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# The SouthsiderVoice

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Wednesday, June 14, 2023 – Tuesday, June 20, 2023

Vol. 15, No. 17

This publication is **FREE**

*"Your laws are always right; help me to understand them so I may live."*

Psalm 119:144 (NLT)



**God Bless America! INSIDE**

- Classifieds .....8-12
- Autos For Sale.....11-12
- Car Buyers..... 11
- Career Connection .....9
- Home Connection .....9
- Service Directory .....9-10
- Towing Services.....9
- Columns
- Personal Recollections ...2
- Reminiscing.....3
- Entertainment
- Bulletin Boards .....3
- Crossword .....10
- Cryptoquip .....10
- Hocus Focus.....10
- Horoscope .....10
- Obituaries .....3
- Sports .....4-6

## Strange BUT TRUE

By Lucie Winborne

\* Amazon founder Jeff Bezos originally wanted to name the company Cadabra, but thought better of it after people kept mishearing the moniker as "cadaver."

\* The unenviable record for longest sneezing fit belongs to U.K. resident Donna Griffiths, who began "kerchooing" Jan. 13, 1981 and by July 26 broke the previous record of 194 days. Griffiths sneezed an estimated million times in the first 365 days and finally stopped on Sept. 16, 1983, after 977 days. The exact reason behind her ordeal is still not fully clear.

\* Scientists believe Earth's core, made up primarily of iron and nickel, may be even hotter than the surface of the sun, with temperatures reaching up to 9,932 degrees F.

\* Smoking a cigarette causes damage not in years, but minutes.

\* Platypuses may be cute, but are also so odd-looking that when scientists first discovered them, they thought the animal was a hoax.

\* People are 30 times more likely to laugh at something if they're with someone else.

\* In the early 20th century, radium was commonly mixed with water, sold as an over-the-counter "energy" drink under the brand name Radithor, and marketed with the slogan "A Cure for the Living Dead," until the federal government stopped its production in 1932.

\* Ancient Roman soldiers sometimes wore breastplates encrusted with diamonds in the belief that the gems offered them extra protection.

**Thought for the Day:**  
*"I always wanted to be somebody, but now I realize I should have been more specific."*

– Lily Tomlin

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## ROYAL LEGACY

One-run loss to Penn in thriller ends three-year softball careers of eight seniors after 95 wins and two IHSAA state championships

### COACH CONGRATULATES ROTHROCK ON HOME RUN



(SOUTHSIDER VOICE PHOTO BY GREG ROTHROCK)

Keagan Rothrock heads for home plate and is congratulated by head coach David Lauck after dramatic home run that tied the 4A IHSAA championship game 1-1 against Penn in the seventh inning. Penn later scored the winning run in the ninth inning.

By Al Stilley  
 Editor

95 wins, six losses, and one tie.

That's just part of the legacy that eight seniors on the Roncalli softball team leave behind after three seasons for Royals to strive for.

Oh, the Royals also had a state record-tying 47-game winning streak as part of a 50-game unbeaten streak. And they made three Class 4A IHSAA state championship game appearances, winning titles in 2021 and 2022, capturing three consecutive sectional, regional, and semistate trophies, two Marion County championships, and three Circle City Conference titles.

There's more, too. The Royals were the No. 1 high school softball team in the nation in 2022, the same season that Keagan Rothrock was anointed as the Gatorade National Player of the Year as well as a three-time Indiana player of the year.

All those achievements will be realized within a few days or weeks as the seniors depart for their upcoming college experiences. For the time being, the Royals 2-1 loss to Penn in nine innings Saturday at Bittering Stadium on the Purdue University campus stings. The Royals were attempting to become the first 4A team to win three consecutive state titles. Penn is now a two-time state champion.

"I think when everyone gets over this, it will show how amazing this team was and what we (seniors) accomplished," said senior outfielder Abbey Hofmann, who was awarded the 4A IHSAA Softball Mental Attitude Award after the game and \$1,000 scholarship donated to Roncalli in her honor. "For our fans applauding us, that means everything. We had so much fun together and that's why we were able to accomplish so much. There was so much buzz about this team through our three years. Eventually we will think about all the positives instead of this negative. We know next year's team will step up."

Coach David Lauck also looked at everything the Royals accomplished on the field the last three years (2020 was cancelled due to COVID).

"It has been incredible, 95 wins over three years," said Lauck whose 15-year record at Roncalli is 363-74-1. "They have completely energized our entire school as far as school spirit; it has been awesome to be a small part of that as their coach. More than anything, we need to celebrate a fantastic career for those girls (seniors). These seniors have a lot of good things ahead of them."

The seniors included 2022 Gatorade National Player of



(SOUTHSIDER PHOTO BY GREG ROTHROCK)

Roncalli's Abbey Hofmann proudly holds plaque and enlarged award after being named the Mental Attitude Award recipient for Class 4A softball after the 4A state championship game Saturday in West Lafayette. She is with parents Lori and Otis Hofmann, and sisters Sarah, Cassie and Katie. She will attend Marian University to continue her career as a student-athlete and study nursing and pastoral leadership. Indiana Farm Bureau presented the \$1,000 scholarship to Roncalli High School in honor of Hofmann.

the Year Rothrock, Meek, Hofmann, Lyla Blackwell, Kaitlyn Leister, Lauren Marsicek, Abby Willis, and Anna Dressman.

The Royals entered their third straight state championship game after defeating Lake Central, 4-1 at Center Grove in 2021 and a record-shattering win against West Lafayette Harrison, 16-0 last year on this same field at Purdue.

After battling back from two calf surgeries all season, Rothrock allowed only three hits and struck out 17 Kingsmen. Only one of Penn's two runs was an earned run. The Team USA gold medalist provided Roncalli fans with high hopes in the bottom of the seventh with a towering lead-off home run on a 3-2 change-up pitch well over the leftfield wall.

"I was crying around the bases," Rothrock said. "That was my moment to keep my team in the game and give us a chance to win. I was almost crying before my at-bat because it was now or never and that could be my last at-bat."

Marsicek singled to rightfield and Blackwell was hit by a pitch to load the bases with two outs, but the rally failed when the next Royal struck out.

Lauck also savored the home run and said, "That was crazy. What a moment for her to tie the game up in the bottom of the seventh inning. Your best player is up in the biggest moment and ties it and then we load the bases. I thought, yeah, we were going to wind up winning this game. That was a good memory that she'll never forget and the fans that are here will never forget."

The Royals made solid plays early. Third baseman Carley Keller made a high-reaching grab of a pop foul against the Royals dugout fence in the second inning. In the fifth inning, the Royals trapped Penn's Abby Widmar in a rundown between third and home. However with two outs in the same inning, Penn went

up 1-0 when a throw to first base was dropped.

There were more odd plays that plagued the Royals.

Blackwell, who stole a record four bases in the 2022 state title game, was thrown out attempting to steal second in a close play in the first inning. The Royals threatened in their home fifth with runners on second and third and two outs, but a ground out ended the threat. An odd play with Roncalli threatening to score more than one run in the seventh resulted in a second out when Willis was hit by her own bunt. And the oddest of all plays, a wild pitch in the top of the ninth brought in the winning run from third base, although Rothrock responded by striking out three Kingsmen. And the game ended when a Royals runner from first to second interfered with the second baseman fielding a grounder.

Penn's pitching duo of junior starter Aubrey Zachary (3.1 innings) and sophomore reliever Olivia Signorino (5.2 innings) combined for four hits, one earned run, eight strikeouts and two walks. A true pitcher's duel, Rothrock threw 98 strikes with 129 pitches. The Penn hurlers combined for 87 strikes with 131 pitches.

After the game, Rothrock expressed her appreciation by saying, "I'm so thankful to be a Royal and have this kind of community support all the time. I love these seniors; they are my best friends in the whole world. This is so emotional and we were able to play in this (third) championship game."

The Royals expect to return next season with state championship game starters, junior Emma Fegan and sophomore Carley Keller, plus three juniors, two sophomores, and three freshmen from this year's team.

SEE PAGES 4-5 FOR MORE PHOTOS, COVERAGE AND SALUTES

## Beech Grove Hornets softball showcase



Hornets change softball program history in one sensational season. FULL STORY ON PAGE 6.

## CAR NUTZ



Custom Car Revival was Saturday. SEE PAGE 2.

## CENTER GROVE PITCHERS HELP LEAD TEAM TO STATE



(SOUTHSIDER VOICE PHOTOS BY STEVE PAGE)

Center Grove pitchers Jacob Murphy, above, and Caden Cornett helped in leading the Trojans to the 4A Plainfield Semistate championship. With Murphy on the mound, the Trojans defeated Brownsburg, 6-0 in the opening round and they downed Castle, 5-2 in the title game. The Trojans play Penn for the 4A state championship Saturday at 8 p.m. at Victory Field.

SEE PAGE 5 FOR FULL STORIES



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**FIRST-TIME SPEEDROME FIGURE-8 WINNER**



(KYLIE ANNE PHOTOGRAPHY)

Dillon Douthitt captured a career-first Brown's Oil Service Late Model 50-lap Figure-8 Saturday at the Indianapolis Speedrome after battling to the finish against veteran R.J. Norton Jr. Douthitt is the nephew of 2001 World Figure-8 three-hour endurance race winner Bobby Douthitt. The top five finishers included third-place Lee Swartz followed by Ben Tunny and Jesse Tunny. Autograph night and the 23rd Annual Jake's 150-lap Figure-8 unfolds Saturday. Racing begins at 7 p.m. The Speedrome is at Brookville Road and Kitley Avenue.

**20-YEAR GREENWOOD CITY EMPLOYEE RETIRES**



(SUBMITTED PHOTO)

Earlier this month, Greenwood Police Chief assistant Melinda Ferguson retired after 20 years of employment with the City of Greenwood. The past 12 years she served in the Greenwood Police Department as an assistant to the police chief. She was the 2013 Civilian of the Year and served on the Greenwood Police Department awards committee for several years. Police personnel and friends celebrated her service at a recent reception.

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**CAR NUTZ**

by Big Dan Pfeiffer

The Custom Car Revival Car Show has been coming to the Southside of Indianapolis for about 10 years. They come from all over, but many come from the far east coast.

Southside car enthusiast and friend, Kris Kenney, captured some great pictures from the show, so I wanted to share.

No cars are permitted that do not have custom body work, much as they would have been customized in the early 60s or late 50s. No muscle cars allowed.

In the past I had done stories after talking to several of these guys and a few of them stick in my mind as being absolutely hilarious! Often involving a teenager, not quite 16, buying his first car without his parents permission. I probably heard that story from five different people.

This is the first year that the show was at the La Quinta hotel on Victory Drive in Beech Grove. In the past all the cars and owners stayed there so it was like a car show the day before, but they moved to Edwards Drive-In for the show on Saturday.

Some of the cars just amazed me with what the people have thought up to do to them. If you get a chance to check it out next June do it. All of the owners of the cars are very friendly and very willing to talk to the spectators about their cars.

Don't forget July 7th, 5:30-?, Car Nutz Cruise-In at Beck Service Center, 6025 Madison Ave. (Southeast corner of Madison and Edgewood). See you there!

*Until then, keep on cruising!*



*"A good car is a piece of art. A good ride is a great friend."*  
 – Author unknown



**Personal Recollections**  
 By Fred Shonk

**MEMORIES OF URSULA**

I very much enjoy spending some time looking at Facebook each day. I have lots of friends and family that post interesting things. I sometimes find interesting things that I will share also. Facebook also sends me back some of my postings on the anniversary of that posting.

I was very surprised last week when I received a 10-year anniversary posting. It was a photo of the bus I drove during my years at Beech Grove City Schools. It was Bus #5, and her name was "Ursula". The school had taken a picture of "Ursula" and the students that rode with her and me that year.

I had a very difficult time believing that it had been 10 years. I remember that last day very well. For several years, my bus riders had been extremely bothered when they noticed a bug or spider on the bus. Spiders were the ones that caused loud screams from students.

I came up with a plan and the next occasion a spider caused a disruption on the bus, I quickly explained that it was a spider friend, and his name was Steve. For several years after that, if a spider was noticed on the bus. It was probably Steve.

After I parked "Ursula" for the last time on that final day of school for that year, a spider lowered itself out the driver's side window into the parking lot. Steve and I had retired at the very same time. I thought about kids that had just finished first grade that year would be in high school now. I decided to repost that special picture for my friends on Facebook to see and enjoy also. I'm still connected with lots of those students that I drove to school each day.

Shortly after my posting, I began to receive responses. Very heart-warming responses. Family members, Beech Grove school staff, many of my former riders and even a couple of riders that I drove to Edgewood Grade School several years earlier.



Back in December of last year, I lost my son, Mark Shonk, right. He was 52, and suffered from addiction problems. From the time he finished college, he had to deal with these problems. He had those wonderful peaks and terrible valleys to contend with. This Saturday, Lyn and I are hosting a small celebration of life to honor Mark. We are holding it at our home at 2452 Fairhope Drive. It will be from 2 p.m. to 5 p.m. It will be an opportunity for our friends that didn't know Mark to hear some stories and for his friends to share stories with us. There will be some snacks and non-alcoholic drinks available.



The memory section of my brain has been really busy for the last couple of weeks. Thanks for all the good memories and responses from everyone.

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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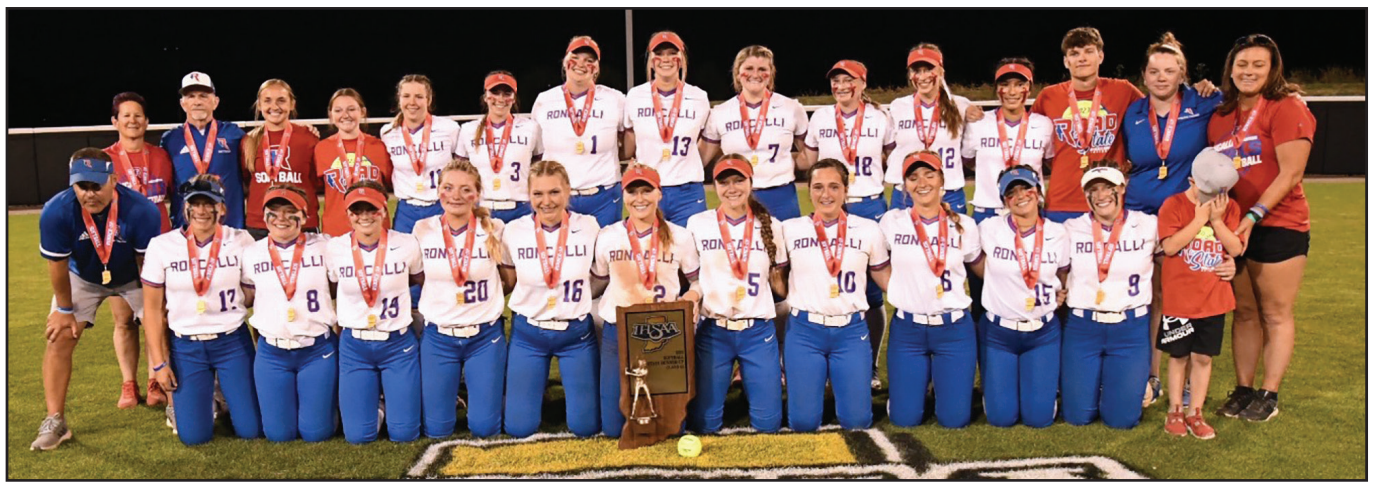


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Thanks for the memories Keagan Rothrock!  
**Congratulations on being named  
Indiana Gatorade Player of the Year.**

# Memories of a three-year legacy



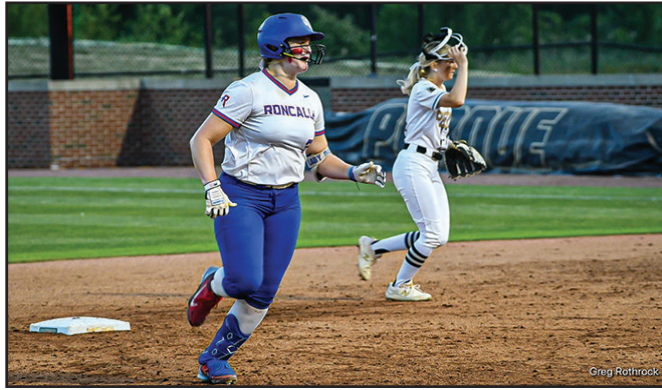
(SOUTHSIDER PHOTOS BY GREG ROTHROCK) With their 4A runner-up trophy and individual medals, Roncalli team members and coaches gather for the traditional championship post-game photo Saturday after facing Penn in the 4A game at Bittinger Stadium on the Purdue University campus. The Royals attempted to become the first 4A team to capture three consecutive championships. Eight seniors on the team closed their three-year careers with a 95-6-1 record.

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*RONCALLI ROYALS,  
WHAT AN AWESOME  
SEASON. GREAT JOB!*



## A HOPEFUL, TEARFUL MOMENT



With tears, Keagan Rothrock rounds third base after hitting a dramatic seventh-inning home run that tied the 4A state championship game, 1-1 against Penn.



IHSAA officials present individual runner-up state tournament medals to the Roncalli Royals. Penn stopped Roncalli's championship streak at two in a row.

Congrats to our  
**RONCALLI ROYALS**  
on a wonderful season!

From **Diane Davis**  
and family




Anna Dressman confers with coach David Lauck after reaching third base against Penn in the 4A state championship game.

Owner,  
Bill Davis, is a 1982  
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THANK YOU FOR THE MEMORIES ...

**RONCALLI ROYALS!**



## WHAT WINNERS DO

By Greg Rothrock  
Keagan Rothrock's father

Do you know what winners do, they win... Not every game is won, but they win in life. It's a mindset that some have, but many do not. Keagan finished her high school career last night with an opportunity to win three state championships! The course of the evening had other plans as the force of average worked to keep great. Average. In life, many will accept this and not push for anything else. Keagan stepped up to the plate, in the bottom of the seventh down 1-0 and

what could be her last high school at bat for Roncalli High School. As the game was coming to an end with three outs left, you have two options: accept defeat or push to the next level. Keagan in her own unique way, hits a home run to tie the game 1-1! She cried the whole trip and I was fortunate to capture it on camera (above photo). Roncalli High School Softball would go nine innings and lose 2-1. Keagan wanted and tried to carry the world on her shoulders, but tonight (June 10), it was not meant to be. A hug braced in tears as she said "I'm sorry" only made me cry more tears of happiness because I know she will go on to do great things!



Roncalli outfielders, from left, Lyla Blackwell, Emma Fegan, and Abbey Hofmann confer during a break in the 4A state championship game against Penn. Fegan, a junior, was among 11 non-seniors on the 2023 team.

**Why...**

Because she doesn't know how to lose! I cannot express how proud I am of this young lady on and off the field! Her high school journey has been one for the record books and a legacy that will last a lifetime. Life will do everything it can to make us average, it is our job to push through to excellence! (Edited from his Facebook page post.)

**PUBLISHER'S MEMO:**  
A special thank you to Greg Rothrock for his friendship and photography coverage of this special team. AND the local businesses that supported and sponsored with advertising through this journey. Sincerely, Kelly Sawyers, Al Stilley and Bob White.

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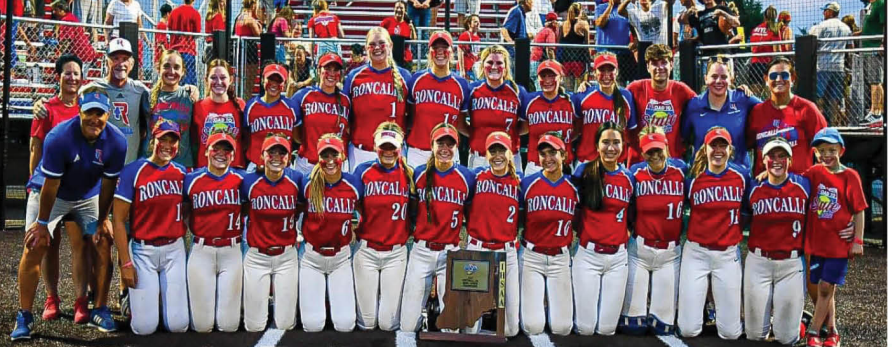
From **Bernie Price and Tom Sullivan**

**GO ROYALS!**

**RONCALLI ROYALS ...**





**CONGRATS ON A GREAT SEASON!**



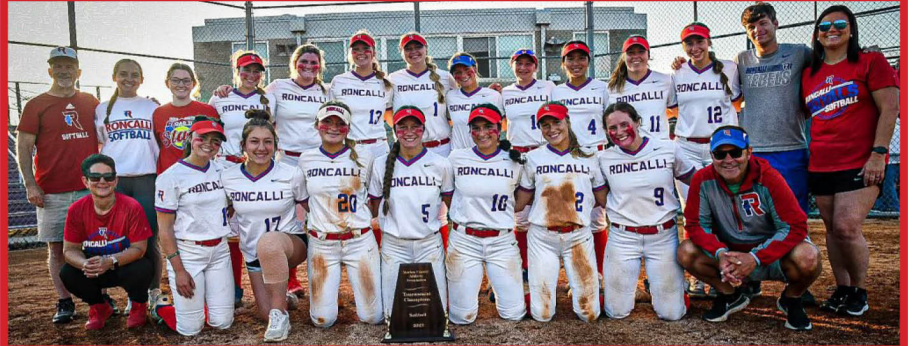
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**95-6-1 RECORD**



**Thanks for the Memories!**  
From Coach Lauck and staff!

# UIndy teams reach post-season tourneys

By Al Stille  
Editor

## DECATUR CENTRAL GRADUATE

University of Indianapolis baseball and softball teams reached NCAA Division II post-season tournaments this season.

The baseball team reached the national championships at Cary, N.C. and the softball team was host to a Super Regional.

Earlier this month, the Greyhounds baseball team wrapped up one of its most successful campaigns against Cal State Bernardino, 10-8 in the opening round of the Elite Eight in North Carolina. UIndy played in the championships for the third time in program history, their first trip in more than a decade. UIndy defeated nationally-ranked Illinois Springfield in the regionals and downed top-five Quincy to reach the finals.

UIndy lost their opening game against CSB but not without a rally that fell short in the ninth inning. Trailing 10-3, the 'Hounds pushed across five runs with the potential game-winning run at the plate before CSB prevailed. UIndy rallied behind an RBI single by Brandon DeWitt and a three-run home run by Isaac Bair.

Coached by Al Reedy, UIndy finished the season with a 39-21 record. The 'Hounds graduate 13 seniors from this year's squad.

The softball team ended their season with a No. 10 ranking in the season's final National Fastpitch Coaches Association Division II Poll, released Tuesday. The Greyhounds (53-10), coached by Alyssa Frost, notched their fourth-ever 50-win season in 2023, earned a GLVC regular season title and an NCAA DII Super Regional appearance along the way. They were ranked among the top 10 and as high as No. 6.

They were hosts of the Super Regional at Baumgartner Field where they fell to Grand Valley State, 3-1 and then 4-3 the next day to the Lakers (45-6) who captured the best-of-three Super Regional.

Kenzee Smith, a Decatur Central product, ended a stellar season with a 34-6 record in the circle.

Smith, a junior, and sophomore outfielder Megan Nichols of Carmel were named to the 2023 Academic All-America team selected by the College Sports Communicators (CSC) that recognizes top student-athletes for their combined performances on the field and in the classroom. The duo helped lead UIndy to one of its most successful seasons with a Great Lakes Valley Conference championship and their fourth 50-plus win campaign.



(SUBMITTED PHOTO) UIndy junior pitcher Kenzee Smith is a Decatur Central graduate.



(SOUTHSIDER VOICE PHOTOS BY STEVE PAGE) Center Grove players, coaches and family pose with their semi-state championship trophy following Saturday night's game at Plainfield.

# Unlikely heroes power Trojans to victory Field

By Steve Page  
Correspondent

In Center Grove's storied sports history, one plum has evaded the Trojans.

They not only have not won a state championship in baseball, they haven't even reached the championship game.

The Trojans resolved the latter goal in a big way Saturday night, riding the pitching of Caden Cornett and a huge pinch-hit triple by Carson Vican to a 5-2 victory over Castle in the Plainfield semi-state championship game.

The win propelled top-ranked Center Grove, 29-3, to the June 17 championship game at Victory Field, where they will play 11th-rated Penn at 8 p.m. Penn, 20-8, advanced through the LaPorte semi-state by outscoring Lake Central 7-6 and stopping Hamilton Southeastern 1-0.

"Getting to the championship game means the world," said CG coach Keith Hatfield. "I've known these seniors since they were 10, 11 years old. We're really excited."

After receiving their trophy, the Trojans ran out to center field, where they celebrated with family and friends.

Cornett and Vican helped make it all possible.

After struggling through the first few innings, the senior right-hander settled down while his teammates rallied behind him.

After his shaky start, Cornett blanked the Knights on two hits over the last five innings. He struck out six and made it a complete game, despite throwing 112 pitches and keeping the coaching staff on edge.

"I knew the first two innings I was struggling, Cornett said. 'I came back out, the team had my back, and I got my run support. The last inning, I was like, 'I want



(SOUTHSIDER VOICE PHOTO BY STEVE PAGE) Center Grove senior Caden Cornett takes his big leg lift to the plate during Saturday night's championship game win over Castle.

(pronounced VUL-can), who was an unlikely hero.

With teammate Evan Zapp on second base and one out in the sixth inning, Vican came to the plate as a pinch hitter. He hit a sinking line drive to shallow right field. The right fielder dived in an attempt to catch the ball, but it hit the turf and skipped all the way to the fence, with Zapp scoring and Vican racing all the way to third. The Trojans scored two more runs for the winning margin.

Center Grove coach Keith Hatfield felt bad because he had not used Vican in Saturday afternoon's semifinal game, a 6-0 win over Brownsburg.

"He's been our best pinch hitter all year," Hatfield said. "The coaching staff talked, and we said Carson will get an at-bat in a big spot, and credit to him. He is just a tough kid, just a grinder. Fought off pitches, fought off pitches and just found a way to get it done."

Vican said he hit the ball perfectly – for the situation.

"I had two strikes on me," he said. "It's all I could do, just put it in play and do my job. I hit it right off the handle. Luckily, he tried to make the play. Once he dived, I knew I was going all the way to third."

Of Cornett's route-going performance, Hatfield said, "He got stronger as the game went on. Two years ago, I don't think he would have finished the game."

(See "Trojans," Page 7)

# GCA battles No. 1 Barr-Reeve at Jasper

By Al Stille  
Editor

Greenwood Christian Academy's baseball season ended Saturday in the opening game of the Jasper Semistate as No. 1 Barr-Reeve edged the Cougars, 3-1.

The Cougars reached the Class A Elite 8 in veteran coach Doug Hagist's 12th and final season as the program's only baseball coach. Hagist, 53, becomes the new principal at Mooresville Christian Academy in the upcoming academic year.

The Cougars finish the season with a 15-13-1 record. Barr-Reeve (29-3) defeated Shakamak, 4-2 in the nightcap to advance to the Class A state championship game.

GCA won four sectionals under Hagist and went deeper into this year's playoffs than ever before.

In the playoffs, the Cougars

again benefitted from playing many teams above Class A during the regular season.

GCA went pitch-to-pitch against the Vikings as senior pitcher Trey Harvey went the distance against sophomore Seth Wagler.

Harvey gave up two earned runs, five hits, and 10 strikeouts. Wagler allowed one earned run in five innings and four strikeouts.

The Cougars and Vikings missed opportunities to score more runs as each pitcher consistently shut the door.

Trailing 2-0, GCA scored its only run in the third inning. Charlie Overton singled and later scored on a drive by Colton Flint that the Vikings bobbled and gave up a run. The Cougars left a runner stranded on third base.

Barr-Reeve scored two runs in the top of the third and added an insurance run in the seventh inning.

# Murphy's gem lifts Trojans to title tilt

By Steve Page  
Correspondent

Jacob Murphy pitched a gem Saturday afternoon, and his Center Grove teammates backed up the senior right-hander, advancing to the Plainfield semi-state championship game with a 6-0 victory over Brownsburg.

Murphy yielded only one hit over the first six innings and finished with a three-hitter. He struck out four and walked two in a 78-pitch effort, improving his record to 9-1 and his ERA of 0.90.

"That's been Jacob – steady Eddie," said Trojan coach Keith Hatfield. "He sat through some long innings. That makes it hard to get into a rhythm."

The Trojans, visitors on the scoreboard, scored one run in the fourth inning, added two more in the sixth, then gave Murphy plenty of breathing room by scoring three more in the seventh.

"Once we put up one run on the scoreboard, I was more comfortable," Murphy said. "My slider and curveball were right over. I just throw strikes and let my defense do its job."

When asked if he felt any late-game pressure, Murphy said, "I didn't have any pressure. I know I'm not going to give up six runs. I haven't given up six runs all season."

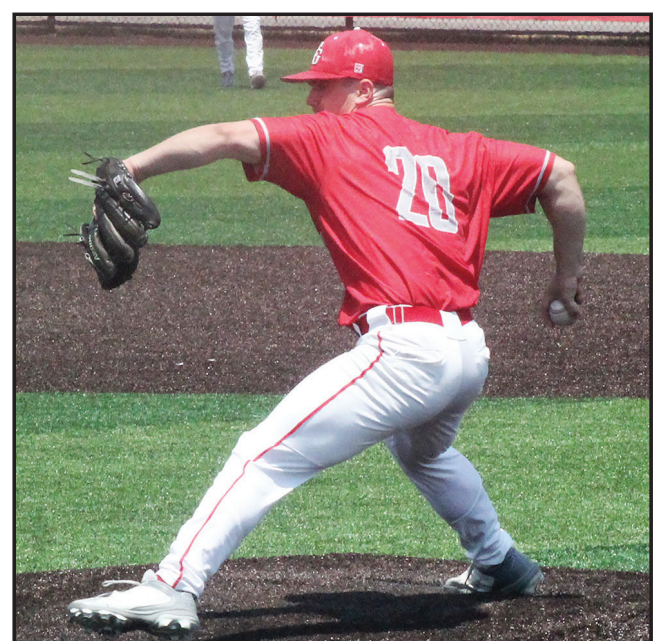
Leadoff batter Noah Coy and cleanup hitter Evan Zapp each hit a double and a single to pace Center Grove's six-hit attack. The Trojans threatened early, but didn't score until the fourth, when they tallied their first run on a walk, a hit batter and two wild pitches.

"Credit (Mason) Tibbs," Hatfield said of the Brownsburg pitcher. "He was like Houdini, getting out of jams. But we kept fighting. We finally just got comfortable in the box."

Tibbs' penchant for an occasional wild pitch proved his undoing, as he was lifted after five innings.

With Walker Brodt now pitching for Brownsburg,

(See "Title tilt," Page 7)



(SOUTHSIDER VOICE PHOTOS BY STEVE PAGE) Jacob Murphy strides into a pitch as the Center Grove senior blanks Brownsburg on a three-hitter in Saturday's semi-state semifinal at Plainfield.

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# Hornets change softball program history in one sensational season

By Al Stilley  
Editor

Beech Grove High School's softball team is coming off a history-making season and anxious to begin the 2024 campaign.

This year's team set all-time program benchmarks by winning 21 games, first-time sectional and regional championships and initial appearance in the IHSAA semistate tourney. The Hornets bowed out to 3A No. 1 Tri-West, 8-1 to reach the playoffs Class 3A Elite Eight and establish several individual single-season records.

And the Hornets set numerous single-season individual performance records along the way with the potential to break some of their own records in 2024.

"These girls are changing the history of softball at Beech Grove," 10-year coach Kacy Ferrell said. "The goal was to win the first sectional in school history and they reached the semistate. That was incredible for the school, this community, for themselves. They'll always remember that."

"Now that we've been there, they are so hungry. We know what it's like and are hungry to return there and go farther," Ferrell emphasized.

And all players on this year's varsity roster – juniors Aubree Bailey, Holly Garrett, Janessa Golder, Amira Mills, Malone Moore, and Kylee Robinson and sophomores Mylee Boling, Carmen Edmaiston, Lillianna Jansen, Nevaeh Lytle, Brookelynn Rucker, Alyssa Stone, and Jovi Storms – are expected to return next season with a solid freshman class led by Moore's younger sister, Harper Moore.

The Hornets experienced support for the softball program that had never been experienced before. When the Hornets returned to the high school after shutting out Hamilton Heights, 10-0 for the regional trophy, fans, students, Mayor Dennis Buckley, community, and kids turned out to greet them. And they received a rousing community send-off to the Jasper Semistate where they fell to the No. 1 ranked Bruins.

"They welcomed our kids back (regional) and it made my heart sing, I was so happy for our girls," Ferrell recalled. "The community really did rally around us and they did the same for our semistate sendoff. People had to take time off from work for that. Those are memories that the girls will remember the rest of their lives ... and it's just the beginning!"

To understand how far the Hornets came, go back to the opening day of practice on March 6 when Ferrell gave birth to her second baby, Baylor, a boy who was born prematurely and with medical problems. Ferrell remained on maternity leave and left the coaching chores to assistants Drew Moore



(SUBMITTED PHOTOS)  
Pitcher Malone Moore owns five single-season batting records and two pitching records at Beech Grove. She is an all-state, all-county, and all-conference honoree.



Catcher Lillianna Jansen is a power for the Hornets behind the plate and at the plate. She hit a program single-season record 19 doubles in 2023. Jansen is all-county and all-conference.

*"These girls are changing the history of softball at Beech Grove. The goal was to win the first sectional in school history and they reached the semistate. That was incredible for the school, this community, for themselves. They'll always remember that."*

– 10-year Beech Grove coach Kacy Ferrell



(SUBMITTED PHOTO)  
Beech Grove's Hornets gather beside their travel bus before leaving for a first-time appearance in the IHSAA Regional at Morristown. The Hornets defeated Hamilton Heights and advanced to the Jasper Semistate for the first time. Team members are, from left, front, Brookelynn Rucker, Nevaeh Lytle, Holly Garrett, Jovi Storms, Aubree Bailey, Lillianna Jansen, coach Kacy Ferrell, back row, coaches Tim Babbit and Shane Carmichael, manager Iyssa Simmons, Carmen Edmaiston, Mylee Boling, Kylee Robinson, Alyssa Stone, Malone Moore, Janessa Golder, Amira Mills, and coach Andrew Moore.



Kylee Robinson stole a team record 30 bases in 2023 and a record six triples in 2021. She earned all-conference and honorable mention all-county.

and Tim "Pappy" Babbitt and brought in veteran travel team coach Shane Carmichael.

"Those three became the brains of the operation," Ferrell said in the aftermath of a multitude of hospital visits with Baylor. "They took over the reins, everything. I came to games and was their biggest fan." Carmichael, who had never coached high school softball, brought vast travel ball coaching experience along with Moore. "With Kacy in the background running things, we relied on our travel ball experiences and coached them like they were elite," Carmichael said. "I think that helped in their success because they are elite with what they accomplished this season."

The Hornets opened with 10 consecutive wins, including a 6-0 triumph against Cathedral but then went 8-6 with losses to Franklin Central in the county tourney and to Lutheran and Indian Creek to end the season 18-6. They were 3-6 during the regular season in games decided by four runs or less. "We had so many close

games and that made us tougher," Ferrell said. "The girls fought all season, so I got to see them fight through and come out on top. We began to rise above our adversity and become better prepared for the postseason. The way they competed against bigger schools is a true test of their maturity."

Beech Grove defeated Herron, 23-0 and Speedway, 12-2 for their first sectional trophy and Hamilton Heights, 10-0 for their first regional title. The Hornets were plagued by miscues at Jasper and fell to No. 1 Tri-West and junior pitcher Audrey Lowry, an Oklahoma recruit, in the semistate opener. Lowry struck out 14 Hornets.

"We were prepared for the game but not for the moment," assistant coach Carmichael recalled. "Tri-West had been there before and none of us had been to a semistate. We know what the atmosphere is like now, but we didn't play our best game and it cost us."

Team leaders throughout the season included battery mates Moore (18-5; .575 batting average, 50 hits, 46 RBI) and catcher Jansen

(.532, 50 hits), Robinson (.460, 46 runs scored), and Boling (.407, 33 hits).

Most of the Hornets' single-season records, including their .393 batting average, were set by this year's team, indicative of their improvement.

Moore, who is with Indiana Magic Gold this summer, added mental maturity to her game, according to Carmichael. She did not get down on herself when opponents got hits off her pitches. And she developed more spin on the ball with a variety of pitches, including a screwball, curve, and rise ball.

Jansen, playing travel ball for Indy Crush, became more of a contact hitter by making better pitch selections.

Robinson, with the Indiana Gators this summer, improved her mental approach at the plate and developed into a triple threat at the plate. She has speed on the basepaths, too.

Boling raised her overall batting average to more than .400 with a surge after mid-season. She worked on staying down in the zone at the plate and using her strength

### HORNETS' SINGLE-SEASON RECORDS

Batting average: .575 Malone Moore 2023  
On base percentage: .658 Malone Moore 2023  
RBIs: 46 Malone Moore 2023  
Stolen Bases: 30 Kylee Robinson  
Hits: 50 Malone Moore and Lillianna Jansen 2023  
Home Runs: 7 Malone Moore 2023  
Doubles: 19 Lillianna Jansen 2023  
Records held by current players  
Strikeouts: 192 set by Malone Moore in 2021  
ERA: 0.99 set by Malone Moore in 2022  
Triples: 6 set by Kylee Robinson in 2021

### Team records

Most Wins: 21 2023  
Batting Average: .393 2023  
IHSAA playoffs  
Sectional Title 2023  
Regional Title 2023  
Semi-State run 2023

### Honors

All Marion County: Moore, Jansen and honorable mention for Robinson  
All Indiana Crossroads Conference: Moore, Jansen, Robinson and honorable mention for Boling All State  
3rd team 3A/4A: Moore  
6th female in BGHS history (1917-2023) to achieve this honor  
(Compiled by BGHS Softball)



to drive the ball.

"With next year's freshmen, we will have even more competition in our practices and that will help us improve even more," Carmichael said. "And

they will know what to expect next season when we get into the playoffs."

Looking ahead to 2024, the Hornets have more records to be broken and farther to go in the playoffs.

Thank you for the memories ...



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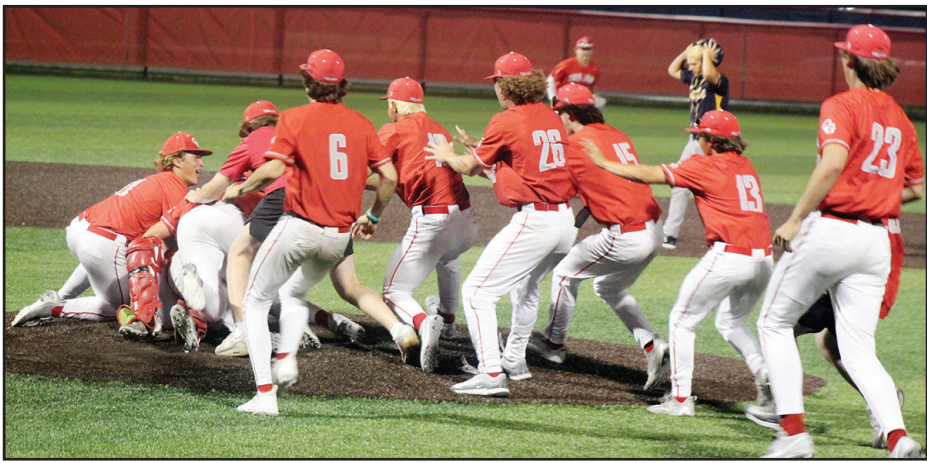
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**CENTER GROVE CHAMPIONSHIP PILE**



(SOUTHSIDER VOICE PHOTOS BY STEVE PAGE)  
Center Grove players rush to join a pile of happy bodies on the pitcher's mound following Saturday's 5-2 championship game win over Castle.

**TROJANS** (Continued from Page 5)

His teammates made that possible with their three-run outburst in the bottom of the sixth inning.

Evan Zapp walked on a 3-2 pitch and Grant Sawa, who hit a solo home run in the second inning, moved Zapp to second with a sacrifice bunt. Vican then hit his triple, with Zapp scoring and Vican racing to third. AJ Beggs then put down a squeeze bunt, and Vican slid home with the team's fourth run. After a fielder's-choice groundout for the second out, Easton Smith singled to left. Noah Coy hit a grounder to deep second, and his headfirst slide into first beat the throw and loaded the bases. Drew Culbertson drew a walk on a 3-2 pitch, and Smith scored from third, pushing the lead to 5-2.

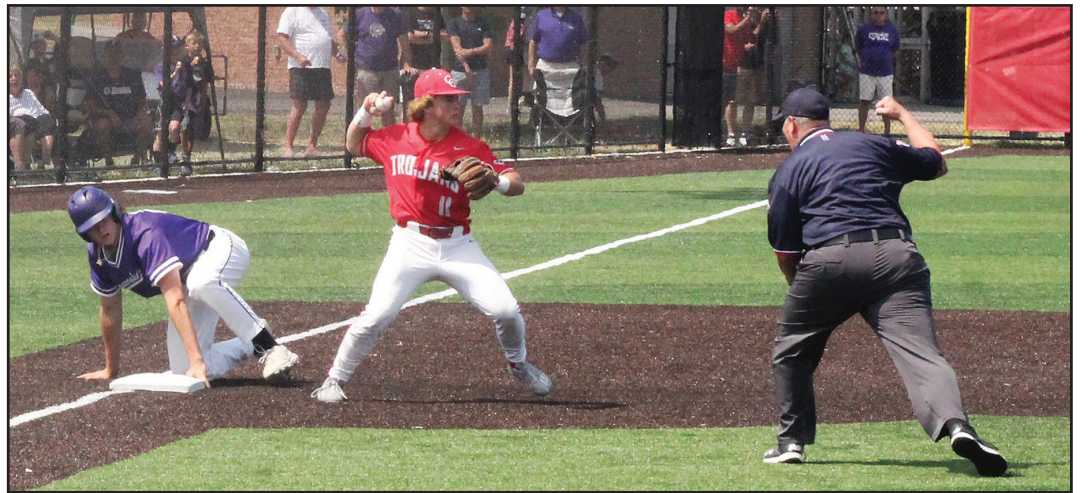
With one out, in the Castle seventh, Tyler Thomas doubled to right. Cornett then struck out the next two batters to end the game.

After the Trojans celebrated by leaping into a pile of players on the pitcher's mound, Hatfield smiled and said, "It feels absolutely great. I'm so happy to be going with this group."



Center Grove pinch hitter Carson Vican launches a run-producing triple to right field in the sixth inning of Saturday's championship game with Castle.

**TITLE TILT** (Continued from Page 5)



(SOUTHSIDER VOICE PHOTOS BY STEVE PAGE)  
Center Grove third baseman Noah Coy looks to second base after tagging the Brownsburg baserunner for the first out of the seventh inning and getting the out call from the umpire.

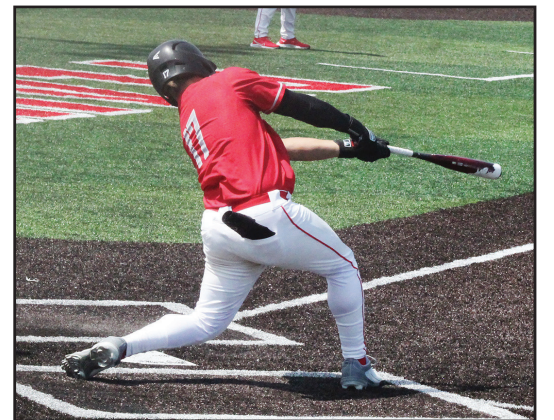
Zapp led off the sixth with a single. Grant Sawa put down a bunt, but the throw to second was too late to get Zapp. Brendan Ealy bunted and reached first when the first baseman dropped the throw, allowing Zapp to score. Garrison Barile then scored Sawa with a sacrifice fly to center.

In the seventh, Noah Coy hit a double off the top of the right field fence, then took third on a wild pitch. Drew Culbertson reached on a catcher's interference. Barile plated Coy with a sacrifice fly to center. Culbertson stole second. Zapp doubled off the right field fence to score Culbertson. Sawa dropped a single into shallow center field, scoring Zapp.

Brownsburg threatened briefly in the seventh.

Tibbs singled to left. Colin McNeer hit a double down the right-field line, but right fielder Zapp fired a bullet of a throw to third to get Tibbs. Murphy then retired the last two batters on flyouts.

"Our guys executed today," said Hatfield.



Evan Zapp of Center Grove follows through on the swing that produced an RBI double in the seventh inning of Saturday's semi-state semifinal with Brownsburg.

Of Murphy, he said, "I hope we get to watch him one more time."

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**CHURCH RUMMAGE SALE**  
 Thurs. & Fri., June 22-23 (9-5)  
 Sat., June 24 (9-Noon)  
 (Part of the proceeds will go to Jeanette Franklin to help with cost of her heart transplant)

**MULTI-FAMILY YARD SALE**, Fri. and Sat., June 16-17, (8-?), 3849 S. LaSalle St., Indpls., IN 46237.

**SPRING MIST GARAGE SALE**, 5600 Shelbyville Rd., June 15-17, (8-3), GREAT SALE! Too many items to list.

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## UNFAILING NOVENA TO ST. JOSEPH

Glorious Saint Joseph, foster-father and protector of Jesus Christ! To you I raise my heart and my hands to implore your powerful intercession. Please obtain for me from the kind Heart of Jesus the help and the graces necessary for my spiritual and temporal welfare. I ask particularly for the grace of a happy death and the special favor I now implore. (REQUEST). Guardian of the Word Incarnate, I feel animated with confidence that your prayers in my behalf will be graciously heard before the throne of God. (REQUEST) O glorious Saint Joseph, through the love you bear to Jesus Christ, and for the glory of His name, please hear my prayers and obtain my petition. *Pray for 9 days and publish. Make sure you really want what you ask because it has never been known to fail. Trust that your prayers will be answered. E.L.*

## PRAYER TO THE BLESSED MOTHER

(Never known to fail). O most beautiful flower of Mt. Carmel, fruitful is the splendor of Heaven, blessed Mother of the Son of God, immaculate virgin, assist me in this necessity. O star of the sea help me, and show herein you are my Mother. O Holy Mary Mother of God, Queen of Heaven and Earth, I humbly beseech thee from the bottom of my heart. Succor me in this necessity, there are none that can withstand your power. O show me herein your are Mother O Mary conceived without sin, pray for us who have resource to thee (3 times). O Holy Mary I place this cause in your hands (3 times). Thank you for your mercy to me and mine. Amen. This prayer must be said for 3 days and after 3 days your request will be granted and the prayer must be published. Thank you. E.L.

## FOR SALE



## BOAT FOR SALE

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- Elevator
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# Weekly SUDOKU

by Linda Thistle

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

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) A stubborn refusal to go ahead on a project mystifies colleagues who expected more flexibility. But once you explain your position, they'll understand and even applaud you.

**TAURUS** (April 20 to May 20) A relationship seems to be stuck in the same place. Now it's up to you, dear Bovine, how far you want it to go and how intense you want it to be. Choose well and choose soon.

**GEMINI** (May 21 to June 20) A relationship progresses more slowly than you would prefer. Best advice: Insist on a frank and open discussion. What is learned could change minds and, maybe, hearts.

**CANCER** (June 21 to July 22) It's all right to be grateful to a workplace colleague who has done you a good turn. But gratitude shouldn't be a lifelong obligation. The time to break this cycle is now.

**LEO** (July 23 to August 22) It's going to be especially nice to be the King of the Zodiac at this time. A recent money squeeze eases. Plans start to work out, and new friends enter Your Majesty's domain.

**VIRGO** (August 23 to September 22) Before you make a commitment on any level (personal, professional, legal), get all of the facts. There might be hidden problems that could cause trouble later on.

**LIBRA** (September 23 to October 22) Personal relationships improve. Professional prospects also brighten.

A job offer could come through by month's end, and an old friend seeks to make contact.

**SCORPIO** (October 23 to November 21) Your senses detect that something is not quite right about a matter involving a workplace colleague. Best advice: Follow your keen instincts, and don't get involved.

**SAGITTARIUS** (November 22 to December 21) A prospect offers rewards, but it also demands that you assume a

great deal of responsibility. Knowing you, you're up to the challenge, so go for it -- and good luck.

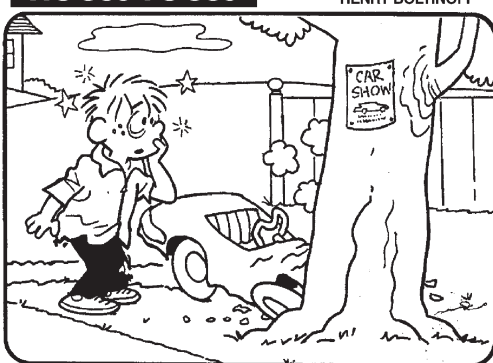
**CAPRICORN** (December 22 to January 19) A favor you did a long time ago is repaid, as a trusted colleague steps in to help you with a suddenly expanded workload. A family member has important news as well.

**AQUARIUS** (January 20 to February 18) A new job offer could require moving across the country. But before you let your doubts determine your decision, learn more about the potentials involved.

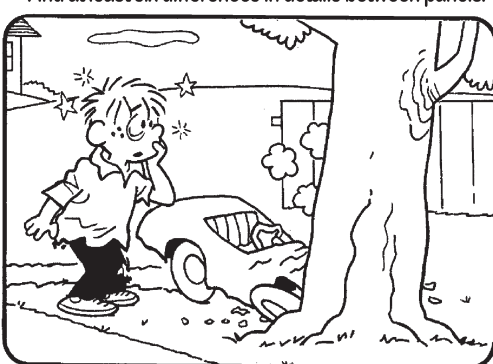
**PISCES** (February 19

## HOCUS-FOCUS

BY HENRY BOLTINOFF



Find at least six differences in details between panels.



Differences: 1. Cloud is smaller; 2. Zipper is missing; 3. Burner is missing; 4. Steering wheel is different; 5. Post is missing; 6. Poster is missing.

to March 20) Your sense of fair play doesn't allow you to rush to judgment about a friend who might have betrayed you. Good! All the facts on the matter are not yet in.

**BORN THIS WEEK:** You have a romantic nature that allows you to find the best in people. You would excel at poetry and drama.

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## PUZZLE ANSWERS SEE PAGE 12

### King Crossword

- ACROSS**
- 1 Potential syrup
  - 4 Ship's front
  - 8 Dutch cheese
  - 12 Family card game
  - 13 One with will power?
  - 14 Cover with blacktop
  - 15 Kind of stove
  - 17 Mid-month date
  - 18 Solo of "Star Wars"
  - 19 Pie chart divisions
  - 21 Exact
  - 24 Fan's cry
  - 25 "East of Eden" brother
  - 26 Blend
  - 28 Interior design
  - 32 Curved molding
  - 34 Signing need
  - 36 Chicago paper, briefly
  - 37 Irritable
  - 39 "Mayday!"
- DOWN**
- 1 Dine
  - 2 Year in Cancun
  - 3 Driving hazards
  - 4 Wunderkind
  - 5 Seminary subj.
  - 6 Monet's supply
  - 7 More ironic
  - 8 Disparaging
  - 9 Pedestal part
  - 10 Declare
  - 11 GI dining hall
  - 16 Slugger's need
  - 20 Scoundrel
  - 21 Highlander
  - 22 Senate staffer
  - 23 Chill in the air
  - 27 Ballot marks
  - 29 Eccentric
  - 30 Sty cry
  - 31 Baseball stats
  - 33 Curio cabinet
  - 35 Refusals
  - 38 Actor Brynner
  - 40 Viscid
  - 43 Bas-relief medium
  - 45 Noah's boat
  - 46 Poi base
  - 47 Awestruck
  - 48 Patricia of "Hud"
  - 49 Dance move
  - 53 "— the ramparts ..."
  - 54 Gigi's "yes"
  - 55 Three, in Rome

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	
12				13				14			
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46	47	48				49		50			
51					52		53			54	55
56					57					58	
59					60					61	

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We buy boats & RVs too!  
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\$12 for 10 words, 10 cents for each additional word.  
Deadline is Monday, 5 pm.  
Write ad below:

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City: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip: \_\_\_\_\_ Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

Date(s) to run \_\_\_\_\_

<input type="checkbox"/> Autos for Sale	<input type="checkbox"/> Business Oppor.	<input type="checkbox"/> For Rent
<input type="checkbox"/> Free	<input type="checkbox"/> Child Care	<input type="checkbox"/> For Sale
<input type="checkbox"/> Garage Sales	<input type="checkbox"/> Personals	<input type="checkbox"/> Wanted
<input type="checkbox"/> Lost & Found	<input type="checkbox"/> Services	<input type="checkbox"/> Real Estate
<input type="checkbox"/> Health Care Svcs.	<input type="checkbox"/> Other	

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DecaturAutoSales.com \*W.A.C. - See dealer for details. Price subject to change without notice.

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SCAN ME

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 <b>\$1000 DOWN*</b> 2014 GMC Sierra	 <b>\$1000 DOWN*</b> 2013 Chevy Silverado	 <b>\$1000 DOWN*</b> 2010 Chevy Tahoe	 <b>\$1000 DOWN*</b> 2009 GMC Yukon	 <b>\$1000 DOWN*</b> 2008 Cadillac Escalade	 <b>\$1000 DOWN*</b> 2008 Cadillac Escalade	 <b>\$1000 DOWN*</b> 2007 Jeep Wrangler
 <b>\$1000 DOWN*</b> 2017 Chevy Cruze LT	 <b>\$1000 DOWN*</b> 2017 Nissan Sentra SR	 <b>\$1000 DOWN*</b> 2016 Chevy Malibu	 <b>\$1000 DOWN*</b> 2016 Chevy Cruze LTD 2LT	 <b>\$1000 DOWN*</b> 2015 Chevy Cruze	 <b>\$1000 DOWN*</b> 2014 Chevy Cruze	 <b>\$1000 DOWN*</b> 2009 Chevy Malibu LT
 <b>\$1000 DOWN*</b> 2006 Toyota Tundra SR5	 <b>\$1000 DOWN*</b> 2004 Chevy Silverado	 <b>\$1000 DOWN*</b> 2002 Dodge Ram	 <b>\$1000 DOWN*</b> 2015 Ford Taurus	 <b>\$1000 DOWN*</b> 2013 Ford Fiesta	 <b>\$1000 DOWN*</b> 2009 Chevy Silverado	 <b>\$800 DOWN*</b> 2012 Dodge Grand Caravan
 <b>\$800 DOWN*</b> 2011 Nissan Sentra	 <b>\$800 DOWN*</b> 2011 Chevy Impala	 <b>\$800 DOWN*</b> 2008 Pontiac Grand Prix	 <b>\$800 DOWN*</b> 2004 Toyota RAV4	 <b>\$700 DOWN*</b> 2010 Chevy Equinox	 <b>\$700 DOWN*</b> 2004 Chevy Avalanche	 <b>\$700 DOWN*</b> 2004 Nissan Murano

\$\$\$\$\$ CASH \$\$\$ CASH \$\$\$\$ CASH \$\$\$\$ CASH \$\$\$\$ CASH \$\$\$\$ CASH \$\$\$\$ CASH \$\$\$\$ CASH \$\$\$\$ CASH \$\$\$\$ CASH \$\$\$\$ CASH \$\$\$

 <b>\$1795 CASH</b> 2014 Chevy Malibu	 <b>\$895 CASH</b> 2008 Dodge Caliber	 <b>\$1795 CASH</b> 2007 Ford Edge	 <b>\$895 CASH</b> 2007 Chrysler Sebring	 <b>\$1495 CASH</b> 2006 Buick LaCrosse	 <b>\$1795 CASH</b> 2005 Ford F150	 <b>\$1795 CASH</b> 2004 GMC Envoy
 <b>\$1795 CASH</b> 2004 Chevy Tahoe	 <b>\$1495 CASH</b> 2004 Chevy Impala	 <b>\$895 CASH</b> 2003 Nissan Pathfinder	 <b>\$895 CASH</b> 2003 Ford Taurus	 <b>\$1795 CASH</b> 2002 Ford Explorer 3rd row	 <b>\$1495 CASH</b> 1999 Honda Odyssey	 <b>\$1495 CASH</b> 1999 Chevy Tahoe

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**\$999 DOWN**

'12 CHEVY SONIC, GAS SAVER.

**\$1499 DOWN**

'13 FORD ESCAPE, FULLY LOADED.

**\$1999 DOWN**

'15 CHRYSLER TOWN & COUNTRY, LOADED, ENTERTAINMENT PACKAGE.

**\$1199 DOWN**

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**\$999 DOWN**

'02 TOYOTA HIGHLANDER, 4X4, FULL POWER.

**\$1199 DOWN**

'84 CHEVY K-10 SCOTTSDALE, 80,000 MILES, 4X4.

**\$1999 DOWN**

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\*WAC

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CryptoQuip

The young child's loose incisor made his gums pretty sore. I told him "This tooth shall pass."

— Weekly SUDOKU —

Answers

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

— King Crossword —

Answers

Solution time: 25 mins.

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

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	2019-2018	\$240-\$295
	2017-2016	\$219-\$268
	2015-2014	\$212-\$254

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\$150,000	\$1031
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