

# KIRKSVILLE Daily Express

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WEDNESDAY

APRIL 6, 2022 | \$2

## Matt Wilson appointed as 2nd Circuit Court Judge

By Austin Miller  
Daily Express

Matt Wilson has been appointed as the new 2nd Judicial Circuit Court Judge.

That decision was announced Friday by the office of Missouri Gov. Mike Parson. The 2nd Circuit Court, which covers Adair, Knox and Lewis counties, has been without a judge since Russell Steele retired in February. Wilson will fill the remainder of Steele's term, which lasts until 2024.

Wilson had served as the Adair County Prosecuting Attorney since 2010, appointed by Gov. Jay Nixon before getting re-elected several times. Wilson has a Bachelor of Arts from the University of Nebraska at Omaha and a Juris Doctor from Creighton University School of Law. He applied to fill the vacancy when it opened back on Jan. 31.



Matt Wilson.

"I've enjoyed my 12 years in public service as the prosecutor for Adair County," Wilson said. "It was a good progression

in a public service career and work that I had really been looking at and wanting to do. When that opportunity came and I

got the phone call, that was pretty exciting."

Wilson was at a court conference on Friday morning when he was notified of his appointment.

He said his interest in moving to the bench came as he considered a different and more encompassing method of public service.

"As a prosecuting attorney, I've been able to be involved in public safety and helping the community. As a circuit judge, it's an opportunity to be involved throughout the circuit, so multiple counties — and look at how I feel cases should be handled, what changes, in my opinion, need to be made, what things are working well," Wilson said. "... Really, it was a natural progression to go a little further in service. I really do enjoy public service a lot. I like working for

See **JUDGE**, Page A4



Larry Evans

## Books available at Historical Society recount rural schools in Adair County

By Marty Bachman  
Kirkville Daily Express

Two of the most popular books available for sale at the Adair County Historical Society are the stories of rural schools in Adair County, which were written and published by Larry C. Evans and Vivian Vice Wright. The pair printed the first book, "Rural Schools in the Heartland: Adair County, Missouri," in 2015, having collected photos and stories from residents throughout the county that attended the rural schools. With so much photographic material left over from the first tome, they decided in 2017 to publish "A Pictorial Tribute to Rural Schools: Adair County, Missouri", which is primarily photographs of the school rooms and events that were held on the school grounds.

Evans said that while he had never written a

book before, he had been involved for some time doing genealogical research and that he had written articles for the Adair Historian, the quarterly publication of the Adair County Historical Society.

"I have a Master's Degree in History so I've done quite a bit of historical writing," he said, noting that his focus has been writing mostly on the history of Adair County where he was born and raised.

Evans was 62 when he wrote the first book, motivated by the fact that both he and Wright attended rural schools in one teacher, one room school houses in Adair County through eighth grade. Evans attended Troy Mills and after 50 years of being out of school, the former students decided to have a reunion in about 2010.

See **BOOKS**, Page A4

## Grissom honored for 25 years of service in Kirkville Police Department

By Press Release

On Thursday, March 31, Kirkville Police Department Lt. David Grissom was recognized for 25 years of service with the department. During his time at the Kirkville Police Department, Grissom has served as a patrol officer, patrol corporal, patrol sergeant, negotiator, Internet Crimes

Against Children investigator and Glock armorer. Prior to serving with the department, Grissom served as a police officer with the Milan Police Department. Grissom is a graduate of Northeast Missouri State University (now known as Truman State University). Kirkville city officials said Grissom's dedication to protecting and serving



the Kirkville community is always present. "Kirkville Police would like to thank you for his dedication to the depart-

ment," officials said in a press release. Pictured from left to right are Grissom and Chief Scott Williamson.

## Kirkville R-3 School District Featured Teachers for March 2022

By Kirkville R-3 School District

The following are the Kirkville R-3 School District Featured Teachers for March 2022.



Debbie Snyder has spent 20 years with the Kirkville R-3 School District, 17 as a teacher. She currently works in the Kirkville Area Technical Center teaching Early Childhood Careers/Pathways to the Teaching Profession — Teaching Careers. "Once a tiger, always a tiger," she said.



Originally from Kansas City, Jamie Sparks has spent 17 years teaching second grade at Kirkville Primary School. Her original major was business marketing and she managed The Buckle for seven years before deciding to become a teacher. Kirkville has been her home now for 30 years and she said that the town and school district have been wonderful to her family.



Jennifer Hamilton is from Iowa and went to college at Truman State University. She has worked as a speech-language pathologist at the Early Childhood Learning Center (ECLC) since 2006. "It's been awesome to see how our program has grown over the years!" she said. "It's so rewarding to be a part of a child's life as their communication skills grow." She said that she enjoys being part of the teams that created the ECLC Tiger Learning Website and the visual systems for the ECLC.

Originally from St. Louis, Kendra Stearman is in her 15th year teaching middle school Spanish at William Matthew Middle School. She said that Kirkville has been a great place to dedicate her teaching career to. "I am particularly happy to have landed at the middle school," she wrote. "Many coworkers have become friends and I truly enjoy working with this age of students. Their humor is endless and they do want to connect with their teachers and learning (even if sometimes they hide it). She said that kids are what keeps her coming back year after year, "I feel very honored to have been selected," she wrote.



Originally from Memphis, Mo., Kim McClamroch has spent 12 years teaching, four of them in the third grade as an instructional classroom leader at Ray Miller Elementary. She serves on the PD commission, Wellness Commission, and the MSIP-6 Commission.



Loddie Krepps is originally from Virginia, Minn. and has been teaching for 21 years, nine of those in Kirkville. She teaches 9th through 12th grade English/Language Arts, 10th grade World History, and 11th grade American History. She said that she is proud to be a faculty member at Kirkville High School and that the building principal prioritizes student centeredness, facilitates teacher-generated innovation and protects academic freedom. She said that the instructional leaders are all highly-qualified, experienced educators who promote a dynamic and diverse school community steeped in rigor and relevance.



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Volume 121, No. 25



KIRKSVILLE CALENDAR AND NEWS BRIEFS

Kirksville Tourism  
Advisory Board meeting

The city of Kirksville's Tourism Advisory Board will hold a meeting at 8 a.m. on Wednesday, April 6 in the Small Conference Room at the Economic Development Alliance, 315 S. Franklin St.

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.

Ribbon Cutting for new  
taxi service at the Armory

The Kirksville Chamber of Commerce will hold a ribbon-cutting ceremony for NextGin Rides on Wednesday, April 7 at 10 a.m. at the Rieger Armory, 500 S. Elson Street, in Kirksville. Join them in the opening of a new taxi service.

Kirksville Lakes,  
Parks and Recreation  
Commission meeting

The city of Kirksville's Lakes, Parks and Recreation Commission will hold a meeting at 12 p.m. on Tuesday, April 8 in the meeting room at the Kirksville Aquatic Center, 801 E. Mill.

United Way to host  
Charity Trivia Night

The United Way of Northeast Missouri (UWNEMO) will sponsor a Charity Trivia Night on April 8 from 7 to

10 p.m. at the Moose Lodge in Kirksville. Besides Trivia, the United Way will also hold a 50/50 raffle, Heads/Tails and High Low games. Tickets are \$150 per 8-person team. \$500 is the first place prize. All monies will go to the 11 local agencies who are funded by the United Way of Northeast Missouri.

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.

Library to hold Story Book  
Trail ribbon-cutting

The Adair County Public Library is celebrating the opening of Story Book Trail. They will meet at the pedestrian bridge at the Forest Lake Trail Head (AKA FLATS Trail Head), near the Thousand Hills Dining Lodge on Thursday, April 14 at 4 p.m. The Adair Co. Public Library and Thousand Hills State Park have set up StoryWalk boards (or signs) along the Forest Lake Trail (the concrete trail begins by the dining lodge, towards the beach, around the beach parking lot, and

towards campground 2) to promote literacy and time outside! Every 150 feet or so along the trail, pages of the book are on display, so you read as you walk. Books stretched over half a mile will be rotated out monthly.

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.kirksvillemo.org 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.

Foster/Adopt Connect  
ribbon cutting

Join the Kirksville Chamber of Commerce in welcoming Foster/Adopt Connect to the community. Their arrival will be celebrated with a ribbon cutting on May 5 at 4 p.m. at 117 W Potter Ave, Kirksville.

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>

Macon High School Thespian  
Troupe will produce  
Matilda the Musical

The Macon High School Thespian Troupe will produce Matilda the Musical on April 8-9 at 7 p.m. and April 10 at 2 p.m. in the newly renovated middle school auditorium. This theatre production is based off of Roald Dahl's classic story Matilda. This show is a guaranteed delight for all ages and even comes with Matilda's magic, live on stage. Tickets can be purchased at

the door. \$10 for adults, \$5 for students. For those who are hesitant to attend due to Covid-19 restrictions, alternative arrangements can be made by contacting Director Alison Robinson at [arobinson@macon.k12.mo.us](mailto:arobinson@macon.k12.mo.us).

Bridge on Missouri Route  
11 in Adair County will  
close on April 11

Two bridges on Missouri Route 11 in Adair County and another on Route C in Schuyler County, weather permitting, will close around 7 a.m. on Monday, April 11 for replacement. These bridges are being replaced under the FARM (Fixing Access to Rural Missouri) Bridge Program. The new bridges are expected to be completed in mid-August. One bridge over Floyd Creek on MO 11 is located about seven miles east of Kirksville, and the other bridge on the same road is over South Fork of the South Fabius River about 12 miles east of Kirksville. Both were built in 1933. To access the area between these two bridges, drivers should use Route J from either the north or the south. Those driving in this area are encouraged to use MoDOT's online traveler map to determine the best route for their needs. The bridge in Schuyler County is over the North Fork of the Middle Fabius River and located just northeast of Lancaster. It was built in 1952.

Health Department Covid  
vaccination clinics for April

The Health Department will administer Covid-19 vaccines at their clinic located at 1001 S. Jamison Street throughout April. Adult clinics are scheduled from 2 to 4 p.m. on Tuesdays, April 12, 19 and 26. Pediatric clinics are scheduled from 3 to 5:30 p.m. on Thursdays, April 7, 14, 21 and 28. Adair County residents should call the Health Department at 660-665-8491 to schedule a vaccine appointment.

Kirksville Parks & Recreation  
Master Plan community  
meetings announced

The city of Kirksville has formally kicked off the Kirksville Parks & Recreation Master Plan 2032 that will guide city-wide parks and recreation improvements for the next 10 years. This master plan will include recommendations for advancing and maintaining the parks and recreation system that enhances the quality of life for all citizens and creates a joyful environment for all ages, abilities and backgrounds. This process will last approximately seven months and offers multiple ways of getting involved with the project. Community open houses are

planned for the public to attend and provide thoughts, ideas, and feedback. The schedule is as follows:

- Community Open House 1: June 9, 5-8 p.m. at the Kirksville Aquatic Center meeting room
- Community Open House 2: Aug.17, 5-8 p.m. at the Rotary Park Ray Klinginsmith Amphitheater.

For more information, contact Rodney Sadler with the Parks and Recreation Department at 660.627.1485.

Road work on Route PP  
in Macon County

Drivers can expect to experience temporary traffic impacts, beginning the week of April 11, as resurfacing work is scheduled to start on 7.8 miles of Macon County Route PP, from U.S. Route 63 to Route V, near Macon with plans for completion by mid-May. Traffic will be reduced to one lane during the day at the location where crews are actively working. Flaggers and a pilot car will direct motorists through the work zone. Workers will be present during daylight hours, Monday through Friday, weather permitting. A 10-foot width restriction will be in place for the duration of the project. All projects included in the contract are tentatively scheduled to be complete by late July. All work is weather dependent and schedules are subject to change.

Novinger Area Yard Sales  
& Flea Market

The annual Novinger Area Yard Sales & Flea Market event will be held again on Saturday, April 23, beginning at 8 a.m. Residents of Novinger and surrounding area (west of Kirksville, east of Green Castle, and along Highway 157) are encouraged to participate in selling yard sale items, funky junk, 2nd chance goods, antiques and collectibles, flea market items, crafts and commercial products. Booth spaces and tables can be rented inside the community center and free spaces can be reserved on the fairgrounds. Maps featuring the reported locations of sales will be available on Renewal's Facebook page as well as in the community center, along with food sales. Donations of items are sought to allow proceeds to benefit Novinger Renewal. Items can be dropped off at the community center after 1 p.m. on Friday, April 22. Those interested in reserving an indoor or outdoor space at the community center, or listing a sale on the map should contact Glenna Young at 660-342-6455. The event is coordinated by Novinger Renewal, a non-profit corporation, established for community betterment and historic preservation.

Welcome,  
Dr. Bell!



AURORA BELL, D.O.  
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Linda Eichor receives a Rotary  
Club Paul Harris Fellowship

By Rotary Club of Kirksville

On March 29, Linda Eichor, wife of Rotarian Matt Eichor, received a Paul Harris Fellowship from Foundation Chair Jeff Romine for her significant financial contribution to the Rotary International Foundation. Rotary uses the money to improve living conditions and health around the world and for various grants, exchanges and scholarships designed to promote peace and better world understanding between cultures. As a multiple recipient of this fellowship, Linda Eichor named this Paul Harris Fellowship for her recently deceased mother, Audrey E. Cross.





# Kirksville Daily Express

## Reader Survey

*You can make a difference in your newspaper!*

This page offers you, our valued reader, a chance to let us know what you like and dislike about the newspaper we produce for you every week of the year. Please take a few minutes from your busy day to complete the form and return it to us. This survey is one aspect of our effort to better serve the community by providing the lively, informative content that you desire. We plan to use the results of this survey to help us determine which features to keep, expand or eliminate during the extensive process of redesigning the Kirksville Daily Express during the coming months. If you have any questions, please call Managing Editor Marty Bachman at 903-387-3584.

Weekly Features	NOT NEARLY ENOUGH	JUST THE RIGHT AMOUNT	A LITTLE TOO MUCH	ELIMINATE THIS FEATURE
Local News	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Local Sports	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Calendar	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
News Briefs	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Missouri Area News	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
National News	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
World News	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
In your own Backyard	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Obituaries	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Cross Words	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Sudoku	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Horriscopes/Astrograph	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Classifieds	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Auctions	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Area Sports	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
National Sports	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Local Roundup	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Church Directory	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Chamber Newsletter	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Parade Magazine	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Spry Living	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Advertising Circulars	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Local Advertising	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

Weekly Comics	LIKE A LOT	LIKE A LITTLE	REPLACE
Arlo and Janis	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Big Nate	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Born Loser	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Herman	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Frank and Ernest	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Monty	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
That a Baby	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

**Additional Comments:** \_\_\_\_\_

We’re looking for volunteers to be a part of our New Reader Panel. To volunteer, please fill in the information below:

**Name:** \_\_\_\_\_**Phone:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Address:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Email:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Gender:**    Male    Female    **Age:**    30 & under    over 30

ALL SURVEYS NEED TO BE RECEIVED BY 5PM APRIL 9, 2022

Please mail your survey to:

**Kirksville Daily Express**

701 E. LaHarpe, Suite C  
P.O. Box 809  
Kirksville, MO 63501

*Or Just stop by our office and drop off your survey!*

**Thank you for your time and support.**  
**We appreciate your business.**

We would like to thank you for the effort you have made in completing and submitting this survey. Simply fill out the information above and, as a token of our appreciation, we would like to offer you one of the following FREE!

☐ Free Classified ad 30-words in the Kirksville Daily Express Wednesday and Saturday, and Kirksville Crier for 2-weeks.

☐ Free 1-month extension to your existing home delivery subscription. If you are not a current home delivery subscriber, just call now for our current introductory prices. 660.665.2808

OBITUARIES

Vollie Bass  
Aug. 28, 1946 – Mar. 31, 2022

Vollie Ann Bass of Brashear, Missouri passed away Thursday, March 31, 2022 at her home.

The daughter of Vollie and Pearl (Waddle) Bunch, she was born August 28, 1946 in Kirksville, Missouri. On September 14, 1963 in Macon, Missouri she was united in marriage to Richard F. Bass.

Ann is survived by two daughters, Alicia Bass of Brashear, MO and Lori Bass of Columbia, MO; three grandchildren, Richard Coy of Kirksville, Mary Coy of Brashear, MO and William Coy of Brashear, MO; and two great grandchildren,



Anna Coy and Evelyn Brown. She was preceded in death by her parents; her husband, Richard; and several brothers and sisters.

Ann grew up around Kirksville and graduated from the Kirksville High School. She retired from working for Northeast regional Medical Center in Kirksville. She lived in the Midwest and the west in Colorado and New Mexico.

She enjoyed traveling, reading, cats and her grandkids and great grandkids.

Ann will be cremated and no service will be held.

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

Ione Brokaw  
Jan 8, 1950 – Mar 31, 2022

Ione E. Brokaw, age 72 of La Plata, Missouri, passed away Thursday, March 31, 2022 at The Pines in Kirksville, Missouri, surrounded by her family.

Born January 8, 1950 in Rushford, Minnesota, the daughter of Henry and Esther (Runge) Tveten. On July 14, 1973 in Rushford, Minnesota, she was united in marriage to Junior Brokaw who survives.

Also surviving are two children, Matt (Denise) Brokaw of Osceola, Iowa and Tracy (J) Arends of Huntsville, Missouri; six grandchildren, Weston (Jackie) Brokaw, Easton and Haydon Brokaw, Kiana, Joci, and Mattie Arends; one brother, David (Kristi) Tveten of Lewiston, Minnesota; two sisters, Lois (John) Dyreson of Winona,



Minnesota and Marie Volkmann of Red Wing, Minnesota; and several nieces and nephews.

Her parents and one sister, Jeanette Peterson preceded her in death.

Ione lived most of her life in the La Plata community. She was employed at Hollister Inc. for 39 years, retiring in 2012. She was a member of the La Plata Christian Church. She enjoyed crafts, gardening, traveling, word search puzzles, and cooking. Ione loved spending time with her family, especially her grandchildren.

Funeral services will be 11:00 a.m. Tuesday, April 5, 2022 at Travis Funeral Chapel in La Plata, Missouri. Burial will be in the La Plata Cemetery.

Visitation will be Monday, April 4, 2022 with the family receiving friends from 6:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m. at the funeral home.



Express editor speaks to Kirksville Kiwanis Club

By Kirksville Kiwanis Club

The Kirksville Kiwanis Club welcomed Marty Bachman to speak at their March 31 meeting. Bachman is the new managing editor of the Kirksville Daily Express. He

presented on the new ownership of the newspaper and their plans to expand coverage of local news. Pictured are Bachman (left) and Kirksville Kiwanis Club Past President, and Past Lieutenant Governor, Ashley Young.

JUDGE

Continued from Page A1

the community and that's something that's really important to me. I just thought as the circuit judge, I have an opportunity to be involved and make a good difference."

Wilson will likely be sworn in next week.

As the circuit judge was open, Knox County Associate Judge Thomas Redington has served as the interim presiding judge. He will still do that until Wilson is sworn in.

Redington will also select an appointment for the Adair County Prosecutor position. That appointment would last through the rest of the year. Since prosecuting attorney will be on ballots later this year, the winner of that race would then be sworn in next January.

David Goring and Andrew Boster, who both worked in Wilson's office, and Patrick Nolan have filed for that race. All three filed as Republicans, so that race will be decided in the August primary.

Wilson's appointment to judge also means he must recuse himself from cases where he served as prosecutor. The process of sending those cases to the Missouri Supreme Court for reassignment has started. Wilson can preside over cases from Knox and Lewis counties since he wasn't the prosecutor there, and new cases in Adair County that come after him being sworn in.

Wilson said he looks forward to establishing himself in the new position over the next two years before looking to voters for re-election.

"I look to provide a consistent approach. Obviously, cases are fact-determinant — you need to look at the facts of the specific case and such. But I think the approach needs to be consistent," Wilson said. "Over those two years, I would like people to be able to look back and be able to say, 'Judge Wilson handled things professionally, respectfully and consistently.' Those would be the three adjectives that I think would be most effective for a judge."

Scotland County Hospital transitions from pandemic to endemic

By Press Release

Scotland County Hospital & Clinics Disaster Chairman Robert Miller announced that the hospital and clinics will be removed from under the hospital's emergency operations in the eICS (electronic incident command system). This local change is due to Missouri's Governor Mike Parson's announcement to end the Covid-19 crisis in Missouri and shift the state operations to an endemic phase of the pandemic beginning on Friday, April 1.

Miller said, "SCH has, from the beginning, worked diligently to mitigate the risk to our community, by sharing information based on research and experience. Our staff has done an amazing job of being flexible during a time of much uncertainty. Their dedication to the care of our friends and neighbors in the communities we serve should never be forgotten. I am grateful we are moving beyond reacting to focusing on prevention."

Miller said that most people are wondering when and how the pandemic will end, and there are still no easy answers. Pandemics are a widespread, rapid spread of disease with exponentially rising cases over a large area. Endemic viruses, meanwhile, are constantly present and have a predictable spread. Classifying Covid-19 as an endemic will mean treating the virus like a seasonal virus. According to the governor's web-

site, hospitalizations in Missouri have dropped drastically in the past month. The last Covid-19 positive patient was admitted to Scotland County Hospital on Jan. 23, 2022 and dismissed on Feb. 1, 2022.

Randy Tobler, MD, FACOG, CPE, CEO, Scotland County Hospital & Clinics said, "Removing our facility from the emergency operations status in our eICS system takes some of the daily and weekly virus reporting pressures off of our staff and lets them get back to patient care rather than paperwork. It also lifts the cumbersome and time-consuming burdens of monitoring regulatory and compliance measures that have been necessary during the pandemic."

The SARS-CoV-2 virus, which causes Covid-19, is expected to continue to circulate in communities, but the state of Missouri's surveillance priority will change from monitoring case numbers to monitoring disease severity and societal impact as new waves of infection come and go. This transition does not minimize the continued importance of public health surveillance, investigation, and response activities, as is necessary to mitigate any disease.

According to a press release from Parson's office, "Missouri's approach moving forward will allow state and local health officials to closely monitor community level of Covid-19, determine which variants of SARS-CoV-2

are circulating through the genomic surveillance, and assess disease severity and impact of Covid-19-associated illnesses."

Scotland County Hospital and Clinics offers Covid-19 Moderna brand vaccines weekly, on Fridays. Patients can call 660-465-2828 to make an appointment. Additionally, SCH & C receives weekly Covid-19 home test kits available free of charge to anyone. Covid-19 testing is available through the hospital and clinics and if tested positive, the hospital administers a number of approved infusions to treat the disease.

Finally, the CDC recently expanded eligibility for an additional booster dose. The second booster is now approved for anyone over the age of 65 and those 50 and older with underlying medical conditions that increase their risk for severe disease from Covid-19. CDC, in collaboration with FDA and public health partners, will continue to evaluate the need for additional booster doses for all Americans. If you or someone you know qualifies for an additional booster, please schedule an appointment with the receptionist at Memphis Medical Services, 660-465-2828 to get the booster.

As a reminder, visitor restrictions have been lifted. Visiting hours for hospital patients are 7 a.m. — 8 p.m. The Quiet Hour is 1-2 p.m., daily. Masks are no longer required for staff and patients unless you have signs and symptoms of Covid-19 or influenza.

BOOKS

Continued from Page A1

"It was so much fun and a success that we decided to go countywide with it," Evans said. "So we told our friends that we knew attended other rural schools and there were actually about 70 of them in operation in Adair County back in the '50s and '60s."

Together, they rented the Shrine Club and gathered students from the 70 or so rural schools and held a "pie supper", an event the rural schools would hold in the fall to raise money for books and other school needs.

"All of the girls in the school and some of the ladies in the community made pies or cakes or cookies or box lunches and brought them and they had an auctioneer who auctioned off these items and the proceeds went to benefit the schools," Evans said.

He said that each of the rural schools represented at the reunion had prepared posters with pictures of their school days. Each school had a table where they put their memorabilia and pictures as well. It was at the reunion, looking at all the pictures that Evans and Wright, who has a publishing background, decided to put their talents together and organized the first book for print.

Having collected thousands of photos from the former students of the rural schools, an estimated 250-plus people, they gathered their memories and quotations about their time attending the rural schools. There were so many pictures collected, they couldn't fit them all in the first book. A year after publishing the first book (220 pages), they decided to take all the pictures they had been unable to use in the first book, and make a second book that became the pictorial tribute book (240 pages).

Initially there had been great interest in the books. When the first book came out they had a book signing where they sold out 1,000 copies and had to order more. Evans estimated another 500 books have been sold since the re-printing. The second book was just as popular with maybe 1,000 of those books sold.

"We wanted to make a very nice book so we used high quality paper and hardback covers—so it was expensive," he said. He said that due to its appeal to a small market (Adair County), the market was pretty much saturated after initial sales.

The books are still on sale at the Historical Society at \$40 each. Evans doesn't plan to write anymore books, in fact he never planned to write

these two.

"It was a lot of work obviously and we're both very happy that we did it but we don't have any other plans," he said, noting they had been asked to do a book on rural churches in Adair County. "It's certainly not a money-making proposition. But we didn't do it to make money, we did it for our own satisfaction."

He said preserving the history of the county's rural schools was motivation enough for them to create the books. He said that the model for rural schools in Adair County was the model throughout Missouri and surrounding Midwestern states up until the 1970s when state found it cheaper to bus students to larger schools.

He said the buildings were exactly the same design and that anywhere from 10-30 students would attend the one-room school house, depending on where you were located in the county. There was just one classroom and a cloak room where students would store their jackets and lunch pails. There was no running water and there were outhouses, one for the boys and one for the girls.

Water was collected from a well with a pair of students filling the five-gallon crock from the well and hauling it back to the school. There was one dipper, which

they all drank from, so when one got sick, they all got sick together. He said that when he went to school, he was oftentimes the only one in his grade each year up through the eighth grade. After graduating from eighth grade, he was put on the bus to Kirksville for junior high and high school.

In the first book, each school is featured separately with a focus on each one's history and stories from attendees. Class pictures were taken each year so they were able to publish many of those pictures.


"We gathered a lot of pictures of school activities, plays and Halloween parties and a lot of social events," he said. "The rural schools were not only the educational center of the community, it was also the social center because they had the parents/teacher association and they sponsored carnivals and all kinds of events that were reflective of the time."

He said that something was definitely lost when the rural schools finally closed.

"You lost the sense of community," he said. "It was part of change and it was inevitable—one of those things you just had to accept. But people were much more accepting of things back then. There was such a close-knit community of neighbors."

## DID YOU KNOW?

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



# Truman State University Speaker Series welcomes environmental advocate Philippe Cousteau

By Truman State University

The Holman Family Distinguished Speakers Series at Truman State University will feature Philippe Cousteau at 7:30 p.m., April 8 in Baldwin Auditorium. Inspired by the legacy of his grandfather Jacques Cousteau, Philippe is an Emmy nominated television host and producer, as well as an author, speaker and social entrepreneur. He is the host and executive producer of the Emmy nominated weekly syndicated series “Awesome Planet.” Cousteau and his wife Ashlan are the co-heads of impact for a new location-based destination experience about the ocean

called “Hidden Worlds.” They have also been the stars of the Travel Channel’s hit series “Caribbean Pirate Treasure,” and in 2016 they co-hosted “Nuclear Sharks,” the No. 1 show for Discovery’s Shark Week. Cousteau’s conservation efforts are focused on solving global social and environmental problems. In 2005 he founded EarthEcho International, a leading environmental education organization that is building a global youth movement to restore and protect the ocean. To date, EarthEcho has activated more than two million youth in 146 countries through its programs. As an author, Cousteau’s chil-

dren’s book, “Follow the Moon Home,” was chosen for the prestigious Texas Bluebonnet Award Master List. In addition, he has co-written, “Going Blue” and “Make a Splash,” both of which have won multiple awards. His book series, “The Endangered,” launched in September 2020. His latest book, “Oceans for Dummies,” co-authored with Ashlan, was released in February 2021. Cousteau is a sought-after speaker having hosted and keynoted various events for the United Nations, Harvard University, the Society of Environmental Journalists and countless corporate events and



Philippe Cousteau

global conferences. He has testified before Congress several times and serves on the National Council of the World Wildlife Fund, the Board of Antarctica 2020, the Board of Directors of Green 2.0 and the Board of Advisors of the Environmental Media Association. The Holman Family Distinguished

Speaker Series was created in honor of Squire Paul and Meeda (Daniel) Holman by their children to honor their parents’ long association with Truman. It is funded through an endowment with the Truman State University Foundation. There is no charge for attendance to this event.

# Women within Missouri GOP speak out against Eric Greitens as party remains silent

By Jason Hancock  
Missouri Independent

In just two weeks since allegations of domestic violence surfaced, Eric Greitens’ campaign for the U.S. Senate has been under siege from fellow Republicans urging him to drop out of the race. With one notable exception. The state party, which in recent years has denounced several candidates running under the GOP banner for behavior it considered beyond the pale, has remained silent on allegations by Greitens’ ex-wife that he physically abused her and their children.

But even as the Missouri Republican Party itself keeps quiet — its executive director, Charlie Dalton, did not respond to several requests seeking comment about Greitens — a handful of women with prominent roles within the party have begun speaking out.

“I’m appalled that the Missouri Republican Party hasn’t put out a statement calling for Eric Greitens to withdraw from the U.S. Senate race,” said Rene Artman, a member of the party’s executive committee who also serves as chairwoman of the Republican central committee of St. Louis County. “Eric Greitens disgraced the state as governor,” Artman continued, “and has somehow taken that disgrace to a new level with highly credible reports that he beat his then-wife and three year-old son. Eric Greitens does not have the character to represent Missouri.”

Joining Artman in publicly calling for Greitens to abandon his campaign are Carla Young, another member of the Missouri GOP’s executive committee; Pat Thomas, the party’s longtime treasurer; and the two women who led the party during the last election cycle, former Chairwoman Kay Hoflander and former Executive Director Jean Evans.

“By asking for our former governor to stop his campaign and focus on his family, I’m asking him to do the right thing for everyone,” Young said. “This is not the scandal-ridden leadership we need in Washington.” Each has made it clear in their public statements that they are not speaking on behalf of the party.



Former Gov. Eric Greitens delivers the annual State of the State address to the Missouri House in January 2018. The same night as the speech, allegations of violent sexual misconduct during a 2015 affair were first reported by KMOV-TV PHOTO BY TIM BOMMEL/MISSOURI HOUSE COMMUNICATIONS

Those familiar with discussions by Missouri GOP leaders told The Independent there was concern that a formal denouncement by the party itself would likely backfire and help Greitens’ anti-establishment campaign strategy. Any attempt to block him from the ballot, as the party has done with two state legislative candidates this year, was likely no longer possible since he’d already paid his filing fee. And even if it could keep him off the August ballot, the party worried Greitens would simply run as an independent in the fall and surrender the seat to a Democrat. The political conundrum may have the Missouri GOP biting its tongue, but it hasn’t dissuaded women who have long worked behind the scenes to build the party. “If Republicans nominate Greitens, they seriously risk losing their credibility as the champions of family values issues,” said Thomas, who has served as treasurer for the party for years, including when Greitens was governor.

### History of abuse allegations

Greitens was forced to resign from the Missouri governor’s office in 2018 to settle a felony charge and avoid impeachment. His campaign to replace retiring U.S. Sen. Roy Blunt was pitched as his redemption tour,

with Greitens claiming exoneration from the litany of accusations that ended his tenure as governor. Since joining the campaign, he has led in polls of GOP primary voters, and a crowded field of candidates meant Greitens could claim the nomination without winning a majority — just like he did during his successful gubernatorial campaign in 2016. But last month, an affidavit filed by Greitens’ ex-wife as part of an ongoing child custody battle threatened to upend his campaign. Greitens was accused of “unstable and coercive” behavior, including physically abusing their children. His ex-wife described numerous acts of violence, and said Greitens became so unstable in the months before his resignation in 2018 that his access to firearms had to be limited. A spokesman for Greitens’ campaign did not respond to a request for comment for this story, but the former governor has denied all of his ex-wife’s allegations and has accused her of coordinating with his political enemies to undermine his campaign for Senate. Yet the latest charges echo those made by a woman with whom Greitens had a brief affair in 2015. She testified under oath in 2018 as part of impeachment

proceedings that Greitens taped her hands to pull-up rings in his basement, blindfolded her, spit water into her mouth, ripped open her shirt, pulled down her pants and took a photo of her to use as blackmail to keep her from talking about their relationship. The woman said that as she tried to leave the basement, Greitens grabbed her in a “bear hug” and laid her on the floor. Then he started fondling her, pulled out his penis and coerced her into oral sex while she wept “uncontrollably.” The allegations led to a felony invasion of privacy charge that was dropped during jury selection when a judge agreed to allow Greitens’ attorneys to call the prosecutor as a witness. A special prosecutor decided against refiling charges, citing statutes of limitation that had or were about to pass and potentially missing evidence. Evans, the former executive director of the Missouri GOP, said Greitens has a demonstrated pattern of abusive behavior, pointing to run ins he had with former political rivals, fellow Republicans in the legislature and the women who accused him of physical violence. “He bullied his opponents in the gubernatorial primary, bullied legislators, bullied women and even bullied his own children,” she said.

### Public condemnation

Twice this year, the Missouri GOP has sought to block candidates from running under the party’s banner by rejecting their filing fee. The party refused to accept filing fees from state Rep. Patricia Derges, a Nixa Republican under federal indictment over allegations she sold fake stem cell treatments, and Steve West, who has previously sought a Kansas City-area House seat despite years of racist and anti-semetic statements. But because candidate filing ended last week, and Greitens filed and paid his fee in February, only a court order could remove him involuntarily from the August primary ballot. That leaves public condemnation as the only strategy for Greitens’ critics, something the party has thus far declined to do. His top two rivals for the nomination — U.S. Rep. Vicky Hartzler and Missouri Attorney General Eric Schmitt — haven’t been as reticent. Hartzler, who demanded Greitens resign as governor in early 2018 after the first round of accusations emerged, called the latest allegations part of a “pattern of criminal behavior that makes Eric unfit to hold any public office.” Even Schmitt, who was one of the few Missouri Republicans holding a major office who never weighed in during Greitens’ 2018 downfall, broke his silence soon after Greitens’ ex-wife’s affidavit became public. He now says Greitens should “be in prison, not on the ballot for U.S. Senate.” Greitens has shown no indication he’s even considering dropping out, doubling down on his campaign strategy of painting all allegations of wrongdoing as part of a “witch hunt” against him. Hoflander, the former chairwoman of the state party, noted that the two women alleging abuse against Greitens did so under oath, something the former governor has steadfastly refused to do. “What reasonable, even what sane, stable person, would run for office under these circumstances?” she said. “I call on him to step aside and get his life in order and not have his personal troubles ‘be’ the story.”

Share Some

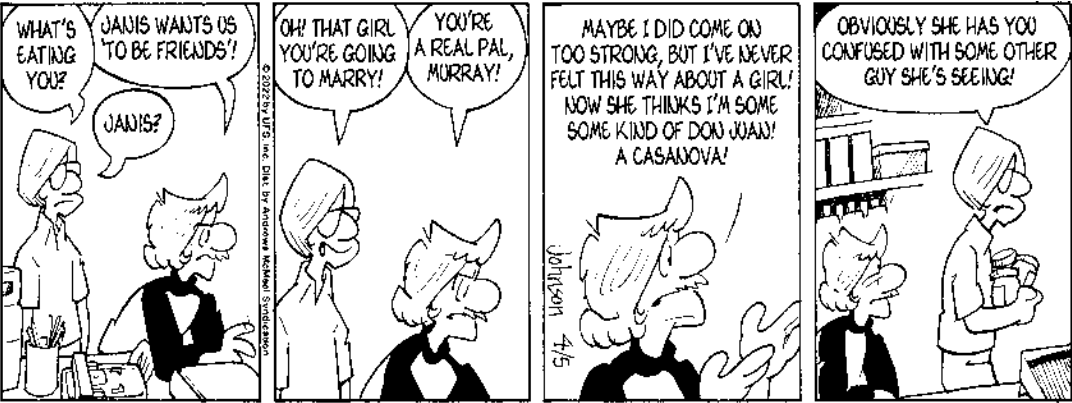
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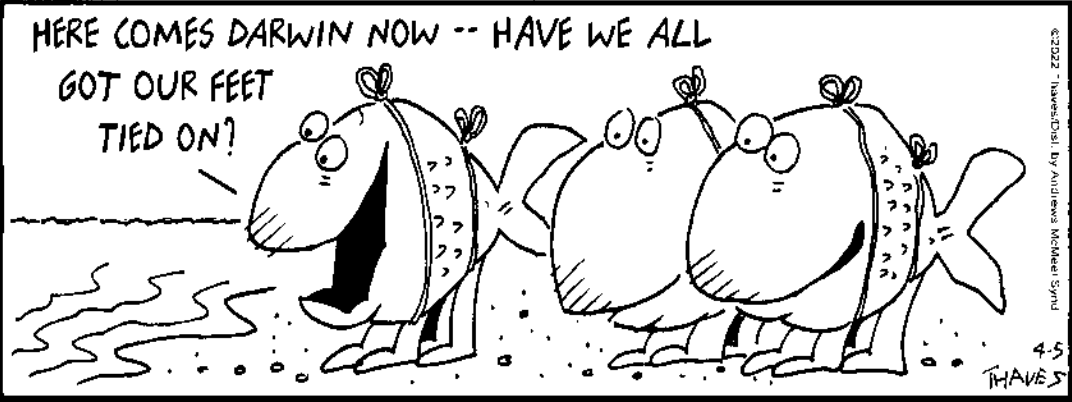
BIG NATE



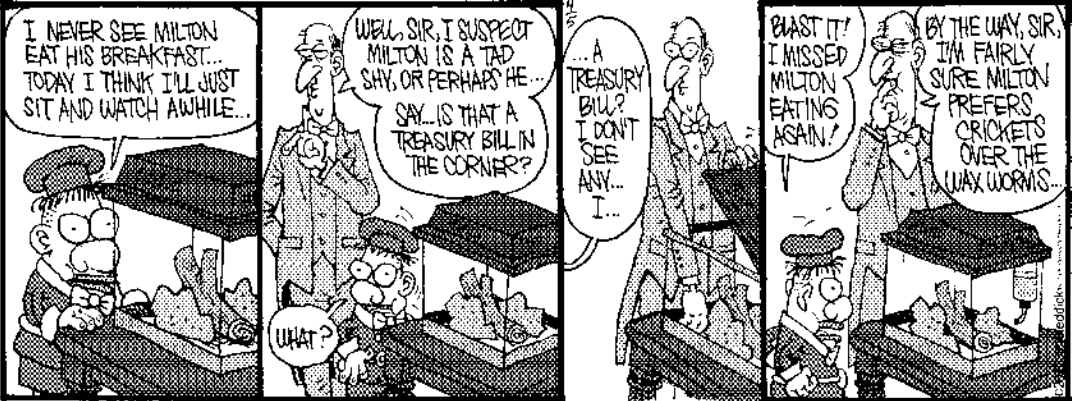
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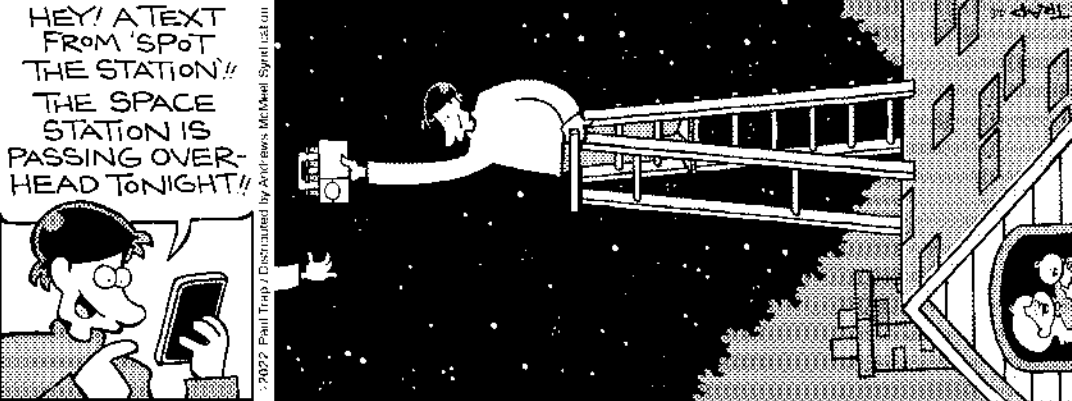
FRANK AND ERNEST



MONTY



THAT A BABY



SUDOKU

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

PREVIOUS ANSWER

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

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

CROSSWORD

- ACROSS**

1 Not close

4 Truck front

7 Unit of work

10 Summer, in Savoie

11 Whiz

13 Stooge with bangs

14 Grandee's title

15 Pedro's pal

16 Charged particle

17 Asparagus unit

19 Amuse

21 Interest amt.

23 Vote against

24 Conquest

28 Denominations

32 Lime cooler

33 Thole filler

35 Pistol fight

36 Seam, in mining

38 Duet number

39 Thai neighbor

40 Choose

42 Make jump
- 45 Greet warmly

47 Help-wanted abbr.

48 String instrument

51 Move a fern

55 Cat's prey

56 Mecca resident

58 Weep over

59 Before, to bards

60 Singer — Lennox

61 Make a typo

62 Locker locale

63 Recipe meas.

64 Chi follower
- DOWN**

1 Govt. agents

2 Upon

3 Descartes' name

4 Trippet

5 Hungry for more

6 Get underway

Answer to Previous Puzzle

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

7 Arab VIP

8 Tree's anchor

9 Pentagon VIP

11 Traveler — Polo

12 Exploding stars

18 Fitting

20 Watched carefully

22 Easy gait

24 Glen or dale

25 Adored one

26 Give up territory

27 Deviates

29 Religious sect

30 Duck or hue

31 Wild plum

34 Learning method

37 Cave sound

41 Oklahoma city

43 Eagle's nest

44 Sturgeon product

46 Ogre

48 Change

49 Object

50 Convent dwellers

52 Get ready

53 What we have

54 Garr or Hatcher

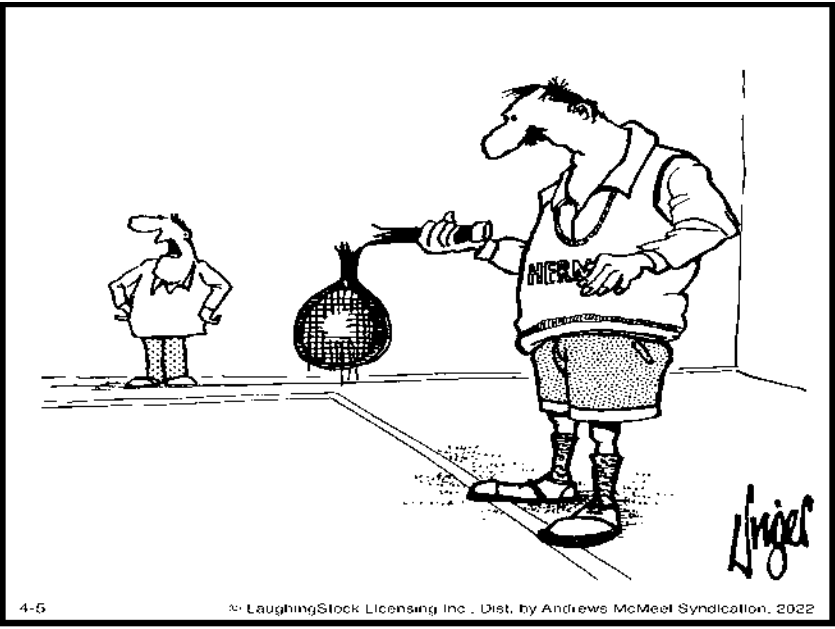
55 Avg. size

57 Decrease slightly

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



ASTROGRAPH BY EUGENIA LAST

Put your talent to good use and build something concrete. Refuse to let secrets, emotional problems or meddlers come between you and what you want to pursue. Be smart and choose to associate with positive individuals who offer solutions, not criticism. Put your thoughts in motion and stand behind your work. Don't let personal matters drag you down.

**ARIES (March 21-April 19)** -- Don't risk your health trying to impress someone. You are better off preparing by yourself and surprising everyone when you are satisfied with the results. Confusion may rear its ugly head.

**TAURUS (April 20-May 20)** -- Put your head down and focus on getting things done on time. Don't change direction midstream or let someone distract you. Your reputation is at stake, so work hard.

**GEMINI (May 21-June 20)** -- An inquisitive attitude will help you figure out what you can and cannot do. Put everything you've got into what you want most, and you won't be disappointed. Momentum will build.

**CANCER (June 21-July 22)** -- Check into financial options that will allow you to expand your interests and goals. Gather facts and figures, and don't assume anything. Budget wisely.

**LEO (July 23-Aug. 22)** -- Ask reliable people for assistance. A robust support system will help you avoid unwanted changes or restrictions. Use your intelligence to develop a workable plan and then get to work.

**VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22)** -- Take care of your health. Get involved in new prospects that will give you the edge. Attention to detail and strat-

egy will help you overcome any problem you encounter. Don't let emotions interfere.

**LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 23)** -- You'll be privy to inside information. Attend meetings and participate in events that offer a vivid picture of what's to come. Networking and partnerships are in your best interest.

**SCORPIO (Oct. 24-Nov. 22)** -- Step outside your comfort zone and size up what's happening. Having a clear picture will give you the wherewithal to decline an offer without hesitation. Use your insight to gain perspective.

**SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 23-Dec. 21)** -- Seize the moment, speak freely and put together a strategy that will help you pursue your long-term goals. Don't fall prey to someone with colorful ideas that are costly and unrealistic.

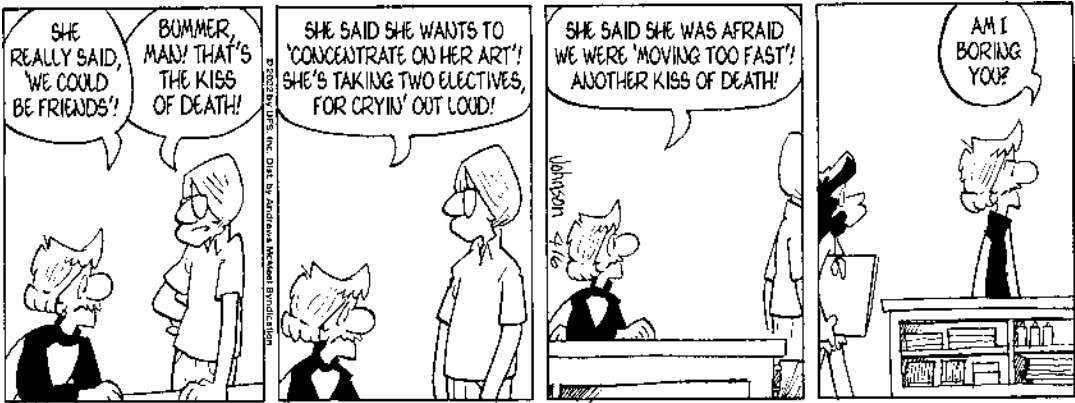
**CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19)** -- Hone your skills and structure a plan that encourages you to earn your living doing something that brings you joy. Make domestic changes that incorporate a space conducive to being productive.

**AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 19)** -- You know the drill and how to get the most out of the least. Stick to your routine, give your all and use your intelligence to make a decision that encourages profit, comfort and convenience.

**PISCES (Feb. 20-March 20)** -- Mind what others say and how they feel before you bring about a change that can affect your reputation. Getting along will make your life easier. Play fair and try to minimize disruptions.

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ARLO AND JANIS



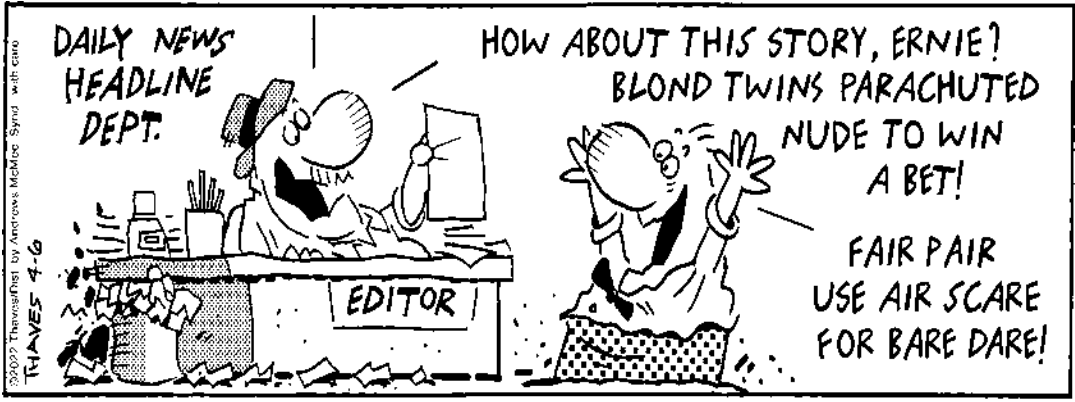
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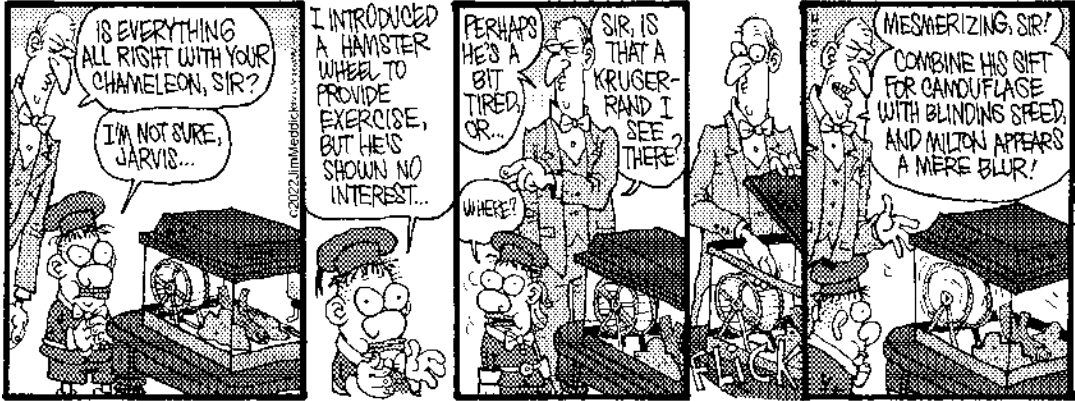
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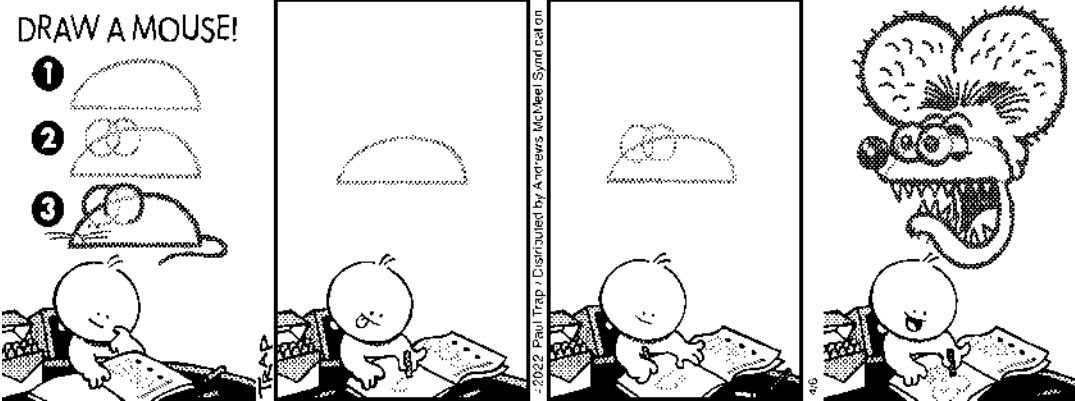
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PREVIOUS ANSWER

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

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

CROSSWORD

**ACROSS**

1 Funny one  
4 Mocking comment  
8 Pack down  
12 Fish roe  
13 Winged god  
14 Speeds off  
15 Symbol of might  
16 Berets  
17 Lotto info  
18 Go furtively  
20 Seize forcibly  
21 Region of India  
23 Quagmire  
24 Refrigerator stick  
27 Sharp projection  
29 Yang complement  
32 Explosive noise  
33 Big flap  
34 — of Base  
35 Packing slip  
36 Gridiron stats  
37 Shampoo additive  
38 Cloudy region

**DOWN**

1 Courts  
2 — the Terrible  
3 Accept  
4 Small lizard  
5 Glass or Gershwin  
6 Move jauntily  
7 Winding curve

**39 Gala**  
**40 Fix**  
**41 Launching platform**  
**42 “Casablanca” pianist**  
**44 — -turvy**  
**47 Friable soils**  
**51 Far East nanny**  
**52 Prima donna**  
**55 Estuary**  
**56 Music legend**  
**57 With, to Henri**  
**58 Traveler’s refuge**  
**59 Hearty soup**  
**60 Be “it”**  
**61 Quick turn**

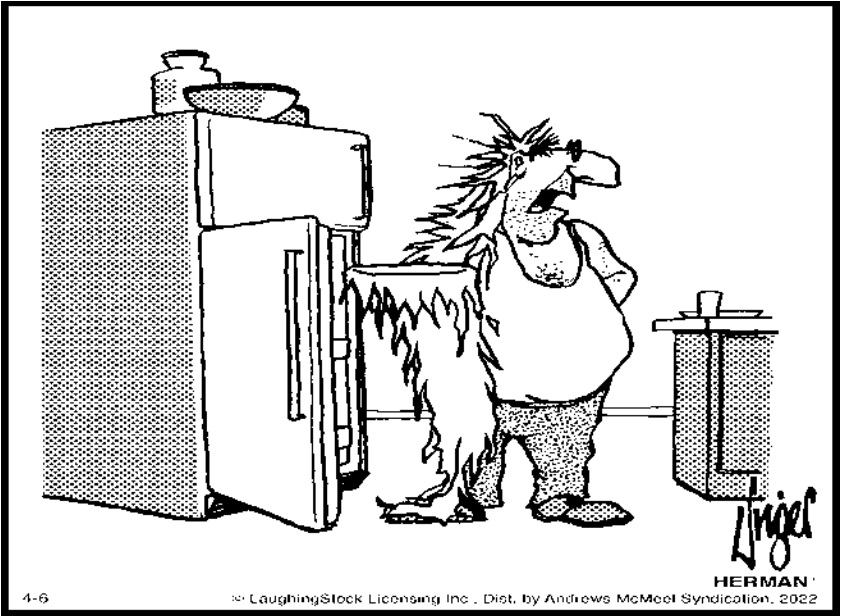
**8 Sharp spine**  
**9 Staffer**  
**10 Some T-shirts**  
**11 “Hey, you!”**  
**19 Excited**  
**20 Snare**  
**22 Slackened off**  
**23 Goes below freezing**  
**24 Kimono closers**  
**25 Gaunt**  
**26 Begrudge**  
**28 Builds on**  
**29 Harvard rival**  
**30 Mouse target?**

**31 Must-have**  
**37 Bullets and such**  
**39 Wray of “King Kong”**  
**41 “Humbug!”**  
**43 “Wella-way!”**  
**44 Edges a doily**  
**45 Ignore**  
**46 Glass square**  
**48 Desert st.**  
**49 Kind of skirt**  
**50 Vocalized**  
**52 Berlin article**  
**53 “— Got a Secret”**  
**54 Chevron shape**

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

Put a to-do list together and map out a plan that will help you fulfill your wish list. Don't fold under pressure or let someone talk you into doing things that don't complement your agenda. Speak your mind, stay on course and protect what means the most to you. Change only what you have to. Avoid overreaction and indulgence.

**ARIES (March 21-April 19)** -- Question anything that causes uncertainty or puts you in a vulnerable position. Keep your plans simple, regardless of what others do or say. Distance yourself from strict people.

**TAURUS (April 20-May 20)** -- Overreacting will lead to trouble. Keep life simple, live within your means and do your best to go with the flow. Seek out helpful people with whom to work and then get cracking.

**GEMINI (May 21-June 20)** -- Look at the logistics before entering an agreement. Too much wiggle room can lead to dangerous side effects. Nothing in life is free; be prepared to work hard to reach your goal.

**CANCER (June 21-July 22)** -- Don't mix business with pleasure. Keep your personal thoughts and life to yourself. Rumors will spread quickly if you are too trusting or get involved in gossip. Pay more attention to self-improvement.

**LEO (July 23-Aug. 22)** -- Put more time and thought into the conversations you have with others. Focus on truth, offer facts and look at potential partnerships closely before getting involved. Change is unwise at this time.

**VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22)** -- Concentrate on making a difference. Working alongside your peers will help you understand what you can do to improve relationships. Refuse to let anyone coax you into extravagant behavior.

**LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 23)** -- Be part of the solution. Gather information, share your thoughts and take the initiative to get things done. How you treat others will influence the outcome. Stay calm and keep the peace.

**SCORPIO (Oct. 24-Nov. 22)** -- Problems with people in your life will surface if you are too possessive or protective. If you love someone, give them the freedom to figure things out for themselves. Stay in the background.

**SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 23-Dec. 21)** -- Push your way forward. Refuse to let anyone stand in your way or ruin your plans. A problem at home will escalate if you or someone else hides the truth or causes emotional havoc.

**CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19)** -- Change begins with you and how you live. Consider how you can use your assets to lower your liabilities. Listen to suggestions, but, in the end, do what makes you feel comfortable.

**AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 19)** -- Fix up your space. Discuss your plans with anyone affected by the changes you want to make. The input you receive will help you get things done without interference.

**PISCES (Feb. 20-March 20)** -- An emotional situation will escalate. Listen carefully, verify information and stick to a plan you know you can achieve. Taking on too much or being self-indulgent will lead to loss.

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POSITION DESCRIPTION

TITLE: Executive Director of NEMO AREA AGENCY ON AGING  
IMMEDIATE SUPERVISOR: Board of Directors

RESPONSIBILITIES:

- Provide daily supervision to staff.
- Through direct reports, provide oversight of all agency program personnel.
- Serve as liaison between the Agency, the Missouri Division of Aging, Department of Social Services, and the Administration on Aging and MA4.
- Review CSR's/ Federal Standards
- Provide Contractor and Board training.
- Provide contractor monitoring.
- Ensure agency compliance with all applicable federal, state, and local laws and regulations.
- Act as contract officer to initiate Requests for Proposals for services.
- Monitor and oversee all agency contracts.
- Review evaluations of proposals and submit recommendations to the Board.
- Develop the Area Plan policies, goals, objectives and budgets in conjunction with agency Board and staff, Senior Service Council and other groups as appropriate.
- Update the Area Plan as needed.
- Oversee the financial audit.
- Encourage and stimulate planning at the community level to better coordinate services of all providers.
- Develop recommendations for new services or modifications to current services of all providers.
- Provide information about policies that will positively or adversely affect older people for Board action.
- Represent the agency in all meetings with appropriate agencies and groups to maintain public awareness of aging problems.
- Develop and support community collaboration as they relate to the agency's mission.
- Develop & oversee the issuance and review of all program RFP/RFB's & provide recommendations for resulting contracts.
- Monitor contracts and performance of providers.
- Act as an advocate for the older population within the planning and service area.
- Oversee staff training.
- Maintain a positive attitude about the agency and uphold the agency's mission during work related and non- work related interactions with the public and other staff.
- Maintain confidentiality of business operations and comply with HIPAA requirements.
- Exercise independent judgment and discretion in performance of job duties.
- Hire, promote, advance, separate or change the employment status of any Agency employee.
- Maintain regular attendance.
- Other duties as assigned.

QUALIFICATIONS

1. EDUCATION AND EXPERIENCE: Bachelor's degree in Social Work, Business Administration and/or related field from an accredited university, plus 10 years of experience in a position with increasing responsibilities in the area of supervisory and organizational development, or a Masters Degree in Social Work, Business Administration, or a related field from an accredited university, plus six years of experience in a position with increasing responsibility in the areas of supervisory and organizational development.
2. KNOWLEDGE, ABILITIES, AND SKILLS: Flexible and able to multitask, being able to work with an ambiguous, fast moving environment, while also driving toward clarity and solutions. Must demonstrate resourcefulness in setting priorities, and guiding investment in people and systems. Be skilled in organizational development, personnel management, budget and resource development and strategic planning. The ability to assess organizational structures of social service agencies or programs that are designed to assist clients.
3. Possesses insight into human behavior and good judgment. Must possess active listening, effective written and verbal communication skills. Knowledge of auditing, compliance procedures, and research methods preferred. Working knowledge of Microsoft office suite or similar systems, Quickbooks and Excel. Knowledge of Medicaid billing is helpful.
4. PHYSICAL DEMANDS: This is largely a sedentary role, however some filing is required.
5. OTHER: Must have a valid drivers license, dependable transportation, and car insurance as required by the state of Missouri. Travel is primarily local during the business day, although some out of the area and overnight travel will be expected. Will also be asked to pass a criminal background check upon job offer.

For information on this position contact Carol Ragar at 660-341-0425  
or at carolragar@hotmail.com Or contact Peggy Hills at  
660-342-4404 or peggy60 hills@yahoo.com

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

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IN THE 2ND JUDICIAL

Case Number: 20AR-PR00099

CIRCUIT COURT, ADAIR COUNTY, MISSOURI

(Date File Stamp)

Judge or Division:

PROBATE

In the Estate of JERRY GRANT BAXLEY, Deceased.

Notice of Letters of Administration Granted

(Supervised Administration)

To All Persons Interested in the Estate of JERRY GRANT BAXLEY, Decedent:

On March 31, 2022, Rhonda Noe, Public Administrator was appointed the personal representative de bonis non of the estate of Jerry Grant Baxley, decedent, by the Probate Division of the Circuit Court of Adair County, Missouri. The personal representative's business address and phone number is respectively:  
Rhonda Noe, 300 N. Franklin, Kirksville, MO 63501, 660-785-3211.  
The personal representative's attorney's name, business address and phone number is respectively:  
Sherry Darling, 24672 Linn Creek Trail, Kirksville, MO 63501, 660-488-5830.  
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: March 14, 2020  
Date of first publication: April 6, 2022  
Linda Decker  
Adair County Circuit Clerk  
Publication Dates: April 6, 13, 20, 27, 2022

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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

NOTICE

To all persons interested in the Trust Estate of Cristel Joan Mankopf, whose last known address was 2204 S. Halliburton, Kirksville, MO 63501.

The undersigned, Nancy J. Mankopf, is acting as successor Trustee under the Cristel Joan Mankopf Trust dated February 1, 1994, the terms of which provide that the debts of the decedent may be paid by the Trustee upon receipt of proper proof thereof. The address of the successor Trustee is 1827 N. 77th Street, Scottsdale, AZ 85257, and the attorney for the successor Trustee is Connie S. Haden, whose address is 827 E. Broadway, Columbia, Missouri 65201.

All creditors of the decedent are notified to present their claims to the undersigned within six (6) months from the date of first publication of this notice or be forever barred.

Date of first publication: March 30, 2022  
Date of Death: January 20, 2022.

NANCY J. MANKOPF, Trustee

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# Cards duo Wainwright, Molina keep chasing history in opener

By **CHUCK KING**  
Associated Press

JUPITER, Fla. — Primed to become the most prolific battery in baseball history, St. Louis Cardinals stars Adam Wainwright and Yadier Molina didn't always agree on everything.

During one of their earliest outings at Triple-A Memphis, Wainwright kept shaking off Molina's signs.

"He came out to the mound, and he was like, 'Dude, you are shaking me off every pitch. What is the deal?'" Wainwright said, recalling the conversation. "It was just one of those days where whatever he called I felt like I had a better plan."

After the game, Wainwright said the catcher got in his face. The pitcher went right back at Molina.

The two reached an agreement, and for the better part of the past decade-and-a-half, the duo's been on the same page.

"They've been together so long it's almost like one person," manager Oliver Marmol said. "They know how each other thinks. They have a Plan A going into the game, but that could easily flip to B, C, D; and they'd be on the same page the whole way throughout."

For the 40-year-old Wainwright, the on-field relationship with the 39-year-old Molina comes down to trust.

"The main reason for that trust is we know each other is prepared," Wainwright said. "I know he's putting in hours and hours to prepare for each game watching the film, breaking down hitters."

The threat of rain forced Wainwright to the back fields Saturday for his final tune-up of the spring. The right-hander threw 89 pitches in five simulated innings, often working through game-specific situations.



St. Louis Cardinals starting pitcher Adam Wainwright (50) pitches in the first inning of a spring training baseball game against the Houston Astros, Wednesday, March 23, 2022, in West Palm Beach, Fla. SUE OGROCKI — STAFF, AP

Afterward, Marmol made official what had long been surmised: Wainwright will make his seventh career opening day start on Thursday when St. Louis hosts Pittsburgh. Unless something shocking happens in the next few days, Molina will be catching him.

Wainwright said Marmol formerly informed him of the opening day pitching plans quite informally.

"We were talking about something else and he was like, 'Oh, by the way, you're starting opening day,'" Wainwright said.

With 20 more starts together, Wainwright and Molina will have 325, passing Detroit's Mickey Lolich and Bill Freehan for most career starts as a battery.

"It's a pleasure to be here in this position and I'm going to try to enjoy it," said Molina, who has said this will be his final spring training.

During their 16 years together as major leaguers, Wainwright and Molina played parts in some of the greatest of moments in Cardinals' history.

None is more iconic than Wainwright's bases-loaded strikeout of Carlos Beltran for the final out of the 2006 NL Division Series. The Cardinals advanced to defeat Detroit to claim their 10th World Series title.

Wainwright, Molina and the Cardinals won another title in 2011.

"We've got a bunch of memories together," Molina said. "Definitely that's one of the good memories we have together. Hopefully we can do that this year, too."

Wainwright smiles at the thought of that strikeout — Beltran would later become a teammate. But Wainwright would rather talk about a friendship with Molina that began when they were in the minor leagues and developed through plane rides, bus trips and hotel rooms.

"The relationship started as pitcher and catcher — baseball only, at the field only — to 18 years later, 19 years later, doing Thanksgiving with him in his house in Puerto Rico," Wainwright said. "Honestly, we were kids and now we're old men — not old men, but older guys — and we grew up together."

# Cardinals' Pujols to make 22nd consecutive opening day start

By **DAVE SKRETTA**  
Associated Press

Albert Pujols will be in the starting lineup for the St. Louis Cardinals against the Pittsburgh Pirates when he begins his final big league season Thursday in what should be an emotional return to Busch Stadium.

Cardinals manager Oliver Marmol announced Monday that Pujols, who signed a \$2.5 million contract to return to the club where he became a star, will be the designated hitter for his 22nd consecutive opening day start. That matches Hank Aaron and Carl Yastrzemski for second-most behind only Pete Rose, who made 23 straight during his career.

"I don't want to set expectations because I like to be surprised, so I'm just going to enjoy it," Pujols said as he headed into the last few days of spring training in Jupiter, Florida. "I'm sure it will be emotional for me, and the fans, too. But my focus is on trying to get in the reps I need to get myself ready for this season."

Pujols could relieve Paul Goldschmidt at first base at times this season, and he was expected to get a little work there this week before the club heads back to St. Louis. Otherwise, the Cardinals view him as a designated hitter and late-inning pinch hitter, along with a sagely presence in a clubhouse that has a nice mix of the old and new.

The 42-year-old Pujols and his close friend, Yadier Molina, already have said this will be their final big league season. That also could be the case for right-hander Adam Wainwright, who joined the other two in bringing World Series championships to St. Louis in 2006 and 2011.



St. Louis Cardinals' Albert Pujols (5) bats in the first inning of a spring training baseball game against the Washington Nationals, Wednesday, March 30, 2022, in West Palm Beach, Fla. SUE OGROCKI — STAFF, AP

Pujols, who returns to St. Louis with 679 career home runs, hit .236 with 17 homers last season while splitting time with the Angels and Dodgers. But the three-time NL MVP showed he can still be a force against left-handed pitching, hitting .294 with 13 homers in just 136 at-bats and making him an attractive depth piece for the Cardinals.

"This guy is definitely dialed in," Marmol said. "He's on a mission to finish well. He's in shape, he's feeling well and with his timing, every time he gets an at-bat, he feels better. From a mental and physical standpoint, he's ready to go."

The 40-year-old Wainwright was picked to start opening day on Saturday, though the announcement merely made official what just about everyone expected. It will be the sixth time he's taken the ball on opening day for St. Louis.

"Me and those two guys are the last ones still here, and it's special to have them with me as I'm finishing my career," Pujols said. "Hopefully we'll

get one more run at a title. That would make it so perfect."

In other news Monday, the Cardinals placed right-hander Jack Flaherty on the injured list and announced that rookie pitcher Andre Pallante had earned the last spot on the 28-man roster following a strong spring training.

The Cardinals had already indicated they do not expect Flaherty back for the first month of the season. Their opening day starter the past two years received a platelet-rich plasma injection on March 18 to alleviate irritation in his shoulder, and he has been dealing with a small tear in his right labrum that could be compounding the recovery.

Flaherty went 9-2 with a 3.22 ERA in 15 starts and 17 appearances for the Cardinals last season.

The Cardinals optioned right-hander Jake Walsh to Triple-A Memphis on Monday while reassigning left-hander Connor Thomas, catcher Julio Rodriguez and infielder Cory Spangenberg to the minors.

# Sports



Kansas forward David McCormack vies for a loose ball with North Carolina guard R.J. Davis during the first half of a college basketball game in the finals of the Men's Final Four NCAA tournament, Monday, April 4, 2022, in New Orleans. DAVID J. PHILLIP — STAFF, AP

# Kansas rallies, beats North Carolina 72-69 to win NCAA title

By **EDDIE PELLIS**  
AP National Writer

NEW ORLEANS — What looked like a lost cause turned into one of the sweetest wins ever for Kansas.

The Jayhawks brought their fourth NCAA title back to Allen Fieldhouse on Monday thanks to a second-half flurry that erased a 16-point deficit and eventually overcame North Carolina 72-69 in an epic battle of power programs.

It was the largest comeback in national championship history, surpassing the 1963 title game when Loyola overcame a 15-point deficit to beat Cincinnati at the buzzer, 60-58.

"Tonight we obviously labored in the first half," said KU coach Bill Self, who won his second championship. "But the kids competed."

David McCormack scored the go-ahead bucket from close range with 1:21 left, then another at the 22-second mark to put the Jayhawks ahead by three.

North Carolina missed its final four shots, including Caleb Love's desperation 3 at the buzzer. His heave came up short after officials ruled that Kansas guard DaJuan Harris Jr., stepped out on an inbounds pass with 4.3 seconds left.

The Tar Heels went scoreless over the final 1:41. They couldn't find an answer for KU over the final 20 minutes.

"They were penetrating and doing whatever they wanted," Love said.

After McCormick's go-ahead bucket, Love drove to the basket but his shot got blocked. North Carolina got an offensive rebound and fed to Armando Bacot under the bucket. But the big man lost his footing and turned it over, then limped off the court, unable to return.

"I thought I really got the angle that I wanted and then I just rolled my ankle," Bacot said.

That put Brady Manek, not as good a defender, on McCormack, and the Kansas big man backed in Manek for the shot that put the Jayhawks ahead by three.

"When we had to have a basket, we went to Big Dave, and he delivered," Self said.

McCormack and Jalen Wilson led KU with 15 points each. Christian Braun scored 10 of his 12 in the second half and transfer Remy Martin had 11 of his

14 over the final 20 minutes. The Jayhawks outscored Carolina 47-29 in the second half.

Carolina had scored 16 straight points late in the first half to open a 40-25 advantage at the break, but top-seeded KU (34-6) went on a 31-10 run over the opening 10 minutes of the second to take a six-point lead and set up a fantastic finish.

Bacot had 15 points and 15 rebounds to become the first player to record double-doubles in all six tournament games. He finished the season with 31 double-doubles, but it was not enough. Carolina was trying to join 1985 Villanova as only the second 8 seed to win March Madness.

Instead, the Tar Heels (29-10) fell one win short and dropped to 6-6 all-time in title games. This was their record 21st — and possibly most unlikely — trip to the Final Four. They made it to the final by beating Duke in a back-and-forth thriller and sending Blue Devils coach Mike Krzyzewski into retirement.

There are no banners for that, though.

Instead, another will hang back in Lawrence, and McCormack, thanks to his late-game heroics, will go down in KU lore, along with Mario Chalmers, Danny Manning and the rest of the Kansas greats.

This title was three years in the making. KU was 28-3 and the odds-on favorite heading into March of 2020. Then, the COVID-19 pandemic hit and stopped both the Jayhawks, and the season, in their tracks.

Seven players from that roster are on this one, as well. In some of their minds there were no "what-might-have-beens" about 2020 — they knew they would have won it. They won this one instead, and showed, once again, it's never good to count them out.

While this wasn't quite the 47-15 beatdown they put on Miami over the final 20 minutes in the Elite Eight, it was still darn impressive given the circumstances.

Ochai Agbaji, the team's lone All-American, finished with 12 points and found breathing room after UNC's lockdown guard, Leaky Black, got his fourth foul 6 minutes into the second half.

"This is a special group of guys," Agbaji said. "We're going down in history. All I got to say is, 'Rock Chalk, baby.'"



North Carolina guard R.J. Davis (4) shoots against Kansas forward Jalen Wilson (10) during the first half of a college basketball game in the finals of the Men's Final Four NCAA tournament, Monday, April 4, 2022, in New Orleans. GERALD HERBERT — STAFF, AP



LOCAL ROUNDUP

April 4

High school girls soccer

**Kirksville 4, Fulton 0**  
Kirksville — Megan Pike, hat trick; Rileigh McLain, goal.

High school baseball

**Quincy 11, Kirksville 9**  
Kirksville — Kendrick Hartman, 2 2Bs, 4 RBI; Grant McHenry, 2 RBI; Cole Kelly, 2 RBI.

**Schuyler Co. 5, Harrisburg 3**  
Schuyler — Connor Smith, WP; Elliot Sevits, save.

**Milan 8, Bevier 0**  
Milan — Keaton Weter, WP, 14 Ks.

**Green City 8, Linn Co. 2**  
Green City — Laydon Fields, WP, HR, 2 RBI; Brody Lunsford, 2 RBI.

**Scotland Co. 12, Fayette 7**  
Scotland — Corbyn Spurgeon, 3 RBI; Ian Wilson, 2 RBI.

**Knox Co. 7, Salisbury 5**  
Knox — Robert Dooley, HR, 2B, 3 RBI; Braxton McCurren, 2B, HR, 2 RBI.

High school boys tennis

**Hannibal 6, Kirksville 3**  
Singles — Karson Westhoff def. Gavin Pike (KV), 10-3; Gabriel Foster def. Tim Cason (KV), 10-7; Parker Terrill def. Wesley Martin (KV), 10-3; Turner Peterson (KV) def. Jace Lee, 10-2; Max Walker (KV) def. Garrett Heaton, 11-10 (7-5); Macen Mitchell def. Adam Hendler (KV), 10-5.  
Doubles — Westhoff/Foster def. Pike/Peterson, 10-5; Terrill/Mitchell def. Cason/Walker, 10-5; Martin/Hendler def. Lee/Heaton, 10-2.

April 2

High school baseball

**La Plata 4, Harrisburg 3**  
La Plata — Tanner Pipes, WP, CG, 0 ER; Tucker Beautte, 2 RBI.

**La Plata 5, Novinger 3**  
La Plata — Logan Arbuckle, WP, 2 ER; Drew Wheeler, 2-4, RBI.  
Novinger — No stats by deadline.

**Harrisburg 9, Novinger 0**  
No stats by deadline.

April 1

High school girls soccer

**Southern Boone 2, Kirksville 1**  
Kirksville — Lucy Tiedemann, goal; Megan Pike, assist.

High school baseball

**Salisbury 5, La Plata 4 F/9**  
La Plata — Reese Mesecher, ND, 15 Ks; Kaden Safley, 2 hits; Tanner Pipes, 2 RBI.

**Maysville 10, Milan 4**  
No stats by deadline.

**Green City 4, Grundy Co. 0**  
No stats by deadline.

Royals eye future with Bobby Witt Jr’s pending arrival

By DAVE SKRETTA  
Associated Press

KANSAS CITY, Mo. — Royals owner John Sherman was trying to relax in the warm spring training sun in Arizona, but fans kept coming up to him with the same question that had nothing to do with collective-bargaining agreements or lockouts.

“When’s he going to come up?” Sherman recalled with a smile.

That would be Bobby Witt Jr., the No. 1 prospect in baseball, and the best to come through the organization in years.

“I always say, ‘That’s above my pay grade.’ Someone else makes that decision,” Sherman said. “But as a fan, I’m ready to see him. I think there’s some anticipation that that day may be fairly soon, but we’ll see.”

Witt has been raking throughout spring training, seemingly making it impossible for the Royals to keep him in the minors. And should Witt join the club, it will represent a unique convergence of past, present and future taking the field inside Kauffman Stadium.

Witt represents the future, along with young pitchers such as Brady Singer and Kris Bubic who started to

take their lumps the past couple seasons. The present has been represented by catcher Salvador Perez and outfielder Whit Merrifield, a pair of veterans in a clubhouse that has continued to trend younger and younger in recent years.

And the past? That would be Zack Greinke, the former Cy Young winner, whose trade to Milwaukee more than a decade ago allowed the Royals to piece together back-to-back World Series teams even as he chased riches elsewhere.

In one of the surprising moves of the offseason, Greinke agreed to a deal to return to Kansas City, hoping to keep his career going where it all began while simultaneously lending his experience to an otherwise youthful starting rotation.

“I’m hoping to have a lot of fun this year,” said the 38-year-old Greinke, who made his big league debut for Kansas City in 2004, when Witt was 3 years old. “This is a team I singled out that I wanted to play for. It was my No. 1 choice.”

The Royals were happy to hear it, and even happier to hear his willingness to help Singer and Co.

“It was one of the things he talked about right away when we had conversations,” manager Mike Matheny said.



Kansas City Royals' Bobby Witt Jr. signs autographs before a spring training baseball game against the Los Angeles Dodgers Saturday, March 26, 2022, in Surprise, Ariz. CHARLIE RIEDEL — STAFF, AP

“He believes he has something to bring to these guys. He knows it. People are going to be watching everything he does.”

Just like people are going to be watching everything Witt does on the opposite end of the age spectrum.

“The X-factor for him might be his passion for the game,” Matheny said of Witt, who hit .290 with 33 homers and 97 RBIs at Double-A Northwest Arkansas and Triple-A Omaha. “This kid loves walking in here and throwing on that jersey.”

Especially when it says “Royals” across the chest. Kansas City opens the season at home April 7 against the Cleveland Guardians.

ENJOY THE K

The biggest offseason news in Kansas City might have been Sherman’s admission that the club was considering the future of Kauffman Stadium, and whether a downtown ballpark might be in the cards. The club has toyed with the idea in the past but has always opted to remain at the K.

DON’T DOZE ON DOZIER

Hunter Dozier’s first season after signing a lucrative four-year deal was a downer in just about every respect. He hit just .216 with 16 homers and 54 RBIs, becoming a liability in the middle of a lineup that needed some production. But after he simplified his swing during the offseason, Dozier believes he’s ready for a bounce-back year.

“I worked really hard this offseason trying to get back to what I know I can do,” Dozier said.

HEALTH CHECK

Adalberto Mondesi has proven to be one of the game’s dynamic players when he’s healthy, leading the league with 24 stolen bases during the COVID-19-shortened 2020 season. But Mondesi has only played more than 100 games once in six seasons, and he hit just .230 with six homers and 15 steals while limited to 35 games by injuries last season.

“I changed a lot of things,” Mondesi said of his offseason, which included working with a different trainer in an attempt to stay healthy. “Just focused on the things I need to focus on and I feel good right now and see what’s going to happen.”

NEW LOOK

Greinke is the biggest addition this season, but the Royals also brought in left-hander Amir Garrett from Cincinnati in a trade for Mike Minor. They hope he can return to his 2020 form after a down season and provide help in the bullpen.

ROOKIES TO WATCH

MJ Melendez is perhaps the second-most tantalizing prospect in the Royals system behind Witt, especially after leading the minors last season with 41 homers. But with Perez firmly entrenched behind the plate, Melendez has been tinkering with playing other positions in the hopes of finding his way onto the field at some point this season.

“He’s absolutely come a long way with his swing,” Matheny said. “He’s dangerous.”

Hit Hard: Hitting coaches have short shelf life in majors

Connor Dawson is a psychologist, gatekeeper, analyst and strategist

By JAY COHEN  
AP Baseball Writer

PHOENIX — Connor Dawson is a psychologist, gatekeeper, analyst and strategist. And a hitting coach, too.

Tough job. “There’s just so much out there for one guy to handle now that wasn’t the case 20 years ago,” Dawson said.

The 28-year-old Dawson is one of two new hitting coaches for the Milwaukee Brewers, hired along with Ozzie Timmons after Andy Haines was let go in October. Haines ended up in Pittsburgh, part of a remarkable shakeup for one of the highest profile positions on a major league coaching staff.

A whopping 17 teams made a change at hitting coach in the offseason. The Brewers, Baltimore Orioles and Seattle Mariners opted to give the title to two people after previously going with one, joining the Houston Astros and Los Angeles Dodgers.

That’s compared to four managerial changes — Mark Kotsay in Oakland, Buck Showalter with the New York Mets, Oliver Marmol for St. Louis and Bob Melvin in San Diego — and four changes with the pitching coach title.

“By a significant amount the hitting coach

is the toughest staff job, including the manager. For sure,” said Tony La Russa, the 77-year-old Hall of Fame manager of the Chicago White Sox.

“Those other guys have to work, but hitters hit every day and there’s a lot of them. And trying to get them right, keep them right. I don’t know if it’s just they get worn out, I don’t know. ... You see a hitting coach that’s got longevity, man, you cannot give them enough credit.”

The widespread changes at hitting coach occurred after the major league batting average dipped to .244 last season, its lowest since the year of the pitcher in 1968. There were a record 2,664 more strikeouts than hits, the gap increasing from 1,147 during the pandemic-shortened 2020 season and 784 in 2019, when strikeouts topped hits for the first time.

“We’re in a stage with it that other areas of the game have provided some concrete ways to move forward and we’re still really searching for ways that we think can sustain in helping hitters,” Brewers manager Craig Counsell said. “We’re trying a lot of different things and I think that’s why you’re seeing the coaches cycle. And it’s because it’s a really difficult job.”



Boston Red Sox hitting coach Peter Fatse (62) watches the warmup in the fourth inning from the dugout during a spring training baseball game against the Atlanta Braves at CoolToday Park, Sunday, April 3, 2022, in North Port, Fla. STEVE HELBER — STAFF, AP

Today’s hitting coaches do a lot more than just coach hitting, a daunting task in and of itself since it involves knowing the swings of every position player on the roster — a group that most likely varies dramatically in size, strength and experience.

They also help their players find the right mindset for a task that usually results in failure. They sift through an ever-expanding amount of information to help determine what is useful for each hitter and what can be discarded. They shape how their team plans to attack an opponent’s pitching staff.

“At the big league level, a lot of guys know what

their swing does. They know how to formulate a game plan,” Diamondbacks catcher Carson Kelly said. “So I think a lot of it is reassurance and giving information. Just basically having as much information as we can to help us try to move forward when we’re struggling and find ways to make adjustments over a long season.”

Dawson said he felt his job was about 30% coaching versus 70% working on psychology and mindset.

“Honestly, they’re so intertwined and overlapped that it’s really a full-time thing,” he said. “It’s hard to separate the two just ‘cause you can’t have one

without the other.”

The Cubs are on their fifth hitting coach since 2014 after hiring Greg Brown in November. Brown, 41, spent the past two seasons as the minor league hitting coordinator for Tampa Bay.

Assistant hitting coach Johnny Washington was hired in December, and manager David Ross made it sound as if it extends into much of the team’s coaching staff.

“We talk hitting a lot, and sometimes we can steer a guy to what he talks about with whatever kind of hitting coach we have,” Ross said.

One big reason behind all the changes at hitting coach is the developing

technology, with the industry working to catch up to the advanced data available to big league pitchers.

As the tools are introduced, some coaches are better suited to making the most of the new information.

“You’ve got a lot more ways to measure and data and technology that we’re trying to implement into the hitting department that has been already put into the pitching aspect,” Ross said. “Knowing how to read those findings, knowing how to talk that language, and also still be able to relate to players is an extremely different skillset for a lot of guys that have been in the game for a long time.”



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