

KIRKSVILLE Daily Express

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A city snowplow truck stored inside a public works shed.

City snowplow operators defy dangerous conditions to keep roads clear and safe

By Marty Bachman
Kirksville Daily Express

They're the unsung heroes of Kirksville when a major winter storm blankets the area with deep snow. They've got one of the toughest jobs in the city, the hours are long and the work conditions sometimes dangerous. When everyone else is told to stay off the roads, they're out there clearing the snow off of them and making the streets safer.

They're the snowplow operators, sometimes arriving at work in the middle of the night, sometimes working a 12-hour shift before trading with another crew that will work the next 12 hours — and sometimes just standing by, watching the weather to determine if everyone is going home or spending the night working.

According to Kirksville Public Works Director Glen Balliew, when the weather service broadcasts warnings of a severe winter snowstorm moving

in on Kirksville, far in advance the preparations within the public works and its street department are in gear. Balliew, along with streets superintendent Ray Sandstrom, closely track the storm several days out, trying to figure out what it's going to do and how it's going to act. Making it more difficult, Balliew said that Kirksville is located in one of those areas where 30 miles north or 30 miles south can be the difference between getting four inches or 10 inches of snow.

"Usually if we think it's going to be really significant, we try to put out a warning that probably a snow emergency is coming," Balliew said, noting that he is the one to make that decision. "When that goes out, everybody has two hours from the time it's effective, to get their cars off the snow routes... and that does not always happen."

No matter the time of day or night, when a snowstorm is predicted, one of two crews of six

snowplow operators will report to work, sometimes waiting hours for the snow to begin to fall. When it does though, and it's determined that there's enough snow to start pushing, trucks will depart the public works yard for one of the six zones the city is divided into. Each of the zones takes eight hours to clean the streets and if the snow continues, they'll begin to clear the streets again, starting at the beginning of their route.

Things are more complicated in the Central Business District, where snow can't just be shoveled to the side of the road, it has to be loaded into a dump truck and hauled away. Oftentimes cars will fill the street parking during business hours, even in snow emergencies, making it difficult for the snowplow operators to maneuver their trucks and safely remove the snow from the streets.

Balliew said that well before it starts snowing, the snowplow operators

have spent a considerable amount of time studying the streets they are assigned to plow. They learn where the ditches, curbs and other hazards are

"There are a lot of those things they could hit and beat up and tear up or run off into," he said. "We want them running those routes several times so they can learn where that stuff's at."

He said that a lot of the job is trial by error but that the more an operator gets out on their route, the better they become at it. He said that drivers train often and that beyond the city streets, their job duties include clearing the downtown parking lots as well.

"It's a strategy on how you do it," he said. "Is it going to be a wet snow or a dry snow? Is the wind going to be blowing on a dry snow? There's just a lot of things to think of when you're trying to plan this out."

See **PLOW**, Page A3

Diversity Festival will showcase the city's cultural highlights

By Marty Bachman
Kirksville Daily Express

The city of Kirksville is hosting a diversity festival that will take place on Saturday, April 30 at the Rieger Armory from 1-4 p.m. According to Debi Boughton, a committee member, the event came about as a result of the city's strategic plan that was done in 2020 titled "Think 2040, a 20-year comprehensive plan that addresses community identity; neighborhoods and housing; economy; mobility and transportation; infrastructure and public facilities; and planning and land use.

A subcommittee, that meets quarterly, was created to explore more community cultural events and when the group met last fall, they came up with the idea of having a diversity festival. A feasibility committee determined they could make this happen in the next year and how they might do it.

"The strategic plan has short term goals, medium term goals and long-term goals," Boughton said. This is actually a medium-term goal meaning they wanted to do it like within five years or so."

See **FESTIVAL**, Page A9

KIRKSVILLE TO SEND SEVEN ATHLETES TO SPECIAL OLYMPICS 2022 USA GAMES



At the March 9 Rotary Club of Kirksville meeting, Special Olympics Coach Dan Niemeyer and three athletes spoke on the 2022 USA Games to be held in Orlando, Fla., from June 5-11. USA Games is a national event held every four years. The Kirksville area is sending seven athletes (six in ladies 3on3 basketball and one in track and field) to compete as part of Team Missouri. The team is currently fundraising to participate in the event. Pictured from left are Coach Niemeyer, Holly Turner, Amelia Hernandez, Patty Sutton, and Past Club President Debi Boughton. Rotary Club of Kirksville

Kirksville R-3 honors its Featured Teachers for February



Nichole Waker is a teacher at Ray Miller Elementary School. Originally from Oklahoma, she now calls Kirksville/La Plata home. She has 17 years total teaching, all at Kirksville R-3. She spent 15 years teaching fourth grade and two years she served in the library. "I'm humbled and honored to receive this award," she said. "Teaching and life have been challenging the last few years but I'm grateful to have a job that I love to do."



Rachel Diehl is a teacher at Kirksville Primary School. Originally from Marine, Ill., she has taught for eight years and is in her third year teaching 2nd grade in Kirksville.



Melissa Kinney is the librarian for William Matthew Middle School. Originally from Downing, Mo., she has taught for over 28 years, 21 with the Kirksville R-3. She is currently the Library Media Specialist. "I am honored to be recognized," she said. "Teachers have a very gratifying and challenging job. I am proud to have chosen this career and have been blessed many times over during my years as a teacher. I have been a part of many amazing young people's lives and my experiences have been a rewarding part of my life."



Erin Cupp, a Kirkville High School teacher, has 17 teaching years with 10 of those being spent in the Kirkville School District. She currently teaches grades 9-12 science.



Vince McQueen is a teacher at the Kirkville Area Technical Center. Originally from Putnam County, McQueen has taught for 13 years, all at Kirkville R-3. He teaches grades 11 and 12 in department construction trades. "I was in the first construction trades class in Unionville and this inspired me to want to teach," he said.

Lisa Lambert is a teacher at the Early Childhood Learning Center. A Kirksville native, she has been teaching early childhood special education for 17 years and has worked for the district for 19 years. "I have really enjoyed working with preschool students and their families the past 17 years at the ECLC," she said. "I also have the opportunity to work with an incredible team at the ECLC where each and every members strive to make a positive difference in the lives of each and every student."



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OBITUARIES INSIDE

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Volume 121, No. 20

KIRKSVILLE CALENDAR AND NEWS BRIEFS

Forum to meet candidate for director of autism center

The Truman State University selection committee is inviting community members and stakeholders associated with the Greenwood Center Project to participate in an Open Forum meeting with a candidate for the position of Director of the Greenwood Interprofessional Autism Center, next Friday, March 18 at 1 p.m. in the TSU Georgian Room. Dr. Brian Herscovitch will be coming in from Boston, Mass. in consideration of this position. Feel free to reach out to Crystal Aminrad (660-665-9400) or Dr. Julie Lochbaum with any questions.

Master Gardener course to be held beginning March 22

A Master Gardener Course will be offered starting March 22 through June 7. Classes will be held by Zoom and in-person. There will be 12 presentations on Tuesdays from 9:30 a.m.-noon. Participants can choose to watch the presentation by Zoom from their home, their local county Extension Center, or in-person at the Adair County Extension Center at 503 E. Northtown Road in Kirksville. To supplement what is learned in the presentations, there will be six outdoor, in-person lab classes on Thursdays from 9-11 a.m., except for June 9 which will be from 2-4 p.m. The rain date is the next day, Friday. The deadline to

register is March 18 at noon. Registration is online at <https://extension.missouri.edu/events/master-gardener-course-kirksville-area>.

Kirksville Chamber of Commerce annual banquet

The Kirksville Chamber of Commerce will hold their annual banquet and awards ceremony on Friday, March 25 at the Moose Family Center, 2405 E. Illinois Street, in Kirksville. Titled “Celebrating Missouri’s Northern Stars”, the event will begin at 5 p.m. with a retirement reception for Tourism Director Debi Boughton. Dinner and the awards ceremony will be held between 6-8:30 p.m. There will be a cash bar, awards, fellowship and dinner. RSVP by March 14. Kirksville Young Professionals will present its “5 under 40” winners. Tickets can be purchased online or stop by the chamber, Monday through Friday, from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m.

Ribbon Cutting at Flat Branch Home Loans

The Kirksville Chamber of Commerce will hold a ribbon-cutting ceremony at Flat Branch Home Loans, 110 S. Franklin Street, Suite A on Thursday, March 17 at 10 a.m.

Watershed Management Commission meeting

The city of Kirksville’s Watershed Management Commission will hold a meeting at 5:30 p.m. on Thursday, March 17, in the Confer-

ence Room at EDA Building located at 315 S. Franklin. Agenda items include: Watershed Management Plan Review and NEMO Ag Show Recap.

Adair County Health Department to hold March Covid vaccination clinics

The Adair County Health Department recommends that all county residents ages 5 and older get vaccinated against Covid-19 and all residents ages 16 and older get vaccinated and boosted. No vaccines are 100 percent effective at preventing disease. However, the Covid-19 vaccines are easily accessible, free, and continue to demonstrate that they prevent serious illness, hospitalization, and death. The Health Department will administer Covid-19 vaccines at their clinic located at 1001 S. Jamison Street throughout March. Adult clinics are scheduled from 2 to 4 p.m. on Tuesdays, March 15, 22 and 29. Pediatric clinics are scheduled from 3 to 5:30 p.m. on Thursdays, March 17, 24 and 31. Call the Health Department at 660-665-8491 to schedule a vaccine appointment.

Ribbon Cutting at Bailey’s Window Cleaning

The Kirksville Chamber of Commerce will hold a ribbon-cutting ceremony at Bailey’s Window Cleaning at 1306 S. Baltimore in Kirksville, at 4 p.m. on April 7.

Curtain Call annual meeting in April

Curtain Call Theatre Company will be hosting their Annual Meeting on Monday, April 11 from 5:30-7 p.m. at the theatre at 512 W. Elizabeth Street, and is open to the public to come and learn about their plans for upcoming shows and building improvements. Members who have paid their \$10 annual membership dues will also be able to vote on new board members.

Foster/Adopt Connect ribbon cutting

Join the Kirksville Chamber of Commerce in welcoming FosterAdopt Connect to the community. Their arrival will be celebrated with a ribbon cutting on April 13 at 4 p.m. at 117 W Potter Ave, Kirksville.

44th annual free children’s Easter egg hunt

Mark your calendars and hop on over to the 44th Annual Children’s Easter Egg Hunt on Saturday, April 16 at 10 a.m. at the Truman State University Quad. The city of Kirksville’s Parks and Recreation Department and Truman State University’s Cardinal Key are partnering to host this event free of charge. All children ages 2-12 are invited to join them to find as many eggs as they can. Remember to bring a basket for all the eggs and your camera for a picture with our special guest, the Easter Bunny. For more information, please contact the Parks and Recreation Department at 660-627-1485.

Tiny Tykes Soccer and Advanced Program registration is now open

The city of Kirksville’s Parks and Recreation Department is now accepting registrations for the Tiny Tykes Soccer and Tiny Tykes Advanced program. Tiny Tykes Soccer is an exciting and engaging four-week program, for children ages 3-6, that teaches soccer using play-based learning. Introductory Tiny Tykes Soccer will be held for children ages 3-5 on Tuesdays and Thursdays starting April 19. Registrants will choose either a 4:30-5:15 p.m. session, or a 5:30- 6:15 p.m. session. Tiny Tykes Advanced will be held for children ages 5-6 on Wednesdays. Registrants will choose either a 4:30-5:30 p.m. session, or a 5:30-6:30 p.m. session, when registering online at parks.kirksvillecity.com or in person at the Parks and Recreation office located at the Kirksville Aquatic Center, 801 E. Mill St. Registration is \$40 per participant and each player will receive a Tiny Tykes Soccer t-shirt. All Tiny Tykes Soccer will be held at the Tiny Tykes Soccer Field located next to the Pee Wee Baseball Fields at the North Park Complex, 3000 Novinger St. For more information, contact the Parks and Recreation Department at 660-627-1485.

Kirksville Diversity Festival

The Kirksville Diversity Festival will take place on Saturday, April 30 at the Rieger Armory from 1-4 p.m. The entire community of Kirksville is invited and they hope to have interesting food, live entertainment, crafts for kids to do

and education about diversity in the local community. Groups are invited to set up tables for free and corporate sponsorship is being sought.

County Commission looking for public feedback

The Adair County Commission is looking for public feedback to help guide the use of their State and Local Fiscal Recovery Funds to support Adair County. These funds were provided to communities and counties to combat the negative effects from the Covid-19 pandemic. If you are a resident of Adair County please fill out the survey: <https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/adairarpa>

Sparklight to offer residential phone customers free calls to Ukraine

Sparklight, a member of the Cable One family of brands, announced it will offer its residential phone customers free, unlimited international calls to Ukraine through March 12, in response to the current events in this region. Customers must visit www.sparklight.com/Ukraine and submit account information to Ukraine credited.

Menards to serve as drop-site for local food pantry

Menards Home Improvement Store, 3309 N. Baltimore, is serving as a drop site for a local food pantry through the month of March. Menards offers a wide variety of non-perishable food items that can be donated to the food pantries, from boxes of cereal to cans of soup that can be found in the grocery department for immediate donation.

Welcome,
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KIRKSVILLE POLICE CHIEF SPEAKS TO KIRKSVILLE KIWANIS CLUB



The Kirksville Kiwanis Club welcomed Scott Williamson to speak at their March 10 meeting. Williamson is the police chief for the city of Kirksville’s police department. He presented on his background in law enforcement and his goals as Kirksville’s chief of police. Pictured are Williamson (left) and Kirksville Kiwanis Club Past President, and Past Lieutenant Governor, Ashley Young. PRESS RELEASE

DID YOU KNOW?

More than 120 million adults read a daily or Sunday print newspaper.



A full 90% of readers say their community paper keeps them informed — and 73% said their hometown newspaper provides valuable shopping and advertising information.

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

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701 E. LaHarpe St., Suite C,
Kirksville, MO, 63501
P.O. Box 809 h
Phone 660-665-2808
kirksvilledailyexpress.com
Phillips Media Group, LLC.
Phone: 660.826.1000 or 800.892.7856
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CONTACT THE KIRKSVILLE DAILY EXPRESS

Marty Bachman, Managing Editor
editor@kirksvilledailyexpress.com
Austin Miller, Sports Editor
DailyExpressSports@gmail.com
Dawn Burgin, Circulation
dburgin@kirksvilledailyexpress.com
Scott Jarvis, Advertising
sjarvis@kirksvilledailyexpress.com

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1 year	\$199.54
EZ Pay	\$16.66
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OBITUARIES

James (Andy) Andrew Grgurich
Aug 6, 1961 — Mar 12, 2022

James (Andy) Andrew Grgurich, 60, of Novinger Missouri, passed away Saturday March 12, 2022 at his home, with his wife and family by his side.



The son of the late Jackie Eugene and Valeria (Jakubiak) Grgurich, he was born August 6, 1961 in Kirksville, Missouri. On November 19, 1994, Andy was united in marriage to Tammy Higgins at Mary Immaculate Church in Kirksville, MO.

Andy is survived by his wife Tammy of 27 years; sister-in-law, Debbie Grgurich; two brothers, Eugene (Kelley) Grgurich of Kirksville, MO, Edward (Melanie) Grgurich of Novinger, MO; three sisters, Evelyn (Garry) Ledford, Joanne (Mark) Sheedy all of Kirksville, MO, and Carol (Wil) Reisinger of Lees Summit, MO; several nieces and nephews, and in-laws George and Carolyn Higgins of Greentop, MO.

Andy was preceded in death by his parents and his brother Frank.

Andy was a graduate from Novinger R-I High School with the Class of 1979. Andy worked in the family business “Jakie” Grgurich and Sons Construction” for many years and spent the last several years farming.

Andy had a Heart of Gold. He was always willing to help. He will be greatly missed by family and friends. Andy was a member of the NEMO Car Club, he enjoyed his classic cars and especially driving his high school 69’ Ford Cobra to Cruise Ins. He enjoyed many Rock N’ Roll concerts with Tammy and family and he was fondly referred to as the “Rock N’ Roll Farmer.” He was a member of St. Rose Catholic Church of Novinger.

Public visitation will be held Wednesday, March 16, 2022 from 5:00 to 7:00 p.m. followed by a Liturgical Vigil Service in the chapel of Travis-Noe Funeral Home in Kirksville.

Andy’s wish was to have a Mass of Christian burial to be held 10:00 a.m. Thursday, March 17, 2022 at St. Rose Catholic Church in Novinger with Monsignor Marion Makarewicz presiding. Interment will follow at Novinger Cemetery.

In lieu of flowers, expressions of sympathy may be made to St. Rose Catholic Church of Novinger or to Novinger Cemetery and may be left at or mailed to Travis-Noe Funeral Home, P.O. Box 306, Kirksville, MO 63501.

Local McDonald’s restaurants launch McDonald’s Outstanding Nurse Award

Nomination period
open March 14 - April 4

By Press Release

Local McDonald’s restaurants across the local region will celebrate area nurses in a big way this spring with the launch of the first-annual McDonald’s Outstanding Nurse Awards.

Starting today, Monday, March 14, community mem-

bers can nominate outstanding nurses in Kirksville and Macon. The award will honor nurses who exhibit the ultimate dedication to their patients and go above and beyond to ensure the community is taken care of in these most challenging times. Nominations will be accepted online through April 4 at <https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/mcdnurseaward>.

10 nominees will be selected as 2022 McDonald’s

Outstanding Nurses and will receive a \$200 gift card on behalf of their local McDonald’s restaurant.

“Our local nurses have been through so much the past two years especially battling Covid-19 so we are excited to recognize them through the Outstanding Nurse Awards,” said McDonald’s Owner/Operator Bob Gilstrap.

Throughout the start of the pandemic, McDonald’s restaurants across the area

have honored healthcare workers with free beverage offers and providing food to frontline workers at area hospitals. This program gives the opportunity for the community to get involved in showcasing thanks and appreciation for the positive impact healthcare workers have made the past two years. As well as supporting local healthcare, McDonald’s provides extensive support to Ronald McDonald House Charities.

Birthday Blessings offers hope to kids in the foster care system

By Press Release

While there are more than 20,000 children in the Missouri foster care system, there are about 240 of these at-risk kids in the northeastern corner of Missouri. The organization, Birthday Blessings, collaborates with Missouri Children’s Divisions and other community-based nonprofits to get resources to the kids. They have a partnership with the N6 Children’s Division, which includes Adair, Clark, Knox, Lewis, Scotland and Schuyler Counties.

“Our goal is to meet physical and emotional needs of these special young people, while also sending the message that they matter,” said Shannon VonAllmen, executive director of Birthday Blessings. “In 2013, we started by sending out birthday party supplies and wrapped gifts in paper shopping bags. As we learned of other gaps in funding, we began to offer other services targeting unmet needs. The next step was to provide duffle bags and backpacks so kids didn’t have to move from home to home using trash bags. They deserve something more dignified to carry their belongings.”

The nonprofit eventually expanded from their base in West Plains to cover 23 counties. They also added other services such as household goods for teens transitioning to independent living, graduation recognition gifts, care packages for socially isolated kids, Easter baskets and newborn care items for pregnant foster teens. They also assist with special needs such as bedding, clothing or items that aren’t covered by other funding sources.

The organization has only been serving in Adair, Lewis and Clark since January but has already sent birthday parties and duffles to 13 children there. In the last year, the organization sent 56 birthday party bags, 44 duffles or backpacks, 22 seasonal care packages and two graduation gift bags to foster children in Clark, Scotland and Schuyler Counties.

The 501c3 organization provides these services through donations from individuals, businesses, civic groups and foundations. They receive no government funding.

“I often hear people say they wanted to do something to help foster kids but couldn’t become foster parents,” Von-



Shannon VonAllmen, executive director of Birthday Blessings, puts together the first birthday party for a child in Knox County. While each party is packed with fun, it’s designed to meet physical and emotional needs of kids in care.

Allmen said. “They didn’t know how else to help. Birthday Blessings gives compassionate people an opportunity to make a difference in the lives of vulnerable children. Our annual Birthday Bash is a great way to double the impact of donated dollars.”

Rachelle Frey has been volunteering with the organization for years and currently serves on their board of directors. She is also a licensed professional counselor who is experienced in dealing with emotional trauma.

“Birthday Blessings has created a culture, through faith, of using every single resource to meet the specific and unique needs of every precious child they have the honor to serve,” Frey said. “It is only through the collective effort of every single person who choose to

give, that these children and young adults receive an added level of support.

The non-profit will hold their match event between March 29 and April 2. A donor will match up to \$10,000 in donations during this time. Checks postmarked before or during the event will be counted and can be mailed to Birthday Blessings, 429 Aid Ave, West Plains MO 65775. Visit www.birthday-blessings.org for online payment options. For more information, call 417-372-5306.

Lady by birthday party: Shannon VonAllmen, executive director of Birthday Blessings, puts together the first birthday party for a child in Knox County. While each party is packed with fun, it’s designed to meet physical and emotional needs of kids in care.

PLOW

Continued from Page A1

He said that a snowfall of four to six inches takes some time to clear but when it gets to 10 inches or more, it takes a significant increase in time to get the snow out.

“You can’t let it get to a point where you can’t handle it,” Balliew said, adding that usually when the snowfall gets to about two inches on the ground, they start pushing it. “We start and we don’t stop until it’s over.”

The city uses a brine solution to spread on streets if they know they’re going to get ice, and they put salt on top if the roads get icy, but salt only works between 25-32 degrees, so when it gets colder than that, the salt only works when the sun comes out and it warms up a little bit.

Balliew said that the city code requires that cars be removed from snow routes within two hours of it being declared but that doesn’t occur all the time. He said that college students will leave town for a weekend and leave their cars parked on the street, which creates problems for a snowplow driver that has to work around the vehicle, and that other people will hurry through the windrows created by the snowplow on downtown streets that they’re trying to load into the dump trucks.

“For the most part, drivers cooperate, but you always have a few bad actors, too,” he said.

Another problem snowplow operators face is the fact that many mailboxes haven’t been installed according to postal service code, which requires them to be six to eight inches

back of the curb. This means the drivers must go around the mailboxes to avoid hitting them and they end up leaving snow out front of the box.

The snow season usually begins in November and can last into April, though temperatures often rise faster in March and April making the job comparably less stressful. Sandstrom, who has worked the street department for 25 years, has seen a number of big storms, but one year, around 2011, 16 inches of snow fell on Kirksville, beginning to fall at 4:30 p.m. and finally stopping at 4 a.m.

“It literally took two weeks to clear the downtown,” he said. “We worked seven days a week, two shifts.”

Sandstrom said that the incident prompted changes in the way snow was removed, with the city investing in loader blades, two of which are used today, and now they have a snowblower, which they didn’t have at that time.

“That would have really made that much easier,” Sandstrom said, noting that they had four-foot windrows when they were done clearing the streets. “I looked out the window a couple of times and I wondered how people would clear the driveways. It was horrible.”

He said that with just a normal snowfall it will take the crews of six drivers, eight to 12 hours to clear every city street of snow.

Balliew said that while there are members of the public that are appreciative of the snowplow operator’s efforts, other people don’t understand that after the driver goes through town to take off maybe six inches

of snow, there might have been another inch or two that have fallen since he originally hit a street and he will have to return to where the route began and start removing snow again. While the road at the beginning of the route is manageable, they can drive on it, oftentimes residents think the snowplow should be right back over there not realizing it takes at least eight hours for the driver to finish the route and return.

With some routes being bigger than others, a driver on a smaller route, when done, can jump in to help the drivers with more streets to cover. If the city is expecting a couple inches and they know it’s going to warm up fast, they may just clear the arterial and collector roads which are the main thoroughfare roads with the majority of traffic. If it’s going to snow a lot and they’re not really ready to start pushing snow on the residential streets, they will again make sure the major roads are cleared until enough snow has fallen to begin clearing side streets.

Balliew said that snow removal is probably one of the biggest reasons that the public works department loses personnel “because it’s tough on drivers.” But the job is necessary and when people apply for a job in public works, they’re told straight up about how difficult the position is.

“It’s just a little too much for some folks,” Balliew said.

Sandstrom said that they’re trying to design a response according to the forecast and sometimes the forecast will change and while they’ll have the crews set up to work, that will change as well.

You bring guys in here and it may not snow,” he said. “Everybody will be sitting here waiting.”

“If the forecast says it will start snowing at two and it doesn’t start snowing until six, I can’t send them home now, they’re on shift now, Balliew said. “That whole forecasting thing is very important to us and we are studying every weather channel and internet site and comparing them and we’re looking at everything, radar maps, different models, we are really digging into the details of this snow event trying to figure it out so the taxpayers can get the best bet for their money and the employees are just not getting pulled in here for no reason.”

Sandstrom said that the difference between a two-inch snow and a six-inch snow is remarkably unlike and the way they approach it has to be adapted to the situation. When a snowfall of 10 inches hits, the job becomes even more intense.

Further complicating the job is visibility during a significant storm event and hazards in the roadway, such as vehicles parked on the street that may be difficult to see when plowing snow.

“Those guys are trying to clear the streets during that timeframe and when you can’t see very far in front of you and you’re trying to clear the streets and avoid all the obstacles, it gets pretty stressful,” Balliew said. “It’s pretty tiring on the body.”

Sandstrom agreed that cars parked in the way made the job more dangerous and added that people throwing their own snow in the street, which is against

the city code, is also pretty upsetting.

“Until you understand how to run your routes, that’s kind of frustrating for them,” Sandstrom said. “That’s two or three years worth of learning to get you a system where you’re really efficient in running your routes because there are just so many different turns.”

Balliew said that when a driver gets to the end of a street, they need to know where to take that snow as they’ve had new drivers pile up snow against cars and mailboxes not realizing what they were doing

“Just small things like that becomes routine, ‘I know where to take this snow to when I get to the end because it’s got to go someplace,’” Balliew said, noting that a lot of the drivers have to back out of places when clearing dead ends and cul-de-sacs. “They have to backout with big

trucks, snow blowing hard. It’s a stressful situation at night time.”

Despite the hazards and stress of the job, Balliew said that none of his drivers complain about it.

“It’s just that 12 hours in a truck, that’s a long shift,” he said.

“The guys are real good, they take very few breaks,” Sandstrom said.

Balliew said that when they hire people for the job, they explain to them what the job is, but that they don’t really fathom the experience until they get out and start plowing snow. To make matters more stressful, sometimes they might be called in to plow snow two or three weekends in a row

“It gets tough,” he said. “And I understand they get paid for what they do, but they’d much rather be home on a weekend then be pushing snow.”

The Family of Jesse Shively
(February 25, 1984-January 2, 2022)

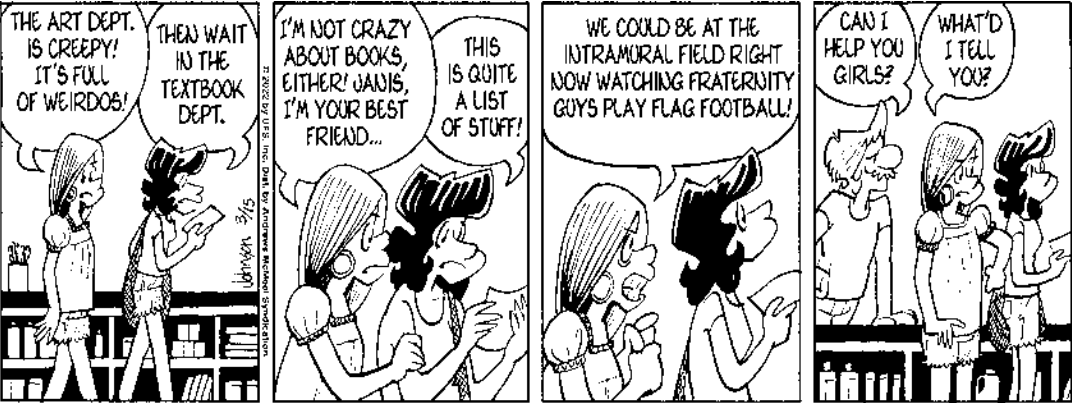
would like to express our heartfelt thanks to our family, friends and neighbors for your kindness and support during this difficult time. Thank you to all who remembered us in prayer, visited, called, or messaged, sent cards or flowers or stones, prepared food and made memorial contributions to the Jesse Shively Memorial fund for his Grandchildren's Education Fund. Special thanks to Pastor Sonny Smyser for officiating the funeral service, prayer, and comforting words. Thank you to my best friend, Margaret Reynolds, for writing and delivering his beautiful eulogy. We are grateful to Norman Funeral Home for their service, support, and compassion.

Thank you to Performance Pipe of Bloomfield, Iowa for covering the expense of the family meal after the service. Thank you to the Wooden Nickel for preparing the meal and their generous donation to Jesse's Memorial. A very special thank you to Thomas Gasperri, owner of TNT Guns LTD for organizing and donating a gun, knife, and antique roller skates for Jesse's Memorial Fund and to all who purchased raffle tickets. Your generosity warms our hearts.

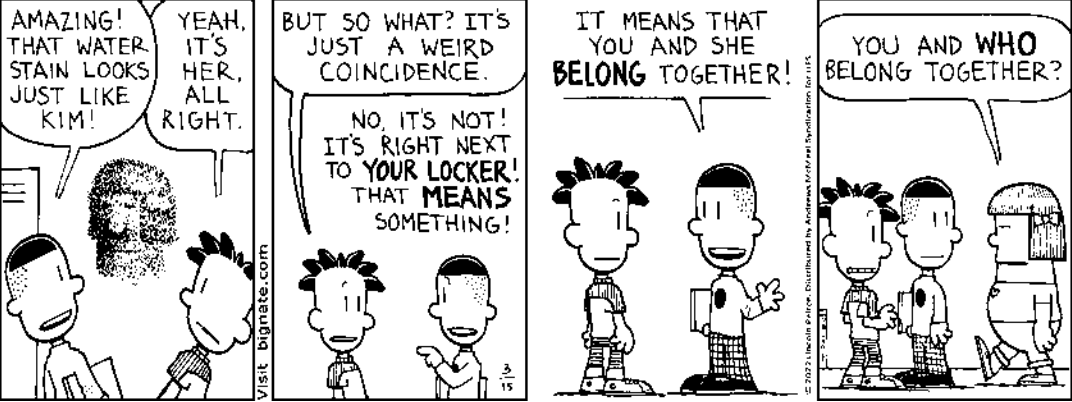
It is comforting to know that Jesse touched the lives of so many of you and that you were there for us during this difficult time. Your friendship, kindness and love mean more to us than words can ever express. We are heartbroken his time on Earth was cut short.

Denise Shively and Family

ARLO AND JANIS



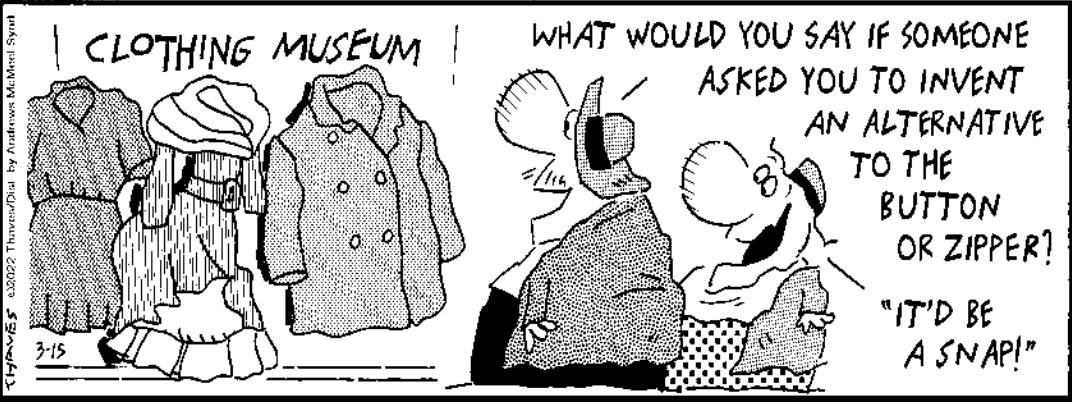
BIG NATE



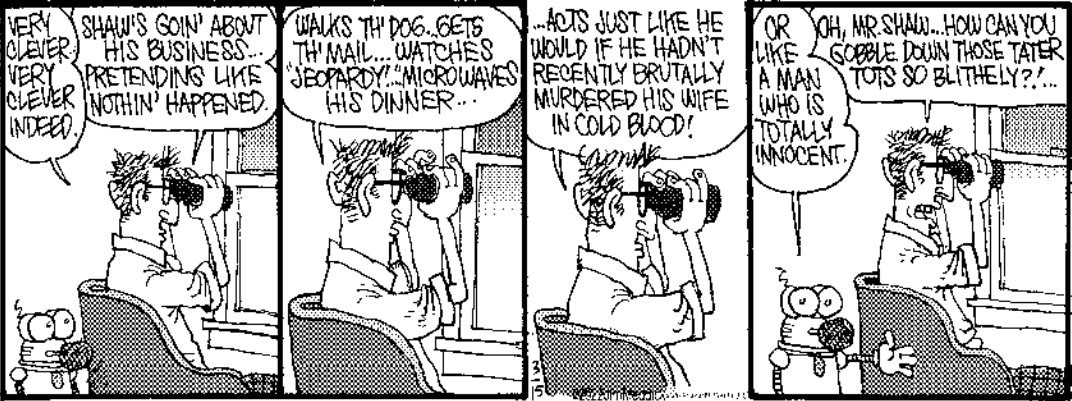
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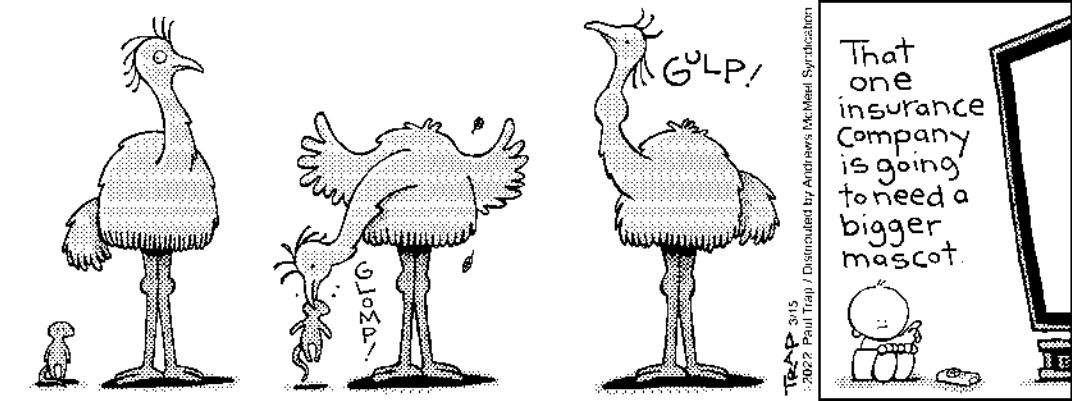
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PREVIOUS ANSWER

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

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

CROSSWORD

ACROSS

1 Not dry
4 Newman or Simon
8 Gouda cousin
12MPG monitor
13— mater
14 Fish habitat
15 Car buyer's protection (2 wds.)
17 Has
18Badge wearer
19 Veto
21 Cloy
22 Lebanon neighbor
26 Free-floating
30It may be hard-boiled
31 Dross
34 Promise to pay
35 "Peter and the Wolf" duck
36 Turpentine source
37 Geol. formations
38 Animal fat
39 Conquistador's quest
40 Stopped

DOWN

1 Join a certain way
2 "En garde" weapons
3 Florida port
4 Gasped
5 Friend
6 Emma in "The Avengers"
7 Grassy expanse
8 Powerful adhesive
9 Wall Street name
10 Blyth or Sothern

42 Amarillo native
44 Jumbo planes
47 Out — — limb
49 Dovetailed
51 Long way off
54 Dormant
56 Thin cut
57 Parent's admonition
58 Wiggly fish
59 Luau number
60 "Mister Ed" actor
61 Thurs. follower

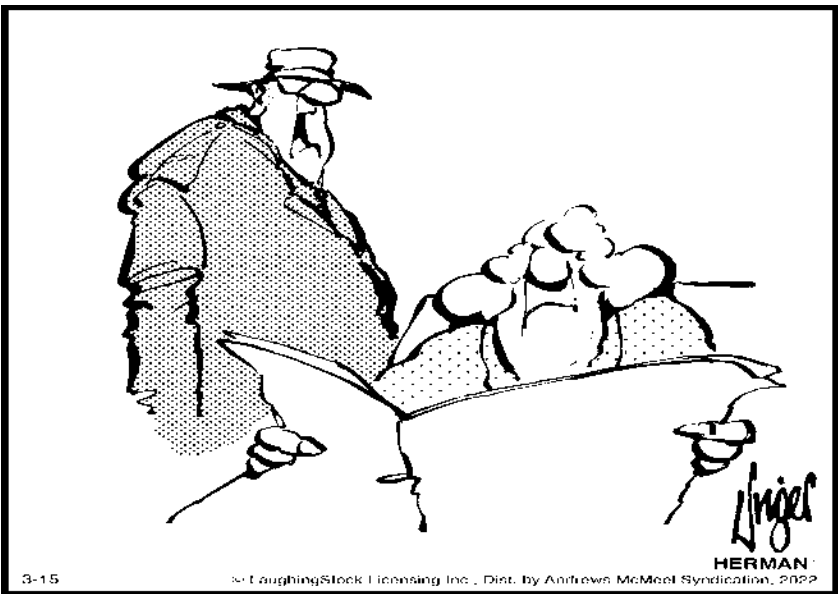
11 JAMA readers
16 Blackout
20 Adherent
23 "Cathy's Clown" singer
24 Borodin prince
25 Like prime steak
27 Hoarfrost
28 Kappa preceder
29 Fret and fume
31 Laundry problem
32 Trevi Fountain coins, once
33 Strong as — —

35 Most grizzled
40 1980 Turner launch
41 Ousts
43 Heart outlet
45 Rip-off artist
46 Cut off
48 Verdi opera
49 Thick head of hair
50 Cold cuts seller
51 Tool handle wood
52 Kind of vaccine
53 Feel awful
55 Name, to Pierre

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		

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HERMAN



ASTROGRAPH BY EUGENIA LAST

Bide your time, do the groundwork and leave no room for error. Put your energy to good use, and you'll get the acknowledgment you desire. Hard work and dedication will pay off if you spend time perfecting what's important and honing your skills to suit your needs. Work quietly behind the scenes to ensure everything falls into place.

PISCES (Feb. 20-March 20) -- Slow down; don't let temptation lead you astray. Be diligent and consider your options, the cost involved and the consequences if things don't go as planned. Be open to experimentation.

ARIES (March 21-April 19) -- Dig in and do what you can to make a difference. Your input and dedication will impress someone who can help you advance. Do your homework before you make a physical change or commitment.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20) -- Say little and do a lot. Size up situations and schedule your time to ensure you fulfill your obligations. Refuse to let emotional issues interfere with your responsibilities.

GEMINI (May 21-June 20) -- Put your heart into taking care of your duties. Refuse to let anyone lead you astray or take advantage of your time, skills and helpful nature. A family burden is best dealt with privately.

CANCER (June 21-July 22) -- Focus on partnerships and working alongside others. New information will change how you do things. Address financial, medical and contractual concerns with practicality and insight.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22) -- Don't take on responsibilities that you can't accomplish on your own. Relying on others will lead to disappointment.

Know your limitations and make promises based on your capabilities.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22) -- Consider suggestions and new ideas. Putting a unique spin on whatever you do or say will give you the edge and help you gain valuable support. You can do something great!

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 23) -- Keep expenses to a minimum. Determine what you can do without and sell what you no longer need. Focus on personal gain, fitness and achieving peace of mind. Excess will get you nowhere.

SCORPIO (Oct. 24-Nov. 22) -- Deal with issues that are holding you back. Putting off difficult conversations will hinder your chance to get moving on things you genuinely want to do. Clear up unfinished business.

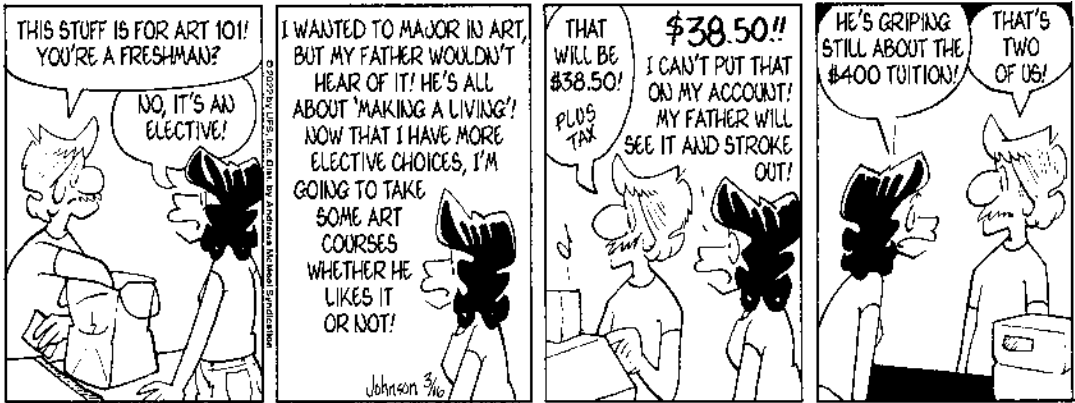
SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 23-Dec. 21) -- Concentrate on what's doable. Listen to what others have to offer, but don't take a risk or trust someone offering the impossible. Emotional spending and joint ventures will disrupt your plans.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19) -- Home improvements that enhance your ability to earn money, live and follow your dreams are within reach. Adjustments to how you use your cash, skills and experience will be crucial.

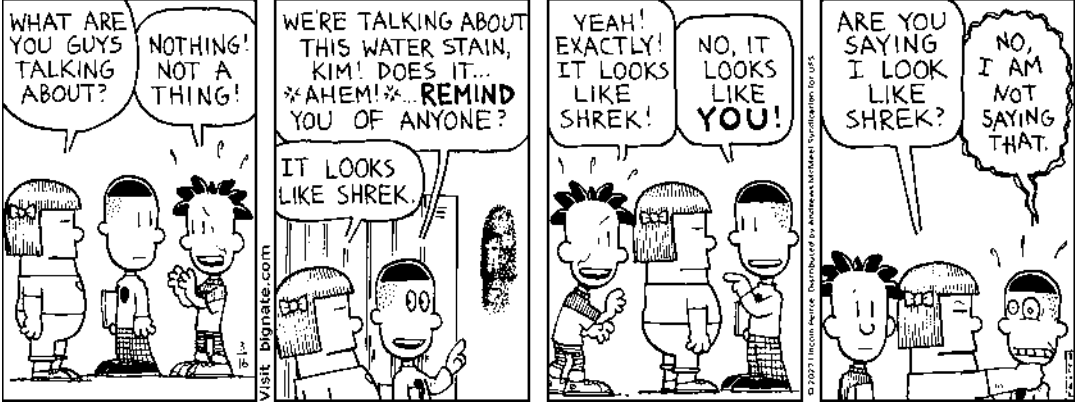
AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 19) -- Make an honest assessment of your life and relationships, and follow a path that suits your needs. Trusting someone to look out for your interests will put you in an awkward position.

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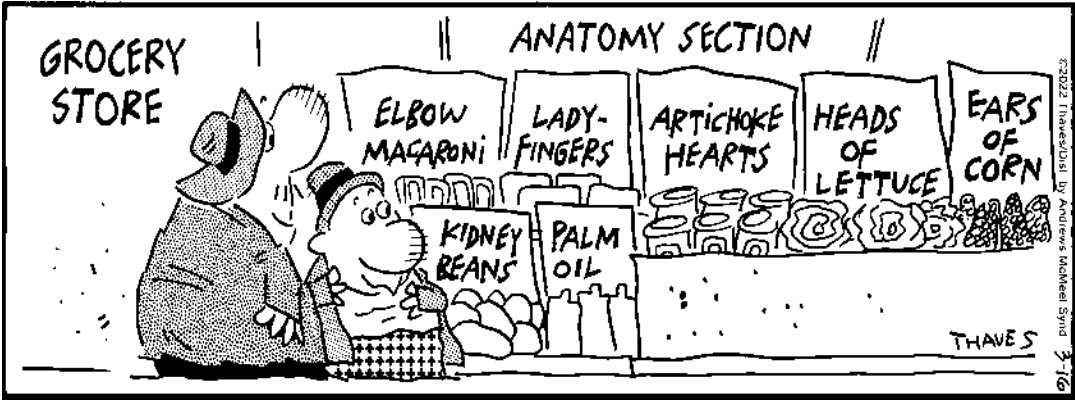
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FRANK AND ERNEST



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

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

CROSSWORD

ACROSS

- 1 Just picked
- 6 Wooden hammer
- 12 Get back
- 14 Approved
- 15 Twin of Artemis
- 16 Cruise ships
- 17 Worthless coin
- 18 Explosive letters
- 19 Rx monitors
- 21 Dentist's anesthetic
- 23 PC key
- 26 Bleat
- 27 Happy sighs
- 28 Ph.D. exams
- 30 Jacket part
- 31 Qt. fractions
- 32 Tree topper
- 33 Vestige
- 35 Maize unit
- 37 Moo goo — pan
- 38 Roman garments

39 Fam. member

- 40 Finish
- 41 Craven or Unseld
- 42 — Nimitz
- 43 IRA investments
- 44 Hula-Hoop site
- 46 Mauna —
- 48 Ushers in
- 51 Leaves out
- 55 Spooky gathering
- 56 Bullock of "Speed"
- 57 Dismount
- 58 Honored in style

DOWN

- 1 Brother's title
- 2 Theater company, briefly
- 3 "I" trouble
- 4 Chip dip
- 5 Hawaiian port
- 6 Loses feathers
- 7 Quite similar

Answer to Previous Puzzle

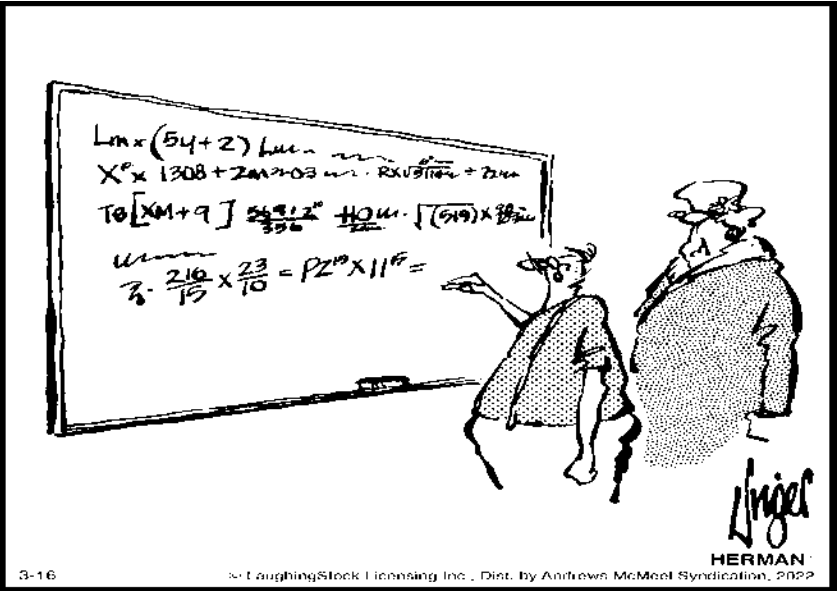
W	E	T		P	A	U	L		E	D	A	M
E	P	A		A	L	M	A		P	O	N	D
L	E	M	O	N	L	A	W		O	N	S	
D	E	P	U	T				N	I	X		
		S	A	T	E				S		S	
			A	D	R	I	F	T		E	G	
S	L	A	G		I	O	U		O	B	O	E
P	I	N	E		M	T	S		L	A	R	D
O	R	O		C	E	A	S	E	D			
T	E	X	A	N					J	E	T	S
			O	N	A			M	E	S	H	E
A	F	A	R			I	N	A	C	T	I	V
S	L	I	T			D	O	N	T		E	E
H	U	L	A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

- 8 Kerosene burner
- 9 Strong alkali
- 10 Always, to Byron
- 11 NFL events
- 19 Litter of piglets
- 20 Injure
- 22 Judge
- 24 Grew weary
- 25 Sweeps up
- 26 Quilt stuffing
- 27 Imitates
- 28 Galley movers
- 29 Rode the banister
- 34 Redeeming a check
- 36 Theater features
- 42 Overturn
- 43 Queeg's ship
- 45 Prickly sensation
- 47 Canute's foe
- 48 Red — — beet
- 49 Dover's st.
- 50 Avril follower
- 52 Banned bug spray
- 53 Previous to
- 54 Unhappy

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
55							56				
57								58			

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HERMAN



"How is it that you can't even make a cheese sandwich for yourself?"

ASTROGRAPH BY EUGENIA LAST

Read between the lines, and you'll figure out how to get the most out of whatever you pursue. Choose a path that offers satisfaction and joy. Adjust your lifestyle to fit your budget and use your attributes to serve you instead of those using you for their profit. Be mindful of others and good to yourself.

PISCES (Feb. 20-March 20) -- Get involved in what's happening around you. You won't have a say if you don't participate. Share your thoughts and make a difference. Change begins with you. Take the path that fulfills your needs.

ARIES (March 21-April 19) -- Put in the time and you'll reap the rewards. The connections you make will be lasting and fruitful if you get involved in a cause that matters to you. An unexpected change is apparent.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20) -- Don't jump into something without doing your homework. Test the atmosphere before you engage in a conversation about sensitive issues. Have a backup plan in place, and you'll come out on top.

GEMINI (May 21-June 20) -- Don't be fooled by someone's rhetoric. Look out for your well-being. Use your skills and expertise to your advantage and put your energy into something that makes you happy.

CANCER (June 21-July 22) -- Conversations will lead to something that interests you. The information you gather will spark your imagination and encourage you to use your ideas to pursue something that excites you.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22) -- Slow down; spontaneity will get you in trouble. Bide your time, put your generosity on the back burner, and don't let your

emotions interfere with practicality. Concentrate on how you look and feel.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22) -- Don't hold back. If something bothers you, speak out. Conversations will lead to resolutions that will put your mind at ease and improve an important relationship.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 23) -- Preparation is paramount if you want to bring about positive change. Let your intuition help you decipher what's best for you, and put your energy where it will help you excel.

SCORPIO (Oct. 24-Nov. 22) -- It's up to you to bring about change. Stop dreaming and start doing. Concentrate on what will make your life easier, and put to rest what stands between you and your goals. Clear up clutter.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 23-Dec. 21) -- Don't lose sight of your goals. Refuse to let anyone meddle or cause emotional turmoil. Look inward and consider what you want. Choose to do your own thing. Don't put yourself in a vulnerable position.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19) -- You'll receive an unexpected opportunity. Don't hem and haw when action is required. Size up whatever situation you encounter and do what's best for you. Don't follow others.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 19) -- Put your energy into self-improvement, health, fitness and meaningful relationships. Follow the path that puts a smile on your face and a skip in your step. Live in the moment.

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NOTICE OF TRUSTEE'S SALE

For default in the payment of debt secured by deed of trust executed by Mary B. Magers and George E. Magers, wife and husband, dated September 21, 2016, recorded on October 5, 2016 in Book 1035, Page 725, in the office of the recorder of deeds for Adair County, Missouri, the undersigned Trustee will on April 6, 2022 at the specific time of 12:00 p.m., at the south front door of the Adair County Courthouse in Kirksville, Missouri, sell at public vendue to the highest bidder for cash:

All of Lot 32, Town and Country Meadows Subdivision to Kirksville, Adair County, Missouri.

subject to all prior easements, restrictions, reservations, covenants and encumbrances now of record, if any, to satisfy said debt and cost.

Purported Address: 209 Suburban Dr., Kirksville, MO

C. Gregg Larson
Successor Trustee
PUBLICATION DATES: March 9, 16, 23, & 30, 2022

LEGAL NOTICE

Kirksville R-III School District
Notice of School Board Vacancy

The Kirksville R-III School District encourages qualified persons interested in filling the vacant position on the School Board to complete the application no later than Friday, March 18, 2022 at 4:00 p.m. Interested persons may apply at the Superintendent's Office located at 1901 East Hamilton Street, Kirksville, Missouri. For more information, contact Mr. Robert Webb, Superintendent at 660-665-8658.

Application acceptances will begin on March 4, 2022, at 8:00 a.m. and will continue during the district's regular business hours, which are Monday through Friday from 8:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. Applications will not be accepted on days that the school district's central offices are closed due to inclement weather. If in the event of closure due to the COVID-19 global pandemic, applicants should call 660-665-8658 or email kpanos@kirksville.k12.mo.us. All applications must be submitted by March 18, 2022, at 5:00 p.m.

There is one position available with a one-year term remaining.

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

Judge or Division:
PROBATE

Case Number: 22AR-PR00034

In the Estate of CARL J VALANINGHAM, Deceased.

Notice to Creditors

(Small Estate)

To All Persons Interested in the Estate of CARL J VANLANINGHAM , Decedent. On March 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 5, 2021, , are notified that Section 473.444, RSMo, sets a limitation period that would bar claims one year after the death of the decedent. A creditor may request that this estate be opened for administration. Receipt of this notice should not be construed by the recipient to indicate that the recipient may possibly have a beneficial interest in the estate. The nature and extent of any person's interest, if any, may possibly be determined from the affidavit on this estate filed in the Probate Division of the Circuit Court of Adair County, Missouri. Date of first publication is March 16, 2022.

Linda Decker
Adair County Circuit Clerk

Publication Dates: March 16 and 23, 2022

NOTICE OF TRUSTEE'S SALE

For default in the payment of debt secured by deed of trust executed by Edward Raymond Magers, a single person, dated February 11, 2016, recorded on February 16, 2016 in Book 1026, Page 42, in the office of the recorder of deeds for Adair County, Missouri, the undersigned Trustee will on April 6, 2022 at the specific time of 12:00 p.m. at the South front door of the Adair County Courthouse in Kirksville, Missouri, sell at public vendue to the highest bidder for cash:

Ninety-two (92) feet off the West end of Lots 3 and 4, Block 1, Wilson's Addition to Kirksville, Missouri.

subject to all prior easements, restrictions, reservations, covenants and encumbrances now of record, if any, to satisfy said debt and cost.

Purported Address: 410 N. Marion St., Kirksville, MO and 416 N. Marion St., Kirksville, MO

C. Gregg Larson
Successor Trustee
PUBLICATION DATES: March 9, 16, 23, & 30, 2022

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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Traps like this one can catch an entire sounder of hogs all at once. PHOTO COURTESY OF THE MISSOURI DEPARTMENT OF CONSERVATION.

MU Extension educators aid efforts to root out feral swine

By Press Release

COLUMBIA, Mo. – Having grown up on a farm in the foothills of the Missouri Ozarks, Jerry Richards was prepared for droughts, snowstorms and torrential rains. He wasn’t prepared for feral hogs.

Richards, a retired high school teacher, has a cow/calf operation on the same 500-acre Century Farm where he was raised. He’d heard that feral hogs, which roam in groups called sounders, could tear up fields. He imagined the results would look like a muddy football field after Friday’s game. But when a sounder invaded his farm and trampled over a hay and pasture field, Richards said, it looked like someone had set a drunk loose with a skid-steer loader.

“I started getting damage about three years ago,” he said. “I trapped on my own with assistance from the (Missouri) Department of Conservation for two years, and then got a trapper about this time last year. To date, we have removed over 200 hogs from the farm.”

Richards recently joined University of Missouri Extension as a cooperative feral hog outreach educator. In addition to Richards, who is based in Iron County, MU Extension has hired Kevin Crider in Dent County and Megan Crane in Douglas County. A fourth educator is being sought for Butler County. Funding for the positions is through a United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) grant managed by the Missouri Department of Conservation (MDC).

The Missouri Feral Hog Elimination Partnership has removed more than 54,000 hogs from public and private lands since 2016, but there’s more work to be done. Outreach efforts by the MU Extension educators take the form of presentations, workshops and demonstrations, as well as conversations with individuals seeking assistance.

They will connect landowners wanting to eliminate feral hogs on their property with partnership trappers. “Once the sounder has been eliminated, the educators will then connect them with their county soil and water conservation board to gain access to equipment to help them restore their damaged fields and pastures,” says Hank Stelzer, MU Extension natural resources education director.

Found in at least 35 states, feral hogs represent a serious economic and ecological danger. They can also spread a host of diseases and parasites to livestock. The USDA’s Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service (APHIS) has estimated that damage from feral hogs totals \$2 billion per year.

Feral hogs are well-equipped to wreak havoc. They can grow to 300 pounds or more, run 30 mph and detect tempting smells from miles away. Their jaws are strong enough to crack hard-shelled nuts and break the bones of animal carcasses. And they are not picky about what they eat. Their diet is mostly plants, but they will also prey on smaller wildlife, including turkey eggs and deer fawns. Roaming sounders will wreck fences and trample vegetation. When they root in the ground for food, they leave behind damaged crops, deep holes, softball-sized rocks and large clumps of soil.

Missouri’s feral hogs are primarily found in the southern part of the state, within at least 27 counties. In the 1990s there were attempts to manage Missouri’s feral hog population through recreational hunting. But with sows normally having two litters per year, birthing four to five piglets per litter on average, hogs reproduce faster than they could be hunted down. Moreover, shooting a couple hogs in a sounder leads the rest of them to scatter. The survivors learn to be afraid of humans and

wary of attempts to lure them with food.

Current efforts center on trapping. Large traps can capture an entire sounder at once: In a typical trap, a circular metal enclosure is suspended above the ground. Bait – typically corn – is placed immediately below. The site is checked daily or sometimes monitored by camera. During winter, aerial operations are conducted with drones and a helicopter operated by USDA APHIS.

According to Jason Jensen, MDC feral hog operations incident commander, the partnership’s efforts since 2016 have resulted in a 48.5% decrease in the number of watersheds in Missouri occupied by feral swine.

“Estimates of feral swine abundance statewide, measured as the catch per unit effort, have decreased from 2016 to the present, with a year-by-year decrease from 2019 to 2021,” Jensen said. “Anecdotal field reports from trappers indicate feral hogs are becoming rarer in the landscape and sounder sizes are decreasing over time.”

While MDC and the other organizations in the 18-member feral hog partnership have made considerable progress, they have struggled in allocating resources between raising landowner awareness and the actual trapping and elimination of hogs, Stelzer says.

“That’s where our educators come into play,” he says. “They are not here from ‘the government’ to tell landowners what to do. The team has strong connections to the land and their communities.” Both Richards and Crider have Missouri roots and have seen the damage to area fields and pastures firsthand.

The partnership assisted 1,308 landowners in 2021, Crider says. “Many landowners have had very good success with the partnership on their properties, which is a testament to the progress made in the removal of feral hogs in the state.”

Judges release new boundaries for Missouri Senate districts

By Jason Hancock
Missouri Independent

A panel of Missouri judges tasked with redrawing 34 state Senate districts released a tentative plan Monday, part of a once-in-a-decade process that reconfigures political boundaries following the U.S. Census.

The new map, drawn by the Judicial Redistricting Commission after a citizen commission failed to reach consensus, will be formally submitted to the Secretary of State’s office Tuesday. It’s release comes just two weeks before filing closes for potential candidates be on the primary ballot in August.

“The Judicial Redistricting Commission’s work has been thorough and labor intensive, and was purposefully undertaken with the goal to file a constitutionally compliant plan and map well in advance of the commission’s constitutional deadline to avoid disenfranchising voters given the candidate filing deadline and the deadline for preparing ballots,” said Western District Appeals Court Judge Cynthia L. Martin, who chaired the commission.

The Senate currently has 24 Republicans and 10 Democrats. Of the 17 state Senate districts on this year’s ballot, 14 are held by Republicans and three are held by Democrats.

Among the changes under the new map: The 20th District, which previously was made up of the parts of Greene County outside of Springfield and Christian County, has shifted its boundaries to drop Christian County and pick up Webster, Dade and Barton Counties. The incumbent in that district, state Republican Sen. Eric Burlison of Battlefield, is giving up his seat to run for Congress.

The 34th District used to include both Platte and Buchanan Counties. But under the new map, Buchanan would be split into two different districts, with the eastern half added to the 12th District.

The incumbent, Republican Sen. Tony Luetkemeyer of Parkville, is running for a second term in the district.

The 10th District, which previously included Audrain, Callaway, Lincoln, Monroe, Montgomery and Warren counties, now dips down to take in a portion of St. Charles County in the St. Louis suburbs. The incumbent, Republican Sen. Jeanie Riddle, is leaving office due to term limits.

The new boundary lines allows former Rep. Bryan Spencer of Wentzville to run in the district. He filed for the seat last month and will likely face off with Republican Rep. Travis Fitzwater of Fulton.

According to the St. Louis Post-Dispatch, Democratic Rep. Tracy McCreery, who planned to run to replace term limited Sen. Jill Schupp in the 24th District, would live in the 14th District — represented by Democratic Sen. Brian Williams — under the new map.

A pair of current state senators were also drawn into the new 31st District, though the seat won’t be on the ballot this fall.

GOP Sens. Rick Brattin of Harrisonville and Denny Hoskins of Warrensburg saw their counties combined into one district under the new map. Brattin was elected to his first term in 2020 and isn’t up for re-election until 2024. Hoskins won his second Senate term the same year, meaning he can’t run for re-election again.

The 19th District, which has been represented by a Republican in the state Senate since 2009, would now only include Boone County, likely creating a Democratic district. It is currently represented by Senate Majority Leader Caleb Rowden, R-Columbia.

The 11th District, centered on Independence and held by Democratic Sen. John Rizzo, was redrawn to take in more Republican-leaning areas of western Jackson County.

Neither the 11th nor the 19th is on the ballot again until 2024.



The Judicial Redistricting Commission listens Friday to comments during a public hearing on a new state Senate plan. The commissioners are, from left, Mary Sheffield of the Southern District, Thomas Chapman of the Western District, Chair Cynthia Martin of the Western District, Vice Chair Gary Lynch of the Southern District, and Angela Quigless and Michael Gardner, both of the Eastern District. RUDI KELLER/MISSOURI INDEPENDENT

FESTIVAL

Continued from Page A1

Since the feasibility committee gave the go-ahead, plans have been in the works to make it happen—so they have reserved the armory, both inside and out for the April 30 date.

“At this point we reserved the lawn and the inside of the building and the committee is trying to decide if we want to be inside or outside, depending on how much electricity we have, what the weather’s like, what the covid cases are like, so we basically reserved the inside and outside,” Boughton said.

She said that the entire community of Kirksville is invited and they hope to have interesting food, live entertainment, crafts for kids to do, education about diversity in the local community and they hope to invite many groups to set up tables for free.

“This is not a fundraiser in any way,” she said. “It’s just a cultural diversity event.”

The committee has reached out for corporate sponsorships in order to pay for the craft items or entertainment, though

the committee hasn’t decided exactly how they plan to spend the money. Some will be spent on promotion and the committee continues to meet to work on the planning of the event.

“As with any first festival, we have a lot of questions but our goal is to have a fun festival and my goal, always, as tourism director, is to have the festival grow into an annual event and to have it become more and more of a tourism event each year,” Boughton said. “But of course, the event goal is also for community members to come and enjoy it, learn about each other and have a nice afternoon.”

Boughton said that the idea of a diversity festival isn’t new, as there had been in the past a community Roots Festival that was sponsored by Take Root Café, which was a pay-what-you-can restaurant on Harrison Street. When the restaurant closed, the festival came to an end as well.

“It was very close to this, a little bit different,” Boughton said. “But once that festival no longer existed, it seemed like this would be a good one to have.”

She said that there is a lot of cultural diversity in the local

area that people may not be aware of. In the past five or seven years, there has been an influx of Congolese and Hispanic people and that there are many people that have lived here a long time that offer a very interesting cultural diversity in the Amish and Mennonite communities. In addition to those cultural enclaves, both Truman State University and ATSU bring people to town of various cultures.

“I’ve been involved quite a bit on the Truman State campus with Nepal Namaste and that is the student club from the country of Nepal,” she said. “They have an event on campus annually where they provide and actually make food from Nepal, music, dances and performances and it is a lovely event.”

She said that they hope to have students from that group and other campus groups at the festival and that the diversity offices of both schools can provide tables, student groups as well as guidance on what needs to be provided at a diversity festival.

My goal is to self-learn and for the community to learn about all of the interesting people that live here,” Boughton said.

Ashley Young, another com-



The first Kirksville Diversity Festival will be held on April 30 at the Rieger Armory on Elson Street. AL MAGLIO (660)665-0783

mittee member, said that their hope with the Diversity Festival is to celebrate the breadth and depth of the community diversity through food, performances and activities.

John Gardner, who also serves on the committee, said that the Diversity Festival is an opportunity for residents to celebrate the unique aspects of the local community and that he was excited so many members of the community have come together to support the festival, both financially and with their efforts.

Committee member Stephanie McGrew said that it was great

to see the city, Truman State University, and A.T. Still University come together to provide an event to bring community members together.

“I am excited to be able to offer this event to the community and hope that it continues to grow as we continue to host events,” McGrew said in an email. “We hope that this event is a catalyst that creates more events in our community that bring together the Kirksville community to celebrate their differences and to share the stories of their heritage and traditions.”

Putnam County boys finish run with 3rd place finish at state

By Austin Miller
Daily Express

The moment seemed like it lasted minutes. Up 57-55 with two seconds left in Saturday's Class 2 third-place game, Putnam County watched a last-second 3-point attempt leave the hands of Bishop LeBlond's Chris Guldán. It was the exact scenario coach Kyle Fleshman warned them not to get into.

Fortunately for Putnam, the shot missed. Though the Midgerts were stuck waiting to see the shot miss, the ensuing result was something the program has waited 50 years for. With a 57-55 win at the 2022 Show-Me Showdown, the third-place result marks the best finish in Putnam boys basketball history.

"It's a blessing. Truly, we've been blessed our whole entire high school career," said senior Lance Fowler, who scored 10 points. "To be the first team in the history of Putnam County to actually come down here and be a part of the Final Four, and actually get a win at the Final Four, is an amazing feeling. Still hasn't even quite set in what we've done."

"Usually this is a pretty sad time, just knowing that this will be the last time that we'll all be together. Sometimes that's real hard to swallow," said Fleshman, sporting a cut on his forehead after getting hit by the water cooler that players dumped on him in the locker room. "I told them that this is the best ending of a season that I've been a part of, being able to finish third place. Not many teams get to finish with a win. We were fortunate to do that."

Putnam County (25-3) trailed the whole first half, not taking its first lead until a Zach Heidenwith 3-pointer four minutes into the third quarter. Putnam outscored Bishop LeBlond 15-7 in the third. Then another Heid-



Putnam County forward Landon Wood reacts after a basket during Saturday's Class 2 boys third place game against Bishop LeBlond at the Hammons Student Center in Springfield. AUSTIN MILLER/DAILY EXPRESS

enwith 3 with 3:19 left put Putnam ahead 51-41. So the flurry at the end wasn't something the Putnam faithful expected to happen.

With two seconds left, Putnam just needed to inbound the ball to win. Fleshman told senior forward Landon Wood not to pass to the corner. Heidenwith briefly popped free there, just in front of LeBlond's (20-12) bench, so Wood tossed it to him. Hayden Cross stole the ball from Heidenwith, narrowly avoiding stepping out. He dished to Guldán for the last-second look.

"It felt like forever," said Wood about watching the shot. "Flesh told me when we were passing the ball in, he was like, 'Don't get it to the corner.' Right as I threw it to the corner, I knew I messed up."

"Luckily I didn't have enough time to process absolutely everything that was going on in that moment. It was definitely a shocker," Fleshman said. "I saw the ball go over and Wood was right underneath there and his mouth was just wide open looking at the ball. I think everyone was kind of holding their breath in that moment to see exactly what happened."



Putnam County's Lance Fowler goes up for a shot attempt during Friday's Class 2 boys semifinal game against Bernie. AUSTIN MILLER/DAILY EXPRESS



Putnam County point guard Jaden Wyant dribbles up the floor during a Class 2 boys state semifinal game against Bernie. AUSTIN MILLER/DAILY EXPRESS



Putnam County's Trace Riediger and Owen Ream celebrate with the team's third-place trophy after beating Bishop LeBlond 57-55 at the 2022 MSHSAA Show-Me Showdown. AUSTIN MILLER/DAILY EXPRESS



Putnam County's Zach Heidenwith drives past a Bishop LeBlond defender during a Class 2 third place game at the 2022 Show-Me Showdown. AUSTIN MILLER/DAILY EXPRESS

"We did absolutely everything awful in that last possession," Fleshman said, smiling since the situation didn't hurt them as much as it could have. He then joked to Wood that he forgave him. "We setup on the wrong side, we said don't throw it to the corner so they can't get a quick 3 — we threw it to the corner and they got a quick 3. But hey, it ended up working out in the end."

Heidenwith finished with a game-high 19 points, going 3-for-6 from behind the arc. Wood had 11 points and six rebounds.

The Midgerts shot 51.3 percent from the field and 57.1 percent from behind the arc, marking a second straight game with exceptional shooting stats. But 23 turnovers — following 20 in Friday's semifinal loss to Bernie — almost came back to bite them.

Trace Riediger scored eight points and grabbed seven rebounds off the bench. Fleshman expected him to get more playing time since he's a quick defender and that would be needed against LeBlond's speedy guards. He ended up with more time as Owen Ream got in foul trouble. Fleshman said Riediger was a key part in Saturday's result.

"He was a spark, got us going, and probably was one that won us the game with that spark," Fleshman said.

Ream and Riediger are the only Midgerts from Saturday's game who will return next season. Six seniors powered one last great season in Unionville. Wood, Heidenwith and Fowler were the usual big scorers, but they could get 20 from most guys on a given night.

Jaden Wyant stepped up in a big way this season as point guard. Fleshman said he's one of the toughest point guards he's ever seen. Wyant is a guard that rebounds as well as some forwards, and his huge finish in last week's quarterfinal game got Putnam to Springfield.

Gage Pearson was a solid rebounder who came off the bench. And Fleshman credited Jaydon Pribyl as one of the best teammates a program could have.

Filling in for those guys won't be easy — and Fleshman doesn't want to think about that for a few months. He couldn't thank his seniors enough for this magical ride.

"This is a tremendous group of seniors and it's exactly what you hope for and wish for as a coach — where they all bring a different dynamic to the team and they're all very important," Fleshman said. "... All six seniors, they're going to be greatly missed. We'll have a lot of recouping, rebuilding and refiguring here in the future."

Back during his senior year at Putnam in 2004, Fleshman

wrote down his career goals, which were to return and teach math at the school and coach the basketball team to a district title. He's exceeded that goal. With the season only just ending, this historic run hasn't quite set in for the Midgerts.

They'll obviously remember getting third place, winning tournament and district titles along the way. There were a ton of wins and very few losses along the road this year.

The most special part is how they did it together. A group of boys who started playing sports together soon after they began walking, the Midgerts carried a hearty bond to Springfield for the Final Four.

That won't ever go away. "It's always easier to do things when you're doing them with people you love and you enjoy," Fleshman said. "I've seen it happen the other way. It's hard to be successful whenever people can't get along very well. It makes my job so much easier knowing these guys love each other and have played with each other for all these years in the multiple sports they played."

"I think it just helped them, and it's definitely something they won't soon forget and will talking about for a long time. It will be like me, one of the old guys (one day) at the Sale Barn eating their breakfast talking about it."



Putnam County coach Kyle Fleshman and the Midget bench react during a Class 2 third place game against Bishop LeBlond. AUSTIN MILLER/DAILY EXPRESS

Cade McKnight announces transfer from Truman basketball

By Austin Miller
Daily Express

Truman basketball star Cade McKnight will use his last year of eligibility away from Kirksville. The Twitter account @VerbalCommitsD2 tweeted Monday afternoon that McKnight had entered the transfer portal as a graduate transfer. Truman coach Jeff Horner then confirmed that move with the Daily Express just before McKnight wrote something from his own Twitter account. “Forever grateful for

what we achieved at Truman State and to my teammates former and current for letting me be a part of it! I’m humbled ... now it’s time for a fresh start and see where the basketball journey can take me next,” McKnight tweeted. Comments from Bulldogs started to follow McKnight’s announcement. Freshman point guard Trey Shearer tweeted, “Cannot thank this dude enough for everything he has done for this team and myself. One of the hardest workers out there and a phenomenal teammate.

A great leader who has taught me so much in such little time.” Horner said: “Good luck my man! Will be forever grateful to have coached you and I know you will do great things wherever you end up! You and your family will forever be a part of mine.” The assumption would be that McKnight is moving up to the Division I level for his final season. He considered that move after his All-American campaign last year before deciding to return to the Bulldogs. If he does depart for

the D1 ranks, he would be the second high-profile Truman athlete to do so in recent months. After leading all of D2 in rushing last fall with the Bulldogs, Cody Schrader announced his move to the Missouri football program for this upcoming season. Truman’s (20-10) season ended Friday in the NCAA Tournament with a 73-68 loss to Missouri-St. Louis. In his last game — which was also his 100th as a Bulldog — McKnight had 14 points and four rebounds. McKnight picked up another All-GLVC first-team

selection this season after his conference player of the year honor last year. McKnight’s redshirt junior season this year was arguably better than his big season a year ago. McKnight averaged 19.2 points and 6.4 rebounds per game this season, both career highs. His 57 percent shooting percentage from the field and 40 percent from behind the arc are also higher marks than last season. He finishes with 1,594 career points in purple, fourth-most in Truman history. His .575 career

shooting percentage is second-best in program history. His 433 free throws made and 551 attempted are both third-best. McKnight was a part of three teams to qualify for the NCAA Tournament, and notably the Elite Eight run in 2021. And he wasn’t the only Bulldog to hit the portal on Monday. Sophomore guard Sam Nissen announced he entered the transfer portal Monday morning. He averaged 1.2 points per game in 10.3 minutes per night in his third season in Kirksville.

Back to normal: Zags, Baylor join KU, Arizona as NCAA No. 1s

The March Madness bracket is out

By EDDIE PELLIS
AP National Writer

From the familiar names at the top of the bracket — Gonzaga, Kansas, Baylor — to the well-worn debates all across it — why did Coach K get shipped out West? did somebody do Dayton wrong? — this version of Selection Sunday felt as comfortable as a well-worn Air Jordan. March Madness is back to normal, or as close to normal as it can get, and that means all those stunning upsets and once-in-a-lifetime game-winners will play out in front of crazy crowds for the first time in three years.

“This was a really special year because we all realized what we missed,” said Villanova coach Jay Wright, whose second-seeded team won the Big East title in front of a packed house at Madison Square Garden. Gonzaga is the overall top seed, with Arizona, Kansas and Baylor joining them on the “1” line for this “seems like old times” NCAA Tournament. It’s the first since 2019 to be played in different cities and different time zone across America. The party lands in New Orleans for the Final Four and championship game April 2-4.

It’s a return to the way things were before the pandemic scrubbed the tournament completely off the 2020 calendar, then turned the 2021 event into a one-city-fits-all affair — all the games played in a makeshift bubble in front of limited crowds in and around Indianapolis. “It’s all about staying in the moment and having more fun than anybody in the tournament,” said John Calipari, the coach of second-seeded Kentucky. The best way to have fun, of course, is winning it all. Baylor did that last year in a title-game romp over

Gonzaga. Just like last year, both are No. 1 seeds again, with the Zags the 15-4 favorite to win the title, according to FanDuel Sportsbook. Arizona was next at 6-1, followed by Kentucky (15-2) and Baylor (11-1). “A great learning experience,” Gonzaga’s Drew Timme called last year’s second-place finish in an interview on ESPN. “Obviously, things didn’t go the way we wanted. But it allowed for a lot of self-growth for the program. We’re excited for the challenge.”

Some players to watch over the next three weeks include Kentucky’s Oscar Tshiebwe, one of dozens who switched schools via the amped-up “transfer portal” that is displaying a penchant for reshaping college hoops at the blink of an eye. Kofi Cockburn leads No. 4 Illinois into a first-round matchup against Chattanooga, and freshman Jabari Smith leads slumping No. 2 Auburn into the Midwest Region, where a potential matchup against conference rival LSU, which fired coach Will Wade earlier this week, is in the offing.

Coach Mike Krzyzewski’s last tournament before retirement has Duke playing as a No. 2 seed in the West. His road to a 13th Final Four could include a second-round matchup against Tom Izzo and Michigan State. And while some thought the selection committee might send Coach K to his native Chicago and the Midwest for the Sweet 16 as a farewell gift, of sorts, instead it would be a trip to San Francisco and a potential meeting with Mark Few’s Bulldogs. It’s one thing to face a tough bracket, quite another not to be in it at all. Dayton, Oklahoma, SMU and Texas A&M were the “first four



Gonzaga’s Julian Strawther (0) celebrates during the second half of an NCAA college basketball championship game against Saint Mary’s at the West Coast Conference tournament Tuesday, March 8, 2022, in Las Vegas. JOHN LOCHER — STAFF, AP



Arizona’s Dalen Terry (4) celebrates after a play against UCLA during the second half of an NCAA college basketball game in the championship of the Pac-12 tournament Saturday, March 12, 2022, in Las Vegas. JOHN LOCHER — STAFF, AP

out,” meaning there’s still a glimmer of hope for them if a team must make a late withdrawal due to COVID-19. Xavier wasn’t even on that list, which went down as one of the evening’s biggest snubs. That was according to Dick Vitale, the national treasure who was forced to spell things out on a white board — not shout about it — while he rests his vocal cords after cancer treatments. Dickie V also thought Tennessee, as a 3, and Iowa, as a 5, got worse seeds than they deserved after winning their conference tournaments. Dayton would have been in were it not for an upset in its Atlantic 10 conference tournament. Richmond slipped past Davidson for the title, and while Davidson still made the field, Dayton did not.

“Our committee really liked Dayton,” said selection committee chair Tom Burnett. “They were deserving of consideration, but unfortunately, they ended up on the ‘first four out’ list.” Teams that just slipped in included No. 12 seeds Wyoming and Indiana, who will square off in the First Four. No. 11 seeds Rutgers and Notre Dame were the other last two teams in, while Michigan was seeded 11th, as well. The Hoosiers and Wolverines are among the nation-leading nine teams to make it from the Big Ten. That’s the same number as last season, but the conference only moved one team to the second weekend. The Big East, Big 12 and Southeastern Conference placed six teams each.



Baylor forward Flo Thamba puts up a shot during the second half of an NCAA college basketball game against Oklahoma in the quarterfinal round of the Big 12 Conference tournament in Kansas City, Mo., Thursday, March 10, 2022. Oklahoma won 72-67. CHARLIE RIEDEL — STAFF, AP



Missouri head coach Cuonzo Martin calls a play during the second half of an NCAA men’s college basketball Southeastern Conference tournament game against Mississippi Wednesday, March 9, 2022, in Tampa, Fla. CHRIS O’MEARA — STAFF, AP

Missouri fires hoops coach Martin after 5 seasons

By DAVE SKRETTA
AP Basketball Writer

KANSAS CITY, Mo. — Missouri fired basketball coach Cuonzo Martin on Friday night, one day after the Tigers finished a 12-21 season with a 76-68 loss to LSU in the second round of the Southeastern Conference Tournament. Tigers athletic director Desiree Reed-Francois said in a statement that the search for a new coach would begin immediately, and that longtime coach and administrator Eddie Fogler would assist in the process. It will be the first major coaching hire at Missouri for Reed-Francois, who was hired by the school in August. “Coach Martin represented the university with an extremely high level of class and dignity,” Reed-Francois said. “We are grateful for his contributions to our program, on and off the floor. He is not only a coach, but is a teacher, and he has impacted the lives of every student-athlete who

came through the program over the last five years.” The firing may prove to be popular among Missouri fans that have pined for a winning program but years. But it was met with widespread scorn from the basketball community, and not just for what transpired on the court. “I’ve got two adopted black grandchildren, and I called him one day and said, help me through this. Tell me what I need to know as a grandfather,” Tennessee coach Rick Barnes said Friday night. “My daughter was having some issues that she wanted an answer to, and Cuonzo’s wife talked with my daughter, and so I look at him in a whole different light.” Kansas coach Bill Self lamented another coaching change involving one of the Jayhawks’ biggest rivals. Kansas State coach Bruce Weber resigned on Thursday, though he likely would have been fired if he hadn’t stepped down. See MISSOURI, Page A12

Truman’s season ends with tough loss to Missouri-St. Louis, 73-68

By Truman Athletics

The #5-seed Missouri-St. Louis Tritons extended their 10-game winning streak and ended their five-game drought over the #4-seed Truman State Bulldogs in the opening round of the NCAA Midwest Regional 73-68 on Friday night. The Bulldogs see their season come to an end with a final record of 20-10. Eric Northweather matched his career-high with 27 points with his fourth three-pointer of the night to bring the Bulldogs to within one at 69-68 with 2:16 to play. Truman State forced a miss by UMSL on the defensive end but a bad pass led to a steal on the Bulldog’s next offensive set that gave the ball back to the Tritons. Yaakema Rose missed a jumper that didn’t catch rim and went out of bounds. Truman was able to force the shot clock violation and again had a chance to go up with 53 seconds to play. Out of the timeout, an entry pass into Cade McKnight was poked away by Rose, giving UMSL 10 steals on the night. Rose converted on both free throws after being fouled and the Tritons had a three-point lead with 19.9 on the clock.

The Bulldogs last attempt to pull even with UMSL was a challenged three-pointer by Mason Miller that missed the mark, the ball hit a Truman player fighting for the rebound and went out of bounds. Shane Wissink iced the victory with two free throws with 5.4 seconds remaining. UMSL had 30 more shot attempts (73-43) than the Bulldogs with 18 second chance points and 18 offensive rebounds compared to Truman’s five offensive boards and four second chance points. Six Triton players scored in double-figures with Wissink leading with 15. He would hit two deep three-pointers in the first half, one that was banked in. Marquis Collins added 12 with a clutch three at the halftime buzzer that broke a 37-all tie. Northweather was 9-of-13 from the field and 4-of-6 from outside and added five blocks and seven rebounds. Masen Miller added 16, with nine coming from the free throw line and McKnight scored 14 after picking up two early fouls on the offensive en just 3:30 into the game. There were 11 ties and 10 lead changes and neither team led by more than seven points.



Kansas head coach Bill Self and guard Ochai Agbaji hug after their NCAA college basketball championship game against Texas Tech in the Big 12 Conference tournament in Kansas City, Mo., Saturday, March 12, 2022. Kansas won 74-65. CHARLIE RIEDEL — STAFF, AP

