

Center Grove Trojans: Congrats Girls! Good Luck Boys!



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Wednesday, February 21, 2024 – Tuesday, February 27, 2024

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This publication is
FREE

"But anyone who does not love does not know God, for God is love."

— 1 John 4:8 (NLT)



God Bless America!

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- 1. GEOGRAPHY:** What is the capital of Canada?
- 2. ANIMAL KINGDOM:** What was the first animal to be cloned?
- 3. LITERATURE:** In the children's book series "The Bobbsey Twins," what are the names of the two sets of twins?
- 4. CHEMISTRY:** What is the symbol for the chemical element platinum?
- 5. MUSIC:** What is the title of Elvis Presley's first commercial single?
- 6. GENERAL KNOWLEDGE:** What is the first U.S. national park?
- 7. MEDICAL:** What is a common name for xerosis?
- 8. FOOD & DRINK:** What is a sommelier?
- 9. U.S. PRESIDENTS:** Who was the first president to visit all 50 states?
- 10. HISTORY:** What were the principal powers of the Axis in WWII?

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ANSWERS ON PAGE 10

Strange BUT TRUE

By Lucie Winborne

* On their urban forest data site, the city of Melbourne in Australia assigned email addresses to each of the city's trees so it would be easier to catch and rehabilitate damaged ones. Instead, the trees received love letters.

* Wild female chimpanzees, much like humans, experience menopause.

* Giant lily pads in the Amazon River can grow up to 6 feet in diameter and even support up to 100 pounds without breaking.

BOYS BASKETBALL SECTIONAL PREVIEW - PAGES 4 & 5



LJ WARD



CAYDEN LOESCHER



RAISHAUN MCHANEY

Lutheran duo relive state championship as title defense begins next week

By Al Stille
Editor

The euphoria of winning Lutheran High School's first Class A IHSAA boys' basketball state championship last year in Gainbridge Fieldhouse lasted a few weeks for most of the Saints.

For then-sophomore LJ Ward, it hit him when they had their uniforms on again a few days later at the high school for the official team championship photo.

"It hit me that some of the guys would go off to college and the team would not be the same," Ward recalled last week. "We're really trying not to compare ourselves to last year. We don't have those same pieces. Everybody is starting to play for each other now."

Cayden Loescher, also a sophomore last year, said, "It was a great moment because all our hard work paid off; knowing you won 'state' is a great thing. It seemed so surreal. It wasn't until I looked at all the pictures later that I realized we really did it."

The Saints dominated Southwood, 97-66 for the state championship in a game that started out slowly for the Saints.

"The coolest thing was watching all the kid's smiles, the happiness, and support for each other," coach Remus Woods recalled. "That (state) was the goal since I got here."

Loescher scored 22 points and Ward added 17 points in the title game. They are joined in the starting lineup this season with rapidly improving 6-8 RaiShaun McHaney and transfers TJ Clark (Tindley) and Armani Middlebrooks (Westfield). Title team returnees include juniors DeVuan Jones, Taurean Langston, and 6-5 Reece Koomler.

Coach Woods and the Saints staff is blending the Saints, who begin defense of their state title next week.

"The chemistry side of things is always more difficult to teach; and we've been working on that all season," Woods said. "The defense is getting better, we're getting more assists and we're a little more aggressive and faster. They've just started to believe in each other."

Rebounding this season is by committee (all players) after



COACH REMUS WOODS

6-5 powerhouses KJ and Kam Patterson graduated among five seniors from the title team.

The Saints, ranked No. 11 in Class A, are flying under the radar for the third straight season. They were 14-7 with a five-game winning streak going into the playoffs last season. The Saints are 12-8 after weekend road losses at Bishop Chatard and Monrovia. The Saints previously had won three games in a row with an 87-54 triumph against Covenant Christian.

"We have a bunch of new guys but eventually we developed a brotherhood," Loescher said last week. "We pull for each other; we just want to win. I stay positive and try to be someone my teammates know they can depend on."

For sure, Ward is evolving as the team's vocal leader. "I'm not really vocal; I just don't like to lose because I'm so competitive," Ward said. "We're trying not to compare ourselves to last year because we don't have those same pieces. Now, we're trying to get more steals, stops, and rebounds, play good defense and keep our energy up. When that happens, we score more and have more fun."

The Saints fully understand that they are a big target against any team they play. They play only three Class A teams during the regular season and are 2-2 against 4A teams.

Lutheran is host to a seven-team Class A sectional. The Saints know the challenge that lies ahead.

"It's no different than last year," coach Woods contends. "The biggest difference is that everybody is gunning for us. They want to beat us, so our guys have to play with that chip on their shoulder and say, 'We are the champs, and you're not going to beat us.'"

Then he quickly added, "We're playing at home and playing on the Southside is fun."



(SUBMITTED PHOTO)

Roncalli sophomore Peyton Schoettle (106) claimed his state title on Saturday against Lawrence Central senior Mason Jones.

CG close second in points; Roncalli's Peyton Schoettle claims state title

By Al Stille
Editor

Center Grove finished a close runner-up to state champion Brownsburg (124.5 to 121.5) in the state finals of the IHSAA boys wrestling championships Saturday in Evansville.

The Trojans earned three individual championships and Roncalli brought home an individual state title.

Roncalli sophomore Peyton Schoettle captured the 106 title with a thrilling 3-2 triumph against Lawrence Central senior Mason Jones. Schoettle advanced by defeating Center Grove's Joseph Hamilton with a pin in his first match and won his next two matches to reach the title match.

Center Grove seniors Charlie LaRocca (120), Wyatt Krejsa (150), and Nate Johnson (285) won state titles. LaRocca edged junior Ty Henderson of Evansville Mater Dei, 3-2 for the title. Krejsa dominated Fountain Central's Hunter May, 13-6, and Johnson pinned Hosa Smith in 1:47 after dominating Plainfield's Anthony Popi, 9-0 in his semifinal match.

The points also added up for the Trojans as Reese Courtney (144) placed third; junior Eddie Goss (132), senior Noah Clouser (175), senior Kalen McConnell, each fifth; and junior Silas Stits (157) seventh. Sophomore William Vander Luitgare lost his 157-class match in the first round.

Roncalli wrestlers Blake Getz (113) and Braden Getz (150) each placed seventh after winning their first matches, losing their next two, and capturing their final placement matches.

Franklin Central's Richard Rogers (120) won his first match and eventually placed eighth; teammate Mason Stevenson (150) fell in his first round.

Perry Meridian's Zach Huckaby (165) dropped his opening match against Terre Haute South's Coy Bender, 4-2.

Lutheran's lone wrestler, freshman Caleb Morrow (106) also lost his first-round match.



(PHOTO COURTESY OF CG SPORTS NETWORK)

Center Grove seniors, Wyatt Krejsa (150), Nate Johnson (285) and Charlie LaRocca (120) won state titles.



SEE STORY ON PAGE 8!

Players, coaches and fans celebrate Center Grove's 45-33 semi-state semifinal win over Franklin in Southport's fieldhouse.

(SOUTHSIDER VOICE PHOTO BY STEVE PAGE)



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



FANTASTIC SHOW: RECEIVED TWO STANDING OVATIONS



(PHOTO BY RENZULLI PHOTOGRAPHY)

You Make Me Feel Like A Natural Woman: Carole King (Devon Perry) finds her own voice during a studio recording of "You Make Me Feel Like A Natural Woman" in Beef & Boards Dinner Theatre's production of Beautiful: The Carole King Musical.

Beef & Boards Dinner Theatre celebrates the incredible true story of the life and musical legacy of the girl who became King with the hit Beautiful: The Carole King Musical, now on stage.

Long before she was hit-maker Carole King, she was Carole Klein – a spunky young songwriter from Brooklyn with a unique voice. From the chart-topping hits she wrote for the biggest acts in music to her own life-changing, trailblazing success with Tapestry, Beautiful: The Carole King Musical takes you back to where it all began and to the hits that have become the soundtrack of a generation.

King is an American songwriting royalty, writing such unforgettable classics as "You've Got a Friend," "One Fine Day," "So Far Away," "Take Good Care of My Baby," "Up on the Roof," "You've Lost That Lovin' Feeling," "Will You Love Me Tomorrow," and "Natural Woman." Beautiful is the inspiring Tony- and Grammy Award-winning tale about the woman behind the music.

Devon Perry makes her Beef & Boards debut in the role of Carole King, with Elliott Litherland (White Christmas, Beauty and the Beast) as Carole's songwriting partner and eventual husband Gerry Goffin. Julia Viktrup (The Sound of Music, A Beef & Boards Christmas), plays Carole's mother, Genie; with Devan Mathias (Grumpy Old Men, Mary Poppins) as Carole's best friend Cynthia Weil, and Kyle Southern (Escape to Margaritaville) as Barry Mann, Cynthia's songwriting boyfriend. The show is directed by Heather Patterson King and choreographed by Kenney Green-Tilford.

To see the complete performance schedule and to purchase tickets online, visit beefandboards.com. Tickets are also available by calling the box office at 317-872-9664 between 10 a.m. and 7 p.m. Tuesday through Sunday (from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. Wednesdays). Discounts are available to groups of 20 or more. Call the group sales department at 317-872-0503, or email groups@beefandboards.com for details.



(PHOTO BY INDY GHOST LIGHT)

Will You Still Love Me Tomorrow: The Shirelles sing "Will You Still Love Me Tomorrow".

Southsiders' Bulletin Board

FREE MOVIE MATINEES AND POPCORN

The community is invited to come to Free First Saturday Movie Matinees and Popcorn featuring "The Chosen" series, on March 2 and April 6, at 1 p.m. at Good Shepherd UMC, 2015 S. Arlington Avenue, Indianapolis. For more information, call (317) 356-3787 or e-mail office@gsumcindy.org.

SOUTHSIDE INDY RECORD SHOW

Southside Indy Record Show, Saturday, Feb. 24, 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. at Mucky Duck Events Center, 4425 Southport Crossings Way (behind Texas Roadhouse). \$5 admission. \$10 early bird 9 a.m. Dealers from five states. LPs 45s, CDs, tapes and music memorabilia. Info: dukebutrum@yahoo.com.

LHS PRESENTS 'THE LITTLE MERMAID'

Saints on Stage presents "The Little Mermaid" musical at the Ruth Lilly Auditorium on the Lutheran High School campus, 5555 S. Arlington Ave. Stage performances are Friday, Feb. 23 at 7:30 p.m., Saturday, Feb. 24 at 7 p.m., and Sunday, Feb. 25 at 3 p.m. Presale tickets \$12; at the door \$15. All seats reserved. Info and tickets online at: www.lhs.org/fine-arts/tickets.cfm

TEEN ADVISORY GROUP

Teens can gather for their advisory group Thursday, Feb. 22, 4:30 p.m. to 5:30 p.m. at the Decatur branch library, 5301 Kentucky Ave. Teens meet to help create library programs, work on projects, and make the library a welcoming place for teens. Snacks included; no registration required. Info: www.indypl.org/locations/decatur

VILLAGE OF STORIES

Village of Stories for preschoolers and their caregivers takes place Thursday, Feb. 22, 11 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. at the Beech Grove branch library, 1102 Main St. Traditional African stories come to life with drum rhythms and interactive program with artist Kahill the Djei. For children, ages 3 to 5 years. Info: www.indypl.org/locations/decatur

RAINFOREST COLLAGE ART

Young children and adults can enjoy collage art on canvas with foliage and flowers at the Garfield Park Conservatory, Saturday, Feb. 24, 2 p.m. to 3 p.m. Children, 10 years and older, must be accompanied by an adult. Cost \$6 per person. Registration required. The conservatory is at 2505 Conservatory Drive. Info and registration: www.garfieldgardensconservatory.org.

GARFIELD PARK LIBRARY CAREER CENTER

The career center at Garfield Park branch library is open Monday, Feb. 26, 5 p.m. to 7 p.m. for teens and adults; also Thursday, Feb. 29, 10:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. Assistance is available for creating a resume, searching for jobs or careers online, or completing a job application online. Library is at 2502 Shelby St. Info: www.indypl.org/locations/garfield-park

SOUTHPORT LIBRARY STORYTIME

Storytime for preschoolers, ages 3 to 5 years, and their caregivers unfolds at the Southport branch library, 2630 E. Stop 11 Road. Storytime features songs, rhymes and stories with focus on early literacy and school preparedness. Playtime afterward. Info: www.indypl.org/locations/southport

Footlite Musicals to present bluegrass musical Bright Star



(PHOTOS BY ED STEWART)

Alyssa Linville and Bobby Haley.

Bright Star, the bluegrass-infused musical from Steve Martin (yes, that Steve Martin) and Edie Brickell,



Luke Bockelman and Aprille Goodman.

will have its Indianapolis community theatre debut at Footlite Musicals. Running March 1-17, the Tony®-nominated musical tells the story of one woman at two different points in her life: as a rebellious, high-spirited young woman growing up in the Blue Ridge Mountains of North Carolina and, 22 years later, when she is a well-to-do magazine editor in Asheville.

In his directorial debut, Bright Star director Isaac Becker-Chamberlin says: "I'm so excited to bring a bluegrass musical to Indianapolis. Steve Martin has written some of the funniest lines I've ever heard in musical theatre. There are moments in this show that will make you laugh, cry, and maybe even get up and dance. And we're also excited to feature our talented musicians in ways not typically done on the Footlite stage."

The protagonist, Alice Murphy, is played by singer-songwriter Aprille Goodman. After college in Nashville, Goodman spent a decade in New York City. She has collaborated with many amazing musicians in the jazz, blues, rock, and folk worlds, and has worked on music for film and television. Goodman stumbled upon Footlite Musicals after moving to Indianapolis in 2021, and she has now performed in several productions with the nonprofit theater organization.

Fellow cast members include local performers Luke Bockelman (Jimmy Ray Dobbs), Bobby Haley (Billy Cane), Alyssa Linville (Margo Crawford), Dick Davis (Mayor Josiah Dobbs), Bryan Padgett (Daryl Ames), Kennedy Wilson (Lucy Grant), Phil Criswell (Daddy Cane), Shari Jacobs (Mama Murphy), Dan Miller (Daddy Murphy), and ensemble members Olivia Mozzi (Government Clerk), Logan Lafin (Stanford), Bailey Rae Harmon (Edna), Alex Bast (Max), Emily Theurer (Florence), and Derek Savick-Hesser (Dr. Norquist).

Tickets to the production can be purchased online at footlite.org.



Personal Recollections

By Fred Shonk & Simon

MY DAD, THE MILKMAN

I lost a couple of cousins from my father's side of our family in the last couple of months. They were siblings. The celebration of life was held for Gary Shonk last week. As I visited with Gary's family and friends, we talked about growing up and our family.

I found myself telling stories about my grade school days and helping my father with his farm pick-up milk route. As a young boy, I did not realize what an interesting, but difficult business this was.

We lived on Madison Avenue near Thompson Road. Dad's milk route was in the Acton, Wana-maker area. I remember riding with him many times as we drove out on Thompson Road to start the route. This was a seven day a week job. The cows did not understand that taking a day off on weekends and holidays was an option. They produced milk every day.

Dad was up and on his way before 6 a.m. each day. He was normally home by around 2:30 in the afternoon. Weather and bad roads made a difference sometimes. Most of the roads in the farm area of his route were gravel.

Many of his farm customers had closed gates into the area where the milk would be waiting for him. Often there were loose animals in that area. Dad would have to climb out of his truck, open the gate, drive in to the property and then close the gate.

He would then drive to the small building known as "The Milk House." That was the location of the full milk cans for him to pick up. He would unload the empty cans from the day before and carry them to the milk house. These were either 8- or 10-gallon cans made of heavy steel. He would carry two at a time. There was quite a difference between the weight of an empty ten gallon can and a full one.

The milk house was equipped a couple of ways for the warm summer months. Some had a large tank filled with water that the full milk cans would be placed. In hot weather, the tanks had ice-water in them to keep the milk cool. Lifting those milk cans out of those big water tanks was difficult.

A few of the farms had upgraded their milk houses to have large refrigerators that could hold the full milk cans. It was much easier to remove full milk cans from those refrigerators that had doors that opened, and the cans could be pulled out.

My dad would recruit teenaged boys from families on his route to help him. Things were a lot easier for my father when he had that sort of help. Those boys would leap out of the truck and open the gate. Dad could then drive onto the property and the assistant would close the gate and run to the milk house.

They would both carry in empty cans and return to the truck with the full cans. A few of the farms had eight cans of milk each day. That was four in and out trips if dad was alone and only two with a good helper.

When it was time to move on, the helper ran to the gate and opened it when dad was there with the truck. Once outside the gate, the assistant closed and latched the gate and jumped back into the truck. Without a good helper, dad had to deal with that gate both times. The very next farm might also have a gate.

Most of his helpers were high school aged and very athletic. I remember helping a bit, but I was in grade school at the time. Dad sold the milk route and opened the Sunoco service station during my junior high school days.

One of the young men that helped him on the milk route for a few years also worked with us at the service station. His name was Robert Toon. I recently learned that he passed away last year.

The station was only closed for Christmas each year. I thought it was very special that my father was now home to celebrate Christmas for the entire day with us.

Shonk is a 1960 graduate of Southport High School, a '63 grad of Indiana Central College (now the University of Indianapolis) and a retired bus driver from Beech Grove Schools. He can be reached through email at fdshonk@aol.com.

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Roncalli Salutes Our Youth Virtues, Valor & Vision Award Winner



Left to right: Richard and Megan Riddle, Juliana Riddle, Stacy and Kris Chaney

Roncalli is proud to announce that senior Juliana Riddle has been named the 2024 National Catholic Education Association (NCEA) Youth Virtues, Valor and Vision Award recipient. This award recognizes students in elementary and secondary schools across the nation, who through selfless service, determination, innovation and ideals are changing the world while bearing witness to their Catholic faith.

Now accepting applications for the 2024-2025 school year.

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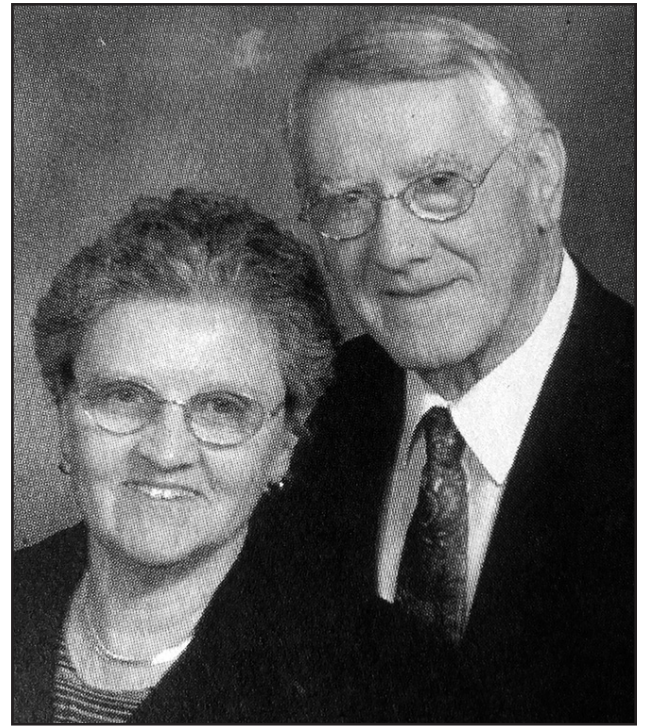
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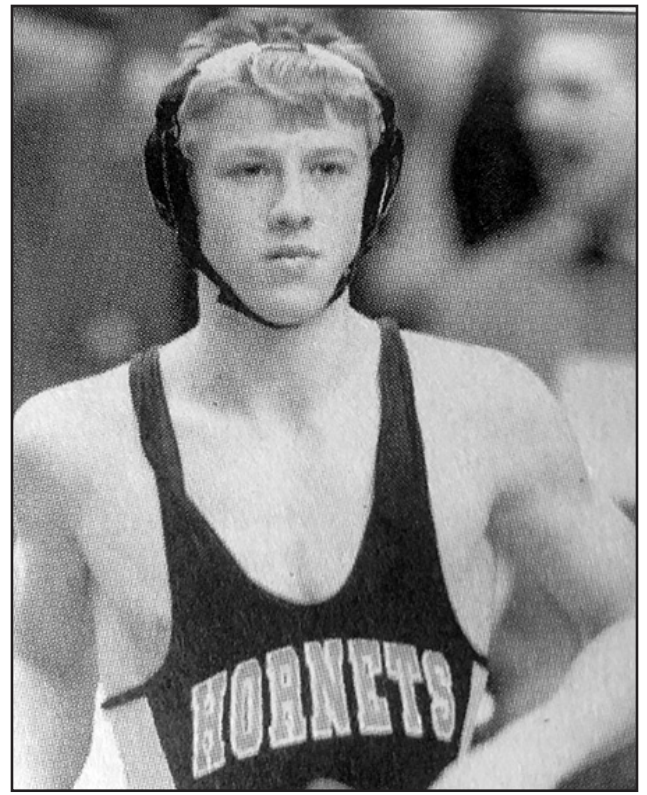
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Reminiscing

By B. Scott Mohr
 A retrospective glance at the Southside
 From *The Spotlight* and
The Southsider Voice archives



Mr. and Mrs. Don Turk celebrated their 50th wedding anniversary. They had eight children, Kevin, Mark, Debbie Lee, Pam Burnett, Patricia Gentry, Karen Mayer, Mary Turk-Delger and Janice Turk.



Ethan Harris, a 103-pound wrestler from Beech Grove High School, finished third in the State tournament.

Brian Rochford, Mica and Olivia Russell, Beverly Crosby and Samantha Brown served as pages in the Indiana General Assembly.



Gavin Orr, a third-grader at MacArthur Elementary, read to Scarlett von Harten during a reading program at the school.

Perry Meridian wrestlers Cody LeCount, a 145-pounder, and Brandon James, 132 pounds, won state titles.



Roncalli's freshman basketball team won the Marion County tournament. Team members were (front, from left) Sydney Smith, Maddie Faust, Annie Davey, Claire Whalen, Courtney Reece, Maddie Schell, Sabrina Noone (back) assistant coach Morgan Hendricks, Lauren McColgan, Cassidy McMahon, Ashley Longshore, coach Bob Susemichel, Josie Asher, Heather Lezon and assistant coach Genna Baker.

OBITUARIES

MARY ANN LAKER BYRNE, 85, widow of Carl Byrne; children, Chris (Dale) Eland, Rose Ann, Larry (Susie), Dan (Sally), Carl (Jackie), Don (Meg), Rick (Effie) and Charlie Byrne; siblings, Agnes (Clyde) Kerr, Rosina (Steve) Starks, Cathy (Pete) Kropp, Joseph (Meg), John, Tom (Mary Kay), Mark (Eleanor), and Bernie Laker; 14 grandchildren; numerous great-grandchildren.
 Mary Ann was a 1956 graduate of Sacred Heart High School. A homemaker, she was a member of Good Shepherd Catholic Church, Teamsters Local 135, played in euchre clubs, bowled, enjoyed jigsaw puzzles and word searches.
 Calling was at Lauck & Veldhof Funeral & Cremation Services.

BARBARA WEBER CONNAUGHTON, 92, widow of Jack Connaughton; daughters, Laura Connaughton and Lisa Lee (Bob); two grandsons; three great-grandchildren.
 Barbara's life was marked by devotion to family, a spirit of generosity, and a zest for life. Her commitment to her family was paralleled only by her dedication to community service, where she gave generously of her time and talents.
 Her professional life was a successful tenure in retail fashion sales, where Barbara's charm and grace were as much a part of her as the stylish apparel she sold.
 Lauck & Veldhof Funeral Home handled arrangements.

BECKY COOVERT, 66, siblings, Mark Coovert, Naomi Gard, Mary Forrelo, Sharon Burns (John).
 Becky loved going fishing, watching birds, and animals. She had a huge soft spot for animals. She loved the Lord with all her heart.
 Visitation is Friday, February 23, 2024, 12-2 p.m. at Indiana Funeral Care, Greenwood Chapel. Memorial service begins at 2 p.m.

CHARLES A. "TONY" ELLIOT, 77, wife, Debbie Lynch Elliott; children, Chad Elliott (Pamela) and Kelly Haskett (Chris); five grandchildren; siblings, Donna VanWinkle, Mike Elliott.
 Tony was an incredibly loving father and grandfather, and a Vietnam veteran. He received an MBA from the University of Notre Dame, and was a retired Mechanical Engineering Manager at RCA, where several of his inventions earned patents.
 He loved classic cars and Corvettes, Notre Dame Football, watching Western movies, making pancakes, gardening, taking care of his lawn, renovation projects, and spending time with family.
 Services were conducted at O'Riley Branson Funeral Home.

JOHNNIE HUGH HARWOOD, 87, wife, Mary (Lewis) Harwood; daughters, Valerie Chaney (William) and Barbara Ruano (Jose); four grandchildren; 10 great-grandchildren; brothers, Bobby and Daryl Harwood.
 Johnnie was longtime resident of Beech Grove. He passed away from an automobile accident. He and Mary had been married for more than 66 years.
 Little & Sons Funeral Home was entrusted with arrangements.

GERALD R. KREIGER, 88, wife, Jane (Heidergott) Krieger; children, Ginny (Pat) Terveer, Kenneth (Jo Biggers) Kreiger, Laura (Tom) Weida; nine grandchildren; 16 great-grandchildren.
 He graduated from Southport High School in 1953. Jerry worked for Southport Lumber Company, Shumaker Brothers and several trucking companies, retiring from Consolidated Freight in 2000.
 He was a former member of St. John's UCC and was a current member of St. John Cumberland UCC. He was an avid bowler, enjoyed card clubs, fishing and spending winters on Marco Island. He was a member of Teamsters Local 135.
 Services were conducted at G. H. Herrmann Funeral Home.

SHEILA RENE LEACHMAN, 57, husband, Jeffrey Leachman; sons, Jacob and Matthew Leachman; mother, Barbara Allender; brothers, Jeff (Markita) and Kevin (Scott) Allender.
 Sheila was a member of Friedens United Church of Christ. She worked as the administrative assistant at Greenwood Christian Church. Before going to the church she was the pianist for the show choir at Center Grove High School. Her true passion was playing the piano, which she got to do at the First Baptist Church of Greenwood. Sheila loved spending time with family, family outings, shopping, sewing, and socializing.
 Arrangements handled by G. H. Herrmann Funeral Home.

JAMES W. LOCKE, II, 72, wife, Cheryl Locke; sister, Terri Ann Locke; half-sister Diane Beswick.
 Jim graduated from Warren Central in 1969 and attended Butler University receiving a bachelor's degree in business. He married the love of his life in 1975. He worked for the State of Indiana for 20+ years in the Dept. of Public Welfare.
 Jim loved his furry canine children, enjoyed sports, especially Butler basketball and playing golf.
 Memorial service is 1 p.m., Saturday, February 24 at Wilson St. Pierre Funeral Home, 481 W. Main St., Greenwood with a gathering from 12 p.m. to service time.

MADALINE "MIDGE" THOMAS MCKEE, 76, son, Oscar McKee; three grandchildren; five great-grandchildren.
 Midge worked for the Finance Center at Fort Harrison and then Indiana State Music Association before retiring. Midge was a member of the Crossroads Community Church in Shelbyville. She was a member Alpha Sigma Phi & Phi Kappa Theta Sororities. Midge enjoyed spending her time volunteering and crafting and spending time with family, friends, and great-grandchildren.
 A memorial visitation will be 11 a.m.-2 p.m. Saturday, February 24, 2024 at Little and Sons Funeral Home, 4901 E. Stop 11 Road with memorial service immediately following.

JO AN NICHOLS, 93, widow of Lowell; daughters, Jenny Paqano (Frank), Sally Landers, Gay Davis (Edward), Paulette Pratt (William); stepchildren, Kris Beavers (John), Kathy Clark (Bob), Barbara Swenzer (Bill), Jr. (Susan), Laura Archer (Bryan), Gene and Fred Nichols (Peggy); sisters, Carolyn Quinn, Marilyn Brandt; many grandchildren, great-grandchildren; four great-great-grandchildren.
 JoAn and Lowell enjoyed re-enacting Revolutionary War scenes. Her commitment to preserving history was evident. Their 1835 historic home, filled with period furnishings, showed their dedication.
 JoAn served in the insurance industry for 35 years, and later at Stouts RV Sales.
 Services held at Wilson St. Pierre Funeral Home.

MICHAEL J. OBERMEYER SR., 76, wife, Leslie Obermeyer; son, Michael Obermeyer, Jr. (Taya); four granddaughters; stepsons, Andrew and Travis Beck (Courtney); siblings, Robert Obermeyer, Susan Kiefer (Joe).
 He proudly served his country in the U.S. Navy aboard the U.S.S. Ponce. Mike was a sheet metal worker for Snodgrass Sheet Metal for 34 years. Mike served as a union steward for Sheet Metal Union Local #20. He was known for his cheeky sense of humor.
 Visitation will be Wed., Feb. 21, 2024, from noon until the time of service at 2 p.m. at Shirley Brothers Thompson Road Chapel.

MARGARET "ALICE" RAYNE, 88, widow of George Payne; children, Gary (Sandy), Ron (Kathy), Phil (Elaine), Mark, and Cindy Vittorio (Tony); eight grandchildren; eight great-grandchildren.
 Alice was a member of the Holy Name of Jesus Catholic Church and involved in many church activities. Alice helped neighbors and those unable to get around on their own and was 2012 recipient of the "Angels Among Us" award.
 A visitation from 10-11 a.m. followed by a Catholic Mass will be Friday, February 23, 2024 at Holy Name of Jesus Christ Catholic Church, 89 N. 17th Avenue, Beech Grove.

ERNESTINA QUINONES, 87, widow of Santos Luis Quinones; 10 children; 23 grandchildren; 27 great-grandchildren.
 Ernestina was a devout follower of God and lived her life in worship and prayer. Her faith was evident in everything she did, and was a source of inspiration and strength to all. She found joy in attending church services, participation in religious activities, and sharing her faith with others.
 She had a passion for sewing and writing original hymns. She will be remembered for her energetic spirit, faith, and love for her family.
 Visitation was held at Little and Sons Funeral Home.

OPAL MAE SCHAEFER, 93, widow of John Schaefer; stepchildren, Dr. John F. Schaefer, Jr., and Susan Neville; six grandchildren, five great-grandchildren; two great-great-granddaughters.
 Opal was a member of the Mount Auburn Church in Greenwood. Visitation took place at Wilson St. Pierre Funeral Service.

WILLIAM G. THIEL, JR., 83, wife, Rosemary Thiel; sister, Marilyn Thiel.
 He graduated from Cathedral High School. He proudly served in the U.S. Army. He was employed with Bell Industries and then Horner Electric. He enjoyed traveling and spending time with family and friends. He attended St. Roch Catholic Church.
 G.H. Herrmann Funeral Home handled arrangements.

60 Years Ago This Week — 1964
 Plump, fluffy pillows cost 87 cents at G.C. Murphy.

 Danie's Restaurant, 1110 Shelby St., served a 1-pound T-bone steak dinner for \$1.75. The cost included a potato, a vegetable, salad, bread and a beverage.

 The Rev. James Galvin was named pastor of St. Patrick Church. He succeeded the Rev. Tom Fields, who had died.

 The four-story Lilly Science Hall at Indiana Central College was dedicated.

 Mary Ann Lawrie, a graduate of St. Vincent Hospital School of Nursing, started training as a Peace Corps volunteer at Northern Illinois University.

50 Years Ago This Week — 1974
 Brandywine, one of the hottest bands on the Southside, appeared at the Colonial Inn, 4343 Madison Ave. The trio featured Dennis Garrett, who sounded like Neil Diamond, Dave Chapman and Bruce Lyons. Performing around the corner at the Holiday Inn South were The Poets and The Checkmates.

 Albums by Rod Stewart, The Jackson Five, Ray Charles, Rare Earth and Stevie Wonder cost \$1.57 at G.C. Murphy.

 John Mascari was named chief engineer at Longardner & Associates. He had served with the Coast Guard aboard the USS Calumus during World War II.

 Baxter YMCA offered six belly dancing classes for \$7.

40 Years Ago This Week — 1984
 Sue Hillan had the lead role in Roncalli's production of "Mame." The musical also featured Shawn O'Keefe, Veronica O'Connor, Andy Herbertz and Debbie Camp.

 Terry Moore, Denise Urrutia, Sue Twiselton, Deborah Stone and Bonnie Burgess were installed as members of Iota Pi chapter of Beta Sigma Phi.

 Daytime burglars plagued residents who lived south of Garfield Park.

 Pinky Lerch and Red Nolan opened the Southport Lounge at 6840 Madison Ave. Their employees included B.J. Spears, Tom Wilson, Mary Hoyt and Bill Johnson.

30 Years Ago This Week — 1994
 Police detectives intensified their effort to find 11-year-old LaShonna Bates, who was last seen a week ago at the Village Pantry at Meridian and Arizona streets.

 The Perry Township Fire Department's newest recruits were Robert Eads, Mark Roberts, Michael Young, Richard Cook, Richard Shirven, Craig Holtz and James Adams.



Greenwood Montessori School students Stephanie Bradburn (left) and Tiffany Adams made candy during their Valentine's Day party.



The winners in Perry Meridian High School's science fair were Micah Carpenter, Lamont Yarell, Julia Walker, Evan Curry and Erin Ruttle.

 The Rev. R. Scott Colglazier left Southport Christian Church to become senior minister of Beargrass Church in Louisville. He and his wife, Marti, had three children, Matt, Drew and Katie.

Seeking to ease the wrath of Old Man Winter, the Garfield Park Conservatory hosted an African violet show.

Dance Refinery students Sarah Ritter, Latricia Anderson, Libbi Rodriguez, Emily Zachary, Brienne Pedigo, Jeanne Bolen, Jackie Nolan and Emily Stickle packed their bags for Freiburg, Germany, where they would participate in the sixth annual International Jazz Dance Competition.

20 Years Ago This Week — 2004
 A new poll in Indiana's gubernatorial race indicated a dead heat between incumbent Joe Kernan and challenger Mitch Daniels.

 Perry Meridian's basketball team lost to North Central in regional action.

OBITUARIES

PATRICIA H. WHITAKER, 81, widow of Major General (Ret.) Charles W. Whitaker; children, Christina Harmon, Cathleen Clady and Charles "Chip" Whitaker; eight grandchildren; five great-grandchildren; sisters, Pamela Sellers and Polly Duros.
 She earned her bachelor's degree from Indiana State University and two master's degrees from Indiana University. She was a member of Our Lady of the Greenwood Catholic Church. She received a Sagamore of the Wabash and Hoosier Heroine. She was a member Chi Omega sorority and the Happy 6. She was a daughter, wife, mother, teacher, principal, grandmother, and great-grandmother.
 Arrangements handled by G. H. Herrmann Funeral Home.

MARY JANE WILKENS, 82, husband, Robert Wilkens; children, Janice (Matthew) Cope, Jennifer (Dwight) Carr, Theresa and Robert (Annette) Wilkens, Jr.; brother, Thomas Kirby; six grandchildren; one great-grandchild.
 Mary never met a stranger. She had an uncanny ability to make everyone feel welcome and valued. She was the embodiment of selflessness, always putting needs of others before her own. Mary's acts of kindness were boundless. She was also a talented baker. Her kitchen was always filled with the aroma of freshly baked goods and she took great pride in her creations.
 A visitation was held at Wilson St. Pierre Franklin Township.

Military banners

The Mary Bryan National Society Daughters of the American Revolution (NSDAR) is accepting orders for military banners to be displayed from May 2024 to May 2025 on Madison Ave. on Greenwood's newly installed street light poles; between Fry Rd. and Main St.

The banners are for any veteran (living or deceased and honorably discharged) or active military individual. The chapter reserves the right to see DD214. If the individual died while serving our country a gold star will be placed on the banner. When the banners are removed, they are returned to the applicant.

Banner orders are taken on a first come first serve basis, with approved photo in uniform (5 x 7 minimum, 8 x 10 preferred) and payment. For more information and to receive your order form, please contact Laura Manning @ 317-781-0807. The deadline for completed applications with photo and payment is April 15th, no extensions will be given.



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BOYS BASKETBALL SECTIONAL PREVIEW

Southside aims at third straight state championship as sectionals begin Tuesday

By Al Stille
Editor

Can the Southside bring home a third straight IHSAA boys' basketball state championship? Beech Grove (22-6) began the string in 2022 by defeating Mishawaka Marian, 53-43 for the program's first 3A state championship that was capped by an 11-game winning streak under coach Mike Renfro.

Then last year, Lutheran stood at a deceiving 9-7 before winning 11 straight games, including the Class A state title against Southwood, 97-66 with coach Remus Woods.

This time around, one of the usual suspects, 4A No. 10 Center Grove, is deep and talented in coach Zach Hahn's 10th season. Trojans are on a nine-game winning streak that includes the Johnson County tourney title. They have balance, quickness, size, and depth for a deep run in the playoffs.

No. 11 1A Lutheran (12-8) has three key returnees from last year's championship team and looked like they were jelling with a recent three-game win streak. However, the Saints fell to Bishop Chatard and Monrovia on the road last weekend. They can regroup and still make another deep playoff run.

All teams wrap up regular season games this week. IHSAA Sectionals action begins Tuesday with Southport (4A) and Lutheran (1A) as sectional hosts.

On opening night Tuesday, Roncalli meets Franklin Central at Southport; Greenwood plays Bloomington South and Center Grove collides with Mooresville at Bloomington North; Whiteland goes against Shelbyville at East Central; upset-minded Christel House Manual faces Ritter at Beech Grove; and defending state champion Lutheran meets Victory College Prep.

Perry Meridian and Southport swing into action in their township and sectional dual Wednesday, Feb. 28. Decatur Central (4A) and 1A No. 12 Greenwood Christian Academy (1A) drew byes and won't see sectional action until Friday, March 1.

All sectional championship games are Saturday night, March 2. Outlook for Southside teams in sectionals:

AT SOUTHPORT (4A)

DECATUR CENTRAL (12-7) Twelve wins for third straight season under coach Bryan Surber ... impressive Mid-State wins against Whiteland and Plainfield ... opened with 7-2 record ... 1-2 threat with senior KC Berry (15.9 points) and junior Melakih Cunningham (13.4 points, 7.4 rebounds, 2.2 steals) ... junior Ty'reese Burnett averages 3.2 assists ... four Hawks hitting 46% or better ... last sectional title 2005.



(SOUTHSIDER VOICE PHOTO BY STEVE PAGE)

Southside high school basketball can be hair-raising with the IHSAA Sectionals around the corner. This regular season game was a hair-raising experience as Decatur Central's Ty'reese Burnett (2) and Whiteland's Wyatt McLaughlin (14) and Akol Akol (21) defend.

FRANKLIN CENTRAL (10-13) Impressive run to Marion County tourney title game ... 2-5 since then with four rugged Hoosier Crossroads games and loss to Cathedral ... led by soph 6-8 EJ Hazelett (15.8 points, hitting 54%), 6-0 senior Josh Moriarty (8.2 points, 4.8 rebounds), and junior center Darius Helm (7.4 points, 5.8 rebounds) ... guided by first-year coach Kyle Ballard ... fourth straight losing campaign ... host Bishop Chatard Friday ... last sectional title in 2016.

RONCALLI (12-8) Second-year coach Jamin Wernke has Royals on roll ... four wins in last five games with last-second loss against Southport ... 6-3 senior Drew Kegerreis (17.4 points, 5.1 rebounds, 1.4 steals) go-to Royal ... more offense from 6-7 soph Joe Taylor (10.3 points), junior forward Noah Schmaltz (8.3 points), and junior Luke Greene (7.4 points) ... Royals hitting 47% of shots ... freshman Will Hegwood averages 3.3 assists ... host Brebeuf Jesuit Friday.



(PHOTOS BY JOHN SMITH)

Senior Drew Kegerreis (10), Roncalli's leading scorer and rebounder, brings ball up court against Southport's Christian Webster (0).



Roncalli junior forward Noah Schmaltz (14) begins to cut around a Southport defender.

SOUTHPORT (8-11) Veteran coach Bill Zych (37th season) inherited inexperienced young team in first season with Cards ... lost four of first five games ... 7-7 since with wins against Franklin, Decatur Central, and Roncalli ... 5-10 guard Caleb Wolsiffer lone senior ... double-figure leaders are junior Michael Johnson (13.4 points, 5.1 rebounds, 3.5 assists), 6-7 soph rising force James Kalala (11.0 points, 8.9 rebounds), and 6-4 junior Jack Turner (10.4 points, 4.7 rebounds) ... Cardinals on way up, for sure ... host Lawrence Central Thursday ... hungry for first sectional trophy since 2016.



(PHOTO BY JOHN SMITH)

Southport's Christian Webster (2) looks for a way around Roncalli defenders Connor Kesler (12) and Drew Kegerreis (10) during recent rivalry thriller at Roncalli.

Field includes 4A No. 7 Ben Davis, Pike.
Favored: Ben Davis. Darkhorse: Roncalli



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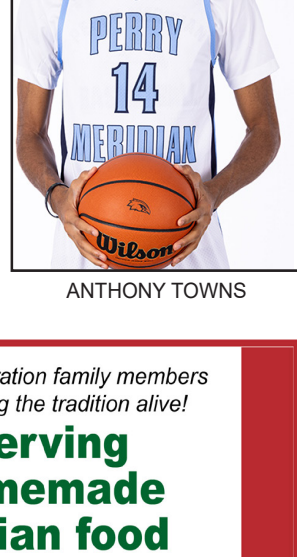
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PERRY MERIDIAN (4-17) Rugged first year at helm for former assistant Mark McFarland with senior-dominated team ... winless in first 10 games ... mired in six-game losing skid ... average only 45.0 on offense, 14.6 rebounds ... most scoring comes from seniors Anthony Towns (10.9 points), BJ Sibanda (8.4 points), and 6-3 Bradydon Hohlt (7.1 points) ... seniors Zion Jordan and Jo Brewer hitting better than 40% from 3-point range ... visit Greenfield tonight (Wednesday) ... claimed last sectional trophy in 2010.





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From Southport High School Athletic Dept.

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BOYS BASKETBALL SECTIONAL PREVIEW

AT BLOOMINGTON NORTH (4A)

CENTER GROVE (15-4) Tenth-year coach Zach Hahn's Trojans have won 10 in row, including the Johnson County tourney trophy ... putting in 66.2 points per game with deep team ... hitting 47% of 3-point shots ... senior Joey Schmitz (58.3% 3-point shooter, 18.1 points) leads with classmates Jalen Bundy (11.0 points, 5.1 assists) and Will Spellman (10.3 points, 5.9 rebounds) ... Hahn likes team's intensity, defense, and depth ... last loss was Dec. 22 to Fishers at Vandermeer Gymnasium ... visit Columbus North Thursday ... could go beyond 4A Sweet 16 for first time.



(CENTER GROVE HIGH SCHOOL PHOTOS)
 Center Grove senior Jalen Bundy (0) makes determined drive to basket against visiting Jeffersonville at home Vandermeer Gymnasium.



Center Grove senior Joe Chestnut (10) drives hard against Jeffersonville defender.

GREENWOOD (7-13) Woodmen turning corner with new coach Keith Witty ... lost first six games ... 7-7 since then with two-game win streak ... jelling at right time ... 6-3 senior Jake Mosemann (15.3 points, 2.2 assists) put up 33 points against Plainfield ... leaders include junior Isaac O'Neal (11.3 points), 6-2 senior Jude Thompson (4.4 rebounds), and Ethan King (2.1 assists) ... healthy with decent depth with younger Woodmen ... host New Palestine Saturday.

Field includes Bloomington North, Bloomington South, Martinsville, Mooresville.
 Favored: 4A No. 10 Center Grove. Darkhorse: Bloomington North.

AT EAST CENTRAL (4A)

WHITELAND (12-10) Fourth straight 10-plus win season for coach Nate Cangany ... 3-1 during holiday tourney ... reached final game of Johnson County tourney ... won only two of last seven games ... leaders are improved senior Jaskirat Banwait (14.6 points), classmate Wiatt McLaughlin (3.8 points, 2.7 assists, 1.9 assists) and juniors Gavin Stubbe (13.8 points) and Ethan Edwards (12.9 points) ... host Beech Grove Friday.



JASKIRAT BANWAIT



ETHAN EDWARDS

Field includes Columbus East, Columbus North, East Central, Franklin, Shelbyville.
 Favored: Franklin. Darkhorse: Whiteland.

AT BEECH GROVE (3A)

BEECH GROVE (5-16) 2023 state champ Hornets fallen on hard times ... BG has only five wins sprinkled with two six-game losing skids in beefed-up schedule ... two straight road wins at Cascade and Triton Central ... leaders are senior Jarron Murry Jr. (10.2 points, 3.6 rebounds), juniors Branden O'Kelley (3.6 points), and Tyrus Reid (7.4 points) ... travel to Whiteland Friday ... 17-7 in 2023 with coach and former Hornet standout Joe Rihm ... hitting only 27% of 3-point shots ... string of five straight sectional championships.



BRANDEN O'KELLEY



JARRON MURRY

CHRISTEL HOUSE MANUAL (12-8) Winning season in third year of existence of joint schools ... making good progress ... 4-3 against 3A teams; 8-1 against 2A and 1A teams combined ... offense averages 69.2 points, over 80 points in three early season games ... lost last outing at home against 4A Decatur Central, 74-67.

Field includes Ritter, Washington, Purdue Poly-DT, Speedway.
 Favored: Washington. Darkhorse: Christel House Manual.

AT LUTHERAN (A)

GREENWOOD CHRISTIAN (12-7) Opened with 6-1 record with third-year coach Jackson Williams ... 1A No. 12 Cougars play "up," 9-3 record vs. 2A, 3A and 4A teams ... enjoyed four-game win streak before holiday tourney ... leadership from seniors 6-2 Max Booher, 5-10 Jordan Taulman, and 6-7 Reid Smith ... travel to Hauser Thursday ... won back-to-back sectionals 2019 and 2020.

LUTHERAN (12-8) Up and down campaign for reigning 1A state champions with blend of five returnees and newcomers ... opened 7-2 and then schedule toughened ... mixture of a few key returnees, transfers, and JV graduates ... 1-2 punch with returning starters LJ Ward (17.3 points) and Cayden Loescher (11.1) ... improved RaiShaun McHaney (6.2 points) adds strength in middle ... Saints enthused with 87-54 win against Covenant Christian for third straight win but have fallen against Chatard and Monrovia ... host Purdue Poly Thursday.



(SOUTHSIDER VOICE PHOTOS BY DEIDRA BARNETT)
 Lutheran junior guard LJ Ward (11), one of five returnees from last year's Class A IHSAA state championship team, goes high for a lay-up against Covenant Christian.



Cayden Loescher (10), Lutheran's all-around junior, goes up against Covenant Christian in recent home game.

Field includes Victory College Prep, Providence Christo Rey, Central Christian, Eminence, 1A No. 9 Tindley.
 Favored: 1A No. 11 Lutheran. Darkhorse: 1A No. 9 Tindley.

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Weekly SUDOKU

by Linda Thistle

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

Place a number in the empty boxes in such a way that each row across, each column down and each small 9-box square contains all of the numbers from one to nine.

DIFFICULTY THIS WEEK: ♦♦

- ♦ Moderate
- ♦♦ Challenging
- ♦♦♦ HOO BOY!

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HOROSCOPE

ARIES (March 21 to April 19) Stop being the wool-gathering Lamb and start turning that dream project into a reality. You have the ideas, drive and charisma to persuade others to follow your lead, so do it.

TAURUS (April 20 to May 20) You've scored some big successes. But remember that all hard-working Ferdinands and Ferdinandases need some time to restore their energies and refresh their spirits.

GEMINI (May 21 to June 20) You're gaining a stronger mental image of what you're trying to achieve. Now look for the facts that will help get this to develop from a concept into a solid proposal.

CANCER (June 21 to July 22) Some of you eager-to-please Moon Children might want to delay some decisions until midweek, when you can again think more with your head than your heart.

LEO (July 23 to August 22) A new business venture seems to offer everything you've been looking for. But be careful that this rosy picture doesn't betray traces of red ink under the surface.

VIRGO (August 23 to September 22) A volatile situation needs the kind of thoughtful and considerate care you can provide right now. There'll be plenty of time later to analyze what might have gone wrong.

LIBRA (September 23 to October 22) Your

loyalty to a friend in a tough situation earns you respect from the people you care about. Those who criticize you don't understand what friendship is all about.

SCORPIO (October 23 to November 21) Your strong work ethic is rewarded with the kind of challenging opportunity you love to tackle. Now go ahead and celebrate with family and/or close friends.

SAGITTARIUS (November 22 to December 21) A legal matter you thought

had finally been resolved could require a second look. But don't make any moves yet without consulting your lawyer.

CAPRICORN (December 22 to January 19) Taking charge is what you like to do, and since you do it so well, expect to be asked to lead a special group. This could open up an exciting new vista for you.

AQUARIUS (January 20 to February 18) An important matter might wind up being entrusted to you for handling. The responsibility is heavy, but you'll have support from people who are able and eager to help.

PISCES (February 19 to

March 20) Avoid getting lost in your thoughts early on in the week. Stay grounded until the week's end, when the aspects will give you a stroke of luck that can spur powerful action.

BORN THIS WEEK: You always try to do the right thing -- and for the right reasons. No wonder people have come to depend on you.

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PUZZLE ANSWERS SEE PAGE 10

King Crossword

ACROSS

- 1 Pep
- 4 "Get Here" singer Adams
- 9 Opposite of "post-"
- 12 Equal (Pref.)
- 13 Jeremy of "Entourage"
- 14 Corn serving
- 15 Prepaid convenience for cell users
- 17 Texter's "Enough!"
- 18 Common verb
- 19 Spiritualist
- 21 Oliver Twist, for one
- 24 Cabinet dept. head
- 25 "Norma --"
- 26 Snake's warning
- 28 Mexican snacks
- 31 Actor Richard
- 33 UFO crew
- 35 Commanded
- 36 Enticed
- 38 Rep.'s rival
- 40 "Diamonds"

- singer
- 41 Goatee's spot
- 43 "O Pioneers!" author
- 45 Long recliner
- 47 Magic, on scoreboards
- 48 "A spider!"
- 49 Cell user's practical joke
- 54 Conk out
- 55 Dodge
- 56 Classic car
- 57 Hosp. areas
- 58 Opposite of most
- 59 Watch chain

- "Bohemian Rhapsody"
- 11 Guitarist Clapton
- 16 "Unh-unh"
- 20 Wound cover
- 21 Pitcher Hersher
- 22 Pasta sauce brand
- 23 Fruity baked goods
- 27 Norm (Abbr.)
- 29 Garfield's pal
- 30 Blacken
- 32 Classic soda brand
- 34 Extra helpings
- 37 Put to rest
- 39 Grocery store
- 42 Audacity
- 44 Patient's need, briefly
- 45 Give up
- 46 Estate recipient
- 50 Bond rating
- 51 Canine cry
- 52 Zodiac feline
- 53 Arced tennis shot

DOWN

- 1 Red-carpet type
- 2 "Kinda" suffix
- 3 Cow's greeting
- 4 Verdi works
- 5 Permit
- 6 Hollywood's Gabor
- 7 Semesters
- 8 "Still ..."
- 9 Fund for minor expenses
- 10 Malek of

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11
12			13						14	
15			16						17	
			18			19		20		
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25			26	27	28			29	30	
31			32	33	34		35			
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			41		42		43	44		
45	46						47			
48			49	50				51	52	53
54			55					56		
57			58					59		

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HOCUS-FOCUS

BY HENRY BOLTINOFF



Find at least six differences in details between panels.



Differences: 1. Flower picture is reversed. 2. Clock is larger. 3. Nose is different. 4. Pillow is different. 5. Curtain is wider. 6. Drawer is missing.

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: Q equals F

SPG MY LTD OKLPTRZLE
 TBSTGE EKKO XY MDZRJ
 LYQQKK TX SYDJ? HKLTAEK
 ZX'E HDKTJ QBAZM!

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CG girls reach Final Four before falling to No. 1 LC

By Al Stille
 Editor

One by one, Center Grove's girls' basketball team members came from their locker room at Southport Fieldhouse after their run in the IHSAA playoffs had ended Saturday night.



(SOUTHSIDER VOICE PHOTOS BY STEVE PAGE) Center Grove senior Audrey Annee applies tight defensive pressure to Franklin senior Brooklyn York during Saturday's semi-state semifinal at Southport.



Center Grove senior Aubrie Booker cuts down the lane past Franklin's Brooklyn York during Saturday afternoon's contest.

Parents and siblings hugged players through tears and words of encouragement and expressions of pride. Not the prize they wanted, but the runner-up game ball was given to the Trojans off court. Coach Kevin Stuckmeyer met the media just inside the locker room entryway.

The scene capped the 4A Southport Semifinal for Center Grove as the No. 3 Trojans defeated rival Franklin, 45-33 in the noon matchup but then fell to No. 1 Lawrence Central (29-1) in the nightcap, 53-40 after leading by nine points early in the third quarter. The Trojans' 18-game winning streak ended along with a trip to the state finals for the first time since 1996.

Stuckmeyer did his best to explain the loss but mostly expressed his admiration of this year's senior trio after reaching the Final Four and a glossy 27-2 record.

"They are champions," Stuckmeyer said of seniors Audrey Annee, Aubrie Booker, and Rachel Wirts. "Everybody can see they are champions at heart and in everything they do, their legacy, everything. They are people you want to be around because they are going to make you a better person, a better competitor, a better

basketball player."

The trio competed at a high level in both games with a combined defensive effort along with 18 points from Booker, 14 points from Wirts, and 11 points from Annee. Their points scored didn't tell the complete story. The Trojans one-on-one defense held Franklin, coached by former Perry Meridian coach Mike Armstrong, to 33 points and held LC to a mere 15 points for the first 19 1/2 minutes.

The Trojans excited their faithful against the Bears by hitting three consecutive 3-point shots for a 24-15 lead against LC. The awakened Bears went on a 13-2 run for a 28-26 lead before Booker hit a corner 3 before the third quarter buzzer.

In the fourth quarter, the Bears aggressively drove to the basket and either scored or were fouled during a 28-point explosion. The Trojans closed to 40-37 on another Booker trey but came no closer.

"I think we got a little tired down the stretch," Stuckmeyer said. "We couldn't play from behind and couldn't find ways to create offense."

LC's 5-7 junior Laila Abdurraqib scored 15 of her game high 22 points in the second half with classmate Jaylah Lampley contributing 15 points. LC also hit 13 of 19 free throws in the fourth quarter.

Against Franklin, the Trojans slowly pulled away, rolled to a commanding 23-17 halftime lead, and never looked back. CG unofficially hit 16 of 33 shots (48.4 percent) while its aggressive defense limited Franklin to 12 of 23 (35.9 percent).

"We were able to establish our tempo and our style of play early," Stuckmeyer said. "The final score didn't really represent what a dogfight it was."

CG expects to return next season with starters Lilly Bischoff and Ava Grant plus returnees 6-1 junior Emerson Vican, sophomores Hannah Gin, Mia Mann, and Prezley Martin, and freshman MacKenzie Pierce.

"The final score didn't really represent what a dogfight it was."

- Coach Kevin Stuckmeyer



Center Grove senior Rachel Wirts uses her 6-3 frame to shoot over a Franklin defender while teammate Aubrie Booker watches during Saturday afternoon's game.

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— King Crossword —

Answers

Solution time: 22 mins.

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

CryptoQuip answer

Why do car mechanics always seem to drink coffee at work? Because it's break fluid!

— Weekly SUDOKU —

Answer

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

TRIVIA

Answers

1. "Outer Banks."
2. 2004.
3. David Bowie.
4. England.
5. An ostentation or a pride.
6. BMW.
7. Id est (that is).
8. The Labyrinth.
9. "Fight Club."
10. 37.

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Thought for the Day: "Great things are done by a series of small things brought together."

— Vincent van Gogh

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