

Kelly's Korner

By Kelly Sawyers, publisher
kelly.sawyers@southsidervoice.com



Chuy's is open; what a fun place!

The Southside has waited patiently for Chuy's, to open in the 'old home' of Cheeseburger-in-Paradise, 4670 Southport Crossing Dr., Southport.

Their grand opening was Tuesday and I was in awe over the unique, fun decor. It's stunning and a must see. The Voice's community outreach rep Bob White and I were their guests and tried the steak burrito entree and steak fajitas. We were very impressed. Fun place!

The Original Chuy's started in 1982 in Austin, Tx. in an old, abandoned Texas barbecue joint on iconic Barton Springs Road. Founders Mike Young and John Zapp had a vision of a fun and funky Tex-Mex restaurant that served authentic and fresh food in an atmosphere that appealed to everyone. From these humble beginnings Chuy's was born.



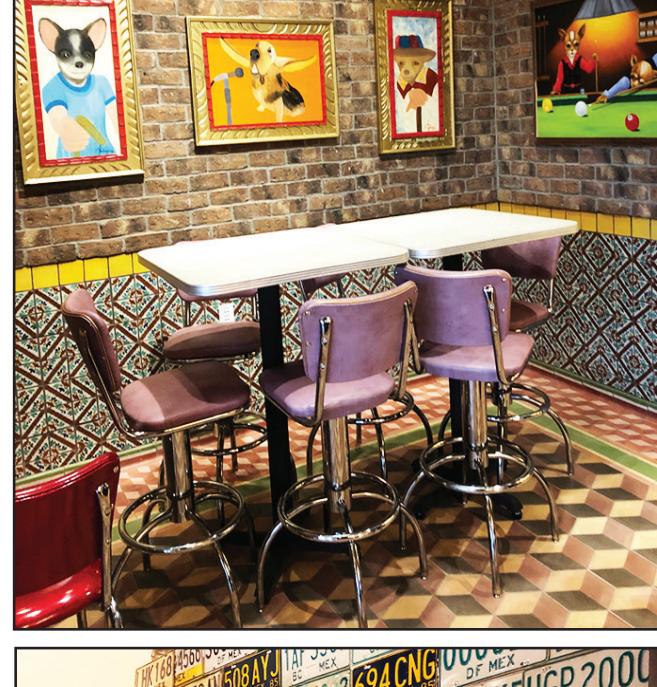
(SOUTHSIDER VOICE PHOTOS BY KELLY SAWYERS)

Bartender Heather Wright, is showcasing a strawberry and lime Margarita swirl.



The steak burrito and steak fajitas are very popular.

A few shots of their beautiful, unique artistic decor



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Southsiders' Bulletin Board

PERRY SENIORS SECOND WEDNESDAYS

Each week just became more interesting at Perry Senior Services, 6901 Derbyshire Road, Southport. In-person activities at the center Wednesday, April 14 include an informational speaker at 10 a.m., euchre club at 11 a.m., a pitch-in lunch at noon and bingo, sponsored by United Healthcare/Medicare. Health protocols include masks and social distancing. Special activities also are scheduled for the first four Wednesdays of each month. Advance reservations are required for all activities; call 317-783-9231.

BG TOWN HALL MEETING

The Professional Firefighters Local 416 supports a fire service interlocal agreement between the City of Beech Grove and Indianapolis. An informal and informative town hall meeting will be held to discuss the proposal Tuesday, April 13, 6 p.m., at the Hornet Park Community Center, 5245 Hornet Ave.

BLOOD DRIVE AT BG AMERICAN LEGION

American Legion Post 276 in Beech Grove is having a blood drive Saturday, April 10, 11 a.m. to 4 p.m. The American Legion post and District 11 are committed to reducing the critical shortage of blood. Blood donors must be 17 years or older, weigh a minimum of 110 pounds, and must be in good health. Donors who have received a Covid-19 vaccination must have the manufacturer's name and be symptom free. A craft show with many local vendors will be inside the legion hall at 327 Main St., at the same time. Info: call 317-787-5547.

ARBOR DAY ART CONTEST

Entries for the Beech Grove Arbor Day Art Contest are being accepted. Paintings, drawings, or other works of art can be submitted by artists of all ages who live in Beech Grove or attend a Beech Grove school. The contest theme is "Who lives in the trees?" The artwork is to depict an animal who makes trees their home. A grand prize winner will be chosen from each age group. Entries must be submitted by Friday, April 30. The contest is sponsored by the Hornet Park Community Center and the Beech Grove Chamber of Commerce. For rules and entries: <https://www.hornetparkcommunitycenter.com/going-green-in-the-grove>.

STEM KITS AT LOCAL INDYPL BRANCHES

Beech Grove and Garfield Park branches of the Indianapolis Public Library are among 10 libraries with a limited number of STEM kits from Indiana University for third- through fourth-graders. The kits introduce basic engineering concepts to children and their families and come with instructions. Activities include creating tools, "hacking" old toys, making robots and more. Kits can be picked up at the Beech Grove branch, 1102 Main St., and the Garfield Park branch, 2502 Shelby Ave. Info: Beech Grove, 317-275-4560; Garfield Park, 317-275-4490.

BREAKFAST CLUB MEETS ON THURSDAYS

The Hornet Park Community Center's Breakfast Club meets Thursday, April 8 at 9 a.m. for a hot breakfast and community fun and friends. Cards, dominoes, or other games are available after the free breakfast. Donations accepted. The center is at 5245 Hornet Ave., Beech Grove. RSVP to: communitycenter@beechgrove.com.

STATE ROAD 37 RESTRICTIONS

Motorists traveling State Road 37 need to be aware of paving crews that will have one lane of the highway closed between State Road 144 and Fairview Road. Crews will be installing temporary pavement and concrete barriers to shift traffic near the northbound bridge over Honey Creek, just north of Smith Valley Road. The bridge is to be widened and improved this year for the first phase of construction of I-69 in Johnson County. In Marion County, pre-construction crews are drilling into the soil and installing new utility lines for future improvements along State Road 37 and I-465. Info: indot.in.gov.

MARION COUNTY PROPERTY TAX BILLS

Property tax bills will be mailed on April 8 to Marion County property owners with payment due May 10 for the spring billing cycle, according to county treasurer Barbara Lawrence. E-mail statements were sent earlier this month. The county has 61 different taxing districts. Property tax payments are expected to result in \$1.27 billion in revenues for local government to fund schools, public health, libraries, public safety, and public works and parks. Info: 317-327-4444 or online at: treasurer.indy.gov.

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Personal Recollections By Fred Shonk

A BUS NAMED GRACIE

A number of years ago, I had a great part-time job driving a charter bus for The Free Enterprise System.

I worked mostly local charters and was one of the few part-timers that was assigned my own bus. I have always felt that a pet, a vehicle or a piece of equipment that you enjoy using should have a special name. My bus was known as "Gracie".

One day, my fellow drivers and I were notified that a special convention was coming to Indianapolis. It was a large group of charter bus companies and Free Enterprise was both a member and host company. This was going to involve quite a bit of work for our drivers.

I was instructed to drive a group from the convention center to the Indianapolis Motor Speedway for a special dinner. I was assigned to drive a new bus that was on display at the convention. I had never driven a bus of that make or model, so I arrived early to check it out.

I met with a couple of employees of the bus manufacturer and they gave me a quick tour of the vehicle while explaining a few of the small problems that had surfaced; however, he assured me that there were no major problems. He then mentioned that several buzzers and red lights might appear on the dashboard. I started and shut down the bus several times, but no buzzers or lights came on.

Soon after my brief orientation, my passengers boarded the bus and we were on our way. Within a few blocks, the buzzers and lights started vying for my attention. I began flipping switches and trying to remember what those guys had advised me to do.

While stopped at a traffic light, I tried to minimize the buzzing noise. The car to my right had made a right turn; so after looking both ways, I took off.

At about the time that I was halfway into the intersection, I realized the light was still red. Since I didn't see any moving vehicles on the cross street, I decided that it might be safer to proceed than to slam on the brakes. I glanced into my rearview mirror just in time to see a police car peek out from behind the bus and start flashing its red and blue lights.

I pulled to the curb and quickly began explaining my situation. The female officer laughed and said that she had pulled me over to see if I knew something that she wasn't aware of about dealing with traffic lights. She didn't ask for my license or the vehicle registration, saying that she saw me check traffic in both directions and that I had not placed anyone in danger.

I know that the owners of our company were embarrassed, and I took a bunch of flack during the dinner and the remainder of the trip.

Several years later after I had started driving a school bus for Beech Grove City Schools, I began picking up a young kindergarten student on my route. Parents are asked to be at the bus stop for their kindergarten and first-grade students. This young boy's mom looked sort of familiar to me. One day I noticed that his mom was wearing a police officer's uniform.

Yes! I was pretty sure it was her. I waited a few weeks before I asked her if she ever patrolled on the near northwest-side of Indianapolis. We laughed and hugged. We started relating our story to anyone that would listen.

She and her family moved out of state a few years later. I'm sure that occasionally she still retells our story.

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Kelly Sawyers, Publisher

Al Stilley, Editor

Denise Summers, Graphic Artist/Production Assistant

B. Scott Mohr, Correspondent - Special projects

Bob White, Community Outreach

Bob Kelly, Account Executive - Special projects

Tyce Treadway, Student intern

Gentry Applegate, Student intern

CONTRIBUTORS

Brett Hickman, Car Nutz Columnist

Fred Shonk & Stuart, Columnists

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Reminiscing

By B. Scott Mohr

A retrospective glance at the Southside
From *The Spotlight* and
The Southsider Voice archives

60 Years Ago This Week - 1961

This issue is missing from the archives.

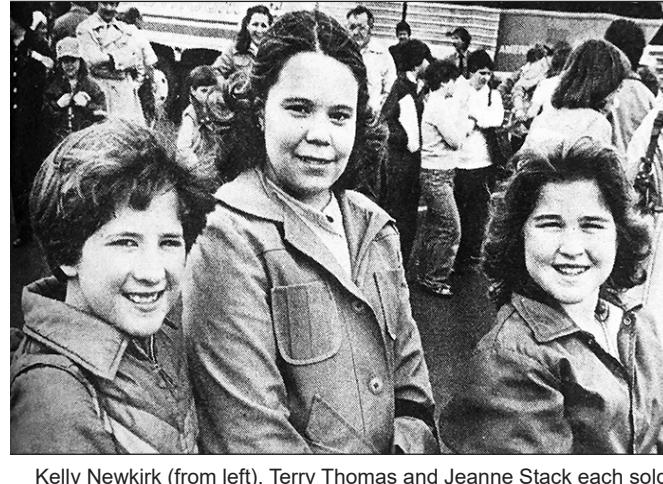
50 Years Ago This Week - 1971

The South Side Exchange Club celebrated its 20th anniversary, having donated more than \$146,000 to charities over the years. Charter members were Joe Bryan, Urban "Duke" Renner, J. Wesley Brown, Ernie Gates, Cecil Hurt, Frank Scharfe, Clyde Hurley, Wallace Whitman, Bob Morris, Harold Joergens and Allen Campbell.

Southport junior Gerald Tyra, son of Mr. and Mrs. Stanley Tyra, took first-place honors in a regional science fair.

Michael W. Boerke was elected to a three-year term on the Indiana Mental Health Association's board of directors.

Southport foreign language teacher Joan McIlroy was named to chaperone a group of students who would study in France over the summer.

40 Years Ago This Week - 1981

Kelly Newkirk (from left), Terry Thomas and Jeanne Stack each sold more than 1,000 boxes of Girl Scout cookies to earn a trip to Washington, D.C.

Residents on West Southern Avenue complained of a daily stench in the air, and they were blaming it on the Citizens Gas & Coke Utility plant on East Prospect Street.

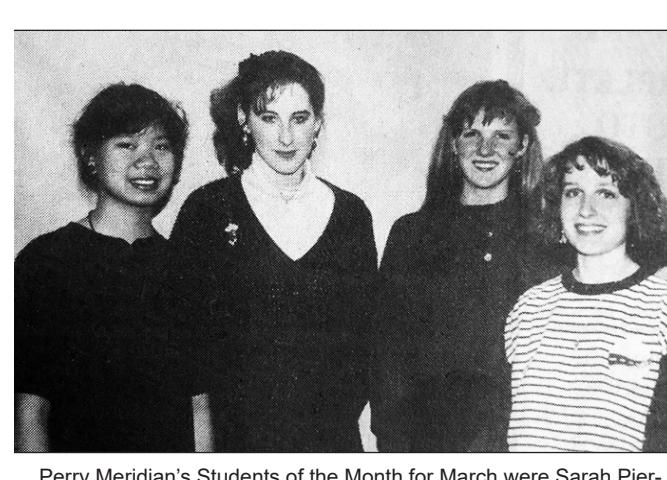
Issues surrounding the construction of Indianapolis' yet-to-be-named domed stadium were highlighted on Channel 13.

Julip, the miniature donkey owned by Jim and Dee Caldwell, was going to lead the Palm Sunday procession at Southport United Methodist.

The Pizza Barn, 3940 S. Keystone Ave., celebrated its grand opening.

30 Years Ago This Week - 1991

Perry Meridian High School's Brain Game team advanced to the finals of Channel 8's tournament. The squad featured Jim Howser, Aaron Kemple, Clifford Leslie and Andy Wilson.



Perry Meridian's Students of the Month for March were Sarah Piersen, Jennifer Isenberg, Amy Roodvoets and Lesley Amerman.

Rick Stephenson was promoted to co-manager of the Marsh Supermarket on Albany Street in Beech Grove.

Southport senior Marc Boone achieved the rank of Eagle Scout, the highest honor attainable in Scouting.

20 Years Ago This Week - 2001

This issue is also missing from the archives.

10 Years Ago This Week - 2011

The Gaslight Inn, owned by Joe DeMore (left) and Art Kirkpatrick and located at 2280 S. Meridian St., was featured on an episode of Biography's "My Ghost Story." The pub, frequented by renowned bank robber John Dillinger in the 1920s, was rumored to be haunted, having once served as a morgue.

Boyd's Bakery, 3953 S. Meridian St., celebrated its 79th anniversary. The first Boyd store opened in 1932 on New York Street, and there were nine across the city in the 1940s and 50s. Owned by fourth-generation baker Paula Boyd, right, the Southside site was the lone remaining store.

American English, a Beatles tribute band, appeared at Southport High School.

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NOTICE OF PUBLIC MEETING

CITY OF INDIANAPOLIS DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WORKS NOTICE FOR APRIL 14, 2021

The City of Indianapolis' Department of Public Works (DPW) will hold a virtual public meeting on Wednesday, April 14, 2021 at 6 p.m. EST.

The purpose of this meeting is to offer area residents, stakeholders and other interested persons an opportunity to learn more about DPW's South County Line Road Project (Des. No. 2002553). The intent of the project is to improve safety, mobility and operational efficiency along the County Line corridor between SR 37 and SR 135. The project includes added travel lanes in both directions and a continuous center turn lane from I-69 to SR 135. Pedestrian mobility along the corridor will improve with the addition of a new 10-foot-wide trail on the north side and a new 6-foot-wide sidewalk on the south side of the roadway.

This meeting will be held via WebEx virtual conferencing and no in-person attendance will take place. To attend the meeting, go to <https://bit.ly/3vDxpV9>. The event password is: CountyLineRd*21.

Participants may also join by phone by calling 1-855-797-9485. The access code is: 131 281 6843. This meeting will be covered live on Indianapolis Government Channel 16 on the following cable providers and channels: X-Finity Channel 16, Spectrum Channel 340 and AT&T Channel 99. The meeting can also be viewed via Livestream at: https://indianapolis.granicus.com/player/camera/5?publish_id=4&redirect=true

The public can also request a link to the meeting by emailing kescott@hntb.com, or scan the following QR code to access a link to the live event.

Participants are encouraged to submit questions and comments ahead of the meeting by email to kescott@hntb.com with the subject "County Line Road Project." The public will be able to submit comments and questions during the meeting via the WebEx chat function or by email to kescott@hntb.com, both of which will be monitored by the project team during the event.

Meeting comments will continue to be accepted via email through May 3, 2021.

Persons with limited internet access may request project information be mailed to them. Please contact Kelly Scott at kescott@HNTB.com or 317-636-4682 for information.

In accordance with the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA), accessibility assistance will be provided. If a need exists for ADA accommodations, please contact Kelly Scott at kescott@HNTB.com or 317-636-4682 no later than Friday, April 9 at 4 p.m. EST.



IN MEMORIAM

In loving memory of
BRETT M. SAWYERS
(12/12/63 – 4/7/2019)

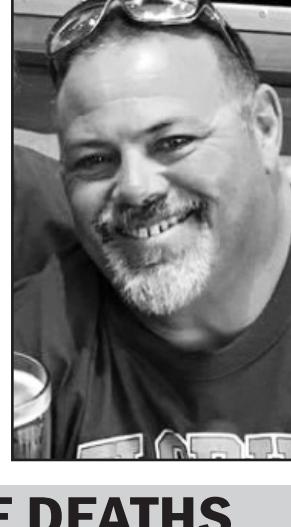
You were the peacemaker in our lives and taught us so much with your kind loving heart.

You not only were a wonderful husband, father and Pop Pop, but a great son, son-in-law, brother, uncle, cousin and true friend to so many.

Your smile was contagious and you are missed by so many.

Sending hugs to Heaven!

Love, Kelly, Reggie, Austin, Alex, Maria, AJ, Kayla, Andie and Aiden



SOUTHSIDE DEATHS

RANDALL "RANDY" JAMES BARNES, 71, sisters, Patricia Schoeler and Shirley Turner; former wife, Imelda Barnes.

EDWARD GENE BROWN, 92.

EMERALD "EM" FOSTER, 101, widow of Lorena Foster; son, Rex "Pat" Foster; two grandsons; three great-grandchildren.

DAVID T. GAUGHAN, 89, widower of Jean; children, Alice Miller, Tim, Mary and Vince Gaughan; 12 grandchildren; six great-grandchildren; brothers, Edward, Dennis and Tony Gaughan.

DON DAVID GLESING, 82, children, Terri White, Karen Waters, Steve and Brian Glesing; nine grandchildren; two great-grandchildren; brother, Richard Glesing; former spouse, Linda Glesing Leffler.

RUBY JEAN ST. HILLIER GREENWELL, 93, widow of John Greenwell; children, Martha Writt, Paula Bergman, Debra Smith, Gina Fornefeld, David Greenwell; 21 grandchildren; 32 great-grandchildren; one great-great-grandchild.

DAWN LEE HEISTAND, 59, siblings, Pamela Kola, Joyce Kratz, Sharron, Terry and George Heistand, Jr.

JOHN ROBERT KOUNS, 73, wife, Donna Jo Kouns; daughters, Jamie and Nicole Kouns; one granddaughter; siblings, Gene Kouns and Linda Stahl.

WILLIAM COOPER MC-CULLOUGH, 80, wife, Marilyn "Sue" McCullough; children, Anita Eber, Bill and Christopher Douglas, Derringer, Kimberly Clements; siblings, Janice Gastineau, Doris TeVault, Larry and Loren "Steve" McCullough; 11 grandchildren.

SHIRLEY ANN FALLIS YOCUM, 85, daughter, Yvonne Yocom; brother, Marvin Fallis; 10 grandchildren; 13 great-grandchildren.

SHARON MARIE MILLER, 58, siblings, Catherine Matthews, Diane Clemons and Mark Miller.

THERESA MONTGOMERY, 59, husband, Brian Montgomery; daughters, Brandye Miller, Angel Bretzlaaff, Brandy Hubble, Loretta, Heather and Rebecca Montgomery; brother, William Wallace Jr.; 33 grandchildren; two great-grandchildren.

PATRICIA LOUISE MCCOOL POHLMAN, 77, husband, Bud Pohlman; children, James and Julie Pohlman; six grandchildren; three great-grandchildren.

DONALD ARCHIE SMITH, 87, widower of Joan; sister, Marcia Shields; children, Douglas, Keith, Neal, Deirdre Delaney; 12 grandchildren; 16 great-grandchildren.

JOHN LEWIS SULLIVAN, 62, children, Heather Whitaker, Arminda "Mindy" Nix, Brittany and Ashley Sullivan; 13 grandchildren; sisters, Margaret Dyer, Helen Bracken.

KEITH ALDEN TAYLOR, 89, widower of Martha "Marty" Taylor; daughters, Yvonne Steadman and Melissa Webb; three grandchildren; seven great-grandchildren.

ALICE J. WILDRICK, 56, children, Jim, Anthony, Kimmy and Whitney Henry; six grandchildren; siblings, Georgia Gibson, Mary Scruggs, Ricky and Billy Rybolt.

DONALD CORDELL WOODLEY, 80, widower of Martha; brother, Kenneth Woodley; children, Bart Woodley, Laura Hacker; two grandchildren.

SHIRLEY ANN FALLIS YOCUM, 85, daughter, Yvonne Yocom; brother, Marvin Fallis; 10 grandchildren; 13 great-grandchildren.

King Crossword

ACROSS

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						
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38	39		40	41							
42		43	44		45	46	47				
51		52			53						

33 Reins	on the donkey" prop	29 Wild party
35 Metal refuse	10 Play area	31 Hollywood's "Talking Mule"
36 Actor	11 Rams fans?	34 Pair
McGregor	16 Sauce source	35 Strut about
37 How one says	20 Conclusion	37 Witness
"alas"	21 Grand tale	38 Tennyson poem
38 Georgia city	22 Medioocre	39 City of India
40 Leaves	23 Absolutely	40 "— match?"
42 Past	24 Church service	41 Fine
43 Absolute	26 1982 movie	44 Explanation
dominance	27 Right angle	45 Yoko of music
5	28 Lubricant	46 Journal
Therefore	29 Pin the tail	47 "CSI" evidence
6 String instru-		
49 Teeny bit		
50 Soon, in verse		
51 Pop		
52 Vacillate		

CryptoQuip

This is a simple substitution cipher in which each letter used stands for another. If you think that X equals O, it will equal O throughout the puzzle. Solution is accomplished by trial and error.

Clue: P equals V

OWBDM GFE'PD SOC TDPPDMOU

OCEUB YDPDMOKDT FV O

WUAKSB, GFE'UU ZMFYORYUG YD

WDDUAVK VF ZUOVD.

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and for the glory of His name, please hear my prayers and obtain my petition.

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(Mention your request here)

There are none that can withstand your power.

Oh, Mary, conceived without sin, pray for us who have recourse to thee (3 times)

Holy Mary, I place this cause in your hands

(3 times) Your request will be granted and the prayer must be published. Amen. M.W.

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SOFTBALL SHOWCASE

New memories to be made on softball fields after one-year absence of games

By Al Stilley
Editor

The last memory of high school softball with Southside teams took place at Bittlinger Stadium on the Purdue University campus June 8, 2019 - the day that Lutheran and Center Grove each won IHSAA state softball championships.

Lasting memories were made that day as the 1A Saints defeated Pioneers, 4-1, for a third state title, and the 4A Trojans shut out Leo, 1-0, for their seventh state championship.

For too long, the high school softball fields have been absent of any competition due to the coronavirus pandemic – until now. We remember the absence of any games in 2020 and the passing of Hall of Fame coach Russ Milligan earlier this year. Milligan coached Center Grove to five state championships; plans are underway to name the CGHS softball fields in his honor.

The 2021 season is underway with new memories to be made among the 10 Southside high school teams.

A treasured new memory will be the dedication of the Kathy Stricker Softball Complex on the southeast edge of the Franklin Central High School campus Wednesday, April 14 at 5 p.m., before playing against New Palestine. Stricker is the only softball coach of the Flashes in the program's 41 years. Many former players will be in attendance to honor the legendary coach who has undergone several treatments in her brave battle against cancer.

Most Southside coaches agree that losing the 2020 season affected players with the lack of gaining the experience of competing in 24 or more games. They also expressed their sorrow that so many seniors missed playing the game.

"There are situations in games where you need experience," Stricker observed. "It's the little things of the game. You can practice all the time, but you have to know what to do in certain situations."

Remember that this season's seniors and juniors last played as sophomores and freshman and that a freshman on a varsity squad last played schoolgirl softball as a seventh-grader.

Only two coaches - Rusty Herndon at Perry Meridian and Payton Sager at Emmerich Manual - are new this season.

Beech Grove will play at its new softball stadium with artificial turf against Southport, today (Wed.).

Here's a look at each Southside team (statistics are from 2019):

CLASS 4A

CENTER GROVE - Returning state champs from 2019 season, seventh state title for highly successful program ... first-year coach Alyssa Coleman won state title with Trojans after winning 2A state title at Speedway in 2018 ... first time a softball coach won back-to-back state titles at different schools ... five Trojans were on 2019 team ... Seniors, pitcher/infielder Alexis Rudd, pitcher/outfielder Abbi Patton, and infielder Camryn Lansdell ... new are seniors, Gracie Henson, a pitcher/infielder (Perry Meridian transfer) and outfielder Paige Shimansky from California ... junior Sydney McConnell scored lone Trojan run in state title win against Leo as a freshman ... key players, juniors Lex Warner (.344, 32 hits, 32 RBI, 18 runs, 9 home runs), Jasmine Cangany, Rachel Kring, and Abby Matthews ... soph Ruby Thompson and Abby Wolff along with freshman Hannah Haberstroh and Riley Janda will contribute ... most of team members played summer ball ... Trojans visit Roncalli today (Wed.), and then face Decatur Central Saturday.

COACH'S COMMENTS - "We will have a different look, but with the same feel. Some great younger players will help fill the shoes of players we graduated without skipping a beat. We have a lot of experience and some nice young players, too. A lot of our girls played summer ball. The culture is stronger than ever. Our athleticism doesn't stop. Our depth is deeper than ever before. Our baserunning will be a strength. Teaching the game within the game, and letting them loose on the bases. We don't have a dominant pitcher like Abby Herbst (2019 Miss Softball), so our pitching will be by committee ... we have a very close group of girls who are determined to build on our program's legacy."



(SOUTHSIDER VOICE PHOTOS BY GENTRY APPLEGET)

Seniors on the Center Grove team are, from left, transfers Paige Shimansky and Gracie Henson plus Abbi Patton, Alexis Rudd, and Camryn Lansdell, who were members of the 2019 state championship team.



Key players that provide a solid lineup for Center Grove include, from left, Abby Matthews, Lex Warner, Jasmine Cangany, Sydney McConnell, Maya Nettier, and Rachel Kring.

FRANKLIN CENTRAL

- Veteran Kathy Stricker only coach of Flashes since beginning in 1979 ... ended 2019 with 16-10 record, losing 2-0 in sectional to eventual state champ Center Grove ... Flashes have solid hitting with power, speed, and above average pitching with senior Josie Newman (2-3), soph Ella Clouse, and junior Shelby Hayes; seniors Morgan Back at second and Amiyah Lyster at first also can pitch ... big bats belong to infielder Livi Colip (.387, 24 hits), shortstop Macee Roberts (.433, 34 RBI), outfielder Raigan LaMar (.402, scored 23 runs), and right-fielder Maddi Weaver (.395, 34 hits) ... strong lineup includes seniors Gracie Marcum and Brean Moore, juniors Brenna Fink behind plate and infielder Kayra Raters plus freshman shortstop Jenna Thompson ... nine seniors give Flashes an edge ... compete in rugged Hoosier Crossroads Conference ... Flashes host Martinsville Thursday.

COACH'S COMMENTS: "However you play us is how we will hit, either with power or we can really lay the ball down. These kids play a lot of ball. We had seniors who were great leaders who didn't get a chance to play (2020). I think we would have been under-estimated. We have a good athletic group with good skills. It's how we develop and getting them on the right page. I just want to give back to the game for the kids – that's my number one goal."

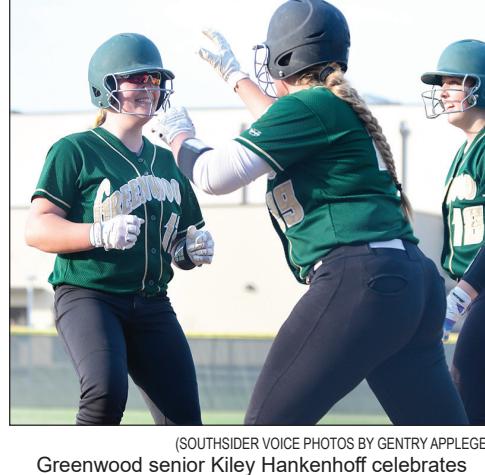


Franklin Central has five seniors ready at the plate with, from left,

GREENWOOD - Coaches Greg Norwood and Nataley Raker have confidence in Woodmen ... biggest challenge learning how to win ... seniors, outfielder Alicia Ader and Kiley Hankenhoff at first, join with junior outfielder Anna Pritchett, sophomore Taylor Dick and freshman Courtney Hankenhoff for foundation ... really young team ... Pike visits the Woodmen Friday.

COACH'S COMMENTS:

"We are very young with underclassmen making up more than half the team. Our cupboard isn't exactly bare because we have two seniors and a junior. We do have a lot of unknowns. This year has started where we left it in 2019 except we feel like we have twice as many freshmen with the loss of last year's season. We are trying to cram a lot of info into these kids in a short time. Our young players need to develop quickly so we are at our peak when the sectional begins. By then, we are usually competitive."



(SOUTHSIDER VOICE PHOTOS BY GENTRY APPLEGET)

Greenwood senior Kiley Hankenhoff celebrates with sophomore Taylor Dick after Dick hit a home run over the fence.

Greenwood junior centerfielder Anna Pritchett shows how to put the bat on the ball when bunting in home game.



Greenwood junior centerfielder Anna Pritchett shows how to put the bat on the ball when bunting in home game.

PERRY MERIDIAN

- First-year high school coach Rusty Herndon is a 1987 Falcon grad, former PMHS and IUPUI baseball player and travel ball coach (hired for 2020) ... program has had some success, but only had five wins in 2019 ... Falcons have a JV team after no 2019 JV team ... Falcons' key players consist of seniors, catcher Tiana White, Alyssa Debruler, and outfielder Alyssa Warfield; juniors, infielder/pitcher Kaitlin Gwin (.351, 25 hits), catcher Gracie Kemp, and Rachel Schmidt; and soph utility/pitcher Kaylen Garland ... key newcomers Paige McPearson, Grace Kendall, and Kylie Williams can help ... depth needs to develop ... look for different line-ups early ... face Decatur Central today (Wed.) at Holder Field.

COACH'S COMMENTS: "Missing last year was very disappointing. These girls have been together for about one and one-half years. They played a lot of travel ball with a half-dozen in big programs and also in fall ball. We have a lot of girls with talent to begin rebuilding this program. These teams have struggled these past few years. We need to make sure the talent we have develops. We have some pieces to fill. We're going to be good defensively. I expect us to be an aggressive team. If a kid can make plays and scratch out some runs, then she will have an opportunity to play. The kids are excited to play again."



(SOUTHSIDER VOICE PHOTOS BY AL STILLEY)

Ready to lead Perry Meridian's softball fortunes this season are, from left, Marissa Jessey and Rachel Schmidt, seniors Alyssa Debruler, Tiana White, and Alyssa Warfield, and juniors Eme Estes, Kaitlin Gwin, and Gracie Kemp.

RONCALLI - Royals are three-time and only Circle City league champions ... coach David Lauck in 13th season at helm, also doubles as athletic director... 24-5 in 2019 ... experienced team with 11 letterwinners who were sophomores and freshmen in 2019 ... led by seniors, Chloe Parks (.420, 22 runs) at second, pitcher/first-baseman Kaelin Cash (.365, 20 RBI), and shortstop Abbie Carr (.368, 21 runs), and classmates Gracie Holok, Sofie Carr, and Dani Gebhart ... also counting on juniors Courtney Keller and Kylie Freije and sophas Lauren Marsicek and Lyla Blackwell ... soph pitcher and power hitter Keagan Rothrock ranked No. 1 nationally in her class by Extralinnings ... Royals have power and speed ... may not rely as much on 'slap' ball at plate as in past ... face extremely rugged schedule ... last sectional title in 2015.

COACH'S COMMENTS: "We graduated Amber Linton, who is now pitching for Indiana University. But, we have four quality varsity pitchers returning who will lead us in the circle. We have defensive depth at every position which is great. We also can put a lineup together with great power potential or a lineup with great speed. This is one of the fastest teams we have had - and I really like speed. We have the potential to be very good - but, there are several teams in our area with the same potential. It should be a very exciting season."



Roncalli veteran coach David Lauck goes over signals for the Royals during an indoor practice while preparing for new season.



Roncalli Royals key players, from left, sophomore pitcher Keagan Rothrock and seniors, second-baseman Chloe Parks, pitcher/first-baseman Kaelin Cash, and shortstop Abbie Carr are primed for the season.

SOUTHPORT - Seventh year at Cardinals helm for coach Scott Montgomery ... 12-16 in 2019 ... will rely on experienced players early - seniors,



Quartet of Southport Cardinals gives rise to high hopes for the new season. The key players are, from left, rightfielder Haylee Matlock, shortstop Nevea Pender, catcher/third-baseman Haley Kiefner, and second-baseman Naomi Chan.



Seniors ready to help lead Southport's Cardinals this season are, from left, centerfielder Maria Martinez, pitcher Johanna Bear, catcher Gracie Cherry, and pitcher Kylee Sloan.

were looking forward to having a great year last year. This year's group has picked up where we left off. Most of our kids had opportunities to play with their travel-ball teams and showed tremendous progress. We are pretty complete at the plate with power and speed. I feel good about our defense; our corners are good. Our goal is to begin figuring things out before county (tourney) and hit our stride going into a tough sectional. The kids are excited to play again. I'm expecting great things from our kids."

CLASS 3A

BEACH GROVE - Hornets have new field with artificial turf ... coach Kacy Ferrell has a few experienced players and freshmen who can make a difference ... to rely upon seniors early, shortstop/catcher Tia O'Connor, utility/pitcher Caley Johnson, and infielder Hannah England ... mix in freshmen, utility/pitcher Malone Moore, catcher/first-baseman Lilly Jansen, and all-around Kylie Robinson ... those six Hornets played summer ball; Robinson with two different teams ... expect solid lineup at the plate... host Southport today (Wed.) in first home game on new field.

COACH'S COMMENTS: "The girls and community are elated about our new turf softball field. I am especially excited about this softball season, not just from moving forward from Covid, but seeing young and old talent all on the field together working their magic. I think we are going to be stronger than ever, first through ninth in the lineup. We will be able to compete with anyone defensively. We have more competitiveness and drive to execute this year, striving for course for the postseason. We will be a team to come and watch that is for sure. Our future is now."



Six Beech Grove players represent a mix of newcomers and experience with, from left, freshmen Kylie Robinson, Malone Moore, and Lilly Jansen, and, back row, seniors Hannah England, Caley Johnson, and Tia O'Connor.

MANUAL - Coach Payton Sager at the helm for first time ... roster not yet determined ... usually a mix of a few players with limited experience and raw newcomers ... progress may be slow ... open season later than most Southside teams ... visit Liberty Christian on April 19.

CLASS 1A

GREENWOOD CHRISTIAN ACADEMY - Coach Tami Haynes returns with four Cougars from 2019 ... returnees are seniors, centerfield/infielder Katie Potter, Sara Kate Wells, and Riley Ratliff, and junior pitcher Hailey Haynes ... newcomers include senior catcher/shortstop Savanah Frye, junior catcher/outfielder Karis Goins, and sophomore shortstop/pitcher Maddie Smith... infield solid with veterans ... expect Cougars to improve and be ready for playoffs ... Cougars are at home against Indy Marlins today (Wed.) and Beech Grove, April 15.

COACH'S COMMENTS: "We are a team that is going to get better with each game that we play. I have several girls who have played softball for many years who will really help lead those that are getting a later start. This group is smart and athletic. They work hard and are very coachable. Our strengths will be defensive leadership from our veteran players, a seasoned pitcher, and the ability to put the ball into play. I am very blessed to have the opportunity to coach these girls and I am excited to get our season started."

LUTHERAN

- Return to diamond as reigning Class A state champions ... pre-season state coaches poll has Saints ranked No. 1 ... only seniors are third-baseman Quinn Johnson (.393, 33 hits) and centerfielder Kerri Selzer plus Niyah Garland (2019 Perry Meridian transfer) at first ... newcomers include Beech Grove transfers, shortstop Caitlyn Brooks and No. 1 pitcher Mystic Means ... Aubree Bailey at second and No. 2 pitcher Maddie Gimmlinder will help ... Saints have bevy of left-handed hitters ... eight freshmen on roster ... top hitter Kayla Dillingham (.454) now at Tri-West ... assistants are former IUPUI player McKenzie Logue and former Lawrence Central coach Tom Corbett ... look for slow start, hopefully fast finish ... open with six straight road games; first home game against Edinburg April 24.

COACH'S COMMENTS: "Losing last season, we had enough talent and a lot of experience to make a strong run in the tourney. This year will be a rebuild. I consider everyone a freshman except our two seniors. We have a mixture of few seniors with some transfers and freshmen who will bear watching. We have good athletes and kids with good gloves, but we are short on experience. I expect us to be strong



Lutheran's reigning 1A state champions return to action with seniors, from left, first-baseman Niyah Garland, catcher/third-baseman Quinn Johnson, and centerfielder Kerri Selzer.