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# The Southsider Voice

The Voice of the Southside

www.southsidervoices.com

Wednesday, December 28, 2016

Vol. 8, No. 45

This publication is **FREE**  
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 Ephesians 4:2-3



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RETAIL: Friday, 5 p.m.  
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**NEWS**

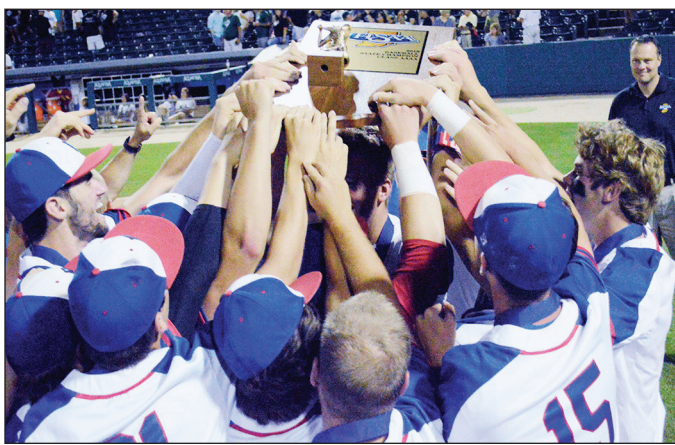
Friday, 5 p.m.

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## Have a Happy New Year! TOP PHOTOS of 2016

The Jan. 4 edition will include more top photos and top stories.



Roncalli's baseball team celebrates its victory over Zionville in the state championship game.



Southport basketball players celebrate a regional championship.



The Beech Grove Student Leadership Team performs at its inaugural dance marathon, which raised more than \$9,000 for Riley Hospital for Children at IU Health.



Collin Sonderman grabs a rebound for Roncalli against Beech Grove.



Lutheran softball players (from left) Bailey Snow, Elise Somke, Blakelee Steeb and Kimmie Kuehr raise their sectional trophy after routing Bethesda Christian 15-1 in the title game.



Southport Mayor Russell McClure dons a blindfold to play beep baseball on May 21.



Eric Holcomb celebrates with supporters after winning the gubernatorial election.

## Light at the end of the tunnel



Each Dec. 20, the family of the late Michael Coffman honors him at his gravesite at a Franklin cemetery.

By Sherri Coner  
 Southsider Voice correspondent

On Dec. 20, 2008, Etheleen Coffman's husband, Michael, was taken to surgery. While waiting for her spouse of 35 years to go to recovery, the usual five-days-before-Christmas concerns floated around in her head. Things like whether the gifts were all wrapped and the grocery list was finished. When she expected to hear that her husband would soon be moved to a room, doctors gently broke the news that Mike developed a blood clot and died in the operating room. In shock, Coffman went home to the gifts, the tree and the grocery list she no longer found necessary. How could she ever again face a holiday dinner without looking up to smile at her husband, seated at the head of the table? Quickly, this soft-spoken woman began to learn that sometimes, loneliness can be exhausting. Without her husband and the life she loved so much, Coffman had no idea how to look ahead to the future. "I would try to go out alone to eat," she said. "But I would just sit there and bawl my eyes out. I just couldn't do it." Though she struggled, Coffman mustered as much



Though Etheleen Coffman of Greenwood believed she would likely spend the rest of her life alone, in 2015 she married Bill Harbert.

See "Light" Page 5

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**Happy New Year**

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 Wednesday, Dec. 28-Thursdays, Dec. 29  
 to enjoy time with our families.

**OFFICE OPENS**  
 Friday, Dec. 30





SCHOLARSHIP RECIPIENTS



SUBMITTED PHOTO

Roncalli seniors Katie Scott and Parker Williams (below, second from right) have been awarded Lilly Endowment Community Scholarships, which provide full tuition and up to \$900 per year for books for four years of undergraduate study at any Indiana college.

Scott, undecided on where he will attend, is seen with her parents, Kenneth and Nicole Scott, and her grandparents, Nancy and Bobby Scott.

Williams, who plans to study biology at Marian, is seen with (from left) Central Indiana Community Foundation representatives Garrett Ogden, Pamela Ross and Ben Snyder and his mother, Roncalli religious studies teacher Laura Williams.



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 '10 Buick Lacrosse, \$13,988, one owner, extra clean, heated leather seats, beautiful and luxurious, 4820A, 317-888-9500.  
 '05 Buick LeSabre, 191K miles, full power, \$3,000 or best offer, 317-784-1797.
- CADILLAC**  
 '09 Cadillac CTS, \$12,975, only 86K miles, superb condition, CD player, Bose sound, non-smoker, T14458A, 317-888-9500.
- CHRYSLER**  
 '15 Chrysler 200 LMTD, \$14,988, superb condition, great gas mileage, blue tooth, keyless start, G9968, 317-888-9500.  
 '07 Chrysler 300C, \$8,975, very nice, extra clean, nonsmoker, inferno red crystal pearl, K12000A, 317-888-9500.
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 '11 Chevy Cruze, \$9,975, very nice, heated leather seats, rear park assist, nonsmoker, G9856A, 317-888-9500.  
 '08 Chevy Silverado 1500, \$15,975, very nice truck, HD trailering equipment, P4516B3, 317-888-9500.
- DODGE**  
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- '04 Dodge Ram 3500 Diesel, \$12,975, priced to move, 4 door quad cab, turbocharged, 4x4, must see! T4346B, 317-888-9500.
- FORD**  
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STUDENTS PARTICIPATE IN FORESTRY AND ENTOMOLOGY CONTEST



SUBMITTED PHOTOS

Member of Beech Grove's FFA, an organization that promotes farm education and leadership, participated in the Area 6 forestry and entomology contest Nov. 30 at the Hamilton County Fairgrounds. Competing individually and in teams of four, students identified insects and leaves and completed written exams. The group also competed in the state meet.

The competitors included (from left) Allison Merritt, Daniel Newton, Isabella Foster and Ashlynn Morelock; (below) Lillian Ferguson, Megan Brown, Shelby Hill and Julia Reel. Not pictured: Bella Foster, Karina Almazan, Faith Wolfe, Joe Petree, Collin Eckstein, Andy Galvez, Alexa Peak, Randi Rider, Jade Pender, Tobias Kinder and Zack Nichols.



SCHOLARSHIP RECIPIENT



SUBMITTED PHOTO

Beech Grove senior Abby Strahla has received a Lilly Endowment Community Scholarship, which will pay for four years of tuition and books at Purdue, where she plans to study agriculture. Strahla, one of nine Marion County students to receive the scholarship, is seen with her, agriculture teacher Chris Kaufman.

Little Observations

By Dr. Thomas Little  
 Superintendent of Perry Township Schools



As we usher in the new year we also usher in transition. This month the Perry Township Board of Education said goodbye to two beloved board members who have fiercely advocated for our students. In January we will welcome two new additions.

After 16 years of serving on the board, Rubie Alexander has stepped down. Her education career spans more than 30 years and several positions, including math teacher, dean of students, computer coordinator, mathematics department head, vice principal and evening school director. Rubie also served as our human relations director, a position from which she retired in June 2000. As a board member she made every decision with the best interest of the kids in mind. Her influence will definitely be missed.

Gwen Freeman has called Perry Township home for 50 years and served on our board for eight. She is a proud graduate of Southport High School and has volunteered on her class reunion committees for more than 20 years. Gwen attended Butler and is retired from Rolls-Royce. She has several years of community service in Perry Township, including secretary of the South Madison Neighborhood Association and president of the Country Estates Condo Owners Association. We value each of Gwen's contributions to our community.

Next month we will excitedly welcome Emily Hartman and Steven Johnson to the board. Emily is a product of Perry Township Schools, having attended Burkhart Elementary, Perry Meridian Middle School and Perry Meridian High, where she graduated in 1996. After earning a bachelor's degree in consumer affairs from Purdue in 1999, she and her husband, Joe - also a Perry grad - returned to the Southside to raise their family.

Emily is involved in our schools. Two of her children attend Burkhart; the other two attend Perry Meridian Middle. Over the years she's served as president, treasurer and vice president of Burkhart's Parent-Teacher Association. Emily is the administrative coordinator for Community Hospital South's surgical services.

Steven has been a fixture in our community for several decades. For 30 years he taught social studies at Perry Meridian High. He has coached football and track and field. Before his career in education, Steven served in the U.S. Coast Guard and attended Eastern Kentucky, where he earned a bachelor's degree in history and education. Steven's two children are graduates of Perry Meridian High, and his wife, Lynne, is a teacher at Glens Valley Elementary.

Though Rubie and Gwen will be missed, we wish them limitless joy and happiness in the next chapter of their lives. As we welcome Emily and Steven as our newest board members, we enthusiastically look forward to collaborating to help our students and staff succeed.

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**'07 GMC Yukon SLE**  
 V8, running boards, trailer hitch, 8-passenger seating, most wanted SUV. IG9868A. **\$16,975**

**'11 Chevy Silverado 1500 Crew Cab**  
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**'15 GMC Terrain**  
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**'14 Buick Encore**  
 Excellent condition, navigation, AWD, sunroof, heated seats. 4845A - **\$23,988**

**'13 Chevy Malibu**  
 Great miles, extra clean, FWD, excellent condition, superior gas mileage! G9978 - **\$15,988**

**'15 Chrysler Town & Country**, leather, 3rd row, rear entertainment, quad buckets, Ray Skillman certified. G9906 - **\$22,988**

**'15 RAM 1500 Tradesman Express**, one owner, smooth ride, great gas mileage, 4WD, G9921 - **\$30,988**

**'11 Dodge Ram 1500**  
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DECKED OUT FOR THE SEASON



Submitted photo  
Aniya Burhannon, a fourth-grader at South Grove Intermediate, gives Findley, the school's therapy dog, a little loving.

Letter to the editor

Supporting innovative learning projects

To the editor:  
As president of the Perry Township Education Foundation, I want to thank everyone who has supported our organization. Providing your time, talent and treasures in various capacities has made the foundation stronger and more effective, and we deeply appreciate that.

Since 1994 the foundation has supported Perry Township Schools through the solicitation of donations. That support includes providing more than \$1.2 million in teacher grants to fund innovative and creative educational ideas in the classroom.

As with any agency, there have been peaks and valleys in our ongoing success. However, over the past two years the foundation has made major strides in setting the stage for expanding future successes that will benefit our students.

We feel positive about what we can accomplish in 2017 for the benefit our students.

As you finalize your financial plans for 2016, we hope that you keep the foundation in mind. We provide a wonderful way of impacting the education of our students, and as you know, there is no better investment we can make than supporting the development of our country's future leaders.

We thank you for all you have done for the foundation in the past, and we hope we can work together in the future to make Perry Township education the best that it can be.

Chuck Stumpf

Do you have a letter to the editor? Email it to [Scott.Mohr@southsidervoice.com](mailto:Scott.Mohr@southsidervoice.com) or drop it off at 6025 Madison Ave., Suite B. Deadline for submission is Monday, 5 p.m.

AWARD RECIPIENT



Indiana Republican State Chairman Jeff Cardwell has presented the State Chairman's Award to Cindy Mowery in recognition of three decades of outstanding service to the GOP and to citizens of central Indiana.

Mowery, who has served as a board member of the Marion County Board of Voters Registration since 1987, received the award Dec. 16 at the Indiana Republican Headquarters. She has worked on various campaigns and Republican initiatives over the past 30 years.

"Cindy Mowery represents the best of those who serve our party and our community," Cardwell said. "She has been a true servant for the people, providing exceptional leadership to the party and an unwavering commitment to championing Republican principles and ideals."

Moving forward (Continued from Page 1)

strength as she could, forced herself to drive from her Greenwood home to the florist she owned in Franklin and get busy with trying to create a new routine.

Daily she tried to find a new sense of normalcy in her empty home.

On the first anniversary of Mike's death, family members gathered at his grave site with Chinese lanterns and balloons. This was a healing way to honor the man loved by so many.

In 2011, while Coffman innocently stood at the counter designing arrangements, a friend stopped in and asked the exact same question that Coffman heard more than a year earlier.

Would she be willing to meet a great guy who lost his spouse to breast cancer?

The first time, Coffman quickly refused. Her heart still wasn't willing to do anything more than grieve. However, the second time she was asked the same question, it caught her attention.

"I thought, 'Well this might be a God thing,'" Coffman said. "I said yes, I would go out with him."

After losing his first bride to breast cancer, Bill Harbert understood the love Coffman still felt for Mike. He understood all the other painful parts of being alone after the grandchildren are old enough not to visit much anymore.

They spoke openly about the loneliness attached to being alone in retirement.

After a five-year courtship, Coffman and Harbert began a new life chapter together.

"Bill is a good Christian man, and that means so much to me," Coffman said happily. "He is just a jewel, just like Mike was."

For the last three years Harbert has accompanied his new wife to the cemetery on Dec. 20.

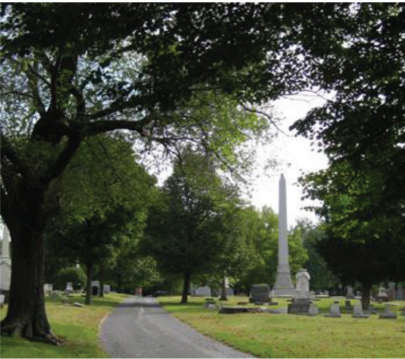
Then they go home to their new life.

A couple of months ago the couple visited New York City. Coffman posted photos of herself with her husband resting on a park bench in Central Park and posing for a selfie with "Today Show" host Hoda Kotb.

They also escape the Hoosier cold by enjoying the Florida sunshine.

"I'm not lonely anymore," Coffman said. "I have someone to take care of me. And I do my best to be a good wife to Bill."

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## AUCTIONS

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# FC boys edge Falcons; lady Cardinals win

By Al Stilley  
Senior staff writer

Franklin Central senior Grant Pedigo powered the Flashes to a 66-65 home win Dec. 16 against Southside rival Perry Meridian.

Pedigo, a seasoned 6-6 scorer and rebounding threat, overcame the Falcons' collapsing defenses with precision. He scored 23 points, hitting 10-of-15 shots, while manning the high post. The Flashes are 2-1 heading into the Bob Wettig Tournament in Richmond, which runs through Friday.

Pedigo put up 10 points and grabbed three rebounds to help the Flashes grab an 18-13 first-quarter lead. The Falcons came back and grabbed a 54-53 lead on a Nate Mills jam. Pedigo's follow-up on Jake Cerbone's missed shot was the game winner with 14.5 seconds left.

"Most of my points came from the inside," said Pedigo, who drew four defenders at times. "We got away from what we started in the first half when we were up by three. We went back to that in the fourth quarter. I tried to man the ball more in the middle and get to the rim. ... A win is a win, but I think we should have played better defense."

Trailing by one point, the Falcons (3-3) missed two free throws with five seconds left with FC's Wilson Huber grabbing the rebound to ice the game.

Jaylon Howard, a 5-9 senior, came off the bench and scored 17 for the Flashes, who also rely upon Mason Hardiman and Cerbone for offense.

"We have three or four players who can fill it up with 3s, but that didn't happen against Perry Meridian," said FC coach John Rockey. That was a good win for us; we're 2-0 in the conference."

Mills led Perry Meridian with 17 points and six rebounds; Semaj Danley II and David Jackson chipped in 12 and 11 points, respectively.

"We gave their shooters too much comfort, and they got into a rhythm," Perry Meridian coach Brent Keck said. "We have all the pieces to have a good basketball team. You get in a game like this and it's never decided on just one possession. We have a lot to look at."

## Cardinals hang for win

FC's girls team surged in the fourth quarter but could not overcome a 16-point Southport lead Dec. 17 as the Cardinals hung on for a 56-53 Conference Indiana win.

The Flashes trimmed Southport's lead to 55-53 on a 3-point shot by freshman Katy Larson with 26 seconds left in the game. Andrea Vidaurre added a free throw for the final margin. FC missed a 3-point shot at the buzzer.

"We had to play four quarters," FC coach Brian Hacker said. "We're not playing other counties; we're playing Marion County basketball. And if you don't show up for one quarter, you'll get beat. We have players who help us on one side of the ball but not the other side. They have to buy into the consistency that we need."

Southport senior Emma DeHart scored 13 of her game-high 24 points in the second quarter as the Cardinals rang up a 32-20 halftime lead. Vidaurre scored 12 points and 6-3 center Jaelencia Williams 10 points and six rebounds.

"Conference road win ... and they don't give those out for free," Southport first-year coach Bert Collins said. "We came back from two tough losses. We came out and were mentally tough except for the last two minutes. I like the direction we're headed."

Collins pointed out that junior Savannah Edington has blossomed into a starter and classmate Grace Branson has improved her defense and hit a 3-point shot in the second quarter.

**Upcoming boys games:** Thursday, 9 a.m., Greenwood Christian vs Indian Creek at Monrovia Tourney through Friday; Franklin Central in Richmond Tourney through Friday; Friday, 7:30 p.m., Greenwood at Center Grove; Chataud at Roncalli; New Palestine at Beech Grove Tourney; 10:30 a.m., Perry Meridian at Shelbyville Tourney.

**Girls games:** Wednesday, 7:30 p.m., Franklin Central at Lawrence North, Manual at Decatur Central, Ritter at Lutheran, Roncalli at Covenant Christian Tourney, Thursday, 12:30 p.m., Southport vs. Wapahani at East Central Tourney through Friday; 7 p.m., Tri-County (Mich.) at Greenwood Christian.



SOUTHSIDER VOICE PHOTOS BY AL STILLELY  
Franklin Central coach Brian Hacker urges the Flashes to pick up the pace after a slow start Dec. 17 against visiting Southport. The Flashes fell 56-53 in the Southside duel.



First-year Southport coach Bart Collins guided the Cardinals to a 56-53 win Dec. 17 at Franklin Central. The Cardinals stopped a Flashes comeback for their sixth win in 10 games.

# Flashes, Trojans second in county swim meets

By Al Stilley  
Senior staff writer

Franklin Central's girls and boys swimming and diving teams took second place in the Marion County tournament Dec. 17 at the Indiana University Natatorium at IUPUI.

The Flashes trailed champion North Central 502-339 in the girls meet and 390-251.5 in the boys meet.

Sophomore Rachel Schiffler led the Flashes by winning the 50-yard freestyle (24.36 seconds) and 100 butterfly (57.72). Teammate Jamie Leming won the 100 backstroke (59.82) by one-hundredth of a second and was second in the 100 freestyle.

The Flashes were second in the 400 freestyle relay and third in the 200 freestyle and 200 medley relays with Schiffler, Leming, Regan Schiffler, Elise Miller, Kathryn Matthes, Grace Lawrence and Abbe Hershberger. Matthes was third in the 200 individual medley. Diver Carley Divish was third.

Perry Meridian freshman diver April Adams was second and junior Natalie Monroe third in the 100 butterfly.

Roncalli's Ashley Harter was runner-up in the 500 freestyle, and the Rebels' 400 freestyle relay team was third.

Perry Meridian was fourth, Roncalli seventh, Southport 12th and Beech Grove 14th.

In the boys meet the Flashes were second in the 200 medley and 400 freestyle relays with Matthew Monday, Adam and Joseph Brabender, Nathan Boomershine and Samuel Handy. Monday was second in the 100 backstroke.

Southport's Andrew Shellenberger dominated the 500 freestyle, winning by 46.35 seconds. Teammate Drew Reinke was second in the 200 freestyle. The 200 medley relay was third.

Perry Meridian's Noah Coomler won the 50 freestyle by one-hundredth of a second and the 100 freestyle. He was on the winning 200 freestyle relay with teammates Luke Smith, Kameron Overley and Nick Webber.

Beech Grove was second in the 200 freestyle relay with Brenton Strahla, Janis Vuskalns, Jack Ulery and Logan Boyce. Vuskalns and Strahla were third in the 100 butterfly and 100 freestyle, respectively.

Southport was fourth, Perry Meridian fifth, Beech Grove sixth and Roncalli seventh.

## CG runners-up

Center Grove placed second in the Johnson County girls and boys swimming and diving championships Dec. 17 at Indian Creek.

Trojans diver Sarah Kempf spoiled champion Franklin's sweep of individual events by scoring 385.85 points en route to winning the title.

Greenwood was fourth in the boys meet and fifth in girls competition.

# Justice complete in Richmond Hill blast

Monserrate Shirley was among five criminals who were involved in the plot

By Al Stilley  
Senior staff writer

Justice has been served in the aftermath of the tragic November 2012 explosion in the Richmond Hill subdivision that killed one couple and destroyed or damaged nearly 100 homes.

Marion County Superior Court Judge Sheila Carlisle sentenced homeowner Monserrate Shirley, 51, to 50 years in prison for her role in a planned insurance fraud home explosion that killed neighbors Dion and Jennifer Longworth.

Don Longworth, Dion's father, and Don Buxton, Jennifer's father, were among several Richmond Hill residents in the courtroom when sentencing was announced Dec. 20. Buxton's daughter was a teacher

at Southwest Elementary School in Greenwood, where the media center was renamed in her memory.

Shirley was among five criminals who were involved in the plot. Shortly after charges were filed, the former nurse pleaded guilty to two counts of conspiracy to commit arson and having 50 charges dropped in exchange for her testimony.

Co-conspirators, then-boyfriend Mark Leonard and his half-brother, John Leonard, have been sentenced to life in prison without parole for masterminding the plot. Accomplice Gary Thompson was sentenced earlier to 20 years. Sentencing was expected earlier this week for accomplice Glenn Hulst, who pleaded guilty to a felony in the case, and would conclude legal action against those who took part in the explosion.

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