	S	H	U	N	G	U	M	S
O	R	E	E	I	R	E	E	T	A	T
A	M	A	R	E	N	E	S	A	V	E
N	O	D	D	E	D	D	A	S		
	R	Y	A	N			I	O	N	I
			L	A	G	G	E	D	I	D
S	E	A	L	O	A	T	A	N	O	N
O	R	L	Y	G	R	R	S	A	L	E
A	G	A	S	H	Y	E	S	T		
P	O	S	E	R			P	E	A	L
			D	A	P		W	A	R	M
P	R	I	G	E	W	E	R	U	T	E
V	I	L	E	E	Y	E	S	S	S	B
C	O	L	D	R	O	D	E	E	P	A

ACROSS

- 7 Said
- 8 Fruit pastry
- 9 Many millennia
- 10 Terminate
- 12 Open shoe
- 13 Shade of green
- 18 Igneous rock
- 19 Dorm sharer
- 21 Sports official
- 23 Orbit extreme
- 24 Boater's haven
- 25 Beer, slangily

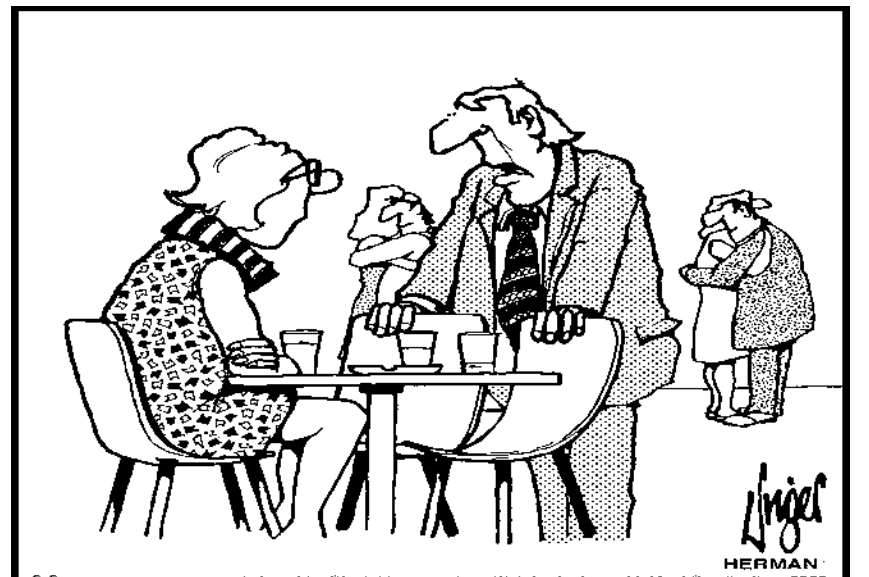
DOWN

- 26 Jerk
- 27 Too hasty
- 28 Desires
- 33 Nocturnal wildcats
- 35 False front
- 41 Skin
- 42 Phase
- 44 Old barge canal
- 46 Pert lass
- 47 Loop trains
- 48 Born as
- 49 24-hour channel
- 51 News-caster — Rather
- 52 Conceit
- 53 Boys, eventually



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HERMAN



"I know I'm scraping the barrel, but d'ya wanna dance?"

ASTROGRAPH BY EUGENIA LAST

Eliminate what you no longer need and simplify your life. Aim to ease stress and minimize responsibility. Focus on the people and things that make you happy. Don't rely on others when change begins with you. Stop talking and start doing. Be accountable for your behavior, and you will feel better about the future.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 19) -- Take a minimalist approach. Say no to temptation and indulgence. Monitor what others do and make wise decisions to keep you out of harm's way. Be realistic regarding expectations and promises.

PISCES (Feb. 20-March 20) -- Think before you act. Get your facts straight and be mindful of others. Taking preventive measures will ensure that you remain in control and avoid repercussions. Take the high road.

ARIES (March 21-April 19) -- Get involved in something that excites you. Stepping up and being responsible will help you impress someone who can have a positive impact on your life. Emotional spending will lead to regret.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20) -- Rely on your strengths, skills and experience, and you will be able to make positive changes. Focus on self-improvement. Alter your course to take advantage of a trend.

GEMINI (May 21-June 20) -- Concentrate on what you can do, not on something you can't control. Work hard to protect your reputation and position from those trying to make you look bad. Don't share your ideas prematurely.

CANCER (June 21-July 22) -- You'll be attracted to the obscure. Don't let others mesmerize you. You are just as creative as the next person, and selling yourself short isn't in your best interest.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22) -- A partnership will tempt you, but do a background check to ensure you are dealing with someone legitimate. Listen carefully, and consider how the information you receive will benefit you.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22) -- You can have fun without going overboard. Networking can change your life if you take the initiative and promote what you have to offer. Forgo indulgence and any temptation you encounter.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 23) -- Take precautions when dealing with contractual, financial or medical issues. Listen carefully and leave nothing to chance. Pay attention to detail, and you'll eliminate worry.

SCORPIO (Oct. 24-Nov. 22) -- Communication is essential if you want to get things done. Reach out, speak your mind and find out who can help you. An opportunity to make your surroundings more functional should be seized.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 23-Dec. 21) -- Keep your eye on the ball and stay in the game. Navigate your way through potential prospects. A savvy dialogue with realistic promises will put you in a cushy position.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19) -- You have what it takes to reach your target. Don't hesitate when action is favored. Implement the changes that will remove negative influences and help you head in a positive direction.

Kirksville Daily Express CLASSIFIEDS

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DEADLINES: Classifieds: 2 Days prior at noon Display: Friday noon for Wednesday and Wednesday noon for Saturday.

AGRI-BUSINESS

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

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5x6 Round bales mixed grass hay; 5x6 Alfalfa mixed hay; 2nd cutting small square bales. Can load, call for more information. 660-341-4031 Watson Hay Sales

Land/Pasture

Pasture and hay ground needed around Adair and Knox County. Please Contact 660-216-5887 or 417-773-2507

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Notices

Community Opportunities Sheltered Workshop now accepting plastics! Please drop off on Wilson & Osteopathy in recycling area -watch recycle here sign. Don't forget aluminum cans!

MERCHANDISE

Pets & Supplies

AKC Labrador Retriever puppies, all yellow. DOB 10-27-2021. Up to date puppy shots and wormers; vet checked. Lay's Labs-LaBelle, MO 660-956-2482

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Wood & Accessories

Wevers Outside Wood Furnaces, have an assortment of parts, line, and etc. Call 660-423-5242, cell 660-216-9885. Open 6 p.m. - 9 p.m. Monday - Friday, Saturday anytime, call first.

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

Wanted

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

Miscellaneous

Homemade Candies, fresh garlic, honey (local) jams and jellies, spices, garden seeds, kitchen wares, kerosene lamps and parts, Rayo and Aladdin chimneys, poly and wooden clothes pins, regular and wide mouth jar lids, regular pint jars, boxed greeting cards, wooden handles. Train Track Candies & More 11538 Iceberg Ave, La Plata 3rd Lane to your Left.

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SILVER
PLATTER**

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**ADAIR COUNTY HEALTH DEPARTMENT
STATEMENT OF RECEIPTS AND DISBURSEMENTS
JANUARY 1, 2021 THROUGH DECEMBER 31, 2021**

ALL FUNDS-YEAR 2021

1-Jan-21 Petty Cash	\$300.00
Bank Balance	\$298,131.69
Certificates	\$318,219.22
Total Cash	\$616,650.91
Payroll Asset	20.45
Less Coroner's Liab	-36.00
Net Available Funds	\$616,635.36
2021 Receipts	\$1,753,959.47
2021 Disbursements	\$1,591,714.21
31-Dec-21 Petty Cash	\$300.00
Bank Balance	458,536.25
Certificates	320,108.37
Total Cash	778,944.62
Less Coroner's Liab	-64.00
Net Available Funds	778,880.62

Statement includes Medical Reserve Corps & Community Volunteer Corps funds.

Details of financial information may be seen at the ADAIR COUNTY HEALTH DEPARTMENT 1001 SOUTH JAMISON STREET KIRKSVILLE, MISSOURI 63501

In cooperation with the Missouri Department of Health and Senior Services
An Equal Opportunity Employer

Stream and Wetland Mitigation Services

The North Central Missouri Regional Water Commission is investigating procuring specialty mitigation services to partially offset adverse wetland and stream impacts for East Locust Creek Reservoir. Proposals should be submitted in writing or electronically to Greg Pitchford at Allstate Consultants, LLC no later than 5:00 P.M. CST on March 9, 2022. A detailed proposal packet is available by sending a request to: gpitchford@allstateconsultants.net

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

Judge or Division: Case Number: 22AR-PR00014
PROBATE

In the Estate of MARY ANNE MCABERY, Deceased.

Notice of Letters of Administration Granted
(Independent Administration - Non-Resident Fiduciary)

To All Persons Interested in the Estate of MARY ANNE MCABERY, Decedent:

On January 25, 2022, the following individual was appointed the personal representative of the estate of MARY ANNE MCABERY, decedent, by the Probate Division of the Circuit Court of Adair County, Missouri. The personal representative may administer the estate independently without adjudication, order, or direction of the Probate Division of the Circuit Court, unless a petition for supervised administration is made to and granted by the court.

The personal representative's business address and phone number is:

MICHAEL J COCHRAN, 2575 DIAMOND RIDGE DR., BURLINGTON, IA 52601.

The personal representative's attorney's name, business address and phone number is:

BRENT MAYBERRY, 401 N. ELSON, KIRKSVILLE, MO 63501, 660-665-8356

The non-resident personal representative's designated agent's name, business address is:

PATRICK D COCHRAN, 25471 YARROW TRAIL, KIRKSVILLE, MO 63501.

All creditors of said decedent are notified to file claims in court within six months from the date of the first publication of this notice or if a copy of this notice was mailed to, or served upon, such creditor by the personal representative, then within two months from the date it was mailed or served, whichever is later, or be forever barred to the fullest extent permissible by law. Such six-month period and such two-month period do not extend the limitation period that would bar claims one year after the decedent's death, as provided in Section 473.444, RSMo, or any other applicable limitation periods. Nothing in Section 473.033, RSMo, shall be construed to bar any action against a decedent's liability insurance carrier through a defendant ad item pursuant to Section 537.021, RSMo.

Date of the decedent's death: January 6, 2022
Date of first publication: February 2, 2022

Linda Decker
Adair County
Circuit Clerk

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

Publication Dates: February 2, 9, 16 and 23, 2022

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Wedding & Engagement Announcements



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





Kirkville's Rileigh McLain signs her NLI with the Central Methodist football team on Monday, Feb. 7, 2022. AUSTIN MILLER/DAILY EXPRESS

Kirkville kicker McLain signs with Central Methodist football

Austin Miller
Daily Express

Rileigh McLain just wanted to try something new and different during her senior year.

As a longtime soccer player, several football players gauged her interest in trying their sport. Her interest grew with their support, so she was curious if her soccer success could translate to football. She went down to Spainhower Field and started kicking soccer balls through the goalposts. Kirkville football coach Kevin Krietemeyer had players asking about McLain joining the team and he was receptive.

He just had one question. Can she kick through the uprights?

It wasn't long before he saw. Right after talking with those football players, he happened to see McLain on the field kicking.

"It was weird because the same day, she was down on the field kicking and she was kicking a soccer ball through the uprights from about 30 yards out," Krietemeyer said. "I'm like, OK, we might be able to do something here. So I talked to her and was like, let me get you a football."

Fast forward a bit and McLain became the Tigers' primary kicker, going 23-for-25 on kicks and being accurate enough for onside attempts and other placement kicks. She was an all-North Central Missouri Conference

honoree as a kicker. All self-taught from videos, McLain excelled.

And Monday, she signed to continue her kicking career, committing to Central Methodist's football team, an NAIA program in Fayette.

As she found success and started to love football last fall, she started contacting college coaches. McLain said she reached out to about 30 coaches, all in Missouri. Only one had any interest. She was happy it was the school at the top of her list.

"I love soccer, I play soccer and will continue playing intramural soccer (in college), but I really am not done with playing football," McLain said. "I had so much fun with it the past year and I want to continue playing."

Dressed for Kirkville's opener against Macon, McLain was nervous when she went out for her first kick. After the Tigers' first touchdown of the season, McLain went out for the extra point. Nerves got the better of her and she missed. But she eventually found a rhythm with the whole process and only missed one kick after that.

"It got more automatic, easy, once we got the holding and timing down," McLain said. "Everything then just went smoothly."

Joining a boys team was daunting at first for McLain. But players, cheerleaders and the coaching staff made her feel just like any other player

on the team.

An athletic player on the pitch, McLain has succeeded in playing on the edges and crossing inside. Kirkville soccer coach Shawn Meintz said that proved to be a good transfer of skills to football.

"It makes a lot of sense for players who have been kicking to go on and do the one thing in the sport called football that includes a foot," Meintz said. "So it makes a lot of sense and it's pretty awesome to see that. Rileigh especially, but I think she's going to open a door for many others to go on and do that."

And with her kicking talents, she knocked over barrier after barrier.

"Football has (more than 30) opportunities to start. We can find a role for you," Krietemeyer said. "Rileigh's was kicking extra points, field goals and kickoffs. That was her job, she made a role and she owned it and was awesome. We also need a longsnapper, a punter — there are so many opportunities to be the best at it, and she was."

"That's what we try to tell these other players going through the program who aren't sure if they fit football. Football's got a spot for you. We'll find it, we'll make one for you. ... There are places for everybody. Big, tall, short, small — doesn't matter. If you have heart and you have desire — she did and she owned it. That's what's so great about football."

Aside from kicking well, being an example for young girls was just as important to McLain.

"Getting all the love from the younger girls that looked up to me, I wanted to show them they could make it to the next level," McLain said.

"I think it's opening a door for a lot of girls, and hopefully other coaches see it and keep opening them."

There could be an opportunity for McLain to see the college field soon since CMU had a senior kicker graduate. She plans to spend free time working on technique, with her senior soccer season waiting in the spring. But she'll get a big coaching boost by being somewhere with actual kicking instruction.

Since the high school boys soccer season occurs at the same time as football season, it hasn't worked out for one player to do both sports. So Meintz is totally fine to send girl players onto the gridiron, and after McLain proved it could work, he hopes more follow.

"I don't see any reason why we can't keep supplying the football team with girl kickers," Meintz said. "It's what we train in and it's what we do. Kevin was super awesome for being open to this idea. From the first time I introduced Rileigh to Kevin, he was — whatever made them better, he was open to that. So I see no reason why a cross-over can't continue."

LOCAL ROUNDUP

Feb. 7

High school boys basketball

Putnam Co. 71, Trenton 27
Putnam - Lance Fowler, 18 points; Zach Heidenwith, 14 points; Owen Ream, 12 points.

Novinger 74, Milan JV 29
Novinger - Connor Robinson, 19 points; Wes Findling, 15 points; Adrian Peterson, 11 points.

High school girls basketball

Brashear 60, Milan JV 14
Brashear - Alexa Borgmeyer, 16 points; Lacey Fisher, 14 points.

Trenton 31, Putnam Co. 22
Putnam - Jenna Knowles, 9 points.

Feb. 4

High school boys basketball

Schuyler Co. 58, Canton 49
Schuyler - Kale Windy, career-high 33 points; Trevyn Small, 13 points, crosses 1,000 career points.

Milan 47, St. Joseph Christian 41
Milan - Ahmet Niasse, 17 points; Chekh Niasse, 15 points.

Putnam Co. 73, Brashear 36
Putnam - Zach Heidenwith, 23 points; Owen Ream, 12 points; Landon Wood, 11 points; Lance Fowler, 10 points.

Novinger 51, Meadville 31
Novinger - Wes Findling, 20 points; Connor Robinson, 13 points; Karchy Farrell, 10 points.

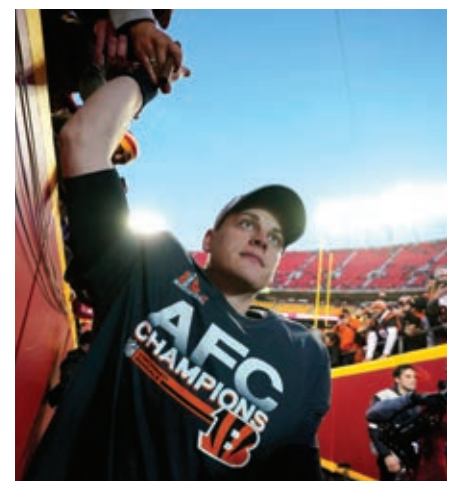
High school girls basketball

Schuyler Co. 56, Canton 52
Schuyler - Kait Hatfield, 16 points; MaKinley Aeschliman, 14 points; Jacie Morris, 11 points.

St. Joseph Christian 76, Milan 44
Milan - Cady Pauley, 23 points.

Putnam Co. 56, Brashear 35
Putnam - Allise Perkins, 15 points. Brashear - Alexa Borgmeyer, 9 points.

Meadville 68, Novinger 39
Novinger - Abbi Fountain, 18 points; Jordyn Almond, 14 points.



Cincinnati Bengals quarterback Joe Burrow celebrates with fans after the AFC championship NFL football game against the Kansas City Chiefs, Sunday, Jan. 30, 2022, in Kansas City, Mo. The Bengals won 27-24 in overtime. PAUL SANCYA - STAFF, AP

Analysis: Bengals provide hope, blueprint for lowly teams

By DENNIS WASZAK Jr.
AP Pro Football Writer

The Cincinnati Bengals were downright dreadful at this time two years ago.

They were the worst team in the NFL, coming off a 2-14 season with a first-year head coach and facing the franchise-shaping decision of who to take with the No. 1 overall pick in the draft.

Things worked out, well, super.

The Bengals have put those dark days far behind them. Led by coach Zac Taylor, quarterback Joe Burrow and a roster of promising young talent mixed with savvy veterans, the franchise — not-so-affectionately called the "Bungles" for decades — is playing in the Super Bowl for the first time in 33 years.

"I think if you would've told me coming into the league, when I got drafted, that we would be here this year, it would be a shock," said Burrow, the top pick in 2020. "Now, I'm not surprised."

Even if some outside the organization still are.

"We believed from the get-go," Taylor said after the Bengals' 27-24 overtime win at Kansas City in the AFC championship game. "Whether people believed in us or not, we did."

Kirkville wrestling drops finale to Fulton, pivots to district prep

Austin Miller
Daily Express

Jaden Ballinger had every chance to end his match early on Monday.

Going up against Fulton freshman Aaron Corey, the senior Ballinger knew victory was almost guaranteed. With it being the last home match of his career, Ballinger wanted to savor as much time as he could. So he toyed with Corey, snatching him for several takedowns and keeping control the whole way.

It wasn't until 20 seconds into the second round that Ballinger stopped delaying the inevitable and secured a pin for victory.

"Like I told my parents afterwards, I had a bunch of family here and they wanted to come watch me wrestle. Rather than just go out there and make it quick, I wanted to put on a little bit of show. Enjoy it myself and let them enjoy it. That's what I thought about



Kirkville's Chance McKim competes during a match against Fulton's Cameron Cumins on Feb. 7, 2022. AUSTIN MILLER/DAILY EXPRESS

going in today," Ballinger said.

In the regular-season finale, Fulton came away victorious with a 41-36 win.

The Tigers' seven seniors

nearly all had strong final home chapters. Chance McKim and Hunter Tarr each won with first-round pins. Bryce Kertz starved Fulton's Gar-

rett Hufstedler with a pin in 38 seconds. Fulton was open at 195 pounds, so Jacob Burgin

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See **BENGALS**, Page A8

Taylor, McVay reunited as opposing HCs on Super Bowl stage

By DENNIS WASZAK Jr.
AP Pro Football Writer

Zac Taylor's path to a head coaching gig was cleared the moment he joined Sean McVay's staff with the Los Angeles Rams five years ago.

Well, maybe it wasn't actually until the two sat down together in the team cafeteria.

"I think the joke is if you had a cup of coffee with Sean McVay, then you're going to be a head coach in the NFL," quipped Taylor, in his third season as coach of the Cincinnati Bengals and preparing to face McVay's Rams in the Super Bowl.

"And there's a ton of truth to that," Taylor added. "Because if you spend time around the guy, he gives you a ton of confidence in yourself."

That's the reputation McVay has built in league circles since becoming the youngest head coach in NFL history — at just 30 years old — when he was hired by the Rams in 2017.

McVay has since taken Los Angeles to the Super Bowl twice, and done it with a tenacious work ethic along with an orderly — yet energetic — approach. And he operates with humility and respect, traits that have rubbed off on those who have worked for McVay.

"He's really shown a lot of young guys that you can do it in your own way," Taylor said. "It doesn't have to be the way it's always been done for the last 20 years around the league. There can be a different way of doing things, and so I think that we all saw that from Sean.

He was very open about how he did things, why he made certain decisions.

"And so that has allowed myself and a lot of other guys to go off and feel very comfortable leading a team because of the impact he made on all of us."

When the Rams and Bengals square off in Los Angeles' SoFi Stadium on Feb. 13, it will be a showdown between buddies. It will also mark the first time both Super Bowl teams are guided by coaches under 40 — with Taylor 38 and McVay 36.

"I'm glad we're going against each other, but we're going to do everything in our power to try to finish this off," McVay said with a smile. "And I know he feels the same way."

McVay's influence continues to grow around the league as his former assistants get top jobs. There's Taylor in Cincinnati, along with Green Bay's Matt LaFleur, the Rams' offensive coordinator in 2017; and the Chargers' Brandon Staley, who was Los Angeles' defensive coordinator in 2020. Current Rams offensive coordinator Kevin O'Connell also appears to be the front-runner for Minnesota's head coaching job.

Still, McVay refuses to take credit for this new wave of NFL coaches.

"I almost think it's a little ridiculous when you talk about the 'tree' because these guys are co-workers where we positively pour



Los Angeles Rams head coach Sean McVay celebrates after the NFC Championship NFL football game against the San Francisco 49ers Sunday, Jan. 30, 2022, in Inglewood, Calif. The Rams won 20-17 to advance to the Super Bowl. MARCIO JOSE SANCHEZ - STAFF, AP

into one another," McVay said. "I just happen to be in the role that I'm in. But whether it's Kevin, Brandon Staley, Zac Taylor, Matt LaFleur, I learned more from them than those guys have from me.

"I think they've been instrumental parts of a lot of the things that have been right."

When McVay was hired by the Rams, he sought coaches who shared his vision and could help him turn around a franchise mostly wallowing in mediocrity for a dozen years.

Taylor, coming off a one-year stint as the University of Cincinnati's offensive coordinator and quarterbacks coach, was brought in as an assistant wide receivers coach. Taylor, who also spent four seasons as an assistant with the Dolphins, was promoted to Los Angeles' quarterbacks coach in his second year when the Rams went to the Super Bowl and lost to New

England.

"Working for Sean was the best two years of my life," Taylor said. "It was fun. You loved coming into the building."

By then, Taylor had established himself as one of the NFL's top young offensive coaches — and the Bengals tabbed him as their head coach. They were hoping he could orchestrate a similar turnaround in Cincinnati.

It didn't come easy.

Taylor's Bengals went 2-14 in his first season and 4-11-1 last season, with whispers about his suddenly tenuous job security starting to circulate.

Then came a massive turnaround with the Bengals going 10-7 this season before winning playoff games against the Raiders, Titans and Chiefs — the last two on the road — to reach the franchise's first Super Bowl in 33 years.

"It's awesome," McVay said. "Zac's a great coach.

I think the resilience, the mental toughness, the things that they've gone through to get to this point is great. I think it's such credit to his leadership.

"I love Zac Taylor. I'm so happy for him. I think that team plays with a swagger and a confidence similar to the way Zac carries himself. He's so steady. He's always so neutral."

McVay acknowledges that last part might be the one major difference between the two coaches.

"He's probably more calm than I am," a smiling McVay said.

Maybe it's all those cups of coffee.

"People joke about that saying, but there's so much truth to that," Taylor said. "But I think for all the right reasons because he does a great job of empowering his staff and telling you the why of everything. And it certainly has impacted me here in Cincinnati."



Cincinnati Bengals head coach Zac Taylor holds the Lamar Hunt trophy after the AFC championship NFL football game against the Kansas City Chiefs, Sunday, Jan. 30, 2022, in Kansas City, Mo. The Bengals won 27-24 in overtime. CHARLIE RIEDEL - STAFF, AP



Kirksville's Hunter Tarr gets his hand raised after a win over Fulton's Gunner Holt. AUSTIN MILLER/DAILY EXPRESS

WRESTLING

Continued from Page A7

was left without a sendoff match. Colton Hannah lost a tough 1-0 decision to Josh Dunmire in an exciting match. And Prophet Krepps fell with a late pin.

"This is going to be a tough group to let go," said Kirksville wrestling coach James Alter. "Seven seniors from the lineup. They've been great for the program and great roles models for those younger guys."

McKim and Tarr both had interesting moves to setup their wins. McKim had top control of Cameron Cumins and put him in a double chicken wing. McKim then planted Cumins right on his shoulders for the pin.

Tarr was scrambling around on top of Gunner Holt and eventually grabbed an armbar. Tarr folded Holt up so only his shoulders were on the mat, with most of Holt's body sitting on top of Tarr.

"It feels good, especially being a senior at home and it being your last one," Tarr said. "You've got the town behind you, you've got everyone in the town behind you. It's a great feeling and to come away with a win is nice."

The Tigers just missed out on one last team win. A run of pins against them proved to be the deciding factor, just as it was in a previous match to Mexico. Five Tigers got pinned Monday, a tough scoring hill to climb over against a strong conference opponent.

"We competed, just kind of a re-occurring theme with the pins," Alter said. "I think it's good insight into what we're going to be up against this weekend.

We've seen Moberly, we've seen Mexico, and now we've seen Fulton. That's good for us moving forward.

"Some of these guys didn't get the result they wanted, but they showed us coaches that they're ready to battle."

But now, as Alter said, the Tigers head off to districts this weekend. The post-season switch has been flipped as the Tigers want to advance to the state tournament. And the seniors want to end their careers on as strong of a note as possible.

"I definitely want to enjoy it and be able to remember it as a good, last district tournament, but I also want to view it as a stepping stone for state," McKim said. "I really want to get some hardware this year; I never have before."

For those seniors, it's easy to look back and see how they've grown and improved over time. For Ballinger, this season has been his best in terms of mentality.

Freshman year, he looked up opponents, saw their records and talked himself into being inferior. Now he feels relaxed to take each match as it comes.

"When you don't care who you wrestle, you're just going to go out there and do your best," Ballinger said. "That's how you do your best."

It's now up to each individual wrestler to battle hard this weekend to get the desired finish they want, especially the seniors who won't get another shot.

"I think that would really mean something. We all started together at a really young age, and we've been together and been a wrestling family forever. If we all finish well at districts and state, it would really bring us closer together for the future," McKim said.

BENGALS

Continued from Page A7

In fairness to the skeptics, changing the narrative in the NFL comes through consistent results over time.

If you win Super Bowl titles or are regularly in position to play deep into the postseason, your franchise is viewed as successful. But if you're often already looking to the draft and the next season by November, you're labeled lowly losers.

The latter is the case for the New York Jets, who have the league's longest active playoff drought at 11 seasons. And for the Jacksonville Jaguars, picking No. 1 overall for the second straight year. And teams such as the Giants, Detroit Lions, Houston Texans and Miami Dolphins — franchises in flux for much of the past few years.

But somewhere in the misery of all that losing, the Bengals provide hope and, more importantly, a model for how things can turn around quickly and what it takes to pull it off. It's far from easy, though: Cincinnati is only the third team to go from the NFL's worst record to the Super Bowl in a span of two years, joining the 2003 Carolina Panthers and 1981 San Francisco 49ers. "There is a blueprint," Jets coach Robert Saleh told reporters last week at the Senior Bowl in Mobile, Alabama. "When you develop within, you draft well, you select the right free agents and you build a culture that you believe in and you stay with continuity and you don't fall into peer pressure with whatever Cincinnati has had to endure over the last couple of years, you end up reaping the benefits of your patience."

The Bengals and their fans certainly are a case study in handling frustration.

"I am so happy for the city of Cincinnati," Taylor said. "They have waited for this moment. They have supported us waiting for this moment."

Cincinnati was mired in mediocrity for so long, the team's previous trip to the Super Bowl in 1989 seemed like fairy tale stuff. Taylor, who's 38 now, was in elementary school then. The Bengals' most recent playoff win until this season came 31 years ago.

A whole new generation of fans was born, grew up and suffered plenty in that time.

Sure, there was a promising stretch under Marvin Lewis from 2009-15 when Cincinnati made the postseason in six out of seven seasons, including five in a row, but the Bengals never won a playoff game.

Next came three losing seasons under Lewis and then a coaching change. Own-

er and general manager Mike Brown looked to Sean McVay's coaching staff with the Los Angeles Rams — who the Bengals will play next Sunday — and brought in Taylor to lead a turnaround.

Taylor's rough 2-14 first season was followed by the drafting of Burrow, whose rookie campaign was cut short by a knee injury in Week 11. The Bengals finished 4-11-1 — last in the AFC North for the third straight year.

New faces, same ol' results?

Not this time. Cincinnati has been building a solid foundation, starting with the coach and quarterback, and supported by an influx of draft picks and free agents who have been key starters.

— Left tackle Jonah Williams and linebacker Germaine Pratt were drafted in 2019.

— Burrow, wide receiver Tee Higgins, linebacker Logan Wilson and right guard Hakeem Adeniji were taken in 2020, when nose tackle D.J. Reader and safety Vonn Bell were among the Bengals' free agent signings.

— Wide receiver Ja'Marr Chase was reunited with his LSU quarterback when he went in the first round last April. Kicker Evan McPherson was taken in the fifth, a move that drew some criticism but now looks genius with his 12-for-12 postseason on field goals. Defensive end Trey Hendrickson, and cornerbacks Chidobe Awuzie, Eli Apple and Mike Hilton — all starters — were among the free agent haul.

Adding those players to a core that included homegrown vets such as running back Joe Mixon, wide receiver Tyler Boyd, tight end C.J. Uzomah, defensive end Sam Hubbard and safety Jessie Bates has turned out to be a winning mix.

"We have a team that's likable," Brown said in a story posted on the Bengals' website. "It's a young team that plays exciting football."

Getting it all right isn't easy, as the Jets, Jaguars, Giants, Lions, Texans and Dolphins — among others — can attest.

But the Bengals have proven it can be done correctly and quickly. Even if a two-year turnaround like Cincinnati's might be unrealistically fast.

"This is what you work so hard for," Burrow said. "We didn't go into last season saying that we have to have a great offseason to make it to the Super Bowl next year. I think everyone just went into it and knew they had to get better as players so we could be better as a team."

And this might just be the start of something special — with sustained success — for the Bengals.

"It's a great run for us," Brown said. "Everyone in Cincinnati is hoping it continues."