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The SouthsiderVoice

The Voice of the Southside

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Wednesday, December 29, 2021 – Tuesday, January 4, 2022

Vol. 13, No. 44

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"Let them praise your great and awesome name. Your name is Holy!"
Psalm 99:3 NLT



God Bless America!

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Quote of the Week:

"Why do they call it rush hour when nothing moves?"

– Robin Williams

Part of I-69 reconfigured near I-465

Full story on Page 2



Duhamell inducted into Edgewood's Hall of Fame

Full coverage on Page 3



Donation of toys go to tornado victims



(SUBMITTED PHOTOS) Volunteers of the People Helping People Network loaded toys to be delivered to the children affected by the horrific tornadoes in Bowling Green, Kentucky. Helpers in front of the truck are Todd Scoggins, left, Frank Gilson, Senator John Crane, Danny Day and Rich Van Paris. Back are Dave Smith and Danny Day, Jr. Below Crane and Jeff Cardwell, founder of People Helping People Network, load boxes of gifts into a truck at Cardwell Do-It Best Home Center, 3205 Madison Ave. If you would like to donate to the non-profit, go to phpnetwork.org



CG's Caden Curry: 'Now, it's all for the Buckeyes'



(SOUTHSIDER VOICE PHOTOS BY AL STILLEY) Center Grove senior and Mr. Indiana Football runner-up Caden Curry, sporting a Ohio State t-shirt, with parents Maria and Chris Curry, announces his choice of Ohio State University where he will play NCAA Division 1 football in 2022.

By Al Stilley
Editor

"From the beginning, I kind of set them (OSU) as my bar and based everything off it."

– Caden Curry

After announcing his college football future on a national cable network Dec. 14, Center Grove High School lineman Caden Curry - a top 100 prospect of the 2022 national recruiting class - gave a sigh of relief. After all, OSU was the first NCAA Division 1 program to offer him a scholarship and the Buckeyes are the last team standing alongside the 6-5, 245-pound Indiana Mr. Football runner-up.

"It's a big weight off my chest," Curry said. "Now it's all for the Buckeyes." He will be in Florida with friends through next week before reporting to OSU on Jan. 10 for spring semester classes, physical conditioning, and spring football practice.

Curry finished his career by achieving the Trojans goal of capturing a historic second consecutive IHSAA 6A championship in Lucas Oil Stadium.

He drew praise from CGHS coach Eric Moore for the way he handled his team aspirations and waded through the recruiting process.

"He did it the right way," Moore said. "He came to my office in July and he said he really wanted to win state, that he wasn't going to put in much time on the recruiting stuff and put all his time in on winning."

Curry's decision was solidified after attending the Penn State game Oct. 30 at Buckeye Stadium.

"From the beginning, I kind of set them (OSU) as my bar and based everything off it," Curry said. "I'm not going to have high expectations going into a big program. I'll have to work really hard, do the lifting and get as big as I can."

Curry joins one of OSU's best recruiting classes and will be a teammate with former Beech Grove High School lineman Josh Fryar, who talked with him occasionally through the recruiting process.

Coaches from OSU and Indiana University visited with Curry last week. I.U. and

See "Caden Curry," on Page 2



Students, teammates, and coaches were on hand in the Center Grove High School cafeteria where senior Caden Curry announced his future as a collegiate football player.

Southport's Schott earns 6A all-state recognition from coaches despite the Cardinal's 0-10 season



(SUBMITTED PHOTO) Southport's Charlie Schott (52) draw raves from coaches for his line play on offense for the Cardinals.

By Bob White
Community Outreach

Southport's Charlie Schott earned 6A all-state football recognition from the Indiana Football Coaches Association despite the Cardinals' 0-10 season. The closest Southport came to winning a game was against Terre Haute North, 28-21 on Oct. 1 at Cardinal Stadium.

Schott was named a member of the 2021 6A all-state football team and also was named a member of the Conference Indiana all conference team for the second time.

He played offensive line where he had 36 pancake blocks and also was called upon to throw a pass for 32 yards. He also shined on defense where he blocked a fieldgoal and had a quarterback sack.

Even with the Cardinals winless season Charlie was still honored for his outstanding ability and leadership. He even played special teams as a punter where he averaged 31 yards a punt.

"Charlie will be successful in whatever he decides to do and where he decides to play college ball. He and I made a goal last season for him to be all-state and he was able to accomplish this goal through his work ethic, passion, intensity and his teammates," said offensive line coach Micah Brown.

He also added, "Charlie has always been a very gifted player and one of the most athletic offensive linemen I have ever had the pleasure to coach. He hasn't made his college choice yet, but is drawing interest from Marian University and UIIndy."

2021 Indiana Football Coaches awards

Dave Ladd Coach of the Year: **Eric Moore**, Center Grove
1A Coach of the Year: **Dave Pasch**, Lutheran

Mr. Football Position Players
Def. line: **Caden Curry**, Center Grove
Def. back: **Jake Pasch**, Lutheran

Top 50 All-State
Off. line: **Sam Buras**, Center Grove
Quarterback: **Montasi Clay**, Lutheran
Running back: **Drew Wheat**, Center Grove
Def. line: **Curry**
Def. line: **James Schott**, Center Grove
Def. back: **Mitchell Evans**, Center Grove
Def. Back: **Pasch**

6A Senior All-State
Off. line: **Mason Cook**, Franklin Central
Tight end: **Shane Bennett**, Center Grove
Running back: **Aataevon Jordan**, Franklin Central
Def. line: **Charlie Schott**, Southport

4A Senior All-State
Off. line: **Grant Ray**, Roncalli
Wide receiver: **Kyle Lockard**, Roncalli
Quarterback: **Aidan Leffler**, Roncalli
Linebacker: **Tyson Garrett**, Roncalli

1A Senior All-State
Off. line: **Christian Pulliam**, Lutheran

Open to the public! **50's Rock & Roll New Years Eve Party** with Alan Cochran & The Crestliners
Friday, Dec. 31st (9 pm-Midnight) Open at 7 pm for dinner & short order dining
Johnson County Shrine Club, 751 W. King St., Franklin, IN - Admission \$15

Part of I-69 reconfigured near I-465

By Al Stille
Editor

Indiana Department of Transportation's I-69 Finish Line is in its beginning stages in the Southside and in western Johnson county. I-69 follows the Ind. 37 footprint in both counties up to I-465 where a new interchange will be built between White River and Harding St. (Ind.37) that will be reconfigured for business access.

INDOT also announced some construction changes in that area that are different from the approved plan:

- Epler Avenue will go over I-69 instead of under the interstate.
- Belmont Avenue will be realigned west of I-69 instead of closed between Epler and Edgewood avenues.
- Edgewood Avenue will close permanently with construction of a cul-de-sac east of I-69.
- The shared-use path along County Line Road has shifted to the north side of the road and a sidewalk was added along the south side.
- A raised median will prevent County Line Road motorists from making left turns between I-69 and Morris Road.
- Construction of these improvements will require closures of Belmont and Epler avenues for part of 2022.
- A new local connector road is now open west of Ind. 37 between Wicker Road and Glens Valley Lane. Crews expect to shift Ind. 37 traffic to new pavement and bridges between Belmont Avenue and Fairview Road in 2022. Motorists should expect to see continued I-69 construction all along Ind. 37 in 2022, including new interchanges at County Line and Southport roads.
- The Keystone Avenue bridge replacement



(COURTESY OF INDOT)
Epler Avenue will go over I-69 instead of under the interstate.

over I-465 is complete. Carson Avenue, Madison Avenue, Mann Road, and Mooresville Road Bypass overpasses will be replaced in phases throughout 2022 to minimize local detours.

Where the new I-69 meets I-465, a large utility line is being installed and large amounts of material will be moved and compacted for the future interchange ramps.

I-69 through Martinsville opened recently in a ceremony led by Indiana Gov. Eric Holcomb.

A new INDOT video shows the advancement of I-69, design refinements, and 2022. I-69 Finish Line includes eight miles of I-465 and upgrades to about four miles of Ind. 37 on the Southside and is expected to be open to traffic in late 2024.

I-69 Finish Line video and info: indot.in.gov.



(COURTESY OF INDOT)
A new connector road (maroon) is now open west of Ind. 37 between Wicker Road and Glens Valley Lane with future I-69 access to the south.



Personal Recollections By Fred Shonk

Fred is enjoying the holidays, and will be back next week!

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MOORE SETS REBOUND RECORD

SINGLE GAME BLOCK RECORD
9 BLOCKS
#33 Malone Moore

(SUBMITTED PHOTO)
Beech Grove High School sophomore forward Malone Moore set a Hornets single-game rebound record with nine rebounds in a 34-14 win against visiting Shortridge earlier this month as the team won their second game. Moore also is a standout pitcher on the softball team.

Caden Curry

(Continued from Page 1)
Alabama were among his final three.

"Telling them (I.U.) definitely hurt and hurt coach Allen but a (decision) had to be made at some point," Curry admitted.

One of 28 Trojan football seniors, Curry made 65 tackles with 24 for losses behind the line of scrimmage, and seven sacks this season. He finished his four-year CGHS career with 290 tackles, 83.5 for a loss, and 28 sacks.

He was among three finalists for Indiana's Mr. Football, including winner Gibson Southern quarterback Brady Allen, a Purdue recruit, and Westfield running back Micah Hauser. Center Grove running back Carson Steele, now playing for Ball State University, was the 2020 Indiana Mr. Football.

Curry's football journey that began in CG youth football and continued through middle school and high school has reached OSU where he will prepare for the ultimate football future in the NFL.

One day after Curry's announcement, five teammates signed NCAA Division 1 letters-of-intent, including James Schott, Michigan State; Kalen Carroll, Cincinnati; Sam Buras, Ball State; Shane Bennett, Indiana State; and Tayven Jackson, Tennessee.

TheSouthsiderVoice

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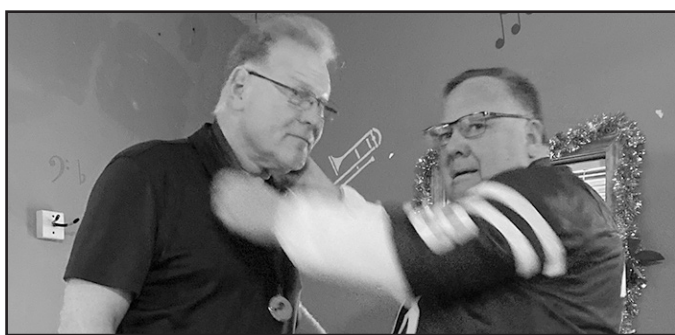
Friends of Edgewood inducts more into its Hall of Fame

A ceremony was held at Monkey Business, the old Harry C's, on Dec. 18 to honor more inductees into Edgewood Elementary's Hall of Fame. Organizer, Ted Lobdell said, "Our Friends of Edgewood Hall of Fame is really gaining steam. We are getting more and more interest in our events. Bob White and I are currently looking for players who went to Edgewood from 1974 to 1980. We want to be able to recognize these athletes that closed the history of Edgewood. We want to keep the tradition alive by honoring them." If you are one of these athletes, or know of one, please contact Ted at 317-697-4877 or Bob at 317-560-1769. The next induction is scheduled for March 12, 2022.



(SOUTHSIDER VOICE PHOTOS BY BOB WHITE)

The Duhamell brothers, Jim, Jeff and Jerry. Jeff was inducted in the fall for his basketball career and Jerry is proudly wearing his medal for his baseball and basketball careers. Below, Jerry is with his family. Rick Eldridge, Matt, Savannah, Amy, Jerry and Donna Duhamell, and Kim Duhamell Eldridge after the ceremony.

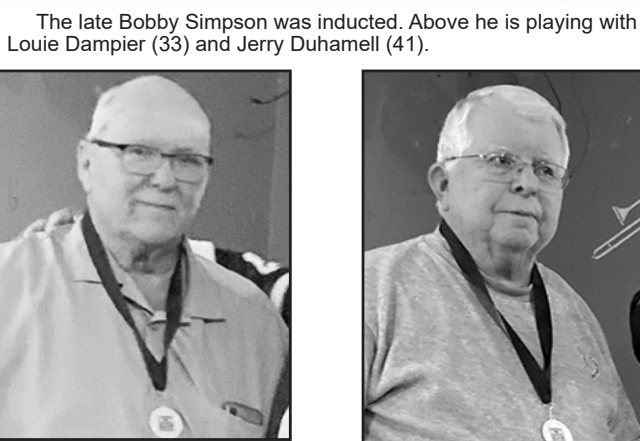


Longtime Perry Township educator Dick Chew, left, was inducted by Ted Lobdell for his countless hours played on the outside courts

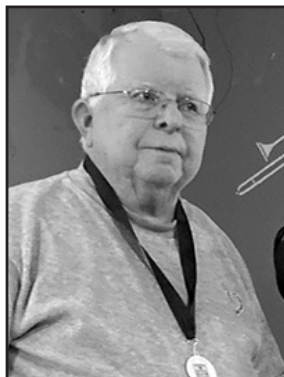
A Wild Scramble



Southport's Bobby Simpson (31) and Washington's Ralph Taylor (40) went after this loose ball in last night's championship game at Southport along with Continental's Clark Dickerson (20). Closing in on the trio are Louie Dampier (33) and Jerry Duhamell (41) of Southport.



Charlie Hylton spoke on behalf of Bobby Simpson and his family.



Fred Shonk spoke on behalf of Jesse Blackwell.



Inductee Joe Beal was Marion County Athlete of the Year in 1959 for excellence in football, basketball and baseball.



Joe Simpson's sons, Kerry and Kevin, received the medal from Ted Lobdell on their late father's behalf.

Reminiscing

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

Reminiscing will return next week!

Southside OBITUARIES

PAUL R. ARNES, JR., 76, wife, Anna Arnes; children, Steven Arnes, Cynthia Jordan and Michele Bridgeforth; four grandchildren; four great-grandchildren; siblings, Theresa Whitesell, David and Marvin Arnes.

ROBERT W. "BOB" BADER, 95, widower of Wilma Bader; children, Robert Bader, Nancy Smith and Cynthia Dall; 11 grandchildren; 14 great-grandchildren; three great-great-grandchildren.

TRENTON C. BALLENTINE, 48, wife, Dee Dee Ballentine; sons, Skylar Ballentine and Coleton Sears; one granddaughter; parents, Paul and Teresa Ballentine.

MICHAEL JOHN BUSE, 75, wife, Janice Buse; children, Andrew Buse and Erin Thomas; six grandchildren.

MARIETTA BUSTLE, 92, widow of Earmon Bustle; children, Janet Downey, Joseph and Ronald Bustle; stepdaughter, Shirley McNeil; nine grandchildren; 18 great-grandchildren; siblings, Catherine Coffey-Jones, Patricia Brown, Sharon Hanley, Linda Craven and Steve Downs.

MICHAEL E. CANTWELL, 76, wife, Judy Cantwell; children, Jeffrey Cantwell and Amy Stahlman; five grandchildren.

ANNA "ANN" CHARLEBOIS, 93, widow of William "Bill" Charlebois; children, Linda, Thomas and Patrice Charlebois, Ellen Lane, Eileen Underwood; 11 grandchildren and great-grandchildren; sister, Agnes Domanokos.

JERRY BILL CORBIN, 78, wife Glendyn Corbin; children, Bryan and John Corbin, Lisa Spoor; six grandchildren; sister, Carol Reddish.

DEBBIE DUNLOP, 62.

DESSIE DEAN KEY DYE, 85, widow of Chester Brackin, Sr.; Lyle Key and Wayman Dye; children, Chester Brackin, Jr. and Jackie Smith; stepchildren, Rick Dye and Donna Eakle; 12 grandchildren; many step-grandchildren and great-grandchildren.

JUNE E. ELY, 87, widow of Isom "Jay" Ely; daughter, Tammy Brown; two grandchildren; two great-granddaughters.

ROBERT T. EMERSON, 59, children, Lyndsey Hornbrook, Brittany Allman, Justin Emerson; eight grandchildren; father, Robert Emerson; mother, Wanda Long; siblings, Sandra Knight and Christopher Emerson.

FREDDIE E. EVERMAN, 81, wife, Barbara Everman; children, Margie Walls, Retha Luther, Devonna Sturges, Randy Everman, Natalie Bowden, Gina Reisinger, Ashley Johnson, Alicia Cordova; 14 grandchildren; 25 great-grandchildren; siblings, Frank Everman Jr., Sandra Abney.

ANNA M. EVERROAD, 71, husband, Ralph Everroad; siblings, Judi Delk, Mary Moyer, Ruth White and John Miller.

JOHN WAYNE FINK, 72, wife, Lois Fink; children, Angela Fink and Monica Hendricks; four grandchildren; siblings, Janet Wilcoxon, Jerry Vaught, Michael and Mark Fink.

CHARLENE A. GALLERT, 79, widow of Victor Gallert; daughter, Leah Gallert; sisters, Farrelyn Finely and Shelley Ayer.

RUTH ELAINE AIKMAN MATHUS, 70, husband, Thomas Mathus; children, Shane Mathus, Jason and James Hicks; three grandchildren.

KEVIN DUANE MILES, 63, daughters, Amber and Aimee Miles.

RAY MIZE, 98, wife, Anna Mize; son, Donell Mize; three grandchildren; seven great-grandchildren; five great-great-grandchildren.

MARSHALL ROGER MOORE SR., 74, children, Mary and Marshall Moore, Jr.; three grandchildren.

SANDER MARSHALL MORELAND, 57, wife, Janell Brown; sisters, Kelly Miller, Jayne Byrd, Shannon Caldwell.

JAMES "TODD" NEELY, 53, parents, Donna and Milton Gossett; son, Christopher Neely; sister, Tiffany Neely; two grandchildren.

ROBERT P. NELSON JR., M.D., 67, sister, Karen Nelson Moser.

HELEN MARIE COLLIER NICCUM, 81, children, Alan Niccum, Sheri Gore and Nicole Rogers; life partner, Terry Rush; siblings, Robert Lambert and Carol Detling; many grandchildren and great-grandchildren.

JOHN HARRY PREY, 79, widower of Erica Prey; children, Jennifer Wargel, Michael Prey, Michelle Corbin, Robin Lanford; brothers, Mark and Paul Prey; five grandchildren.

MELISSA SUE ROBINETTE, 41, husband, Adam Robinette; children, Zavier, Jazmin and Kirsten Robinette; parents, Gary and Karen Collins; brother, Sean Collins; grandmother, Wilma Collins.

MARY DELLA WICKS SHEPHERD, 90, widow of Abe Shepherd; children, Dolly Somers and Mark Stiles; five grandchildren; 14 great-grandchildren; seven great-great-grandchildren.

THOMAS GENTRY SIMMS, 79, wife, Carol "Susie" Simms; children, Jeffrey Simms and Christina Naughton; five grandchildren; three great-grandchildren; sisters, Polly Jones and Terri Simms.

MARY JO SPALDING, 65, daughter, Debra Spaulding; siblings, Gary, Cathy and John Beaman; one granddaughter; two great-grandchildren.

RUBY WALTERS SHIRLEY, 100, son, Robert Shirley; sister, Doris Whitaker; two granddaughters; four great-grandchildren; two great-great-grandchildren.

CHARLES EDWARD "ED" STILES, 62, wife, Dawn Stiles; daughter, Tiffany Stiles; siblings, Allen, Tina and Dustin Stiles, Debi Wilhelm, Betty Jones, Kay Turner, Kim Finnerty, Starla Cornwell, Wendy Robbins; two grandchildren.

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Aspire economic group sets priorities for state legislature

Pandemic-related health and safety mandates and mass transit infrastructure are the priorities of Johnson County's development engine, Aspire Economic Development + Chamber Alliance, for the 2022 Indiana Legislature.

The organization represents the interests of Greenwood and Johnson County business and industry leaders.

"It is not by happenstance that Indiana's reputation as a top state for business continues to soar," explained Aspire President and CEO Christian Maslowski in a press release. "Our sensible regulatory environment has most certainly contributed to this stardom."

"But now employers sit at the crosshairs of pandemic recovery strategies, particularly regarding vaccine mandates. As businesses staff-up for full pandemic recovery, we ask legislators to honor its well-served legacy of sensibility as they consider pandemic-related regulatory matters."

Maslowski continued, "Moreover, people are the new currency of business. So, it is critical Indiana allows local communities the ability to invest in community development projects they believe will spur local talent attraction and retention. Indy area residents and business leaders agree public investment in transit infrastructure supports workforce and neighborhood development."

Aspire provided the background for their emphasis on the two concerns.

Aspire supports the freedom of businesses to create health and safety standards that work for their individual companies' pandemic response. Hoosier businesses value their ability to operate with limited government interference. Employers are equipped and informed to decide how health and safety guidance best fit their businesses, employees, and customers.

Aspire supports the development, availability, and accessibility of public transportation options. Our business community supports the funding, building, and utilization of methods such as mass transit and related infrastructure investments. For businesses to run smoothly, employees need safe and reliable transportation to and from work. Aspire actively supports alternative methods of transportation to assist in this effort. Alternative forms of transportation can also serve as a quality of place tool to aid in economic development, talent attraction and retention.

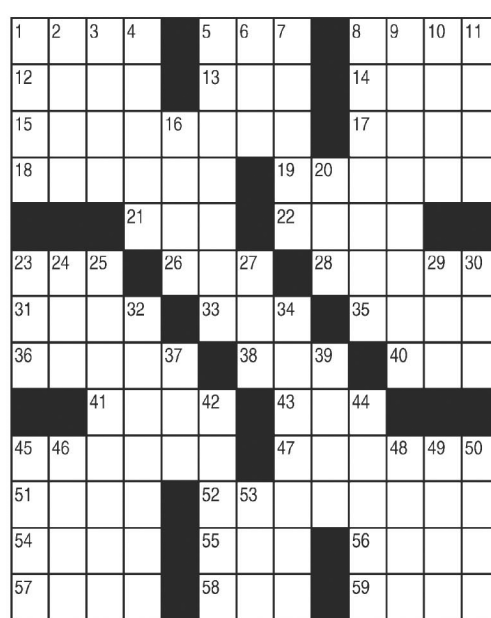
The organization helps leverage community development opportunities to attract, retain, and expand businesses in the county, including Greenwood.

Info: AspireJohnsonCounty.com.

King Crossword

ACROSS

- 1 "Mamma Mia!" group
- 5 Apprehend
- 8 Colorful fish
- 12 Clay-rich soil
- 13 Blunder
- 14 Portrayal
- 15 Democrat or Republican
- 17 Radiate
- 18 Faucet
- 19 Arouse
- 21 Fireworks reaction
- 22 Delany or Carvey
- 23 Venomous viper
- 26 Zodiac cat
- 28 Passenger
- 31 Prosperous time
- 33 Knock
- 35 Pepsi competitor
- 36 Soothe
- 38 Tatter
- 40 Actor Danson
- 41 A long time
- 43 Bugging device
- 45 Tranquil
- 47 Pencil end
- 51 Impulse carrier
- 52 Multiple marriage
- 54 Expectorate



- 55 Ailing
- 56 Malaria symptom
- 57 Pop
- 58 Oklahoma city
- 59 Untouchable Eliot
- 6 Curved path
- 7 Wide
- 8 Occurring naturally
- 9 Bikini pattern?
- 10 Lotion additive
- 11 Chopped
- 16 Implement
- 20 Card game for two
- 23 Lawyers' org.
- 24 Scale member
- 25 Edwin Land's company
- 27 Rowing need
- 29 — out a living
- 30 Primary color
- 32 Purplish
- 30-Down
- 34 Kneecap
- 37 Longing
- 39 Indiana city
- 42 Brownish tone
- 44 Heathen
- 45 Back talk
- 46 World's fair
- 48 Wise one
- 49 Ostriches' kin
- 50 Deli loaves
- 53 On in years

DOWN

- 1 Swiss peaks
- 2 Animated Betty
- 3 Java neighbor
- 4 Chihuahua
- 5 "— a borrower er ..."

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: A equals S

WFSMFSB FQ ZGQDZKZET ZIAT QN
AVHHZAAWVEET RIFE QIGFA, F'M
AIT KT CDNRZD RIA QRZ BFWQ
NW HIC.

HOROSCOPE

ARIES (March 21 to April 19) You might feel bolder as each new success falls into place. But caution is still advised through the end of the week. Until then, a step-by-step approach is best.

TAURUS (April 20 to May 20) That cooperation you request could come at too high a price. Since few can beat the Bovine at being clever and resourceful, why not see what you can do on your own?

GEMINI (May 21 to June 20) Aspects favor a quieter time spent getting closer to the people who are especially important to you. There's always much more to learn and appreciate about each other.

CANCER (June 21 to July 22) The concerned Crab will act to resolve workplace misunderstandings before they get out of hand and cause more-serious problems. Co-workers rally to support your efforts.

LEO (July 23 to August 22) What the Big Cat might see as a disturbing act of disloyalty might just be a failure of communication on both sides. Take time for mediation rather than confrontation.

VIRGO (August 23 to September 22) Be more patient with those who seem unwilling to accept your version of what's right. The fact is, there's a lot more to learn on all sides of this issue.

LIBRA (September 23 to October 22) It should be easier to assess the facts you'll need to make an important decision. But don't commit if you still have doubts. There could be more you need to know.

SCORPIO (October 23 to November 21) Your excitement level remains high as you continue working on that new project. Expect some setbacks. But on the whole, all will move pretty much on schedule.

SAGITTARIUS (November 22 to December 21) It might be wise to be more prudent with expenses right now. But your financial situation should soon clear up, and you could be back shopping, happily as ever.

CAPRICORN (December 22 to

January 19) You might prefer sticking with your current schedule. But some newly emerging information could persuade you to consider a change. Keep an open mind.

AQUARIUS (January 20 to February 18) You might want to reject a suggested change. But it could be wise to go with the flow, at least for a while. You can always return to your first plan if you like.

PISCES (February 19 to March 20) You're bolstered by both the practical and poetic sides of your nature as you maneuver through some unsettled emotional situations. Things ease up by week's end.

BORN THIS WEEK: People reach out to your generosity and wisdom, and consider you a treasured and trusted friend.



Solution time: 25 mins.

Answers

King Crossword
— of cab.
say my brother has the gift
successfully hail taxis, I'd
Finding it extremely easy to
ANSWER
CryptoQuip

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Hoosier duo Stewart-Briscoe poised for NASCAR's NextGen car



(SUBMITTED PHOTO) The new No. 14 NASCAR Cup Ford, left, and No. 14 Chili Bowl midget car, sponsored by Mahindra Tractors, flank team co-owner Tony Stewart, Stewart-Haas team driver Chase Briscoe, and Mahindra president and CEO Viren Popli on the frontstretch at the Indianapolis Motor Speedway.

By Al Stilley
Editor

The Hoosier duo of NASCAR Cup co-team owner Tony Stewart of Columbus and second-year driver Chase Briscoe of Mitchell agree that they are prepared to cope with the new NextGen car.

Stewart and Briscoe, the 2019 NASCAR Xfinity and 2021 NASCAR Cup rookie of the year, were at the Indianapolis Motor Speedway recently to unveil the new No. 14 Ford Mustang with first-time sponsor Mahindra Tractors, an appropriate deal for Stewart who already has put the machinery to use on his 414-acre ranch.

Cup drivers have tested the new NextGen Fords, Chevrolets, and Toyotas at Charlotte and Daytona in anticipation of the Daytona 500, Sunday, Feb. 20.

Stewart and Briscoe firmly believe that the southern Indiana driver's dirt-track racing experience in midgets and sprints (similar to Stewart) will give him a slight advantage against Cup drivers who do not have grassroots dirt-track experience. The new NextGen cars are considered less forgiving than the previous Cup cars.

Briscoe explained, "You're going to have to drive this car on more of a ragged edge than what we currently have. The changes NASCAR is making gives us a little more feel for the racecar. Once we get to the point we can feel it, that dirt-track background of slipping and sliding around will help, for sure."

Stewart, who was aware of Briscoe's dirt-track prowess, added, "It gives him a better advantage than some of the other guys. If that car gets out from under him a little bit, it doesn't make him nervous; he knows he has to make an adjustment. He may crash a car or two finding that edge, but he will know how to find that edge and stay there."

Briscoe is a third-generation Hoosier driver. Stewart raced against Briscoe's dad, Kevin, in USAC sprints and in non-wing cars. Briscoe came up through the grassroots dirt tracks but adapted quickly to stock cars by winning the 2016 ARCA championship and the 2019 NASCAR Xfinity Series, winning a season-high nine races with Stewart-Haas Racing.

Briscoe, 26, is part of NASCAR's new breed of young drivers that includes 2020 Cup champion Chase Elliott and 2021 champ Kyle Larson plus Ryan Blaney, Tyler Reddick, Erik Jones, Austin Cindric, and Ryan Preece.

The Mahindra Tractors sponsorship also will be on Briscoe's No. 14 midget car in the famed Chili Bowl dirt race in Tulsa, Okla., Jan. 10-15. Stewart showed he can still win a midget car race after capturing an indoor race last weekend in the Fort Wayne Coliseum.

Talking with Tony, he reacted to the death of four-time Indy 500 winner Al Unser and called him "a tough racer." Stewart also admitted that "I feel I was born 20 years too late," because he would have enjoyed racing on dirt and pavement against Al and Bobby Unser, A.J. Foyt, and Mario Andretti.

Recently married to NHRA driver Leah Pruett, Stewart said, "It took 50 years to get married, but she was worth the wait."

Channel 13's Rich Nye asked what he got her for Christmas. His quick reply was "a race team," referring to Tony Stewart Racing's new NHRA team with Pruett in a Top Fuel dragster and a Funny Car for Matt Hagan for 2022.

GCA RETIRES REED'S NO. 12 JERSEY



(SUBMITTED PHOTO)

The No. 12 jersey worn by Greenwood Christian Academy standout Izzy Reed, middle, was retired recently during on-court ceremonies, the first player to have a jersey retired in GCA history. Reed is with, from left, dad Neal Reed, GCA athletic director Devin Gray, mom Olivia (Oxley) Reed, who remains among Greenwood High School's leading career scorers, and GCA girls basketball coach Alan Weems. A freshman student-athlete at Indiana Wesleyan University, Reed is Johnson County's all-time leading scorer (2,056 points) and rebounder (1,336) and 2020 county player of the year. Former Cougar and Reed teammate Alexis Mead (not pictured) was honored with the unveiling of a 1,000-rebound banner.

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If You Think COVID-19 is No Longer Much of a Health Threat, Think Again

By Sarah Stelzner, M.D.
Pediatrician with Eskenazi Health



NBC News recently reported that more than 800,000 Americans have died from COVID-19, a total larger than the populations of Boston, Washington, D.C. or Seattle, and according to Johns Hopkins University, the U.S. is averaging more than 100,000 new coronavirus cases every day.

As the number of new positive tests remain at a high level, the same holds true for COVID-19 deaths and hospitalizations, so anyone who believes this deadly and merciless disease will soon be in our collective rear mirror hasn't been paying attention.

With more people than ever now eligible to receive COVID-19 vaccines and many restrictions associated with the pandemic being relaxed in the U.S. and around the world, it's easier than ever to believe that COVID-19 is on the run, but the facts dictate otherwise.

Although the majority of cases in the US have come from the Delta variant, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) announced that the recently discovered Omicron variant, now spreading rapidly and seen in at least 38 states including Indiana, accounts for 73 percent of the nation's coronavirus cases.

The responsibility to fight this terrible virus and eventually get it under control falls to each of us, which means observing social distancing, wearing a mask particularly indoors and in public, washing our hands thoroughly and often, and most of all getting vaccinated.

COVID-19 vaccines are effective at protecting us from this terrible virus. They help keep adults and children from getting seriously sick and reduce the risk of people spreading the virus that causes COVID-19. Getting everyone ages 5 years and older vaccinated can help the entire family, including siblings who are not eligible for vaccination and family members who may be at risk of getting very sick if they are infected.

COVID-19 vaccines teach our immune systems how to recognize and fight the virus that causes the coronavirus. It typically takes two weeks after vaccination for the body to build immunity against the virus that causes COVID-19.

The CDC also recommends that everyone 16 years old and older get a COVID-19 booster shot. If you received the two Pfizer-BioNTech or Moderna vaccines, you're eligible to receive a booster six months later. For those receiving the single Johnson & Johnson's Janssen vaccine, you may receive a booster shot after two months.

People who believe they may have been exposed to COVID-19 should contact their health care provider immediately. If you are ill with flu-like symptoms such as fever, cough or shortness of breath, please call your health center or clinic before coming to your appointment. If you are an Eskenazi Health patient, please call 317.880.7666 before coming to your appointment. Health care professionals are available 24/7 to answer questions on symptoms and direct you to the most appropriate care. It is important to first call before arriving at Eskenazi Health.

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