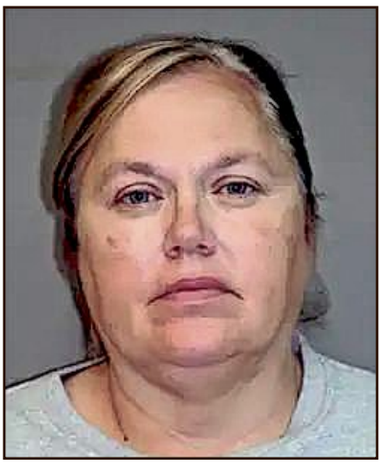
TRENTON TELEGRAPH

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November 13, 2026
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Bond remains $50K in church theft case



Patricia M. Eckert

A judge in Grundy County Circuit Court is upholding a $50,000 cash-only bond for Patricia M. Eckert of Laredo after Eckert was charged with felony forgery and stealing stemming from a case involving Wesley United Methodist Church in Trenton.

Eckert appeared in court Nov. 10 for a bond hearing in the case. She waived her right to a preliminary hearing. An arraignment is scheduled for Dec. 10.

Prosecutors claim Eckert misappropriated funds from the church and falsified financial documents between April and October 2026. Court documents state Eckert allegedly provided church officials with 24 post-dated personal checks totaling $22,800 after questions came up about the church's finances.

College Names Workforce Development Board Executive Director

North Central Missouri College appointed Johannah D. Baugher as the new Workforce Development Board executive director.

Baugher graduated from North Central Missouri College in 2007 with both an Associate in Arts and an Associate in Arts in Teaching degree. She continued her education at Northwest Missouri State University, earning a Bachelor of Science in Elementary Education in 2009 and a Master of Science in Education in Reading in 2011. In 2016, she earned a Doctor of Education in Educational Leadership and Policy Analysis from the University of Missouri-Columbia.



Johannah D. Baugher

"Dr. Baugher brings nearly two decades of experience in education and leadership to the position. She began her career 18 years ago in PK-12 public education, teaching multiple grade levels before advancing into leadership and academic administration roles. Throughout her career, she has taught and led academic programs at community colleges as well as public and private four-year universities," reads a release about the appointment.

In addition to her professional accomplishments, Baugher has made contributions to educational research and scholarship. She has authored multiple peer-reviewed journal articles, contributed a book chapter and presented at conferences on both the local and national levels.

"I am humbled by the opportunity to have been named the new Workforce Development Board executive director," said Baugher. "I am inspired by the work our board does to match job seekers with prospective employers through focused and intentional action across our 34-county service region. I look forward to continued collaboration opportunities with organizations and stakeholders alike as together, we work to optimize employment opportunities for everyone in North Missouri."

NCMC President Jamie Hooyman said, "Dr. Baugher's extensive background in education, leadership, research, and workforce development makes her an outstanding fit for this role. We look forward to the leadership and vision she will bring to workforce development efforts across our region."

As Workforce Development Board executive director, Baugher will lead initiatives designed to strengthen workforce development programs, support regional employers and expand employment opportunities throughout the Board's 34-county service area.

Thrift Shop Work Continues

Work at the Grundy County Church Women United Thrift Shop continues as the community has stepped up and provided donations.

"Thrift Shop addition Phase 1 concrete work is complete and paid in full," reads a reelase from the organization. "Thank you Grundy County families and surrounding communities for your financial support."

Phase 2, completion of a 30-by-60-foot metal building and insulation will begin soon to provide expanded retail and processing space.

The organization is still accepting donations for the effort. Those wanting to support can leave checks at the thrift shop, 1705 Harris Ave., or mail them to Church Women United, 1705 Harris Ave., Trenton, MO 64683.

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Beyond Reason: An About Face

by Rob Perez
Columnist



Early this summer we were in the woods, enjoying nature and the like. Hiking, swimming, exploring. And when the goal is to connect with nature, that's an excuse to not shave. You know, because it's grizzly. Which is why, when you're in the woods, I think the goal is to look as much like a bear as possible.

But at the end of the week, The Wife looked at my mug and said, "I want you to keep the mustache."

My answer was swift and unequivocal. No. Hard no. I've done this before. Twice, in fact. At The Wife's behest. And I didn't like it. At all. I didn't like it aesthetically. I didn't like it physically. I'm not sure I liked it morally. I mean, where are we in the world if a man's face is not his own? So no. Absolutely not.

There was a simple rebuttal. There was an implication that the new look might improve marital relations.

Joseph Campbell describes three stages of the hero's journey: the call to adventure (The Wife asks for a mustache), the refusal of the call (I said no.), and the crossing of the threshold (TBD). This is where I stood. Where a man must decide who he is, what he stands for.

And then I thought, oh, what the hell? It's just a face.

I showed up in my life sporting the new look and it went over big. It's not that it was a universal success. Or failure. But the world at large had an opinion. Movember already? A man of mystery. Makes you look more Mexican. One person came from across a crowded restaurant and asked, "Are you from Algeria?" I am not, to my knowledge, from Algeria. But what this question really meant was that while the public could differ on whether this new look was good or bad (my fourteen-year-old told me he was embarrassed), there was no question I looked different.

But here's what they don't tell you about having a mustache. They're made of hair. On your face. And so while the rest of my face is cool and comfortable, my upper lip is frequently clammy. And let me tell you, when something's clammy, everyone loses. But why, man, why? The hair on top of my head doesn't make my scalp clammy (unless I'm exercising), so why would the hair in front? It's a mystery. A clammy one.

Then there's the grooming. I've spent a lot of time unproductively. Time I will perhaps one day look back on and think, boy, what I could have done instead.

So I endured this look for a summer. The highlights were rare, but not nonexistent. I already mentioned the Algerian incident. Then, a recent trip to Nashville put me in a cowboy hat at a honky-tonk. The mustache added a little something here, I think. But I negotiated an end date with The Wife. When the time came, I shaved the mug clean.

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City Seeks Community Input For Future Planning

Residents and community stakeholders can help shape the future direction of Trenton by participating in the city's 2026 online survey. The survey results will guide the city council as councilmen determine priorities, look to improve services and create the city's strategic plan.

All residents will receive a postcard in mid-November with a digital invitation to participate in the community survey.

"Please use this invitation to share your input. There will also be opportunities to complete the survey on paper," reads a city release about the survey.

The survey can be found online at surveymonkey.com/r/TrentonMOsurvey. It is also accessible from the city's website, trentonmo.com. Paper copies will be available in City Hall, 1100 Main St.

"Survey participants will weigh in on a variety of topics, including quality of life, governance, communication outreach, city services, Trenton's commercial areas, community resources and more," reads the city release.

There will also be an opportunity for some residents, business owners and key community stakeholders to participate in focus groups.

Preliminary survey results will be shared during a city council meeting in January.

"The city council, working with city staff, will incorporate the data and public input to identify and rank community priorities as they create the city's first strategic plan in recent history. Public input obtained through this process will be built into the next budget that the city council and city develop and for several years thereafter. The strategic plan goals and desired outcomes will define the community priorities in the upcoming years," reads the release.

For more information about the survey, contact Trenton City Administrator Matt Harline at (660) 359-2283 or mharline@trentonmo.com.

Serve Link Home Care expands

Serve Link Home Care Outpatient Services is expanding in Trenton.

The Trenton Chamber of Commerce will hold a ribbon-cutting ceremony to celebrate the expansion at 11:30 a.m. Wednesday, Nov. 18, at 1510 E. 9th St.

"We are excited to see Serve Link continue to grow and provide additional services and resources to our community and surrounding areas," reads a chamber release. "We encourage our chamber members, ambassadors and community supporters to come out, show their support, and help us welcome Serve Link Home Care Outpatient Therapy Services."

DAR honors local veterans

The Dorcas Richardson Trenton Chapter of the Daughters of the American Revolution held its regular meeting on Nov. 2.

Prior to the meeting, chapter members honored Dan Dennis as its Patriot of the Month for November and Staff Sgt. Jeb Walker as its Patriot of the Month for December. Dennis served in the Air Force from 1984 through 1988, stationed in Blytheville, Arkansas. He was also family medicine practitioner, specializing as an OBGYN.

While serving in the Air Force, he delivered hundreds of babies. Dennis is married to Carla Dennis. He has three children and two granddaughters.

Walker served in the Marine Corp Reserves for 21 years. In 2016, he transitioned to the Missouri National Guard, where he serves as a staff sergeant.

While serving in the Marines, he deployed for Operation Iraqi Freedom and as a training advisor in Central South America.

As a member of the Missouri Army National Guard, he deployed to Kuwait for Operation Enduring Freedom. Walker is married to Christy Walker and they have two daughters.

Both men have also served as volunteers in their community on many projects.

"The daughters are grateful for our country's veterans and active-duty military," reads a release from the group. "It is a DAR tradition to honor and recognizes these individuals through the Patriot of the Month Program."

DAR is a nonprofit, nonpolitical, volunteer women's service organization that promotes patriotism, education, historic preservation, and community service. Women aged 18 or older who can prove lineal descent from an ancestor who aided in American independence are eligible for membership.

Obituaries

HAYDEN LAWRENCE WAYNE VIRTUE

Jun 13, 2008 - Nov 5, 2026



Hayden Lawrence Wayne Virtue, 18, of Gilman City, MO, passed away on Thursday, November 5, 2026 at his home.

Hayden was born on June 13, 2008 in Trenton, MO to Delbert Virtue and Samantha Hanes. He attended Gilman City schools where he was a senior in high school. He was involved in the FFA and was baptized at the Southside Baptist Church in Smithville, MO and the Gilman City Baptist Church.

Hayden was a big history buff and followed politics and war strategy. Enjoyed playing video games. He read and studied the Bible over and over. He liked to listen to music and was and had an excellent singing voice.

Hayden was preceded in death by his grandparents, Bertha and Wayne Virtue; great grandparents, Lawrence and Ruth Hanes; step sister, Karli Holcomb; and uncle, Darryl Virtue. He is survived by his father, Delbert Virtue (Sarah); mother, Samantha Holcomb (John); siblings, Jacob Holcomb, Parker Holcomb, Gavin Holcomb, Ryder Holcomb, Jaxton Holcomb, Quillen Virtue, and Jenna Eldridge; grandparents, Jeff and Kim Hanes, Frances and Kathy Linburger, Carl and Rise Holcomb, and Seth Hamme; aunts and uncles, Kayli Hanes (Jacob Anderson), Madison Linburger, Cassie Hiley, Warren Virtue (Brittney), Kenny Virtue (Stephanie), Christine Virtue (Mike), Josh Hamme (Sabrina), Zach Hamme, Sammi Barth (DJ Bradley), Randy Barth, Remmington Barth, and Maverick Barth; and many cousins.

A visitation will be from 5 to 7 pm on Wednesday, November 11, 2026 at Roberson Funeral Home, 1107 S. 25th St., Bethany, MO 64424. Funeral Services will be at 10 am on Thursday, November 12, 2026 at the funeral home. Burial will follow in the Resthaven Memorial Gardens in Trenton, MO. Memorials and contributions are suggested to the family to help with expenses and can be left with or mailed to Roberson Funeral Home, PO Box 46, Bethany, MO 64424. Online condolences can be left at www.robersonfuneralhome.com.



SUBMITTED

Pictured with their certificates are Dr. Dan Dennis and Staff Sgt. Jeb Webber. They are joined in the picture with their families, local veterans and DAR members.

Rotary Hears About Polio Eradication Efforts

Polio Plus was the topic of a program presented at the Nov. 5 meeting of the Trenton Rotary Club.

Martha Goedert gave a presentation on Rotary International's efforts to eradicate polio around the world through the PolioPlus program. The PolioPlus program was started by Rotary International in 1985 with the goal of eradicating polio in the Americas. With a matching donation from the Bill Gates Foundation, Rotary expanded its efforts to all countries throughout the world.

As of late 2026, PolioPlus has recorded zero new confirmed wild polio cases in 2026, but the disease remains an endemic in Afghanistan and Pakistan, and circulating vaccine-derived polio virus outbreaks continue in parts of Africa and the Middle East.

Statistics show a 99.9% reduction in polio cases since 1988. More than $2.6 billion has been contributed by Rotary to the polio eradication effort, with 3 billion children vaccinated through the program. In 2020, Nigeria was certified as wild polio-free.



ROTARY INTERNATIONAL WEBSITE

As of late 2026, PolioPlus has recorded zero new confirmed wild polio cases in 2026, but the disease remains an endemic in Afghanistan and Pakistan, and circulating vaccine-derived polio virus outbreaks continue in parts of Africa and the Middle East.

"Rotarians continue 100% polio-free efforts. The Trenton Club has been a part of the program since the beginning and continues support of the initiative," reads a release from the local Rotary club.

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Holiday Bazaar - Novinger Community Center - 9-3

Shopper's Delight - Novinger Fire House - 9-4



Trenton High School Honors Students Of Quarter

Trenton High School honors one student from each class every quarter as Student of the Quarter. The students are chosen by faculty using the criteria of citizenship, leadership, participation and academics.

The following students were named student of the quarter for the first quarter of the school year in their respective grades:

- Gabe Harris, freshman;
- Kennedy Cross, sophomore;
- Anthony Esquival, junior; and
- Jackson Bethards, senior.

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College Features Clara Straight Tribute Exhibition

The North Central Missouri College Dorris Rider Art Gallery is hosting the paintings of Missouri artist Clara Straight.

These works are on loan from the Sue Ross Arts Center in Kirksville, where Clara was an active art contributor. The exhibition will be featured through Dec. 18. A reception celebrating the exhibit will take place at the gallery at 6 p.m. Dec. 2. Both the exhibition and reception are open to the public.

Straight was raised in Yarrow. After an active life of teaching and traveling, she returned home and painted local rural scenes until she was 106 years old.

"Clara never painted inside, and painted scenes from every season of the year across her 300-acre farm. Clara painted thousands of canvases. Her work has been exhibited in New York, and scenes from Missouri are now in homes and galleries across the country," reads a college release about the exhibition.

The Dorris Rider Art Gallery is located in the Frey Administrative Center on the NCMC Campus, 1213 Mable St. Regular hours are 8:30 am to 4:30 pm Monday through Friday. For further information, contact gallery coordinator Megan Hines at mhines@pirates.ncmissouri.edu.



SUBMITTED

The North Central Missouri College Dorris Rider Art Gallery is hosting the paintings of Missouri artist Clara Straight.

FCCLA Students Earn top-5 Finishes In Show-Me Skills Conference

Trenton High School Family, Career and Community Leaders of America students that competed in Show-Me Skills events at the fall leadership conference in Columbia placed in the top five of their events.

Summer Meeker and Kennedy Cross placed first and earned state championship honors in Banner Level 2. Anthony Esquival placed third in FCCLA Recruit Level 3 while Violet Breitenbucher placed third in FCCLA News Now Level 3.

Madelyn Browning finished in the top five in Fashion Sketch Level 2 while Mary Little earned a top-five finish in FCCLA Creed and Interpretation.

This is the first year the school's FCCLA chapter has competed in Show-Me Skills at the fall leadership conference.

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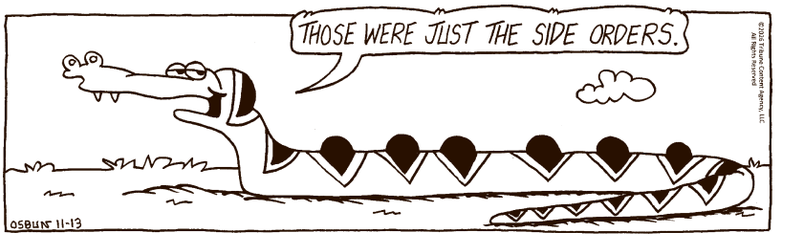
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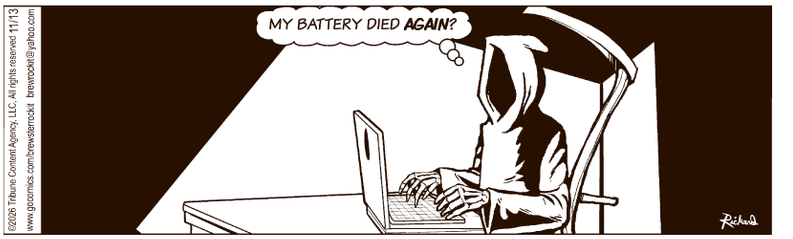
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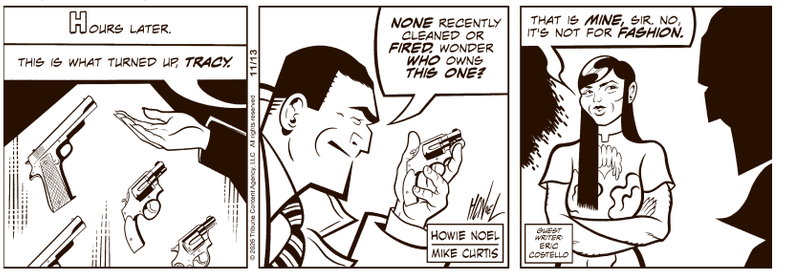
BOUND & GAGGED



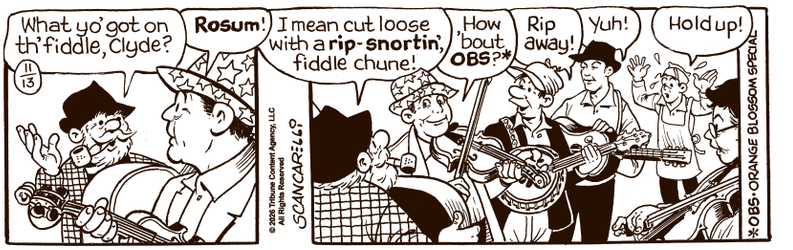
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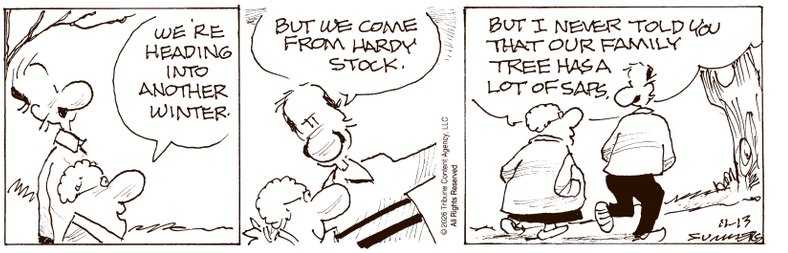
DICK TRACY



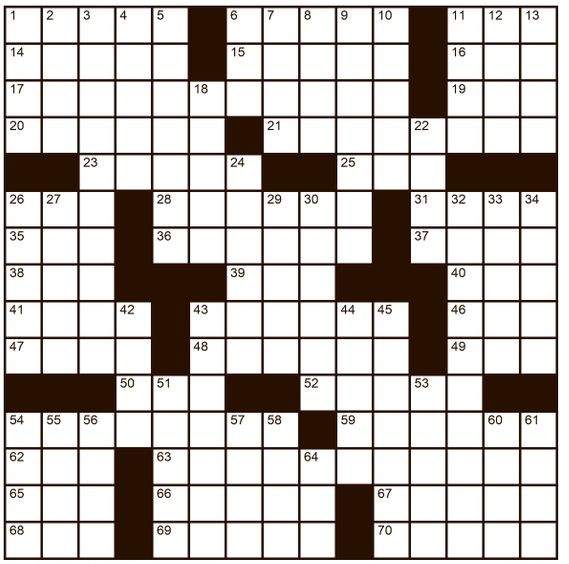
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THE MIDDLETONS



THE Daily Commuter Puzzle by Stella Zawistowski



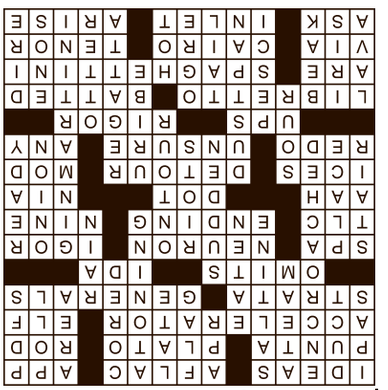
Created by Stella Zawistowski 11/13/26

ACROSS

1 Creative thoughts
6 Insurer with a duck mascot: Abbr.
11 Computer program
14 __ Cana (resort town)
15 Aristotle's teacher
16 __ and reel
17 Gas pedal
19 2003 Christmas movie
20 Layers
21 Army leader
23 Doesn't include
25 Journalist __ B. Wells
26 Health resort
28 Brain cell
31 Composer Stravinsky
35 "Unpretty" group
36 Movie's last scene
37 Three squared
38 Ooh and __
39 Nickname for Dorothy
40 Actress Long
41 Cool summer desserts
43 Alternate route
46 '60s style
47 Make over
48 Not certain
49 "Are there __ questions?"
50 DHL competitor: Abbr.
52 Strictness
54 Words of an opera
59 Stood at the plate
62 "__ you serious?"
63 Thin pasta
65 By way of
66 Egypt's capital
67 Certain opera singer
68 Inquire
69 Arm of the sea
70 Come up

DOWN

1 Hoppy beers: Abbr.
2 Passage for tears
3 Advanced beyond proper limits
4 Starting squad
5 Crisp cracker
6 Loan number: Abbr.
7 Become tired
8 Not on time
9 Making amends
10 Prepared, as apples
11 Neighborhood
12 Opinion survey
13 Email attachments: Abbr.
18 Consumed
22 Water from the sky
24 Abrupt
26 Walkway with steps
27 Win, __, show
29 Disorderly incidents
30 Traveling, as a band: 2 wds.
32 Cocktail with an olive: 2 wds.
33 Burger topping
34 __ to go
42 Tart-tasting
43 Broom's partner
44 MLB pitcher Abner
45 Yacht race
51 Actor Joe
53 Whiskered animal
54 Volcanic flow
55 Part of the eye
56 Bird's bill
57 Closely follow
58 Mythical monster
60 Son of Seth
61 In __ straits
64 Opposite of cold



Friday's Puzzle Solved

SUDOKU

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

11/13/26

Level 1 2 3 4

Complete the grid so each row, column and 3-by-3 box (in bold borders) contains every digit, 1 to 9.

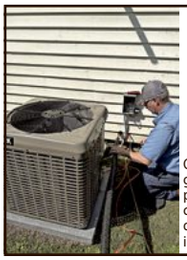
Solution to Friday's puzzle

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

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Jacob White Leads Loaded Trenton Wrestling Team

Special report

Jacob White has won two state wrestling championships. Now the Trenton senior is chasing a third, and he isn't walking into the season alone.

White leads a group of five Bulldogs with state tournament experience as Trenton High School prepares for its Dec. 1 home opener. Coach Charlie Bacon said the senior's impact goes well beyond his record.

"He is just the type of kid that doesn't come around every day, and he will be our key leader and example to follow for all of our younger kids," Bacon told the Trenton Telegraph.

White's resume includes three state medals. Last February, he went 44-3 and won the Class 1 title at 120 pounds.

That championship came with a dose of redemption. White fell 14-10 to California's top 120-pounder in the district wrestling final, then beat him 15-5 by major decision for the state crown five days later.

"His accolades speak for themselves," Bacon said. "I know he has big goals for his senior year and I'm looking forward to it."

White wasn't the only Bulldog on the medal stand last winter. Ayden Ortega took fifth at 106 pounds as a freshman, and he spent the off-season working to climb higher.

"Ayden Ortega, who is a sophomore this year, is also a returning state medalist from last season, and I know he is looking for a higher spot on the podium this year," Bacon said. "He put in a lot of work in the off-season, so that should translate well into this year."

Three seniors round out the group with state experience. Jackson Bethards and Peyton Baker both qualified last season. Baker reached state at heavyweight in his first year in the sport, and Barrett Clark qualified two seasons ago.

Bethards also used the summer to sharpen his game.

"Jackson has also put in a lot of work in the off-season, so I know he has his goals set and will work hard to achieve them," the coach said.

The talent doesn't stop there. Several other Bulldogs came within a match or two of state last season.

"We have five kids who have wrestled on the big stage before and several more who were just shy of the state tournament last season," Bacon said. "It is going to be a great year for us."



FACEBOOK / TRENTON HIGH SCHOOL

Trenton's Jacob White confers with coach Charlie Bacon during a stoppage in his 120-pound Class 1 state championship match in February. White won the title 15-5 by major decision for his second state crown.


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