

KIRKSVILLE Daily Express

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Public Works director updates city council on East Locust Creek Water Project

By Marty Bachman
Kirkville Daily Express

The Kirkville City Council received an update from Public Works Director Glenn Balliew on the East Locust Creek Water Project during a study session held on Feb. 14. City Manager Mari Macomber said the agenda item was being discussed due to questions being asked by council members about spending money on the city's infrastructure and how the project influences the city.

Macomber told the council that the East Locust Creek Water Project originally began in 2001, focused on providing water to certain entities within the East Locust Creek Water Protection District. At time, the city of Milan was out of water and struggling to attain water and this was the catalyst of the plan. She said that it then evolved into a much bigger project, which became more focused on recreation and tourism and a desire to create a tourist attraction to draw in visitors, not just locally but from around the state and even further.

In a presentation to the council, Balliew explained that this is a federal project that was originally meant for the neighboring 10 counties and that Adair County wasn't added on until later.

"When it went out for comment in 2014, Adair County was not a part of this, it was the Green Hills region and somehow, down the road, Adair County got added to it," Balliew told the council. "I assume they needed the population numbers to make this correct."

He said the district did an evaluation in 2016, with the goal of identifying existing drinking water sources to provide sufficient, raw water to the 10 county region in north/central Missouri. He said that East Locust Creek is the only place in the north/central area where any project is located.

"What they've done is they've clustered us with other people to make us look like we have an inadequate water supply," he said. "...It's very misleading."

Balliew said that the report stated there was an inadequate supply of water in Hazel Creek in the late 1950s — and yet Hazel Creek wasn't established until 1983.

"It's just very, very misleading," he reiterated.

Balliew said that he ran his own numbers and determined that the city has 744 days of water in each lake and with the city pulling three million

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Kirkville firefighters completed a Hazardous Materials Technician course this past week.

Firefighters complete Hazardous Materials Technician course

By City of Kirkville

Kirkville Fire Department personnel, this week completed a two-week Hazardous Materials Technician course. This 80-hour, highly technical, state certification course qualifies fire department

personnel to respond to transportation, industrial, or agricultural incidents involving the release — or potential release — of toxic, corrosive, flammable, and otherwise dangerous solids, liquids and gases, as well as biological and chemical

warfare agents.

Course content included chemical identification; hazard assessment; chemical detection, monitoring, and sampling; personal protective selection and use; decontamination; and product control techniques. Train-

ing was funded by an Assistance to Firefighter's Grant (AFG) awarded by the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA).

The Kirkville Fire Department responds to approximately 75 hazardous materials emergencies a year.

Reservations still available to attend 'Buy Local' seminars at the Hampton Inn

By Marty Bachman
Kirkville Daily Express

The "Buy Local" campaign seminars being sponsored by the Kirkville Daily Express, are continuing throughout the week and into next week as well. The meetings are being conducted by Jim Perry, a consultant hired by Phillips Media Group, owners of the Kirkville Daily Express, The NEMO Trader and the Kirkville Crier.

The events are being held at the Kirkville Hampton Inn and are by reservation only, which can be made by calling 660-665-2808.



The "Buy Local" campaign seminars being sponsored by the Kirkville Daily Express, are continuing throughout the week and into next week as well.

Parks and Recreation director lays out timeline for Parks Master Plan

By Marty Bachman
Kirkville Daily Express

Kirkville Parks and Recreation Director Rodney Sadler updated the city council on the city parks master plan at a study session held on Feb. 14.

Sadler spoke about the contract the city recently signed with Landworks Studio of Olathe, Kan., to serve as consultants on a comprehensive parks plan. He offered the council a timeline

and said that it would be an eight to nine month process that they are looking to start in the next week or so.

"We should be done in October is kind of the plan," he said. "A lot of the main parts of community engagement and things like that will be in the summer, which is great — there will be a lot of time when people are out using the parks."

He said that the city has given Landworks Studio a lot of information to begin work-



The Kirkville City Council heard an update on the city parks master plan at a study session held on Feb. 14.

ing with and that's part of the initiation and discovery phase of the project. He said that the information given includes all of the current con-

tracts and MOU agreements, historical budget data over the past five years, rental

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'It's a nightmare'

Texts reveal last-ditch efforts to save Parson's health director

By Jason Hancock and Tessa Weinberg
Missouri Independent

The questions from state senators hadn't even begun, and Donald Kauerauf's staff were already in a panic.

Chants from protesters opposing his nomination as state health director echoed through the hearing room, and as she sat with Kauerauf

waiting for his turn to testify, Lisa Cox, spokeswoman for the Missouri Department of Health and Senior Services, sent a text message to her counterpart in Gov. Mike Parson's office.

"In the hearing room," Cox wrote. "It's a nightmare."

Kauerauf had been Parson's health director for barely five

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OBITUARIES INSIDE

Irma Letitia Muir, 96



In Your Own Backyard: Kirksville events for Feb. 24-March 3

By 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 keep at least six feet distance between you and others, wear a mask, wash hands frequently, and do not touch your face. If you have ideas or suggestions email: debi.boughton@visit-kirksville.com

Wednesday, February 24

This is National TRIO Week. The Federal TRIO programs are designed to foster greater educational equity through their work with qualified students who have been historically underrepresented in higher education. This year for National TRIO Week, Truman

State University will focus on its Upward Bound Program and its McNair Program, sharing the impact they both have on and off campus. They will also discuss Pre-McNair and the history of TRIO on KTRM radio this evening at 6:00 p.m.

February 24-27

Truman Theater Department's third production of the year is a musical entitled "5 Lesbians Eating A Quiche" will be performed online nightly at 7:30 p.m. Feb. 24-27. Tickets are \$6 and available now at boxoffice.truman.edu. Once a ticket has been purchased detailed information on how to access the live stream will be provided. For more information, contact the Truman Theatre Box Office at 660.785.4515 between 11:30 a.m. and

5:30 p.m. Monday thru Friday.

Saturday, February 25

Did you know the local sledding hill and Rotary Park has been recognized by Missouri Life Magazine? Bundle up and go sledding at Rotary Park. Wear your mittens and bring your own sleds! For more information call Kirksville Parks and Rec at 660-627-1485.

Sunday, February 26

Today is National Fairytale Day. Remember all those fairy tales by the Brothers Grimm and the sweet ones by Hans Christian Anderson? Celebrate by reading your favorite fairy tale out loud to a child or tell a favorite fairy tale or make up a new one. Remember, all the good ones start with "Once Upon a Time."

NRMC recognized for excellence with ACC chest pain center accreditation

Submitted by NRMC

The American College of Cardiology has recognized Northeast Regional Medical Center for its demonstrated expertise and commitment in treating patients with chest pain. NRMC was awarded Chest Pain Center Accreditation in February based on rigorous onsite evaluation of the staff's ability to evaluate, diagnose and treat patients who may be experiencing a heart attack.

According to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, more than 730,000 Americans suffer a heart attack each year. The most common symptom of a heart attack for both men and women is chest pain or discomfort. However, women are more likely to have atypical symptoms. Other heart attack symptoms include, but are not limited to, tingling or discomfort in one or both

arms, back, shoulder, neck or jaw, shortness of breath, cold sweat, unusual tiredness, heartburn-like feeling, nausea or vomiting, sudden dizziness and fainting.

Hospitals that have earned ACC Chest Pain Center Accreditation have proven exceptional competency in treating patients with heart attack symptoms. They have streamlined their systems from admission to evaluation to diagnosis and treatment all the way through to appropriate post-discharge care and recommendations and assistance in patient lifestyle changes.

"NRMC has demonstrated its commitment to providing Kirksville and the surrounding communities with excellent heart care," said Deepak L. Bhatt, MD, MPH, FACC, chair of the ACC Accreditation Management Board. "ACC Accreditation Services is proud to award NRMC with Chest Pain Center Accreditation."

WATER

Continued from Page A1

gallons of water a day, they have plenty of water. He said that based on the driest year, 1953, Kirksville still had over 25 inches of precipitation in that year. He said that the annual rainfall totals from 1971 to 2000 was 33 to 39 inches and that Forest Lake will fill up with four inches of rain as it gets a lot of runoff.

"We are just in no jeopardy of running out of wa-

ter and we got a lot of it," Balliew told the council.

He said that over \$45 million has been invested in the project, which is expected to have a \$100 million final price tag. According to the study, water rates Adair County pays per 5,000 gallons is \$36.34, while Sullivan County is paying \$65.40. He told the council that Rural Water, which buys from the city, has no intention of buying their water from the East Locust Creek Water District.

"There's just a lot of complications with them

trying to take water from there," he said. "And the fact that they have all this water shortage, that lake can only put out seven million gallons a day, we can put out six million a day with our pumps. That's where they were inaccurate, too."

He said he didn't think there was any jeopardy in Rural Water ever taking water from them as their prices are too high and that they can't produce enough of it due to obligations promised to other entities.

"I just don't see that happening — and they don't either because I discussed it with them," he said.

Balliew stressed the importance of the purchase of a clarifier he had added to this year's budget in order to produce more water and a lot more continuity to put out more water. A clarifier removes solid particulates from water. He said that if a clarifier goes down, the city will struggle to treat water. He said with two clarifiers holding up to 8 million gallons, the additional settlement time will bring much better water to city residents.

"It allows us to put out more water and better water," Balliew said. "When

all the stars align, its dry out, it's summertime, the cattle is being watered, the garden is being watered, school is at full capacity, graduation is going on, all the motels are full, we're pushing four million, we're pushing the limits of the plant when that happens — and that happens a few times a year."

He said that the county is growing and that once the city is producing over six million gallons, they need to begin looking to build a plant south of town. He said that the department has contingency plans should the electric fail or internet systems go down, and that they have water conservation plans in place with a 24-hour

reserve of water. He said also, city personnel can bypass internet systems to keep manufacturing clean water.

"I don't foresee, unless the electricity and gas completely run out, that we can't keep producing clean water for the citizens of Adair County," he said.

He added that water department personnel can tell by water pressure fluctuations if there's a leak in the system somewhere or if firefighters are tending to a blaze they're unaware of. He said that when a leak is suspected, it's "all hands on deck" for city personnel to find the problem.

"And we always do... we find it," he said.

SEMINARS

Continued from Page A1

"The Buy Local program that we're doing this week and next week, is designed to promote and educate, encourage and stimulate local residents, businesses and business owners to support our local community," Perry said. "The Buy Local project is designed specifically to pull our community together — for community support, for economic development and tourism development — for our local community to move forward in this post-covid environment."

Perry said that businesses don't want to just survive, they want to survive and prosper and that

the intent of the program was to share ideas. Participants in the seminars have been positive about what they experienced there.

Debbie Applegate, of Applegate Crafts and Antiques, said that she enjoyed the seminar and that it was informative.

"It helps me figure out how I can let Kirksville know that my business exists out on the Thousand Hills State Park and just to let them know to shop local," Applegate said. "This is very important to keep all these small businesses alive."

Nick Moore, who owns Maxwell's, a restaurant in the downtown area, said that it provided insight into marketing he hadn't

been aware of before.

"It was a great seminar," he said. "It basically shows you and teaches you a bunch of things about marketing and maybe something you didn't know already."

With three seminars still planned for Wednesday and one on Friday this week, and then three on Wednesday and one on Thursday next week, Perry said there's still time to make a reservation by calling 660-665-2808.

"There's no charge," Perry said. "There's still time for you to come down and see what you can do to invest in your community and buy local."

Go to kirksvilledailyexpress.com to see a video about the seminars.

PARKS

Continued from Page A1

information, how people use the parks, what the trails look like, the Kirksville Active Mobility Plan (KAMP), and all of the old master plans.

"They're kind of digesting all that and getting ready to ask us a whole lot of questions," he said. "Looking forward to that."

Sadler told the council they will be having their Lakes, Parks and Recreation Commission meeting on March 8 and that Landworks Studio will be meeting with them via Zoom to explain the process.

"The 9th will be the virtual kickoff meeting," he said. "For that there will be some different stakeholder, city staff, some

Lakes, Parks and Recreation Commission members and possibly some council members asked to participate with that and they'll kind of layout what the next month or two will look like."

He said that around the week of March 16, they'll be launching a citizen survey, which he called a "statistically valid survey" that will be mailed to residents and also have an online component to it. From there, Landworks Studio personnel will be out in the parks observing how people use the parks and trails, gathering info.

There will be two parks open houses held, where they hope to fill a large room with people in order to hold "listening sessions", one that will include the city council.

"There will be different stakeholder groups they'll want to interview and ask how people are using parks and what you feel that we need to look at as we're moving forward," he said, noting that tentatively on Oct. 3, a final presentation will be made.

"A lot to do between now and then but a lot to still set up and figure out where we need to go with this plan," Sadler said. "I'm looking forward to it though, and getting started real soon."

"Very excited to see where this goes," said Mayor Zac Burden.

According to a staff report, the Park Master Plan will serve as a long-range vision that will be developed with input from stakeholders and all who wish to participate in the process.

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OBITUARIES

Irma Muir

Jan. 27, 1926 – Feb. 15, 2022

Irma Letitia Muir, 96, of Kirksville, Missouri passed away Tuesday, February 15, 2022, with family at her side. Born January 27, 1926, in Mabton, Washington, Irma was the daughter of the late Arthur and Mary Walls. She was preceded in death by her only brother, Clyde Walls.



The family later moved to Napa, California where Irma attended elementary school. When Irma was 16, the family moved to Brookfield, Missouri where she was a cheerleader and graduated with honors.

After high school, Irma enrolled at the Kirksville State Teachers College. During this time, Irma met Roy Joe Beets who was serving in the Navy as a submariner. After the war ended, Irma and Joe were married and lived in Kirksville, Missouri, where they raised their four sons.

While raising her family, Irma first worked as a night auditor at the Traveler's Hotel in Kirksville. In the early 60's, Irma was hired as head of the stenographic office at Northeast Missouri State University (NMSU). During her employment, as Director of Printing Services, she oversaw the growth of the small stenographic office into a modern printing department which created publications representing NMSU worldwide. Irma attended conferences across the United States to stay abreast of the con-

tinued advancements in technology. Irma forged many lifetime friendships during those conferences. She was very proud of the publications her office produced and was the recipient of many service awards during her tenure at NMSU, later named Truman State University (TSU).

While employed at TSU, Irma was chair of the 1985 United Way campaign, reaching the goal and beyond. She was a lifetime member of the Association of College and University Printers. She received numerous letters of appreciation and thanks for her professional work at the printing service.

Irma was proud to say that all four sons attended NMSU and three completed their degrees there. Irma retired from TSU in 1992, from a position and an institution that she dearly loved.

Irma loved to have fun and enjoyed several sports. She played tennis. She also played outfield on her beloved Kinkajous softball team for the city league. Irma bowled on several leagues. She started playing golf after her sons presented her with a set of golf clubs as a retirement gift.

It was during her early retirement years that Irma met and began to date a widower, Joe Muir. They were married on Valentine's Day in 1996 at the "The Little White Chapel" in Las Vegas. Shortly after marriage, they invested in a retirement property at a mobile home park in Apache Junction, Arizona, where they would spend winters and enjoy playing golf, cards, and pool with

several Canadian "snowbirds" and other friends. Irma and Joe enjoyed taking cruises to Alaska and vacationed in Mexico and Hawaii. They loved dancing and spending time with friends. Joe fell ill and passed away in 2009.

After Joe's death, Irma continued to winter in Arizona, playing golf and spending time with friends. When Irma turned 90, her friends at the park and several family members held a birthday party in her honor. In later years, Irma sold the Arizona property and returned to live fulltime in Kirksville.

Irma loved her family with unconditional love. Many of the younger generation still refer to her as "Grandma." Irma loved to babysit the young ones and prepare delightful meals, always with a smile on her face. Her family meant the world to her.

Irma is survived by her four sons and spouses: Larry (Cindy) Beets of Orange Beach, Alabama; Ray (Michelle) Beets of Fort Dodge, Iowa; Michael (Diana) Beets of Kirksville; and Jay (Billie) Beets of Kirksville. Grandchildren include: Lisa Beets Todd, Terry Beets, Kelly Beets, Michael Spalding, Nicole Oberkirsch, Richard Limbert, Mason Beets, and Madeline Beets. She is also survived by 17 great grandchildren, 7 great great grandchildren, and several nieces

A celebration of Irma's life with family and friends will be announced and held at a later date in the spring. Arrangements were taken care of by Travis-Noe Funeral Home of Kirksville.

Missouri officials: Progress being made eliminating feral hogs

By Springfield News-Leader

SPRINGFIELD, Mo. — Missouri conservation officials say they are making progress eliminating feral hogs from the state.

Officials want to get rid of them because they can damage areas such as farmland, fragile glades and more by rooting for food.

The Springfield News-Leader reports that the Missouri Feral Hog Elimination Partnership killed 9,857 feral hogs in 2021, bringing the total number of hogs killed since 2016 to more than 54,000.

Jason Jensen, incident Commander of Feral Hog Operations for Missouri Department of Conservation, said those numbers are slightly down from previous years. But he sees that as a sign of success.

"When you more than doubled your effort, but only found fewer hogs that certainly would indicate that feral hog populations are not increasing, but they're decreasing," he said.

In 2021, the partnership assisted 1,308 landowners and scouted more than 3 million acres for feral hog damage. The top counties where feral hogs were killed include Iron County with 1,940 hogs, Wayne County with 1,329 hogs and Reynolds with 1,268 hogs.

HEALTH

Continued from Page A1

months, but in that time he'd managed to become a villain in the eyes of hardline conservative senators who held his fate in their hands.

He showed up to his confirmation hearing on Jan. 31 a dead-man walking, with protesters gathered in the Capitol hallways calling for his head and members of the Senate conservative caucus out for blood.

Text messages and emails obtained by The Independent through open records requests detail the desperate efforts of Parson administration officials to salvage Kauerauf's nomination in the final days before it went down in flames.

Close aides to the governor, as well as Kauerauf's DHSS staff, tried to navigate the treacherous waters of a badly divided Missouri Senate. But in the end, a combination of factors — anger in the GOP base over COVID mitigation efforts, misinformation about Kauerauf's positions, a delayed confirmation process due to a redistricting filibuster and a massive snowstorm on the eve of a constitutional deadline — rendered their efforts fruitless.

'You're fighting stupidity'

Kauerauf was supposed to get a confirmation hearing on Jan. 26.

But after hours of waiting, as the conservative caucus held the Senate floor to decry a proposed Congressional map, the hearing was canceled and rescheduled for the following Monday.

The delay gave Kauerauf the chance to continue making the rounds with state senators. But it appears, at least according to text messages that night, things weren't going well.

Kauerauf texted Alex Tuttle, the governor's legislative budget director, saying he was frustrated with the process.

Tuttle tried to lighten the mood, texting a joke about how "if we vented our frustrations to a random bartender" his "head would explode."

But Kauerauf wasn't having it.

"I'm serious Alex," he wrote. "I need cover from senators that don't have the stones to be honest with me. Getting real frustrated. Only one ap-



Missouri Department of Health and Senior Services Director Donald Kauerauf (seated left) looks on during his Senate confirmation hearing on Monday in Jefferson City, Mo. JEANNE KUANG/ASSOCIATED PRESS

pointment was going to cause issues and feeling isolated."

Tuttle suggested the two speak the following day.

"This is not your fault or anything you've done," Tuttle wrote. "You're fighting stupidity."

Later that night, Adam Crumbliss, Kauerauf's top lieutenant in DHSS, texted several Parson administration officials, including Robert Knodell, the governor's former deputy chief of staff and former acting DHSS director who now serves as director of the Department of Social Services.

"We need to all circle up tomorrow morning," Crumbliss wrote. "We have a few different paths toward tamping difficulties, but Don's looking for some additional support on getting us where we need to close gaps and ranks."

The group of officials — including Crumbliss; Knodell; Tuttle; Kyle Aubuchon, Parson's board and commission chair; and Michael Oldweiler, DHSS' director of legislative affairs — agreed to meet about the situation.

The next morning, Crumbliss and Aubuchon exchanged text messages in the group chat about which Republican senators they needed to focus on, with Crumbliss ranking them:

1. Bob Onder
2. Mike Moon
3. Paul Wieland
4. Bill White
5. Bill Eigel

"We should be good on Bean," Crumbliss wrote, referencing Sen. Jason Bean, R-Holcomb, who serves on the gubernatorial appointments committee.

Aubuchon texted that he just met with Wieland, R-Imperial, and that the senator wanted proof

"that Don is pro-life... news article or something... thinks in Illinois Don said he'd be pro-choice to get a job there, then move to Missouri and say he's pro-life to get a job here."

Aubuchon said he'd been told by Sen. Kara Eslinger, R-De Soto, that she would vote for Kauerauf if he gave a straightforward answer in opposition to vaccine and mask mandates.

"She doesn't want a long rambling answer on this," Aubuchon wrote.

He also informed the group of his meeting with Moon.

"Just followed up with Moon," Aubuchon wrote. "Said Don just visited with him and it went really well. Hopes Don does well at the committee hearing on Monday, and says it's 'very likely' he'll be voting yes for Don."

Aubuchon's impression of Moon's position, however, doesn't correspond with emails obtained from the senator's office through an open records request.

The day before the senator spoke with Aubuchon, Moon's legislative assistant sent emails to more than a dozen people who had reached out to his office to express opposition to Kauerauf's nomination.

"Thank you for contacting the office of Senator Moon," he wrote in each response. "Also, thank you for allowing your voice to be heard by expressing your concerns to us about Donald Kauerauf. After some research and discussion, the senator has decided to oppose Mr. Kauerauf's appointment."

In fact, the same day Aubuchon expressed hope that Moon might support Kauerauf, Moon's legislative assistant emailed the six other members of the Senate conservative caucus with a pair of doc-

uments that would prove fatal to the nomination.

"The first document is a timeline of everything he has said that may be of concern since he was appointed as Director of Health and Senior Services," the email said. "The second document is a letter we received which explains SHIELD, a test to stay coercion tactic used by the state of Illinois to mandate a health passport. This document thanks Judy Kauerauf (the wife of Donald Kauerauf) at the beginning letter for implementing this system in Illinois. Donald Kauerauf wants to do the same in Missouri."

The following day, Moon emailed a constituent who had voiced opposition to Kauerauf: "I agree with you and will use my influence on the gubernatorial appointments committee to oppose his confirmation."

'The clock is the enemy here'

Tuttle wasn't having any better luck with another member of the conservative caucus.

He texted the group of administration officials the he had spoken with Onder, who expressed concerns about Kauerauf's public comments on a bill passed by lawmakers curbing the authority of local health departments, as well as "vax mandate rhetoric, stance on abortion, etc."

But Tuttle did have some good news to report. He texted that he met with Senate Minority Leader John Rizzo, D-Independence, and "his entire caucus is behind Don."

The Friday before Kauerauf was scheduled to face the gubernatorial appointments committee, Aubuchon shared information with the group chat about an anti-Kauerauf rally that had been scheduled for Monday in the Missouri Capitol, the day of the confirmation hearing.

The rally's announcement, which Aubuchon shared via text, incorrectly implied Kauerauf supported "forced vaccination."

When Kauerauf's confirmation hearing two days earlier was rescheduled, it gave his critics time to organize, and they were flooding senate offices with calls and emails. Now, they were planning to gather in the Capitol in the hopes of sinking the nomination once and for all.

Crumbliss responded to the news by pushing for someone to reach out to Senate President Pro Tem Dave Schatz and Senate Majority Leader Caleb Rowden.

"The clock is the enemy here," Crumbliss wrote, a reference to the fact that the state constitution required Kauerauf's nomination be confirmed by the following Friday or he would be banned from serving in the position for life.

Crumbliss also floated the idea of trying to get an opinion piece written by Kauerauf published in a pro-Parson newspaper over the weekend. Knodell offered to help facilitate if need be.

Kauerauf, however, later questioned whether that would be a good idea.

"Could be a huge mistake with the work that has been done by all," he texted to Tuttle.

That day, Crumbliss also texted Parson's chief of staff, Aaron Willard: "Don is going to call you at some point this afternoon."

'Is this serious?'

On Monday, protesters rallied in the Capitol rotunda, with members of the Senate conservative caucus addressing the group about their issues with Kauerauf's nomination. Then they moved to the third floor, just outside the hearing room where Kauerauf was set to testify before the gubernatorial appointments committee.

In the midst of the protests, Knodell texted screenshots of tweets by Onder incorrectly referring to Kauerauf as "Ron" and saying the gubernatorial appointments committee was not planning on giving Kauerauf's nomination a vote that day.

"Is this serious?" Knodell texted the group.

"Yes," Crumbliss replied.

Less than a half hour into the hearing, and before Kauerauf had even been called to testify, Cox, the DHSS spokeswoman, sent her text sounding the alarm to the governor's office.

She was quickly informed that a statement in Kauerauf's defense would be released shortly.

"It's concerning to see certain Missouri officials grandstanding for purely political reasons and fueling fears without any regard for the truth," Parson's statement read.

But the governor's condemnation had little, if any, impact.

Senators grilled Kauerauf for nearly two hours on his views on how best to mitigate the spread of COVID-19, his past comments about vaccination, his wife's job in Illinois and his position on abortion.

The next day, with senators eager to adjourn to avoid a looming snow storm, GOP leaders announced Kauerauf's nomination would not get a vote.

It was over. Kauerauf resigned, and Parson appointed DHSS General Counsel Richard Moore to replace him on an interim basis.

"Throughout this process, more care was given to political gain than the harm caused to a man and his family," Parson said in announcing Kauerauf's resignation. "Don is a devoted public servant who did not deserve this, and Missourians deserve better."

For those who opposed Kauerauf's nomination, it was time to rejoice.

"We won!" Moon wrote in an email to a constituent who'd reached out urging him to block Kauerauf's nomination. "It was a team effort. I'm grateful to have been entrusted to play a part. What a great victory!"



ARLO AND JANIS



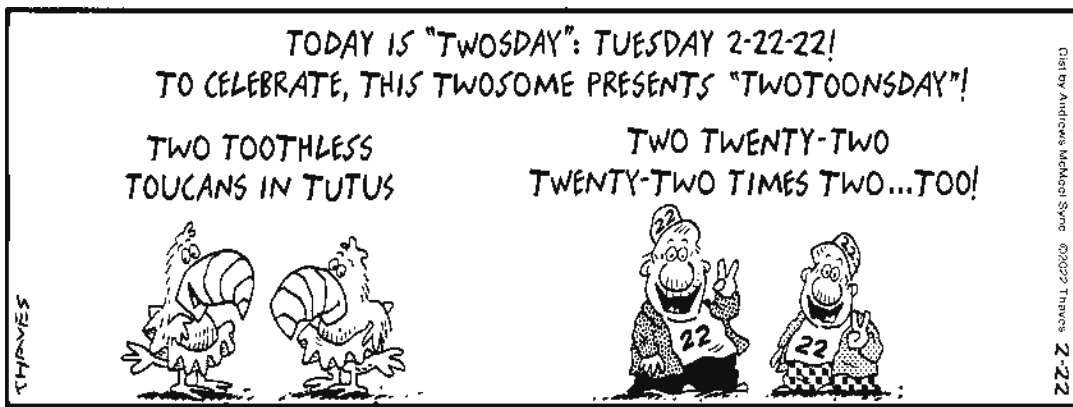
BIG NATE



THE BORN LOSER



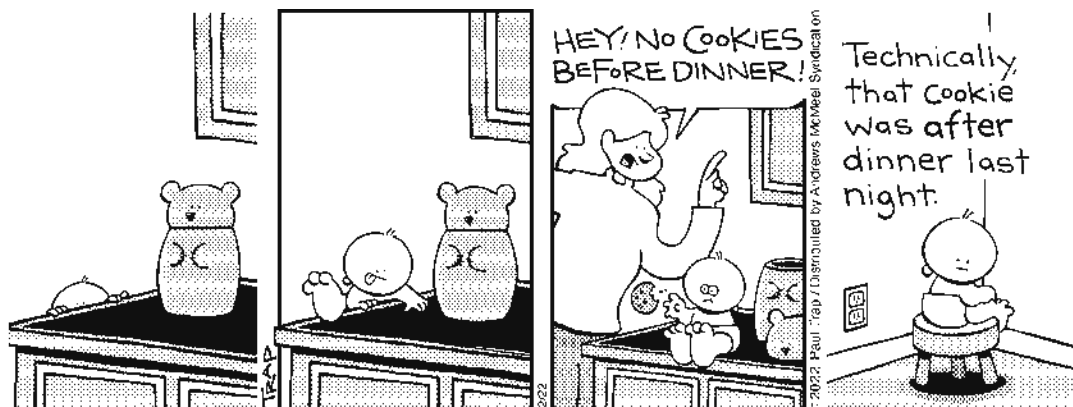
FRANK AND ERNEST



MONTY



THAT A BABY



SUDOKU

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

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

PREVIOUS ANSWER

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

CROSSWORD

- ACROSS**
- 1 World Series mo.
 - 4 Citrus drink
 - 7 Western writer Zane
 - 11 Ostrichlike bird
 - 12 Bubble up
 - 14 Protuberance
 - 15 The works
 - 16 Hayworth of old movies
 - 17 Wednesday's god
 - 18 Kick back
 - 20 Unusual sightings
 - 22 Covered with frost
 - 23 Beluga product
 - 24 Actress — Prentiss
 - 27 Expired
 - 30 Hats
 - 31 Cats or turkeys
 - 32 Favored
 - 34 Tap gently
 - 35 Show of hands
 - 36 Cast a fly
- DOWN**
- 1 Sharif of the movies
 - 2 Merry old king
 - 3 Soft mineral
 - 4 Giraffe habitat
 - 5 Lace napkin
 - 6 Lunch

Answer to Previous Puzzle

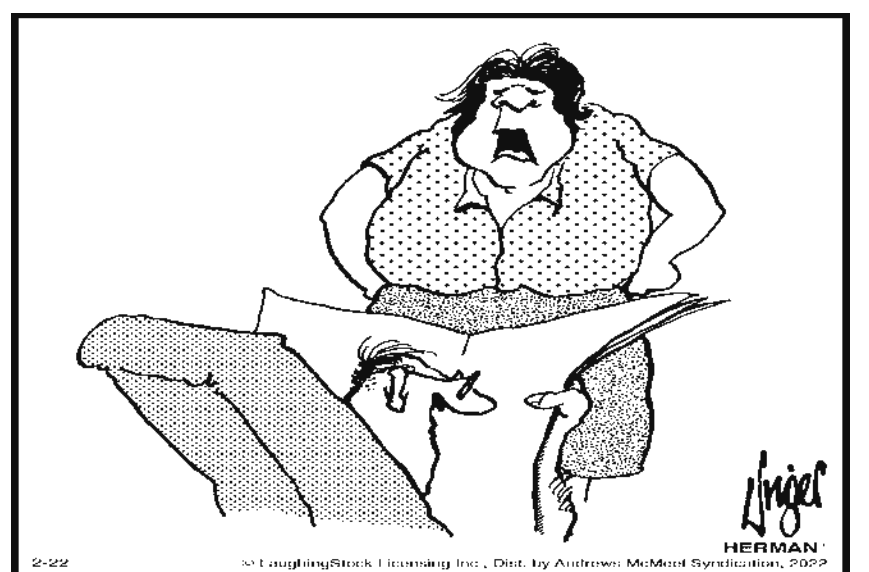
K	O	A	C	H	E	F	A	M	B	O
E	R	G	H	A	H	A	C	O	O	K
B	A	A	A	S	S	T	O	D	O	R
A	T	T	A	C	H	E	U	R	E	K
B	E	E	C	H	R	N	S			
			H	A	P	P	E	N	T	A
F	O	R	E	A	I	M	C	L	I	P
A	W	E	S	C	C	I	A	Y	L	A
B	L	T	D	E	A	R	E	R		
			U	S	O					
G	A	R	A	G	E	A	L	L	E	G
R	U	N	S	T	O	N	I	M	E	N
I	D	E	S	A	R	T	S	O	N	S
T	I	D	Y	T	E	S	T	S	T	E

- 7 Trolls
- 8 Took a taxi
- 9 Work in the newsroom
- 10 Sudden urges
- 13 Knot craft
- 19 Van Gogh's medium
- 21 Klutz's mutter
- 24 Dad
- 25 Tow — zone
- 26 Golden Rule word
- 27 Movie workplaces
- 28 "Aeneid" or "Beowulf"
- 29 Classroom fixture
- 31 Gave the what for (2 wds.)
- 33 Quaker pronoun
- 35 Old car window
- 36 Bankroll
- 38 Port in Scotland
- 39 Prowled
- 41 Scandinavian
- 42 Entreaty
- 43 Chestnut or bay
- 44 Eject
- 46 Barely manages
- 47 Costa —
- 48 Urban woe
- 51 Not their

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

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HERMAN



"What's the point of me losing two pounds in two months if you don't even notice?"

ASTROGRAPH BY EUGENIA LAST

A positive approach to life, love and happiness starts by following your passion. Take hold of your future, and delve into something that brings you joy. Explore your talents and express your desires. Take a leap of faith by putting your heart and soul into what you want to achieve. Take responsibility and be grateful for the success you achieve.

PISCES (Feb. 20-March 20) -- Adjust your finances to ensure you can afford your lifestyle. Be cautious when it comes to shared expenses and joint ventures. Balance and integrity will make a difference.

ARIES (March 21-April 19) -- Nurture relationships instead of building a wall of separation. Be willing to adjust and compromise, but don't let anyone take advantage of you. An open dialogue will help you maintain peace.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20) -- Be open to suggestions and eager to put muscle behind your dreams, hopes and wishes. Share your feelings, and be willing to try something new. Love and romance are favored.

GEMINI (May 21-June 20) -- Depending on others will lead to disappointment. Don't get caught up in an emotional situation that causes problems at work or can affect your position, reputation or peace of mind.

CANCER (June 21-July 22) -- You'll make connections that can change your life. Pay attention to what others say and do, and the information will lead to personal growth and self-improvement. Nurture meaningful relationships.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22) -- Don't make a change or sign up for something for the wrong reason.

Follow the path that empowers you to reach your goals, not one that tends to stifle your plans.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22) -- You can make a difference if you concentrate on positive change, assist those who require help and look on the bright side of any situation. Take physical action and push for what you want to achieve.

PISCES (Feb. 20-March 20) -- Adjust your finances to ensure you can afford your lifestyle. Be cautious when it comes to shared expenses and joint ventures. Balance and integrity will make a difference.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 23) -- Anger will not help you bring about positive change, but kindness and consideration will encourage others to see things your way. Be reasonable and ready to move forward alone if necessary.

SCORPIO (Oct. 24-Nov. 22) -- Be open to suggestions, and accept changes that encourage others to feel comfortable. Home improvements and creative projects will help you overcome emotional setbacks.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 23-Dec. 21) -- Use intelligence regarding money matters and when dealing with a friend or relative who is out of control or in a negative space. Innovative suggestions and hands-on help are favored.

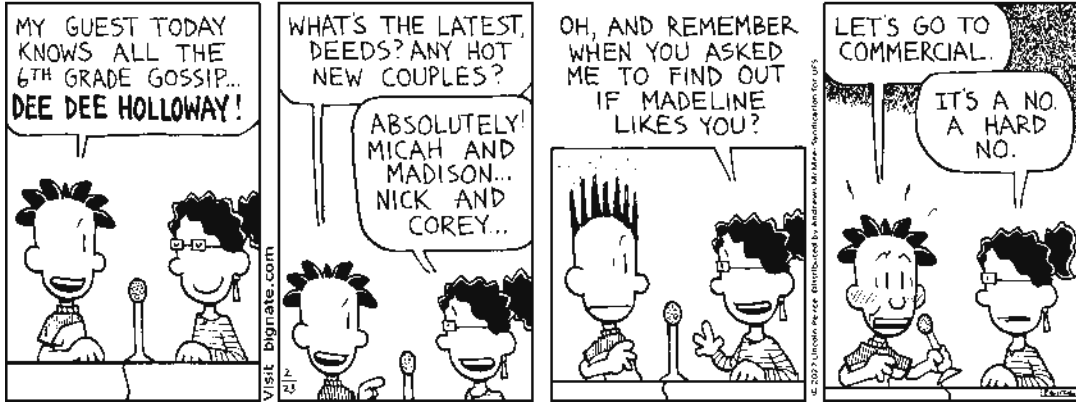
CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19) -- Make the changes that will brighten your day, surroundings and relationships with those you love and respect. How you deal with others will alter the path you follow. Live, love, laugh and be merry.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 19) -- Go about your business and immerse yourself in projects that ease stress. Refuse to let what others do or say put you in a funky mood or lead you into an unwanted battle.

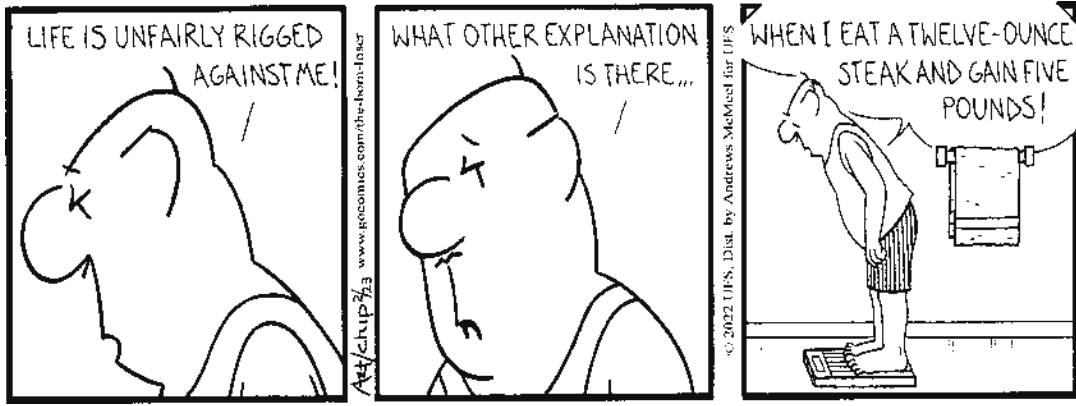
ARLO AND JANIS



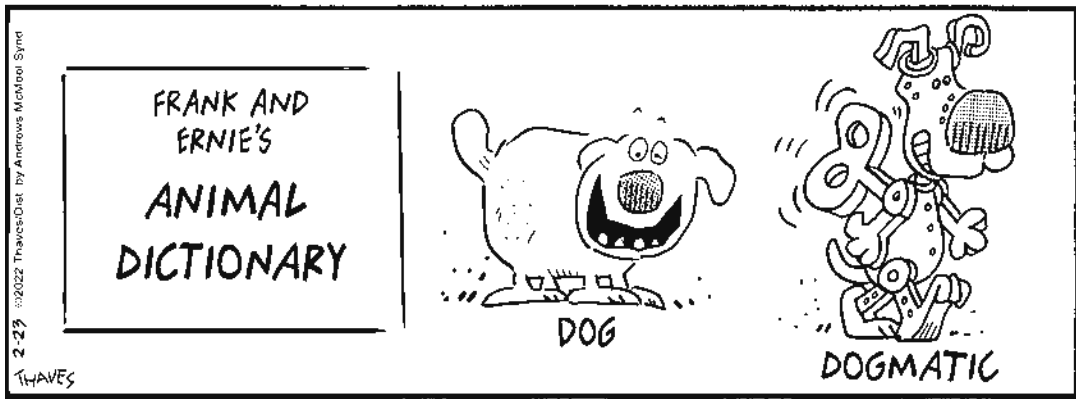
BIG NATE



THE BORN LOSER



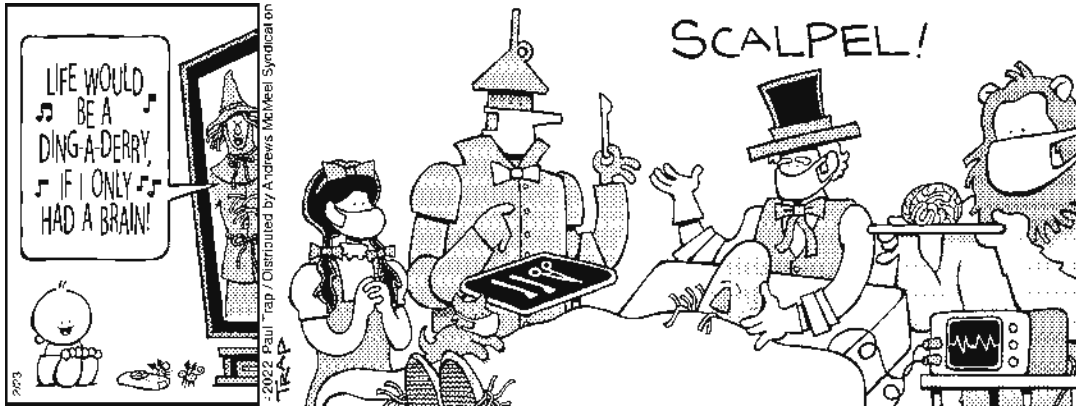
FRANK AND ERNIE



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!

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

PREVIOUS ANSWER

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

CROSSWORD

- ACROSS**
- 1 Greet, as a dog
 - 4 Middle Eastern
 - 8 Resolve
 - 12 "— got it!"
 - 13 Lengthy story
 - 14 McClurg or Brickell
 - 15 After deductions
 - 16 Displayed prominently
 - 18 Persona non —
 - 20 Actress — Tyler
 - 21 Mont. neighbor
 - 23 Lowest high tide
 - 26 Dog food brand
 - 29 Bachelor's lack
 - 32 Work diligently
 - 34 Blended whiskeys
 - 35 Chef Garten
 - 36 "— Pan"
 - 37 Brother's title
 - 38 Gridiron org.
- DOWN**
- 39 Film segment
 - 40 Incite a dog
 - 41 Id companions
 - 42 Jekyll's other half
 - 43 Grant, as land
 - 45 Help-wanted abbr.
 - 47 Rap sheet letters
 - 49 Beau
 - 53 Convey
 - 58 Lingerie item
 - 59 Piggy sound
 - 60 Buffalo's lake
 - 61 Strut along
 - 62 Ebb
 - 63 Way out
 - 64 Literary miscellany

Answer to Previous Puzzle

OCT	ADE	GREY			
MOA	FOAM	NODE			
ALL	RITA	ODIN			
RECOIL	COMETS				
	JCY	ROE			
PAULA	LAPSED				
OWNS	TOMS	PET			
PAT	VOTE	FISH			
	YODELS	LUCKY			
	UNO	NUN			
PRONTO	CROSS	ORDERS			
LOUD	FORK	KIM			
EASE	FUSE	ECO			
ANTE	RED	SAG			

- 6 In days gone by
- 7 Cry loudly
- 8 Interlace
- 9 Psyche parts
- 10 Tell a fib
- 11 Showed the way
- 17 Film
- 19 Low cards
- 22 Unpaid
- 24 Suitably
- 25 Sporty fabric
- 26 Pet shop sounds
- 27 Melody's words
- 28 Hippie greeting
- 30 The skinny
- 31 Disloyal
- 33 Cry of fright
- 39 Food, slangily
- 41 Cartoon shrieks
- 44 Thank you, to Fritz
- 46 Chemical compound
- 48 Mimicked
- 50 "Fernando" band
- 51 Household appliance
- 52 Auto parts store
- 53 AAA job
- 54 Narrow inlet
- 55 Miller or Blyth
- 56 Galleon cargo
- 57 Brazilian port

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			

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HERMAN



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"Who's winning, guys?"

ASTROGRAPH BY EUGENIA LAST

Put pressure on time-sensitive matters this year to avoid setbacks. Staying on top of your plan is your ticket to success and personal freedom. Calculate and put your money where it brings the highest return. Refuse to put others first when it can negatively affect something important to you. Strive for completion and perfection. Live life your way.

PISCES (Feb. 20-March 20) -- The difference you make will draw support to carry on with your plans. Use your ingenuity, strength and courage to do what you feel is right. The people you touch will show gratitude.

ARIES (March 21-April 19) -- Connect with people who offer insight in areas where you lack information. Combining your skills and knowledge with others' will achieve the best results.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20) -- Someone will make assumptions and offer an exaggerated opinion. Do the legwork yourself. Be resourceful, direct and cautious regarding how you proceed. Actions speak louder than words.

GEMINI (May 21-June 20) -- Don't trust what others tell you; firsthand information from an expert will ensure you get things right and avoid a glitch that can be costly. Trust in your ability to get things done.

CANCER (June 21-July 22) -- If you count on someone else, you will be disappointed in the results. Speak from the heart and don't be afraid to express how you feel to someone you love. Romance is encouraged.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22) -- Put a limit on your spending, and stick to healthy options that benefit you mentally, physically and emotionally. Share

ideas and plans with someone special.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22) -- Choose your words carefully, and be prepared to back the gestures you make. Change can be positive if you go about it properly. Keep those affected by your plans in the loop.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 23) -- Share ideas, network and make plans. Taking on something that is cost-efficient will add to your knowledge and experience, and encourage you to reassess your options. Take control instead of being controlled.

SCORPIO (Oct. 24-Nov. 22) -- What you want to do and what you should do will conflict. Put a schedule in place that will accommodate both. It's up to you to set things up to suit your needs. Be original and have faith.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 23-Dec. 21) -- Know when to say no or back away from situations and people who aren't to your benefit. Use your intelligence to navigate your way through encounters that can affect your well-being.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19) -- Look at change as a learning experience, and delve into situations with an open mind. A unique offer will have more substance than you think. Don't rule out an opportunity to change direction.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 19) -- Sensitive issues will surface, but consider the consequences before you get entangled in something brought on by someone else. It's OK to focus on something that interests or benefits you.

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- 3 Days

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- 3 Days

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- 25 Words
- 3 Days

\$750

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

AGRI-BUSINESS

Equipment & Supplies

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

Hay/Feed/Seed

43 round bales of mixed grass hay; 34 round bales of alfalfa mixed bales. Hay is lab tested and surface wrapped, 1300 lbs bales, Small square bales 2nd cutting. Watson hay sales 660-341-4031

Land/Pasture

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

MERCHANDISE

Miscellaneous

Olhausen pool table, lightly used. Cherry finish, pocket regulation. Needs felt and put together. \$1800.00, Centerville. 641-895-5223.

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

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.

REAL ESTATE SALES

Mobile Homes For Sale

AVAILABLE stock mobile homes immediately, double wide and single, 3 and 4 bedroom. 573-499-9993 columbiadiscounthomes.com

Stock mobile homes available: We gottem, single and doublewide 3 and 4 bedroom! Call Tuffy 573-657-2176 amegamobilehomes.com

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

RECREATION

Motorcycles

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

SERVICES

Chat/Dirt/Gravel

DIRT WORK All types of excavation, reclaiming overgrown fields, including CRP and WRP. Building site preparation, creating new trails and crossings, Food plot development and maintenance. Leveling and grading, wetland construction and maintenance. Pond and lake cleaning and construction. Call for quotes. 660-342-2701

Miscellaneous

New Garden Seed, homemade candies, local honey, butter (homemade) kitchen wares, wooden handles, boxed greeting cards. Train Track Candies 11538 Iceberg Ave, LaPlata 3rd lane to your left!

Have Clutter? Need room? Call the Kirksville Daily Express classifieds. We can help! 660-665-2808.

IN THE 2ND JUDICIAL CIRCUIT COURT, ADAIR COUNTY, MISSOURI (Date File Stamp)
Case Number: 22AR-PR00007
Judge or Division: PROBATE

In the Estate of BARBARA J. CRAGG, Deceased.

Notice to Creditors
(Small Estate)

To All Persons Interested in the Estate of BARBARA J. CRAGG, Decedent.
On February 8, 2022 a small estate affidavit was filed by the distributees for the decedent under Section 473.097, RSMo, with the Probate Division of the Circuit Court of Adair County, Missouri. All creditors of the decedent, who died on December 23, 2020, are notified that Section 473.444, RSMo, sets a limitation period that would bar claims one year after the death of the decedent. A creditor may request that this estate be opened for administration. Receipt of this notice should not be construed by the recipient to indicate that the recipient may possibly have a beneficial interest in the estate. The nature and extent of any person's interest, if any, may possibly be determined from the affidavit on this estate filed in the Probate Division of the Circuit Court of Adair County, Missouri. Date of first publication is February 16, 2022. Linda Decker Adair County Circuit Clerk PUBLICATION DATES: February 16 and February 23, 2022

IN THE 2ND JUDICIAL CIRCUIT COURT, ADAIR COUNTY, MISSOURI
Judge or Division: PROBATE Case Number: 22AR-PR00014
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 litem pursuant to Section 537.021, RSMo. Linda Decker Adair County Circuit Clerk Date of the decedent's death: January 6, 2022 Date of first publication: February 2, 2022 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

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 640280ch



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Find the stuff you want and sell the stuff you don't in the newspaper classifieds.

IN THE 2ND JUDICIAL CIRCUIT COURT, ADAIR COUNTY, MISSOURI
Judge or Division: PROBATE Case Number: 22AR-PR00023
In the Estate of CHARLES BRIDIS, Deceased.
Notice of Letters Testamentary Granted (Independent Administration - Non-Resident Fiduciary)
To All Persons Interested in the Estate of CHARLES BRIDIS, Decedent:
On February 15, 2022, the last will of the decedent having been admitted to probate, the following individual was appointed the personal representative of the estate of CHARLES BRIDIS, 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 name and address of personal representative is: Dawn D. Marks, 973 Mandalay Avenue, Clearwater Beach, FL 33767. The personal representative's attorney's name, business address and phone number is: Brent J Mayberry, 401 N Elson, Kirksville, MO 63501-2820, 660-665-8356. The non-resident personal representative's designated agent's name, business address is: Brian Noe, 1008 W. Potter Avenue, 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 litem pursuant to Section 537.021, RSMo. Date of the decedent's death: December 4, 2021 Date of first publication: February 23, 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.

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Are you a people person looking for a new career opportunity? The Kirksville Daily Express/Nemo Trader, with a long history of success in Northeast Missouri, is looking for its next full-time Advertising and Marketing Salesperson.

Our sales staff help current and prospective customers with their advertising and marketing needs. This is the chance for you to get creative and help bring a client's vision to life. Knowledge of the Kirksville area is a plus.

Our ideal candidate is self-motivated and independent. You need to be focused on developing new business as well as maintaining current customers. You also need to be organized and have computer skills. We expect enthusiastic, goal driven people. We offer excellent training and advancement opportunities, plenty of support and the latest in research and marketing tools.

Applicants must have a valid driver's license with a good driving record and a reliable, insured vehicle in order to travel within your territory. No overnight travel is required.

No previous sales experience required, although previous sales experience in any industry is a plus. Kirksville Daily Express/Nemo Trader is known for quality training and support. We offer a base salary, commissions and bonuses.

Our benefit package includes vacation and sick time, health, dental, vision and life insurance, 401K, expense reimbursement, reimbursed mileage and cellphone. Send cover letter and resume to:

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130 South 5th Street | Quincy, IL 62301
or email to: nstevens@whig.com

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Kirksville wrestling secures third place team finish at state

By Austin Miller
Daily Express

The individual medals are what everyone aims for. But when everyone hits those goals, team success shines through.

That formula worked for the Kirksville wrestling team this weekend. With four medalists, one state champion, and a whole bunch of wins in between, the Tigers finished third in Class 2, winning the program's first team trophy since 2014.

The Tigers compiled 98 points. Pleasant Hill won the team title with 178.5 points, Helias took second with 98, and Cameron took fourth with 95.

"It feels good to be bringing a plaque home," said coach James Alter. "Nine guys contributed team points. Some guys came up a little short, but this tournament shows them what they're capable of. Don't give up on that goal, just keep chasing state hardware."

The last team trophy came in the final season under coach Kevin Powell, so this marks Alter's best finish as head coach.

Nine Tigers won at least one match. Seven made it through the morning session on Day 2, and the Tigers racked up big points on the last day.

Kirksville sat in fourth place starting Saturday, 15.5 points ahead of Osage. Osage had three guys left, all wrestling for state gold. The most points they could

net were 18 points.

So the Tigers needed at least one win from either Colton Hannah, Hunter Tarr or Jaden Crisp in Saturday afternoon's medal matches. The Tigers got wins from all three guys. Then a state title from Jaden Ballinger had them pass Cameron for third place.

For Alter, Saturday was a culmination of four years with this year's senior class. He said those guys were crucial in getting this done.

"I think it starts with our upperclassmen. Great leadership. Those seniors are just awesome," Alter said. "When five of your 10 state-qualifiers are seniors, you should be coming down here and doing some damage."

With seven seniors in their starting lineup during the year and five in their state-qualifying group, they set the tone. Competing for a North Central Missouri Conference title, the Tigers felt confident early. While they don't think about team success all the time, starting the season with dual wins against Rock Bridge and Hickman, which had state title winners, showed what this team was capable of.

The Tigers won another team district title, but they have done that before. The program has won conference and district titles in recent years but only left state with a few medals. The Tigers wouldn't let that happen again.



Members of the Kirksville wrestling team pose with their trophy after finishing in third place as a team at the 2022 MSHSAA State Wrestling Championships. Front row: Hunter Tarr, Jaden Ballinger, Colton Hannah, Jaden Crisp, Chance McKim. Back row: Assistant Coach Shana Stremel, Head Coach James Alter, Bryce Kertz, Jack Thomas, Dominic Cahalan, Lane Patterson, Ben Amerman, Assistant Coach Brian Wilcox, Assistant Coach Parker Laudwig. AUSTIN MILLER/DAILY EXPRESS

"I think we were all a bit motivated because of the bad habit we've gotten in to of falling off on the second day of state," Ballinger said.

Though the four medalists shined on Saturday, they recognize a lot of guys who added points earlier in the week. Bryce Kertz, Chance McKim, Dominic Cahalan, Ben Amerman and Lane Patterson won matches to help the cause.

"Everybody contributed," Hannah said. "You're out there wrestling for yourself, but you also try to score as many team wins as possible."

"Those wins on the backside made up a lot of points," Ballinger said.

"I would say our team, they started the nail and us three (senior medalists) drove it in," Tarr said. "Their wins on Thursday and Friday — tech, pin, no matter what it is — that's all contributing team points. It was our job today as seniors and captains to finish that — and that's exactly what we did."

And what was it with this group? Desire appears to be the main thing. So many of the Tigers have been addicted to the sport since they were kids.

Struggles ensued along the way and they all learned from it.

They got the sendoff they wanted.

"We had a bigger amount of kids in our grade that (chose wrestling). We had some stud younger guys that did really well here or did really well in other tournaments that might not have done so well here," Ballinger said. "But we've got a lot of good guys in our class. Basketball has one or two guys but wrestling had seven or eight. That just goes to show that our grade has really been devoted to this for a long time."

Kirksville's Hannah, Tarr, Crisp finish as first-time state medalists

By Austin Miller
Daily Express

With Saturday being the final matches of Colton Hannah's wrestling career, time was of the essence. Not because he was trying to wrap it up quickly but because he wanted to cherish every second on the mat.

So why not push for one extra minute in his final match?

In his third-place bout with Moberly's Beau Garrett, Hannah needed sudden victory to put away the Spartan. With 13 seconds left in the round, Hannah countered a throw attempt and got a late takedown. In his final match, Hannah got a 3-1 sudden victory win to grab the first and last state medal of his career.

"It's amazing, it's awesome. It's what my whole high school and younger years have led up to, placing at the high school tournament," Hannah said.

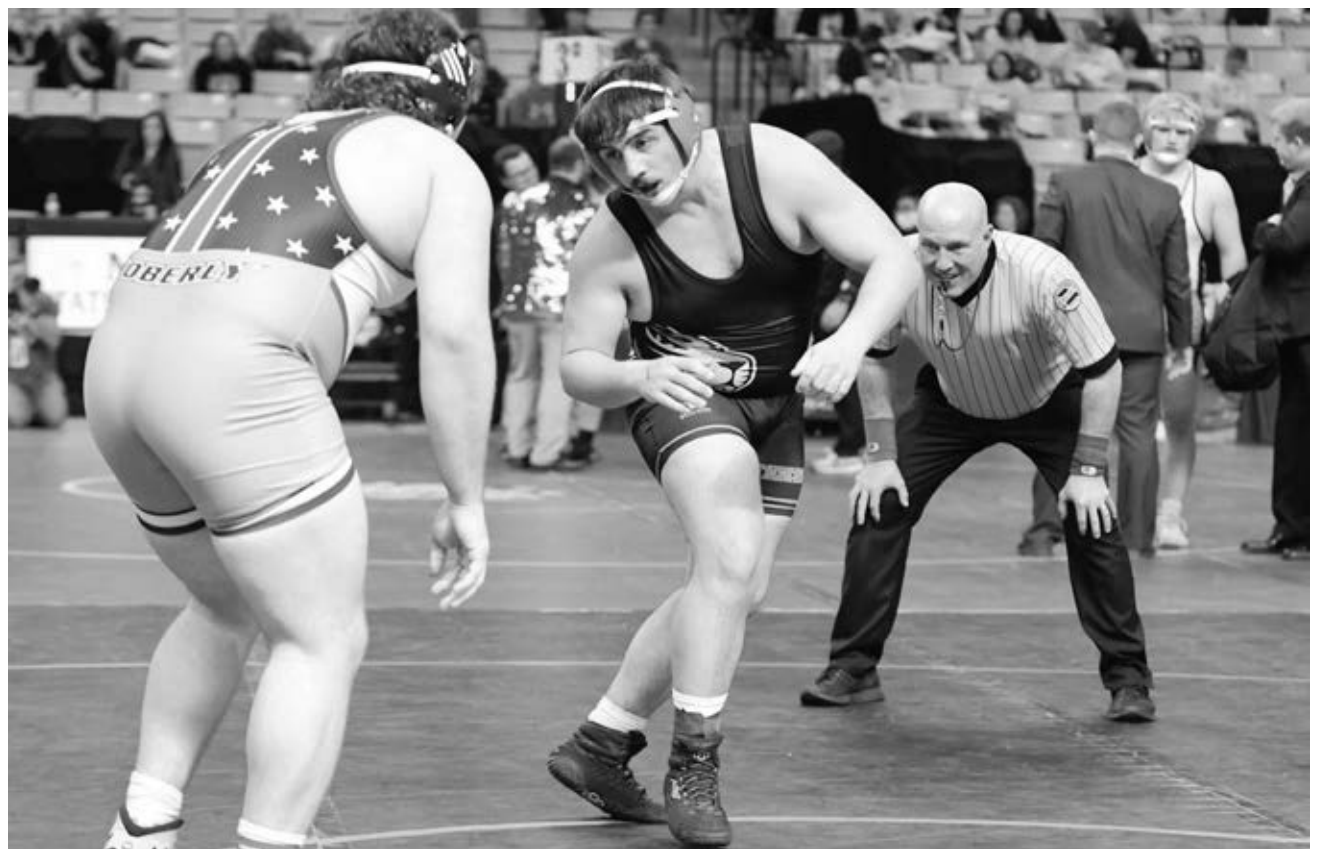
Hannah has excelled in close matches as of late. He had a tiebreaker win Friday morning to reach the semifinals, and he had a 4-1 tiebreaker win last weekend at districts.

But that's his strength and it was on full display on Saturday.

"Most of the guys, once get you get above 182, aren't conditioned very well," Hannah said. "I had to condition myself outside of wrestling because these guys are so much bigger; they weigh more than me, they're taller than me. I've got to take them to the third and overtime to beat them."

With a great run to end his career, Hannah — like all seniors this weekend — came away with mixed emotions. The overwhelming one was happiness that he finally achieved his goal. But also a quick realization that time was up.

"I wish I had more. I wish I had more," Hannah said.



Kirksville's Colton Hannah competes against Moberly's Beau Garrett in a Class 2 third-place match at 220 pounds. AUSTIN MILLER/DAILY EXPRESS

Saturday morning featured a trio of great results for the Tigers with three first-time medalists

leaving Mizzou Arena. Hannah took third-place at 220 pounds, fellow senior Hunter Tarr took third at 126 pounds, and freshman Jaden Crisp took fifth at 106 pounds.

Tarr was all over Wright City's David Rice to start, getting a takedown and early 2-0 lead in the first period. Tarr got the sense he was in control there since he had already wrestled Rice before this season. After another takedown and an escape in the second round, Tarr was well ahead.

Rice shot for a takedown in the third round, grabbing ahold of Tarr's leg. But Tarr kept his wait back, then pulled Rice in for a spladle to setup a pin. Tarr got the fall at 3:48 to secure bronze.

"It's amazing. I've just worked so hard through the course of my life to get here and get a medal. Senior year, last year, it paid off," said Tarr.

After a knee injury earlier this season, Tarr had brief concerns that it would prevent him from a strong finale. But he rehabbed and let the injury heal, good enough that he was cleared two weeks earlier than planned. While he battled to get his cardio back, the time away likely helped Tarr more than it hurt him.

"Wrestling's a long season, so having a two-week break wasn't necessarily hurting anything. It just allows you some time to recover, get your mind cleared, start fresh, so that was the plus of it," Tarr said.

Crisp didn't have to wait as long as his teammates for that first medal. Walking away with one in his first try led to an excited Crisp.

He trailed Odessa's Brady Jones 2-1 after the first round before

See **MEDALISTS**, Page A8



Kirksville's Hunter Tarr works for a pin against Wright City's David Rice in a third-place match at 126 pounds. AUSTIN MILLER/DAILY EXPRESS

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Kirksville's Jaden Ballinger reacts after defeating Moberly's Zach Lewis to win the Class 2 170-pound state title. AUSTIN MILLER/DAILY EXPRESS

STATE CHAMPION

At long last, Ballinger's state-title dream comes true

By Austin Miller
Daily Express

Be patient and good things will happen.

That has been the mantra emphasized by Kirksville wrestling coach James Alter over the last few weeks. Don't rush a risky move. Don't go for something you're not comfortable with. Take what the opponent gives and move forward.

In a district title match against Moberly's Zach Lewis last Saturday, Jaden Ballinger wasn't patient. He tried those risky moves and lost an 8-5 decision.

But patience wasn't something he learned overnight. It's a characteristic he's unfortunately had to sharpen across his four years of high school. He came in as freshman four years ago and took fourth place at state, Kirksville's top finisher in 2019. He then finished sixth as a sophomore and fourth again as a junior.

Those finishes came all while he had the talent to win state gold.

His long wait ended Saturday night, getting revenge against Lewis for a 2-1 tiebreaker win to grab the Class 2 170-pound title. It is Kirksville's first champion since Tanner Sparks in 2017.

"A lot more than four years. I've been wrestling since I was four," Ballinger said. "Made it to the finals in eighth grade,

"He earned it. It didn't come easy to him. He had to fight his way through this bracket. He's been battling as a starter all four years. He earned it."

— James Alter

wasn't able to get it. Made it to the semifinals in high school, never able to get it. This is the first time I've won my last match at state in high school. I'm really happy — I feel really good."

Alter prided Ballinger on his patience with Friday's win over Seneca's Gabriel Commons, who upended him in the state semis last year. That trait was even better on Saturday night.

"He's come up short almost every year, and this year he had it in his head that he was the man — and he proved it," Alter said. "He saw that kid at districts and lost ... and it didn't faze him a bit. I think he took it as a learning experience.

"Something we talked about as a team in the second half was 'fail forward.' If you come up short, learn from it. That's how you improve. Jaden's taken something from every loss this year and he put himself in a good position to win this tournament."

It was a 0-0 battle with Lewis after the first round. Then Ballinger led 1-0

after the second, getting his required escape. But Lewis evened the score with his own escape in the third.

The score stayed stuck at 1-1 after the first one-minute extra round. Ballinger started the first tiebreaker round on the bottom and was awarded one point after Lewis was penalized. Starting the second tiebreaker up 2-1, Ballinger knew he just needed to hold Lewis down for the win. Easier said than done, but Ballinger did it.

Lewis almost escaped at the very end, with Ballinger just holding on to his ankles. But the title and celebration was all Ballinger's.

"Just on the edge of your seat," said Alter of how he felt going to extra time. "You just have confidence in your kid — and we do. We knew this tournament was his and it is."

Though his road to gold was challenging, taking longer than expected and hurting along the way, all of that makes the win so much better.

"With as many years as it has been, it just makes it

that much sweeter," Ballinger said.

Even though Ballinger's late lead was small, Alter never faltered in his belief that this was time Ballinger would get his goal. Gut feeling, instinct, whatever it was, he knew this was Ballinger's time. Finally.

"We just kind of looked at Lewis and thought, 'Maybe we broke this kid.' We were going to ride him out and we were going to win this state tournament — not we, but Jaden Ballinger," Alter said. "He showed heart and determination. Those are two tough competitors, seniors, trying to finish out, guys just wanting to end their senior year on top. We just wrestled the better match.

"He earned it. It didn't come easy to him. He had to fight his way through this bracket," Alter said. "He's been battling as a starter all four years. He earned it."

With his high school career now over, Ballinger finishes as a four-time state medalist. He would've liked that gold sooner, but who's to say if Saturday's victory comes without the hardship he saw and overcame before.

"I'm really happy with the way I finished. If I could go back and change a few things, I'm sure I would, but my goal coming into this last year was to win state. I finally got it, so I'm happy with that," Ballinger said.

LOCAL ROUNDUP

Feb. 19

High school boys basketball

Kirksville 64, Hannibal 54
Kirksville — No stats by deadline.

High school girls basketball

Kirksville 52, Hannibal 27
Kirksville — No stats by deadline.

CLASS 1 DISTRICT 14 TOURNAMENT

Green City 49, East Harrison 26
Green City — Maddie Lunsford, 20 points; LillyAnn McCabe, 12 points.

CLASS 1 DISTRICT 11 TOURNAMENT

Brashear 45, Atlanta 43
Brashear — Kynleigh White, 17 points.
Atlanta — No stats by deadline.

La Plata 81, Novinger 18
La Plata — Olivia Coy, 25 points; Claire Coy, 16 points; Brooklyn Carvajal, 14 points.
Novinger — No stats by deadline.

Feb. 18

High school boys basketball

Milan 57, Scotland Co. 42
Milan — Chekh Niasse, 19 points; Ahmet Niasse, 15 points; Jeremy Bennett, 10 points.
Scotland — Owen Triplett, 11 points.

Monroe City 62, Macon 48
Macon — No stats by deadline.

High school girls basketball

Scotland Co. 60, Milan 49
Scotland — Alayna Whitaker, 17 points; Emiley Dial, 17 points; Hannah Feeney, 14 points.
Milan — Cady Pauley, 27 points; Auburn Cole, 10 points.

Macon 60, Monroe City 29
Macon — No stats by deadline.



Kirksville's Jaden Crisp holds control of Odessa's Brady Jones in a fifth-place match at 106 pounds. AUSTIN MILLER/DAILY EXPRESS

MEDALISTS

Continued from Page A7

dominating the second round to setup a decision win. Crisp controlled the whole round, getting three nearfalls for eight points. He held on for a 9-3 decision.

"Knowing I was in control just felt great. Just knew I was going

to win," Crisp said.

With time being on his side, he's excited to improve over the next three years. He doesn't expect to stay at 106 pounds next year, so he looks forward to the challenge of moving up.

"Well, I got fifth, now just try to do better next year," Crisp said. "Do better and better every year."



Kirksville's Jaden Ballinger goes for a takedown against Moberly's Zach Lewis during a 170-pound state title match on Saturday, Feb. 19, 2022, at Mizzou Arena. AUSTIN MILLER/DAILY EXPRESS

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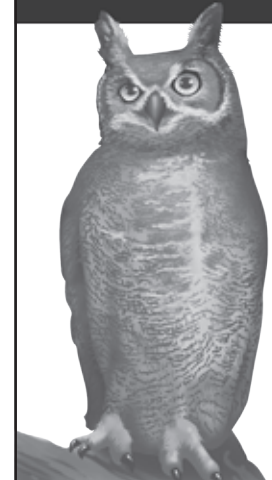
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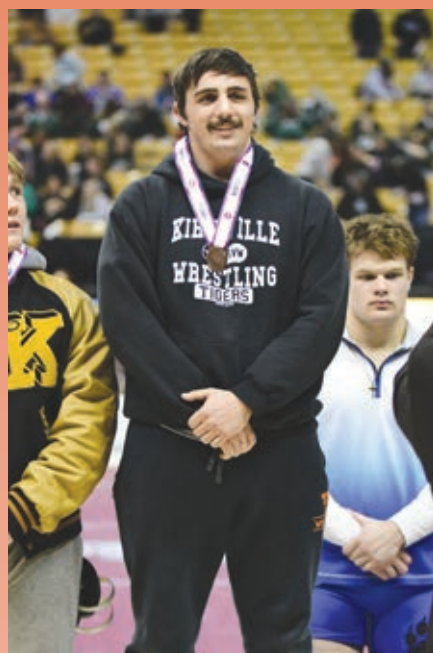
MSHSAA CLASS 2 WRESTLING CHAMPIONSHIPS



Team - 3rd Place Class 2



Jaden Ballinger,
Class 2 state champion
at 170 pounds



Colton Hannah,
Class 2 third place at
220 pounds



Hunter Tarr,
Class 2 third place at
126 pounds



Jaden Crisp,
Class 2 fifth place at
106 pounds

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- Mar. 2 **Glik's Relocation & 125th Anniversary Ribbon Cutting Ceremony**, 2106 N. Baltimore Street, 10:00 am
- Mar. 15 **Virtual Candidate Forum: Kirkville City Council**, Zoom Meeting ID: 811 5796 8084, Passcode: 164901
- Mar. 13 **Daylight Savings Time—Spring 1 Hr. Forward**
- Mar. 17 **Flat Branch Home Loan Ribbon Cutting Ceremony**, 110 S. Franklin Street Suite A, 10:00 am
- Mar. 25 **Celebrating Missouri's Northern Stars Annual Chamber Banquet**, Moose Family Center, 5:00-8:30 pm
- Mar. 30 **Premier EyeCare Associates Relocation Ribbon Cutting Ceremony & Open House**, 1904 N. Baltimore Street, 4:00 pm
- Apr. 5 **Municipal Election Day—Go Vote!**
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