

**Celebrating 125 years
From the Recorder Archives
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Archive: IPS secure in decision to arm officers

By **FREDERICK L. MERKERSON III**
Staff Writer

When IPS officer Jameszetta Taylor surveys the corridors of Crispus Attucks Middle School, she receives a variety of reactions from students and faculty.

Although its her primary function, students don't just run up to the six-year IPS officer when they suspect misconduct. Children of all ages approach Officer Taylor or "O.T." as they like to call her to tell about boyfriends, grades, and their last basketball game.

While Taylor, 42, admits two or three kids like to give her problems, she said everyone recognizes her for her purpose and presence; not her pistol.

It's been over two months since the IPS Board of Commissioners unanimously decided to equip the school district's 87 patrol officers with Glock 9 mm semiautomatic weapons. IPS officials said the move was made to increase school security. Once a topic of intense debate, opposition has since decreased.

"I don't even care (that she has a gun). I think she does a great job of keeping everything under control," said Marvin Brown, 12, a seventh grader at Attucks.

Mary Louise Scheid, director of school and community relations said the IPS community has become more supportive of the decision as they further understand school officers need the same tools to do their job as officers that patrol the city. She added, "They also know that these officers spend a lot of their day building relationships with kids."

The relationship between Taylor and Attucks students is one of mutual respect. She recalled being approached by a group eighth-graders the first day she came to work armed.

There was no "Show-and-Tell."

"They said you're carrying a gun. And that was it," said Taylor. "They didn't get near me. They didn't try to touch it. They just went on about their business."

Superintendent Duncan "Pat" Pritchett said the one-day acknowledgment likely occurred in the majority of IPS schools. He added he has heard "virtually nothing" since.

"Officers have been responsible and doing their job," he said. "I think we made the right decision as it will help make our schools safer."

While Pritchett affirmed a teacher's confiscation of a .25 caliber handgun from a second grade student at School 11 in November, officials assert they are more concerned with outside violence coming into the school.

IPS officers say the guns are appropriate in case some type of violence would become an issue in a school building. A mother of one, Taylor said she understood parents initial concern that officers were not trained to carry the weapons, but added, "We did go through some pretty extensive training."

Officers were required to fulfill certain prerequisites such as psychological testing and state certification as a law enforcement officer. They also had to complete training in the use of firearms and qualifications with the weapon at the level of proficiency required by Indianapolis Police Department officers.

"Ten years from now people will see that it was a good idea (to be ready) for situations that might call for a gun," said Taylor. "It wasn't a big deal with the kids. Just because I carry this gun on my hip, it doesn't make my job any different."

"O.T." said she did remember one student commenting on her gun.

"He told me he felt safer," she said. "But I didn't take it to heart because I'm always going to get these kids safe."



By **BREANNA COOPER**
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The adjustment period is over. Individuals — not just businesses — now risk a hefty fine for failure to comply with Marion County's mask mandate, which took effect July 7.

During a press conference Aug. 11, Dr. Virginia Caine, director of the Marion County Public Health Department, said individuals and businesses not complying with the mask mandate potentially face a \$1,000 fine. Until now, only businesses were fined for not enforcing face coverings or social distancing.

"The time for education and warnings is over," Caine said. "We're looking to increase the number of people going out into the community to enforce [the mask mandate]. ... We need to get your attention."

The rate of COVID-19 cases, emergency room visits

and hospital admissions for COVID-19 in Marion County has decreased over the last week, Caine said. However, Caine urged county residents to continue to practice social distancing and wear masks in public.

"If we relax, these trends can change quickly," Caine said.

During the press conference, Mayor Joe Hogsett cited frustration at county residents not taking the pandemic seriously, specifically referencing an incident at Speedway's Speedrome on Aug. 8.

The Speedrome was filled to capacity for a race, far exceeding the health department's 25% capacity guideline, and has been fined \$1,000 for the infraction.

"The sight of spectators at a venue packing the stands without masks is beyond discouraging,"

See MASK, A2►



Hoosiers may have to vote in person during pandemic

By **TYLER FENWICK**
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Indiana is on track to be one of only a few states in the country to not expand mail-in voting for the November general election.

That's because Gov. Eric Holcomb, who allowed expanded mail-in voting for the delayed June primary, believes it will be safe for Hoosiers to go to the polls in November. Meanwhile, Indiana and other states are grappling with rising COVID-19 case totals as a result of reopening economies and getting people back to work in person.

It's that reopening Holcomb cites as the reason in-person voting will be safe.

"There are a lot of people out and about, whether it's working or going to the grocery or doing your lives, and they're doing it safely. And we can vote safely in person as well," he said during his weekly COVID-19 briefing Aug. 5.

There is a lot that could change in the three months before the election, but America has struggled to limit the spread of the new coronavirus, and voting rights advocates fear

See VOTE, A2►

'Black Lives Matter' mural defaced on Indiana Avenue

By **STAFF**

The Black Lives Matter mural on Indiana Avenue was defaced sometime late Aug. 8 or early Aug. 9 with streaks of white and gray paint across the letters.

Some people went to the mural to document the vandalism and voice their frustration. Police were also on the scene and collected evidence.

The mural was painted Aug. 1 by a group of local Black artists, who were paid for their work. Each artist painted one letter.

See MURAL, A2►



White and gray paint was streaked across letters on the "Black Lives Matter" mural on Indiana Avenue. (Photos/Tyler Fenwick)

DEFUND THE POLICE?

Hogsett's proposed budget gives IMPD more money



Mayor Joe Hogsett gives his virtual "state of the city" address and introduces his 2021 budget proposal to the city-county council Aug. 10.

By **TYLER FENWICK**
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Mayor Joe Hogsett's proposed 2021 budget includes a little more than \$261 million for Indianapolis Metropolitan Police Department —

See DEFUND, A9►



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MURAL

► Continued from A1

“The vandalism that occurred is a visual depiction of what hate looks like,” Indy10 Black Lives Matter and the artists who created the mural wrote in a joint statement on Facebook. “The message of our art provokes the evils and cowardice that some still refuse to acknowledge, and the vandalism is but one small confirmation that the fight toward justice and equity is far from over. We are grateful to everyone who has offered to help.”

Indy10 said anyone who wants to donate to help repair the mural can do so at paypal.me/indy10people with a note that it is for mural restoration and upkeep.



VOTE

► Continued from A1

Hoosiers will be forced to sacrifice their health — and the health of anyone they interact with — to cast a ballot.

“Nobody should have to risk their health to exercise their right to vote, but that is the position Indiana officials are putting Hoosiers in right now,” said Julia Vaughn, policy director for Common Cause Indiana, a nonpartisan group that promotes government transparency.

The State Conference of the NAACP and Common Cause Indiana have filed a federal lawsuit that claims the state’s deadline to receive mail-in ballots — noon on Election Day — doesn’t account for potential mail delays or a possible surge in mail-in ballots.

Holcomb has said he’s waiting on that lawsuit, plus another lawsuit about polling centers staying open past 6 p.m., to be resolved before making any possible changes to the November election.

Just over half of everyone who voted in Indiana for the primary did so with an absentee ballot, including 67% of Marion County voters. Expanded voting options probably helped lead to a turnout that was 4 percentage points higher than it was in the 2018 primary statewide.

Primary voters did not have to give a reason for why they wanted to vote absentee, which is something other states have adopted for the general election. Indiana voters usually have to choose from a list of 11 reasons they can’t vote in person, such as being out of the county for 12 hours on Election Day or not hav-

HAVE A VOTING PLAN

The Marion County Clerk’s Office recommends all voters have a voting plan ahead of the November general election. That includes knowing before the Oct. 22 deadline if you will need to vote absentee, making sure the information on your voter registration is current and taking safety precautions such as wearing a mask if you will vote in person.

ing transportation.

Apply for an absentee ballot by completing an application found at in.gov and mailing it to the Marion County Election Board, 200 E. Washington St., W-144. You can also apply online at indianavoters.in.gov in your “Voter Portal.”

The deadline to apply for an absentee ballot is Oct. 22.

Russell Hollis, deputy director of the Marion County Clerk’s Office, said about 9,000 people had already requested an absentee ballot in the county as of Aug. 7. There were a little more than 21,000 requests for the 2016 general election.

Marion County mailed all registered voters an absentee ballot application before the June primary, but that proved to be a slow process with delays, and many voters worried their ballot didn’t make it back to the election board in time to be counted.

Marion County Clerk Myla Eldridge told Indiana Secretary of State Connie Lawson in a letter in late May that she feared “thousands” of ballots would go uncounted.

The office received more than 123,000 absentee ballot applications before the deadline, which is 20 times more than for the 2016 primary.

Other counties in Indiana may be able to implement a large-scale vote-by-mail campaign with short notice, but Marion County needs more time.

Hollis said the office doesn’t have a deadline in mind and is instead focused on voter education.

“We’re moving forward with the way things are today,” he said. “We are planning to be flexible enough to where if things change, we could accommodate those changes.”

If Indiana doesn’t adopt no-excuse absentee voting, and if the situation with COVID-19 doesn’t improve drastically, that would cause some worry about lower voter turnout in an election year that includes the presidency.

Chrystal Ratcliffe, president of the local NAACP chapter, isn’t worried about lower turnout for African Americans, though, who she said will turn out “no matter what.”

“At the end of the day, it suppresses the vote,” she said of not expanding mail-in voting. “That’s what they’re doing. Our mission is to still get those voters out.”

Contact staff writer Tyler Fenwick at 317-766-1406. Follow him on Twitter @Ty_Fenwick.

MASK

► Continued from A1

Hogsett said. “We have spent months clawing our way to where we are. To see others possibly squander that in the course of just one afternoon is painful.”

Caine also gave high school athletics the green light to continue and said schools should look to the Indiana High School Athletic Association’s guidelines for how to proceed safely. Caine did say spectators should be limited to 250 people in the stands at one time, with social distancing measures and a mask requirement.

“In terms of the capacity in the stands, part of the problem is when you get a really large group of individuals together, our concern is that we might see a substantial number of people congregating together,” Caine said. “We want to look at community spread, so we want to keep those numbers at 250 until we get a feel for that.”

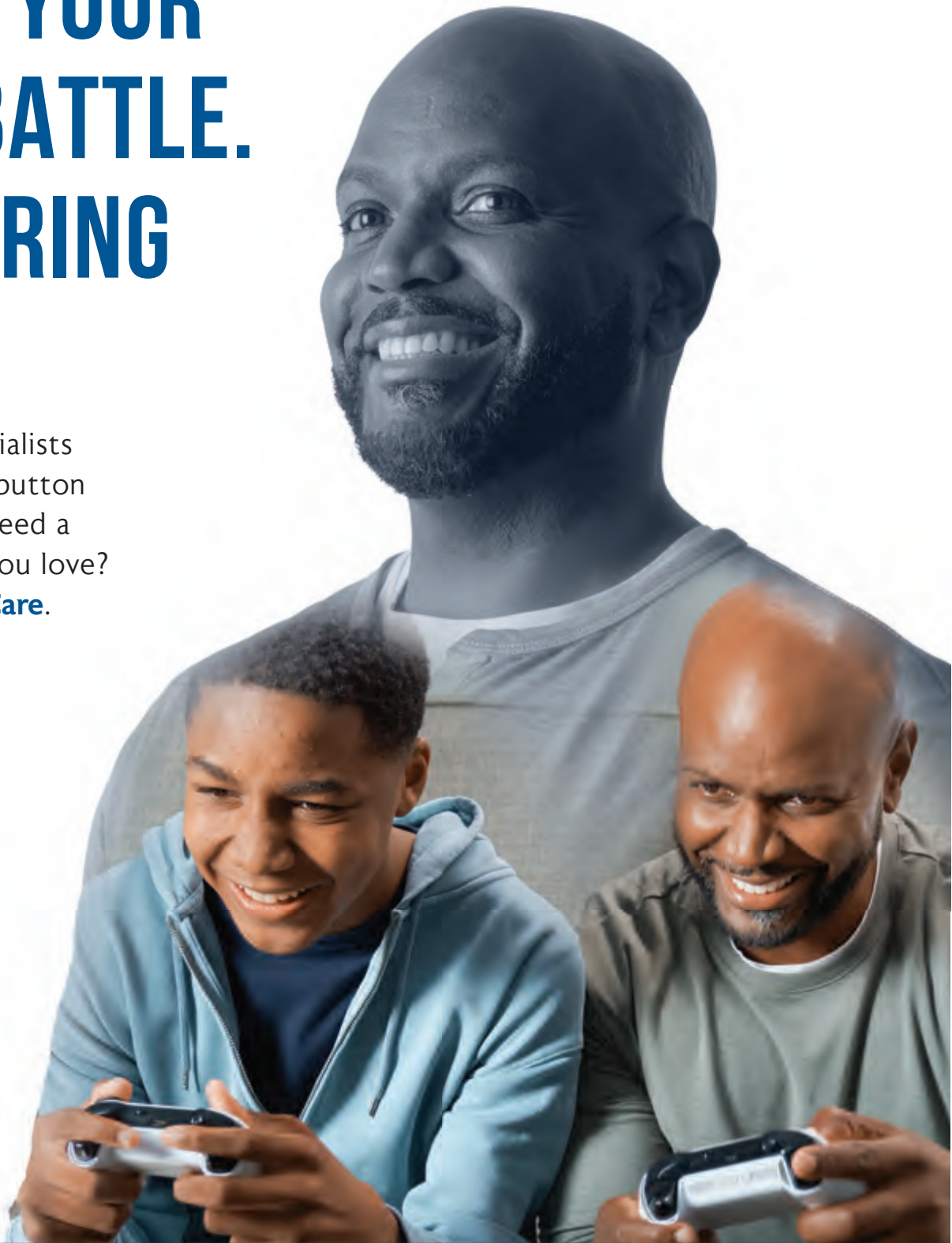
According to Caine, the Latinx community in Marion County has been hit hardest by COVID-19, with 2,240 individuals testing positive per 100,000 people. African Americans in Indianapolis make up the second most affected demographic with 1,380 cases per 100,000. Overall, Caine said data from the past seven days shows signs of improvement throughout the county.

“Some of the data shown today shows signs of progress, but we need to keep practicing safety measures,” Caine said. “... We are closely monitoring data to make sure that our actions are keeping our children safe as they are returning to school, and to keep the whole city safe as we strive for a new normal.”

Contact staff writer Breanna Cooper at 317-762-7848. Follow her on Twitter @BreannaNCooper.

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Local Black authors celebrated for excellence, perseverance

By TYLER FENWICK
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The first Indy Author Awards event wasn't meant to be an exclusive celebration of Black authors, but that's what it turned into after only Black authors submitted their work for consideration.

Eight authors will be recognized at 5 p.m. Aug. 16 on the Canal Walk outside of the Indiana History Center, 450 W. Ohio St. Guests are invited to attend as long as they wear masks and practice social distancing.

The idea behind the awards, hosted by Marguerite Press, is to help give a boost of confidence to local authors. The eight authors represent eight different categories, ranging from self-help to Christian nonfiction.

"I wanted to really encourage them and spotlight them locally in front of a hometown crowd," said Delores Thornton, founder and president of Marguerite Press.

This is the first time Denise Hill will get an award for her work. She's being recognized in the suspense category for her fiction novel, "The Window," which features a young girl who dreams of getting out of her neighborhood that's plagued by poverty to study astrophysics at Michigan State University.

Hill said she realized how much she enjoys writing when she entered two essay contests when she was 14 and won trips to Toronto and Washington. She was inspired as an adult to pick up writing again after reading books by African American female authors. "I could come up with something like that," she thought to herself, "so I just started writing."

Hill's first book was published in

2014. She mostly writes romance novels but also enjoys thrillers, mysteries and science fiction.

Gloria Lewis-Vaughn won first place in the Christian nonfiction category for "Cost of the Oil: Becoming Authentically Alive in the Presence of God."

Lewis-Vaughn said she and her sisters have always liked writing poetry, and she even remembers some parts of the first poem she wrote in fourth grade — called "Cowboy at the Rodeo."

As a pastor, Lewis-Vaughn sees books as another medium to do ministry. "Cost of Oil" is about her journey to learn the cost of "anointing oil," Lewis-Vaughn said, which she believes is a universal lesson for anyone.

"It means the world to me," Lewis-Vaughn said of the recognition, "because that was a work that I prayed over each and every step of the way, each and every page. To have it validated just confirms that my prayers were answered."

Mira Cassidy will be recognized in the general nonfiction category for her book, "Bounce Back from Tragedy," which is about five women facing life-altering decisions.

Cassidy kept a journal as a child and enjoyed writing. She went back to college in 2015 and took writing courses, which was an "aha" moment. Cassidy started writing poetry and short stories and realized this is what she wants to do for the rest of her life.

"Everything just came into place," she said.

Cassidy's ultimate goal is to one day be on The New York Times Best Sellers list.

Contact staff writer Tyler Fenwick at 317-762-7853. Follow him on Twitter @Ty_Fenwick

INDY AUTHOR AWARDS

Eight local Black authors will be recognized at the Indy Author Awards. Guests are invited to attend but must wear a mask and practice social distancing.

- When: 5 p.m. Aug. 16
- Where: Outside of the Indiana History Center, 450 W. Ohio St.



The first Indy Author Awards will celebrate eight local authors, all of whom are Black. Winners include Denise Hill ("The Window"), Gloria Lewis-Vaughn ("Cost of the Oil: Becoming Authentically Alive in the Presence of God") and Mira Cassidy ("Bounce Back from Tragedy").

Recognizing 'Shining Stars'

The Indianapolis Recorder is partnering with InnoPower to present the Golden Laurel Shining Star Awards at 3:30 p.m. Aug. 28 during Beyond 2020 InnoPower Minority Business Conference. The conference will be Aug. 28-29.

The 12 individuals will be recognized for their positive work — both professionally and personally — in the community.

"The Recorder is proud to partner with InnoPower to

honor these luminaries in the Indianapolis community," said Robert Shegog, Recorder president and CEO. "These individuals continue to make Indianapolis a better place to work and live through their laudable endeavors. While we are recognizing 12 Shining Stars, this must-attend virtual conference includes more than 100 speakers who will lead workshops, fireside chats and plenary sessions that will help professionals at all levels reach for the stars."

To register for Beyond 2020 InnoPower Minority Business Conference, visit imbconference.com.



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SPOTLIGHT

New Barbie exhibit tackles dream gap

By BREANNA COOPER
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By the age of 5, little girls stop believing they can accomplish whatever they put their minds to.

That's according to a study from New York University and Mattel, Inc., Barbie's parent company. To change perceptions and give young girls the inspiration they need to dream big, the Children's Museum of Indianapolis recently opened the "Barbie, You Can Be Anything: The Experience" exhibit.

Sarah Myers, the exhibit project manager, said the exhibit takes visitors through the six-decade history of Barbie, showcases the various careers Barbie has had over that time frame and highlights five powerful women throughout history who made an impact.

"Barbie has had over 200 careers," Myers said. "So, she's been a very busy lady. ... We show girls a wide variety of careers, and hopefully the dolls spark conversations within families."

The first Barbie doll — which is on display at the exhibit — was released in 1959 after creator Ruth Handler noticed her daughter's toys limited her in a way her son's toys didn't.

"She noticed that her daughter was limited to playing as a mother or caretaker," Myers said. "Whereas her son could be a pilot or an astronaut. She wanted more for her daughter. ... Her philosophy was through the doll, a girl can be anything she wants to be."

In the exhibit, visitors can try their hand at beekeeping through an interactive station, explore 11 different careers and learn about women who made a mark on history, such as Amelia Earhart and Ella Fitzgerald.

"We have five panels that talk about some of the inspiring women dolls that the Barbie line has highlighted," Myers said. "There are so many great women to choose from, and we wanted people from a diverse background, diverse careers, ethnic diversity and also we wanted a diverse time frame."

Along with Fitzgerald and Earhart, other women showcased in the panels include Laurie Hernandez,

Florence Nightingale and Katherine Johnson. A pair of Earhart's goggles, pulled from the museum's archives, and Fitzgerald's 1983 Grammy Award for "The Best is Yet To Come" are alongside their respective panels.

Currently, due to COVID-19 precautions, guests are asked to make reservations, and anyone over the age of 2 is required to wear a mask. Every two hours, the exhibit closes for cleaning, and hand sanitizer and cleaning wipes are provided at every interactive station.

The exhibit will be open throughout 2021, although Myers said the museum doesn't have an official end date planned due to the uncertainties surrounding COVID-19. After the exhibit closes in Indianapolis, it will tour the country for five years.

Contact staff writer Breanna Cooper at 317-762-7848. Follow her on Twitter @BreannaNCooper.



Museum visitors learn about Katherine Johnson at the "Barbie You Can Be Anything: The Experience" at the Children's Museum of Indianapolis. (Photo provided)



New rideshare program for Indianapolis?

By BREANNA COOPER
BreannaC@indyrecorder.com

A new rideshare program could be coming to Indianapolis, thanks to entrepreneur Sam Smith.

When Smith, an Indianapolis native, founded Smith's Enterprises and Global Network two decades ago, his goal was to help those in need. Smith wanted to bring the rideshare service TRYP to Indianapolis before the COVID-19 pandemic began, as it would help individuals and nonprofits. Now, with economic troubles looming for many, Smith says it's more important than ever.

"Everyone needs money right now," Smith said. "This is an easy way to make some money and help people in the process."

Smith said TRYP would be a competitor to larger rideshare companies, such as Uber and Lyft, and would help provide potential drivers and nonprofits with a source of extra income.

TRYP, which is currently only available in a few cities around the country, has a monthly fee of \$39. However, if drivers refer three or more drivers, they no longer have to pay the fee and they earn 100% of the ride fare, according to the company's mission statement.

"My main goal is empowering people, and giving people the opportunity to work," Smith said. "I believe in giving people a hand up, not a handout."

Nonprofit organizations can also

Want to drive?
For more information on how to sign up to drive for TRYP, contact Sam Smith at 317-253-7158.

take advantage of the service, and Smith said he wants TRYP to help bring the community together by connecting individuals in need with nonprofits. TRYP isn't only a rideshare service; the company is expanding to help with grocery delivery and helping people get to and from job interviews. Smith said he specifically wants to help Hoosiers who have fallen on hard times, as well as veterans and military families.

Smith describes helping people as his duty as a Christian.

"Basically, as Christians, we should help feed the hungry and provide different things for people," Smith said. "I have this opportunity, and I feel obligated to help. TRYP can help pastors, get people to churches, and help businesses and the community work together."

To bring TRYP to Indianapolis, Smith needs at least 3,000 drivers signed up.

"This opportunity is available to those that can see the vision," Smith said. "This is a ground floor opportunity."

Contact staff writer Breanna Cooper at 317-762-7848. Follow her on Twitter @BreannaNCooper.

Forming new, healthy habits doesn't have to be hard

The trick is making them stick

When asked about the benefits of one type of exercise over another, exercise author Covert Bailey once said, "The best exercise is the one you'll do." That advice is spot on for any change you may want to make. Whether it's starting a fitness routine, eating healthier or quitting smoking, it has to be something you're truly willing to do. Follow these tips to help kick-start your new habits.

Realistic goals

Maybe you want to maintain a healthy lifestyle, or maybe you're ready to make some changes. "Either way, spend some time thinking about what it is you want to achieve, but keep it within reach," says Dr. Ryan Venis, Medical Director, Anthem Indiana Medicaid. "Approach change with baby steps, and you'll have a greater chance of establishing lifelong habits."

Here are some examples of smaller goals to start with:

- If you smoke, decrease the number of cigarettes you smoke a day.
- Replace more of your daily drinks with water (48 ounces or more is recommended).
- Add 15 to 30 minutes of physical activity, like walking, swimming or yoga, into your day.
- Include more veggies and whole grains into your daily diet.

All things in moderation

Whatever you choose to focus on, remember, things are OK in moderation. "Usually, people think about moderation in terms of consuming fats, sugar and alcohol — don't punish yourself by eliminating the things you enjoy, but don't overdo it, either," explains Venis. "The same attitude applies to your health and fitness routine. There is such a thing as too restrictive a diet and too much exercise."

Diet and exercise

People diet for all types of reasons, and there are many types of diet plans to follow. It's important to remember your diet, the calories from the food and drink you consume, should be well-balanced with the energy you spend. A healthy approach to dieting is to limit your simple carbs, such as sugar and overly refined foods. These break down quickly, so you feel hungry again sooner. Then, increase your complex carbs, such as whole grains and vegetables. These give you energy for a longer period of time, so you stay full.

Also, find an exercise routine that works for you. You can overdo it with exercise. If you're feeling tired, experiencing decreased performance or can't fight off mild illnesses, you may be stretching yourself too thin. "Muscle repair and rejuvenation can only take place during rest, so consider decreasing either the intensity or the frequency of your workouts," advises Venis.

The one you'll do

We all want to be the best that we can be. However, your version of "best" has to be doable for you. Take it one step at a time. Start with kicking your worst habit, then slowly add some new, positive habits.

The final point is this: Don't take on what you can't sustain. Some improvement is simply better than no improvement when you truly embrace a positive change as a lifelong habit.

To learn more about Anthem's health programs for members, visit our Health and Wellness page at www.anthem.com/inmedicaid.

Contributed by Dr. Ryan Venis, Indiana Medicaid Medical Director, Anthem.



Start living healthy!

Healthy habits can make a big difference.

When you develop and stick with healthy habits, you can increase your life expectancy and improve your overall health. The key to keeping these habits is to find those you'll actually do and take it one step at a time. Here are a few things to get you started:

- Decrease the number of cigarettes you smoke a day.
- Drink at least 48 ounces of water a day.
- Get 30 minutes of daily physical exercise.
- Add more veggies and whole grains into your diet.

Visit www.anthem.com/inmedicaid under the **Care** tab to learn more about how you can benefit from healthy living habits.



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Funding cuts would hurt Indiana schools serving more Black and Latino students

By **STEPHANIE WANG, SAM PARK, AND GABRIELLA LAMARR LEMEE**
Chalkbeat Indiana

Potential cuts to Indiana schools that offer virtual learning but don't reopen school campuses this fall would harm schools serving more Black and Latino students, according to a Chalkbeat analysis.

Those funding losses would widen systemic inequities already made worse by the health crisis, as Black and Latino families are facing higher coronavirus infection rates, suffering widely from the recession, and often struggling to support at-home learning for their students.

"How much more can you continue to harm the most vulnerable students in our schools?" said Flora Reichanadter, superintendent of Pike Township schools in Indianapolis, which started the school year virtually Aug. 11.

Last week, state Senate President Pro Tem Rodric Bray sowed confusion and concern when he appeared to backtrack on state promises that Indiana would fully support schools offering online instruction through the pandemic.

Bray, a Republican, warned schools that they would receive funding cuts if they only offered virtual instruction this fall, due to a law that reduces state dollars by 15% for students learning mostly or all online.

The cuts would come as a significant blow to schools trying to navigate the uncertainty of the pandemic, on the threshold of an economic crisis that threatens to slash future budgets. It's not clear whether lawmakers will intervene, though many other leading Republicans, such as Gov. Eric Holcomb, House Speaker Todd Huston and state Superintendent Jennifer McCormick, have pledged to fully fund schools.

When Bray put out his statement, about 40 districts and charter schools were planning to start the year completely remotely, according to a list compiled by the Indiana Department of Education. That's less than 15% of Indiana districts and charter schools and likely a rough estimate, since the state did not require schools to report their plans and some have been quickly changing.

The schools that planned to start remotely enrolled nearly one-third of all Black students in Indiana, and 30% of Hispanic students last year, according to a Chalkbeat analysis of state data. In all, those schools encompassed nearly 20% of the state's student population, even though they make up a fraction of Indiana's almost 300 districts and charter school networks.

That's likely because the communities pausing fully reopening classrooms have been hard-hit by the coronavirus, and the spread has been worse among Black and Latino populations, who tend to have less access to health care and work in essen-

tial jobs.

Districts in Indianapolis, northwest Indiana, and South Bend — including Indianapolis Public Schools, Gary Community Schools, South Bend Schools, and others — are starting the year remotely as local health officials are advising caution. IPS, which is 42% Black and 31% Hispanic, estimates it could lose \$28 million through these cuts.

"We're putting Black and Latino families in an impossible situation," said Cristina Santamaria Graff, an assistant professor of special education and urban teacher education at IUPUI. "When you choose money over life, then there's a problem."

A legislative spokeswoman said Bray was not available Aug. 11 to comment on Chalkbeat's analysis, and he did not return a phone message left at his Martinsville law office. The Martinsville school district, of which Bray is a graduate, is among those starting the year remotely.

Indiana leaders have stressed for months that schools can reopen classrooms safely, though they have left the decision largely up to local districts. They planned to provide full funding for students who chose to learn virtually due to health concerns, but Bray said leaders didn't expect that some school districts would walk back reopening plans when coronavirus cases started to rise.

The funding reduction stems from a law meant to address full-time virtual schools, which receive less state support and took a further hit last year as a warning shot after a multimillion-dollar virtual charter school scam.

The law would technically apply the 15% funding cut to any student receiving more than half of their instruction online, including students choosing a virtual track or students in a hybrid model where they attend classes in-person on alternating days.

But Bray indicated that lawmakers favor changing the law for at least some students. State leaders have "a strong appetite" for fully funding students who opt for virtual learning tracks, Bray said last week, but "there is no guarantee such an exception will be made for schools that don't give families the option of in-person instruction in a school building." He didn't address hybrid models.

State Rep. Ed DeLaney, a Democrat who represents an area that includes three Indianapolis districts starting remotely, said the legislature could solve this problem and shield schools from harm if it wanted to. He pointed to lawmakers agreeing to act early this year to pass a "hold harmless" provision that protected schools from low test scores on the new ILEARN exam.

"I believe children need to be in the classroom," DeLaney said. "The problem is, in this environment, we need for the moment to use virtual and we can't punish our students because of this necessity."

When Black and Latino students in Indiana already encountered technology access obstacles in the spring and generally are less likely to pass standardized exams, graduate from high school, and go to college, "setting them back is just the worst possible thing," he added.

In the days following Bray's announcement, some of those roughly 40 districts have changed course — notably, those in Elkhart County will offer in-person options after some back-and-forth discussion with the local health department. Other schools are also set to reassess opening classrooms in the coming weeks or months.

Elkhart Community Schools Superintendent Steve Thalheimer wrote in an email to Chalkbeat that the district crafted a hybrid model after "verbal assurances that there would be a solution to keep 100% funding from lawmakers."

"If we felt it were safe and viable to have students in buildings full time, we would," Thalheimer said. "But in instances where we can't or where we are ordered by officials to be totally online, allowances in this funding have to be made."

Reichanadter said Pike Township schools could still see the cuts in the fall even if lawmakers restore funding when the legislative session starts in January. But it's too late for the district to change its plans, and she isn't sure how it could absorb a 15% cut, which she estimates would amount to \$4.4 million.

It especially hurts, Reichanadter said, after the district worked to improve virtual learning by moving to live instruction, buying more technology, and offering learning pods for working families who can't supervise their children at home.

Funding cuts would reverberate through losses in future years, she added — such as bigger class sizes, fewer support staff, and fewer opportunities like art classes.

"What we bank on here in the urban areas sometimes is when the suburban areas feel a little bit of pain, they seem to get a little more attention," Reichanadter said. "We hope that there are enough suburban schools across the state being impacted, too.... Suburban districts have a little more influence in the voting booth."

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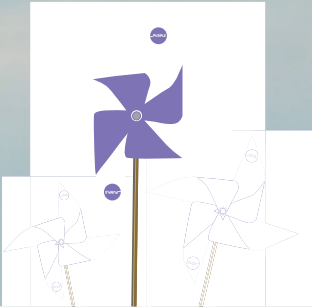


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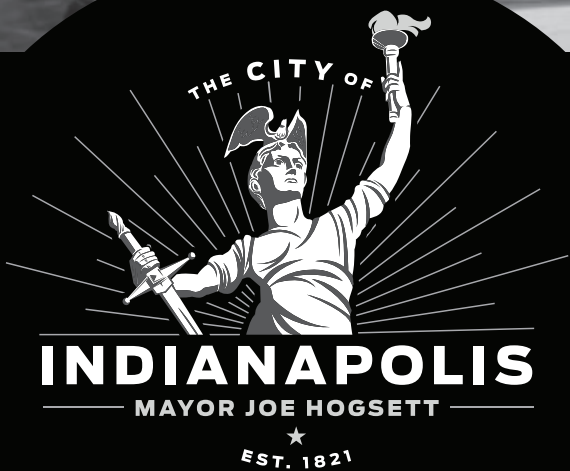
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EDITORIAL

These three words create visceral reaction for some

By OSEYE BOYD



That didn’t take long. I’m referring to the defacing of the Black Lives Matter mural on Indiana Avenue. The mural was painted Aug. 1, and by Aug. 9 someone took time out of their day (or night) to pour paint on it. Is anyone really surprised by this act of cowardice? Probably not. No one knows who the perpetrators are at this point. Hopefully, one day the person or persons will be found, but I’m not going to hold my breath. I don’t care about the race, ethnicity or age of the perpetrators. Whoever did this knew it was wrong. They didn’t care. What the vandal(s) don’t understand is this speaks volumes about the individual(s) who did this. Having a Black Lives Matter mural in your city bothers you so much that you would go buy paint, drive to a location late at night or in the wee hours of the morning so as not to be seen and try to destroy the artwork of Black artists and a symbol of the importance of Black lives in Indianapolis. What I find interesting, though, is the anger those

three words produce. Since the Black Lives Matter movement began, I’ve heard the same tired trite phrases. As a matter of fact, whenever Black people discuss white supremacy, white privilege, racism, bigotry, systemic oppression or inequities, these same clichés come out of people’s mouths so effortlessly. “Go back to Africa if you don’t like it here,” “All lives matter,” “Blue lives matter,” “I didn’t own slaves,” “My parents came from (insert country) and they worked hard,” “I’ve had to struggle,” etc. I know what’s going to be said before it’s even said. I read comments on the internet, waiting for one of the comments to appear. I enjoy how everyone thinks he or she is the first to say it. It literally makes me laugh out loud. If you’re one of these people, you have to ask yourself what is it that makes you so upset at the phrase “Black Lives Matter”? I recently watched a video of a white man holding a Black Lives Matter sign in a predominately white city. The insults hurled at him and the anger of passersby weren’t shocking. So, when people tell me racism doesn’t exist, I think about the visceral reaction to the phrase Black Lives Matter, and I know it is indeed real. It’s so real, in fact, that a mural on a street in our city couldn’t be left alone for 10 days.

In some ways this reminds me of another mural creation in another city. A mural dedicated to unity was painted on a bridge in Muncie. Appropriately named the Unity Bridge, it depicted two hands of differing colors reaching for each other to symbolize unity between all racial and ethnic groups. I worked at the local newspaper then and the reaction was swift and angry. People didn’t hesitate to call and express their displeasure at the mural. I vividly remember one man saying he wasn’t angry at the message but the mural isn’t realistic because your hand and fingers are the same color. It’s called artistic expression and the mural is the vision of teenagers, I told him. It wasn’t about race, but yet, he couldn’t get past the color of the fingers. While I’ve never heard of the mural on the Unity Bridge being defaced, the emotions that came to the fore are the same: fear and anger. If the movement or the phrase “Black Lives Matter” makes you angry or fearful, then you’re probably racist. Own it, and if you don’t like it, work to fix it. If you’re OK with it, in the words of Ludacris, “move, get out the way” because you will get run over. We’re not stopping. By the way, today would be a good day to arrest those responsible for killing Breonna Taylor.

OPINIONS

She works hard for (less) money

By LARRY SMITH



For millions of Americans, August means blistering days (and nights), kids returning to school (even during a pandemic) and the return of football (in normal years). But, for millions of Black women, the sweltering summer days of August place a white-hot spotlight on economic inequality. Specifically, the 13th of this month is “Equal Pay Day” for Black women. It is the day on which sisters finally earn as much money as men did — way back in 2019. Yes, you read that correctly. Black women must wait more than 200 days into 2020 to make as much money as men did last year. (The wait would be even longer if Black men, who make only 87 cents for every dollar that white men make, were excluded from the equation.) By contrast, Asian American Women’s “Equal Pay Day” was in February of this year. White Women’s “Equal Pay Day” was in March. Native Women’s “Equal Pay Day” is Oct. 1. Latinas? Unconscionably, their day is not until Oct. 29.

Given that more than 90% of Americans have been negatively impacted by the Great Depression-like economic effects of COVID-19, the particular plight of Black women will likely be lost in the shuffle. Of course, even when economic times were better, the “good old days” were not so good for the vast majority of Black women. This is despite the fact that, according to the National Center for Education Statistics, Black women are the most highly educated people in the U.S. — followed by Asian women, white women and white men. As Angela Bronner Helm reported four years ago in The Root, education is a story of “good news, bad news” for Black women. Despite their superlative educational achievements, their earnings trail white men, white women, Black men and Hispanic men (in that order). This stark wage disparity exposes the lie that hard work and educational attainment are the great “equalizers” in America. That’s a bunch of ... well, you know. To be clear, I am not advocating that African Americans, female or male, shun postsecondary education. With few exceptions, less education translates into less income. (Please note that “postsecondary education” includes trade school, apprenticeships and other types of “non-academic” training after

high school.) Still, greater educational attainment cannot, by itself, close gender- and race-based wage gaps. Macro socioeconomic structures (i.e., systemic racism and sexism) have given white Americans a nearly insurmountable economic advantage over African Americans. In short, even if we were able to close the wage gap in a few years, it would still take decades before we closed the wealth gap. While the former is important, our ultimate focus needs to be on the latter. How do we level the proverbial playing field? There are at least four steps that this nation must take. First, white Americans (government officials and the electorate) must agree that reparations are necessary for Black people to thrive. Period. Reparations do not, necessarily, need to be in the form of a large check written to African Americans. (But I would not, necessarily, rule out that possibility.) Second, lawmakers must strongly enforce laws against racial and gender discrimination in employment, and racial discrimination in housing. Third, we must stop funding public schools via property taxes, which virtually ensures unequal educational opportunities for most children of color. Fourth, we must eradicate the school-

to-prison pipeline and end for-profit prisons. For-profit businesses need customers to survive. Black men and women are disproportionately the “customers” of such prisons. The nexus between race, gender and class as regards Black folks means that righting these historic racial wrongs will mitigate the racial wealth gap — which ultimately is more important than the wage gap. I genuinely empathize with the fact that millions of white Americans struggle financially. Saving this nation requires that they come to understand that the above steps are ultimately in their best interests. The erstwhile “American Dream” to which they aspired has become the American Myth. That’s because white America’s intraracial wealth gap is at an all-time high. And growing. (For us it has always been the American Nightmare.) As legendary Supreme Court Justice Thurgood Marshall observed, “No one benefits from racism” — at least in the long run. The marathon for racial justice in America is an exhausting and maddening race, but this nation’s survival demands that we endure it until the end. Larry Smith is a community leader. Contact him at larry@leaf-llc.com.

What’s our plan for Indiana Avenue and Black neighborhoods?

By MARSHAWN WOLLEY



It didn’t take them a week to deface the Black Lives Matter mural on Indiana Avenue. The organizers’ response to the defacement was poignant, as they pointed out that part of the purpose of putting the mural on Indiana Avenue was to both raise awareness about the loss of a historic area Black Indianapolis once had, but to also affirm a resistance to the takeover. What strikes me about the loss of the Indiana Avenue has been our inability to make the powers that be feel responsible to any entity whatsoever in its continued plunder. Of course this is about money. How do you develop an area of “prime” real estate where gentrifiers (white and Black) aren’t privileged? I know the city is concerned about gentrification and is working on this issue, but the reality is that one core function of the city is to convert properties that aren’t on the tax rolls to properties that are on the tax rolls. Community interests and city interests may not always be aligned, and after redlining and the slow destruction of our neighborhoods, the Black commu-

nity deserves the benefit of the doubt in development decisions. But we collectively need to take some blame for the loss of Indiana Avenue. Did we leverage what political capital we had to make sure city budgets didn’t move until our lone cultural district had the funding it needed? If we lose our cultural district, this has to be our fault — our collective lack of an imagination and focus to defend and protect a space that is basically gone now. With plenty of blame to go around, what should we be doing? Locally, there is a group of citizens who are challenging a development that is supposed to be headed to Indiana Avenue. The group is called Indiana Ave - Now or Never. According to the group, Buckingham Companies intends to put 350 to 500 apartments on Indiana Avenue. The public hearing for the private development is supposed to be Sept. 10 at a Metropolitan Development Commission meeting. We could attend that meeting and learn more about what is supposed to be happening with this project. But more than trying to stop something, what is our plan? And I’m not just thinking about Indiana Avenue. What policies do we want in place that will empower our community to protect our neighborhoods from the plunder we are seeing occur rapidly in our community? More than protection, we have to be able to define the destiny of our neighborhoods even when community development institutions aren’t prepared to work with our communities yet. Pastor David Greene has been calling for empowerment zones, which, as I understand his vision, are areas where the city and especially private developers would need to engage a group of community leaders before city processes moved forward with development. Think the inverse of these Opportunity Zone programs where instead of capital, either philanthropic or for-profit, deciding what could happen to a neighborhood, there would be a group of citizens (as opposed to institutions) formally recognized by the city that controlled the destiny of a neighborhood. Currently, private developers do have to engage the community as part of the process, especially if they

are seeking zoning changes. But the reality is that the power is really on the private developer’s side, as they get to take the initiative by stating what they want and the community often really only has the ability to say yes or no. There is really only a limited ability to appreciate the opportunity costs of selecting one project over another in this situation. To be fair, some developers do a better job on community engagement than others. The challenge is the unevenness of the industry’s approach to Black neighborhoods. An empowerment zone would reverse the decision-making process and invite developers in based on what the community had already envisioned — which is similar to how quality-of-life plans work, but without local community development institutions. We lost Indiana Avenue in part because it was gerrymandered out of local community development plans. In fact, Martindale-Brightwood and the far east side have never won designation as community development quality-of-life neighborhoods. Right now, community visioning processes are led by local community development institutions that actually do this work pretty well. They might even help empowerment zone leaders develop their plans as a pretext before a neighborhood pursued some of the more competitive designations. We need empowerment zones led by residents who can tell the developers what they want instead of vice versa. We must protect the destinies of Black neighborhoods in this city, and Black residents should be empowered to do so on their own terms and not because some said they’re ready. What I’m hearing ... Sen. Kamala Harris made history as the first Black woman to be nominated by a major party to the office of vice president. That’s a big deal and she’s earned our support. We also got an Indianapolis Commission on African American Males this week. Thank you, majority leader Maggie Lewis and Kenneth Allen. Now the work. Marshawn Wolley is a lecturer, commentator, business owner and civic entrepreneur. Contact him at marshawnwolley@gmail.com.

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IndyGo drives forward with first vice president of inclusion and workforce development

By BREANNA COOPER
BreannaC@indyrecorder.com

When Denise Jenkins-Agurs moved from Florida to Indianapolis six weeks ago to start a new job at IndyGo, one of the benefits was she'd be closer to her family in Ohio.

What she's found throughout her short tenure as the first vice president of inclusion and workforce development at the transportation company, however, is that the IndyGo team feels like a family.

"The common denominator is people," Jenkins-Agurs, 53, said. "... My day-to-day thus far is trying to get to know the culture, leadership teams and the teammates here. It's been a good five weeks."

In this role, Jenkins-Agurs will help IndyGo employees — or "teammates" — find educational and workforce development opportunities to develop their skills and enhance their careers.

With 25 years of workforce development experience under her belt, Jenkins-Agurs said working for someone like IndyGo CEO Inez Evans made her transition easy, and she's excited for what lies ahead.

"It has been an excellent ride to be able to report to someone who gets it," Jenkins-Agurs said of Evans. "She understands the importance of the people on the front line ... and she puts people first, and that makes it easier to develop new initiatives."

A few of the initiatives Jenkins-Agurs has in the works is a partnership with Providence Cristo Rey for internship opportunities for students, as well as an apprenticeship program for IndyGo's maintenance workers and operators.

"My biggest goal here is to make sure we have a robust learning program to make sure that every employee who decides to work here understands that where they start doesn't mean that's where they end," Jenkins-Agurs said. "I want to make sure we have the educational components to meet the needs of our teammates ... and a solid program that fits the needs of everyone."

Like Evans, who began her role as CEO in August of 2019, Jenkins-Agurs spends her days getting a firsthand look at IndyGo operations and meeting workers and riders. However, due to COVID-19, things look a lot different.

"The things is, you still have to wear a mask, so you can't see people's face," she said. "You're trying to develop a relationship and all you see is people's eyes, so it can be challenging. I'm intentional about getting out and about, though."

Along with Evans, Jenkins-Agurs gets to know the IndyGo teammates



Denise Jenkins-Agurs

over lunch. Dishing out meals to workers and letting them know they're valued, Jenkins-Agurs said, is an important step into making everyone feel like they are a part of the family.

"I read a quote that diversity is being asked to the party, inclusion is being asked to dance," Jenkins-Agurs said. "Here at IndyGo, we want to make sure that every teammate feels included, regardless of their religion, background or who they choose to love. We want to support them and let them know that they can grow here at IndyGo."

While Jenkins-Agurs was happy to get out of the health care system in Florida — a hotspot for COVID-19 and a generally stressful environment, she said — it's not just a new step for her. According to Evans, this new position is a step forward for the future of IndyGo.

"This is a critical role for our agency as we move our workforce and agency into the next chapter," Evans said in a statement. "Denise's experience and knowledge will be vitally important to our efforts to strengthen our employee management, diversity and inclusion initiatives."

Jenkins-Agurs knows there may be some challenges on the road ahead — such as learning the meaning of all the acronyms used in the transportation industry — however, she's excited to dive head first into what she calls her dream job.

"My purpose in life is to help people as it relates to education," Jenkins-Agurs said. "I'm passionate about people and service, and when you understand your purpose, you'll never work another day in your life, because it's what you're called to do. ... I'm blessed to have this opportunity."

Contact staff writer Breanna Cooper at 317-762-7848. Follow her on Twitter @BreannaNCooper.

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\$7 million more than in 2020. At 29% of the city budget, IMPD would represent the largest share of money among city departments.

There has never been indication from the top levels of city government that IMPD would face any kind of budget cutbacks, which has been one of the more popular demands adopted by protesters in Indianapolis following the police shootings of 21-year-old Dreasjon Reed and 19-year-old McHale Rose.

Calls to "defund the police" vary in the details, but most boil down to the notion that police department budgets are bloated and that money — all of it or some of it, depending on who you ask — should instead be used to fund other social services and programs.

Under Hogsett's budget — which he introduced to the city-county council Aug. 10, along with his "state of the city" address — IMPD would make up about 21% of the entire city-county budget.

IMPD currently accounts for 31% and 22% of the city and consolidated city-county budgets, respectively.

Part of the proposed increase for IMPD is to pay for the 1,100 body cameras the department recently began rolling out and 200 new cruisers.

The city-county council will spend

the next couple of months deliberating Hogsett's proposed budget in committee meetings, with a plan to adopt a 2021 budget at the Oct. 12 meeting.

Other highlights of Hogsett's proposed budget:

- The 2021 budget totals about \$1.3 billion, most of which is allotted to city departments. The Marion County Sheriff's Office would make up the largest share of county agencies at 36%.
- There are no tax increases.
- Public safety and criminal justice make up 58% of the budget, which includes \$3 million for Violent Crime Prevention Grants and \$250,000 for tenants' rights programs.
- The budget estimates a \$15 million increase in property taxes, which makes up 30% of projected revenue. The budget estimates a \$24 million decrease in income tax, though, because of high unemployment due to the COVID-19 pandemic.
- Because of the process for collecting property and income taxes, the city won't feel the effects of the pandemic in revenue until 2022.

Contact staff writer Tyler Fenwick at 317-762-7853. Follow him on Twitter @Ty_Fenwick.

Schools mull outdoor classes amid virus, ventilation worries



By **TERRY SPENCER**
Associated Press

It has been seven years since the central air conditioning system worked at the New York City middle school where Lisa Fitzgerald O'Connor teaches. As a new school year approaches amid the coronavirus pandemic, she and her colleagues are threatening not to return unless it's repaired.

Her classroom has a window air conditioning unit, but she fears the stagnant air will increase the chances that an infected student could spread the virus.

"Window units just aren't going to cut it. We don't want to stay cool, we just want the air to flow properly," said O'Connor, a science teacher who has worked at the Patria Mirabal School in Manhattan since 2009. "We are really super stressed out about it."

Schools around the country are facing similar problems

as they plan or contemplate reopening this fall, dealing with aging air conditioning, heating and circulation systems that don't work well or at all because maintenance and replacement were deferred due to tight budgets. Concerns about school infrastructure are adding momentum to plans in some districts, even in colder climates, to take classes outdoors for the sake of student and teacher health.

Nationwide, an estimated 41% of school districts need to update or replace their heating, ventilation and cooling systems in at least half their schools, according to a federal report issued in June.

Rep. Bobby Scott, D-Va., chairman of the House Education committee, called on the federal government to help districts improve their systems, saying the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention calling ventilation an important part of coronavirus

spread at schools.

There is no evidence that the disease can spread through ventilation systems from one classroom to the next, according to Dr. Edward Nardell, a Harvard Medical School professor who specializes in airborne diseases. The danger, Nardell said, is from ineffective systems that don't remove floating viruses and let them linger in classrooms after they are expelled in an infected person's breath, sneeze or cough.

"Most schools are designed for comfort, not for infection control. So there is a danger that if you put 20 kids in a room, that if one of them has asymptomatic COVID and is infectious, you now have 19 more kids who are exposed," Nardell said. Healthy children almost always recover from COVID, if they become ill at all, but they can pass the disease to teachers, parents and other adults.

Nardell believes schools

should consider installing ultraviolet lights along classroom ceilings, a technology some used in the 1950s and earlier to combat measles, tuberculosis and other airborne diseases and that is still used in hospitals and homeless shelters. Viruses and bacteria are destroyed using a spectrum of UV light that is safe for humans. Manufacturers say the devices would cost \$3,000 per classroom.

Some, including Education Secretary Betsy DeVos, say one solution to air circulation problems may be teaching classes outdoors, which was done during tuberculosis and influenza outbreaks in the early 1900s, even in cold weather.

The White River Valley Middle School in Bethel, Vermont, spent \$50,000 on tents and another \$20,000 on port-a-potties, hand-washing stations and other equipment. While some schools have

equipped tents with propane heaters, White River Valley Principal Owen Bradley said his students can handle the expected November daytime temperatures in the 30s (about 0 Celsius) without them.

Schools bringing students back this fall will require or at least strongly suggest masks, but officials say they can only be so effective during six-hour school days indoors. Air circulation is needed.

Stephen Murley, the school superintendent in Green Bay, Wisconsin, said most of his district's 42 campuses have older air systems. When there is high humidity, they are set to recirculate drier indoor air to prevent unhealthy black mold from growing on the walls — but battling the coronavirus requires fresh air.

"We have two things working at odds with each other," Murley said.

City, Health Department Announce Update to COVID-19 Public Health Order

Indianapolis Mayor Joe Hogsett and Marion County Public Health Department Director and Chief Medical Officer Virginia A. Caine, M.D. announced updated measures this week in the fight against the COVID-19 pandemic.

They discussed enhanced enforcement against those who violate Public Health Orders and revised capacity requirements for certain businesses.

"This virus is a long-term test of our unity. A test we can pass," said Mayor Hogsett. "That's why, once again...I am pleading with all residents and business owners: do your part to follow the public health guidance, avoid unnecessary risk for you and your family, and above all — listen to responsible and informed voices."

Over the past two months, the Marion County Public Health Department received 407 complaints and issued two citations for order violations. It will now immediately file violations for court, seeking \$1,000 fines.

"Over the past two months, we have relied on educations and warnings to enforce our Public Health Orders, yet we have still seen several recent high-profile violations," said Dr. Caine. "Those who choose not to comply with the order can no longer claim lack of awareness. For that reason, we will be stepping up enforcement against those who endanger customers and neighbors in Marion County."

Violations can be reported by calling 317-221-5500 during business hours or emailing healthdept@marionhealth.org.

A new Public Health Order goes into effect on Friday, Aug. 14. One of the highlights is that bars and nightclubs must remain closed. This includes establishments that only allow entry to patrons 21 year of age and older, and did not have a food menu before March 1, 2020. It also means:

- All ages restaurants are limited to 50% indoor and outdoor capacity.

- Full menu, age-restricted restaurants are limited to 25% capacity indoors.

- Table service required for all indoor dining and no bar service is permitted.

- Face coverings are required when not eating or drinking.

The order also requires high school sports to follow IHSA guidelines. For football programs, this includes:

- Social distancing of 6 feet at all times while in the team box on the field.

- No handshake at the coin toss.

- Wearing face coverings while on the sidelines.

- A maximum 250 people allowed in stands

- Face coverings required for all individuals in the stands

- No congregating at concession stands.

In regards to travel, the new Public Health Order continues to recommend a 14-day quarantine following travel to states or countries with high positivity rates. A list of applicable places will be available on the Marion County Public Health Department, MarionHealth.org. A copy of the Public Health Order is also available.

The countywide requirement to wear face coverings that began on July 9 remains in effect. Residents must wear face coverings while visiting indoor public places and in outdoor public places where social distancing is not possible.

Marion County residents can request a free face covering at indy.gov/masks. Indianapolis residents impacted by COVID-19 should visit the City of Indianapolis resource guide, which can be viewed at www.indy.gov/covid. Individuals who are unable to navigate the city's website can call 317-327-4MAC between the hours of 8:00 a.m.-5:00 p.m. to talk to a customer service representative.

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Black Dallas church alleges intimidation by pro-police rally



Rev. Dr. Frederick Douglass Haynes, III of the Friendship-West Baptist Church & Conference Center says a group of people tried intimidate the congregation. (Screengrab from church website: Friendship-West Baptist Church & Conference Center)

DALLAS (AP) — A predominantly Black Dallas church active in the “Black Lives Matter” movement alleges a pro-police rally tried to intimidate its members by roaring into its parking lot Aug. 2.

Organizers of the “Back the Blue Cruise” sponsored by clubs of pickup truck and motorcycle owners said about 1,000 vehicles participated in the 100-mile parade through the Dallas-Fort Worth area. Organizers said a Friendship-West Baptist Church pastor gave them permission to use its

parking lot to rest.

Leaders of the church, which displays a huge “Black Lives Matter” banner on its exterior wall, said in a statement, however, that it was asked to use the parking lot for a “Black Lives Matter” rally, not a “Back the Blue” event.

“The meet up where individuals flew Trump 2020 flags and a Confederate Flag on our parking lot was quickly asked to shut it down and leave,” the statement on the church’s website said.

“There are seven or maybe eight mega-churches with big parking lots

right in our area. They chose ours, that’s all I’ll say,” senior pastor Frederick Haynes told television station KXAS. “We’re the only one out of those seven or eight that has a ‘Black Lives Matter’ sign up. We’re the only one whose pastor is always out when it comes to these kinds of rallies and takes a stand against injustice. So I think the answer is real clear.”

Some of the rally participants displayed Confederate battle flags and banners supporting President Donald Trump for reelection.

Rally co-organizer Henri Broady, who is Black, said there was no intent to antagonize the church or appear as a political or white supremacy rally and he believed there was a miscommunication. Fellow organizer Nathan Adams also blamed a “communication breakdown” and apologized “for any kind of misconceptions or misunderstandings or anything.”

Nevertheless, some church members responded with a “Black Lives Matter” rally and march at Dallas police headquarters that night.

Pastor pursues passions in ministry, racial reconciliation

By BRUCE MILLS
The Sumter Item

SUMTER, S.C. (AP) — Zach Somerville says he felt called to work in ministry in his youth, but he ran away from it until early experiences in the U.S. Air Force changed his perspective. Now, he’s among a group of pastors in the Sumter community trying to help lead efforts toward racial reconciliation.

Somerville, a young adult pastor with Trinity Missionary Baptist Church, who splits his time moonlighting as a contract government cyber security analyst in Columbia for his primary source of income, sat down recently to discuss his life, dual career and mission.

Somerville’s family consists of several preachers, and his father, Dwayne, is a bi-vocational pastor as well. During Somerville’s formative years in the early 2000s, his father was a part-time outreach pastor at a church while being one of the first Black IT managers at Coca-Cola’s headquarters in Atlanta.

He would often juggle a few jobs to provide for the family and would still help lead Bible studies and other ministry efforts at church. Sunday was generally an all-day affair at church for the family, even after Dad pulled a night shift on Saturday.

From that, Somerville, 31, said he developed a personal conviction that church was not about money but about helping those who needed healing, and God would always provide gifts outside the church to make a way financially.

Another conviction he got from his father in his youth was a deep appreciation for the Civil Rights Movement of the 1950s and ‘60s. He remembers the books in their house on the subject while growing up.

“So, I was a big fan of the Martin Luther Kings, the John Lewises, Andrew Youngs, C. T. Vivians and Joseph Lowerys and those types of leaders,” Somerville said.

Still, there were things, he said, he saw in church that he didn’t care for, and Somerville decided to stay away from ministry.

But while in basic training in the Air Force at age 19, personal events changed his outlook and moved him toward ministry work, particularly with a focus on racial reconciliation.

One night while reading his Bible and praying, Somerville said a Filipino recruit approached him and expressed interest. Then, a week later, he came back and wanted to learn more about salvation. After a couple days of them studying the Bible together, a white recruit came by with the same questions and sat with them. Eventually, Somerville said, a wide range of ethnicities and backgrounds were represented in the study group, praying, learning and growing together.



“During that time, over about an eight-week period, I was able to help lead several people to Christ, just from me being willing to sit down and do my Bible study,” Somerville said. “And that was really my first experience of understanding that God created all of us all equal. It wasn’t anything about skin color. It wasn’t about age. It wasn’t about your background. It was just about Him and the love that He brings. So, being in the military really shaped my ideologies, how I feel like the world should be.”

“That was my first understanding, and it made me eventually believe that our world and our community was so much better when we come together.”

He has held part-time associate pastor positions locally since 2009.

Somerville was stationed at Shaw Air Force Base for most of his six years in the military and earned four degrees, including a Master of Divinity in Religion and another master’s degree in cyber security. He left for a Department of Defense contractor position. Now, he’s with the Department of Justice in cyber security.

LIKE FATHER, LIKE SON

The bi-vocational ministerial path that Somerville has chosen is a lot like his father’s.

His contractor position in Columbia is five days on, five days off, then two days back on and two days off. His shift is 6 p.m. until 6 a.m. He also has two hours of commute time to and from the capitol.

“It’s a hectic schedule,” Somerville said.

Sometimes, also like his father, he gets off work on a Sunday morning and gets home just in time to dress and go to church at Trinity.

But he says bi-vocational ministry and helping those in need is his passion.

RACIAL RECONCILIATION

America’s history of racism and police brutality that has been become a mainstream topic in recent months following the deaths of George Floyd and Breonna Taylor and ensuing protests have also raised the topic of racial reconciliation to the fore-

front, which is Somerville’s other passion.

Like many who take an interest in the subject, Somerville said, developing relationships and connections across races is critical to change taking place.

“You can’t change people’s hearts until they understand your story,” he said. “A lot of times, we come to preconceived stereotypes about people without even knowing them — just by the way they look. So, when you are able to sit down and listen to them and understand that, hey, this person is not really so different from myself, you begin to create a certain level of conviction, care and sympathy for certain people when they go through things that are unjustly done.”

Recently, in response to the heightened national issues, close to 70 Sumter pastors of different races and Christian denominations have organized efforts to build unity.

A nine-member task force was created to try to steer efforts and a broad strategy against racism and for nonviolence, and Somerville was selected as the task force lead.

He said he’s been impressed with other members’ genuineness in wanting to change, understand racial issues better and create relationships.

“The task force has been huge for that,” he said. “Especially for my generation — millennials — being able to see older whites and older Blacks come together and talking about, ‘Hey, how do we fix this?’ Because a lot of times, it’s a lot of talk and not a lot of doing. So, seeing people that want to do has been huge.”

He said he thinks if the group of pastors deals effectively on the issues, their congregations will do so as well.

Racial reconciliation comes down to being about God’s business, he said, which is love.

“Love, loving thy neighbor as thyself,” Somerville said. “The Bible says, ‘The greatest of these is love.’ If we show love, in showing love, that will get rid of a lot of the racial issues. That will get rid of a lot of the barriers, like the social class systems, all that.”

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OBITUARIES



Charles W. Ellis, 93 was born in Georgetown Illinois passed away July 29, 2020. Charles was one of nine children. In 1945 Charles was the first black student to graduate from Cayuga High School. For several years he lived and worked on his family farm in Cayuga, Indiana. He then went on to serve as a soldier in the United States Army. Soon after he attended Purdue University where he graduated with a bachelor's degree in Agronomy. In later years Charles was a representative for Indiana State Land Acquisitions. Charles retired from Citizens Gas after being employed with the company for 24 years. Charles possessed a unique talent and love for mechanical work. Charles exemplified the value of a man's word, he made sure to instill his values, wisdom and love into everyone that he came in contact with. Charles's life was a living example of Ephesians 4:32. On Saturday August 8, 2020 there will be a Celebration of Life service 12 p.m. with viewing from 10 a.m. to 12 p.m. at 6321 Wood Knoll Lane, and interment will be at Memorial Garden Cemetery, Lafayette, Indiana. He is survived by his sister Marva Martin; his three children Charra Ellis, Charles(Carolyn) Ellis, Armina Ellis; eight grandchildren, Jeremy(Megan) Marble, Thomas(Selena) Ellis, Jasmine Ellis, Asia Ellis, Paris Ellis, Charles Ellis Jr., Jalen Ellis, Senque Elmore; five great grandchildren Jeremiah Ellis, Malakai Ellis, Bria Coles, Emersyn Moss-Mills, Journee Marble; and a host of family and friends.



Pearson A. Burks, Sr. 79 years old, passed away on Tuesday August 4, 2020. He was born in Learned, MS on June 14, 1941 to Will and Evangeline Burks. He attended Crispus Attucks, and graduated from Shortridge High School. After his honorable discharge from the U.S. Army, he began a thirty year career with UPS as their 1st black driver, retiring as a Center Manager of Carmel, IN. He was a loving husband, awesome father an even better grandfather, the best brother, uncle, cousin and friend. He is survived by his loving wife of 53 years, Shirley; his children, Pearson Jr., Kristal and David I (Tyr); his grandchildren, Lauren, Taylor and David II; his sisters, Doris Benfield (Arnewell), Clara Burks-Jones, Larnell Burks-Bagley, Jarnell Burks-Craig (Pack), Mable Covington, Marvis Olson, Agnes (Donald) Burks-Ward, and Wanda Burks-Bell; his brothers, Derrick (Celeste) and Darrell Burks; and his aunt, Millie Moore. Pearson is also remembered by many nieces, nephews, and other relatives and friends. On Friday, August 14, there will be a drive-thru viewing at Stuart Mortuary located at 2201 N. Illinois St. from 5PM until 8PM, an additional viewing on Saturday August 15, from 10AM until 12PM at Mt. Olive Missionary Baptist Church located at 1003 W. 16th Street. Funeral service is private. Committal and interment will be at Crown Hill Cemetery. In lieu of flowers memorial contributions can be made in his name to the American Heart Association.



William "Bill" Mason Born April 2, 1935, and departed this life August 1, 2020, was born to Lizzie Mae Weaver and William Mason in Washington, Georgia. Fondly known to those in his early childhood as "Plute", he was reared in Indianapolis from the age of 3. He attended Indianapolis Public Schools 4, 17 and Crispus Attucks High School where he excelled in sports. Primarily a basketball player, Bill was a member of the historic 1954 Indiana Championship basketball team and was the only Black athlete on the 1954 All Star Basketball Team. Bill's love of basketball would continue to be a part of his life for many years as a player and mentor. He was inducted into the Indiana Basketball Hall of Fame. Bill opted for the United States Air Force instead of college and served for four years as a radio operator with the rank of sergeant while also playing much basketball during his tenure (TDY). After being honorably discharged, he joined the General Motors Truck and Bus Group Indianapolis Division where he worked in supervision for 25 years until 1986 when he retired. He married Virginia Lee Carbon, the love of his life, in 1955. He is survived by his wife Virginia, their daughter, Lauren Kay Mason, family and many friends. A memorial service will be held Tuesday, August 18, 2020 at 11:00am at St. John's Missionary Baptist Church, 1651 Dr. Andrew J. Brown Ave, Indianapolis, IN 46202. PUBLIC HEALTH ANNOUNCEMENT: A capacity of 100 persons will be permitted in the church and the wearing of facial protection is mandatory in public places per Mayor Joe Hogsett.

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SPIRITUAL OUTLOOK

New commentary on the Qur'an by an African American Muslim

By MICHAEL SAAHIR

Qur'an 18:54 — *"We have explained in detail in this Qur'an, for the benefit of mankind, every kind of similitude: but man is, in most things, contentious."*

The 550-page book entitled "Commentary (Tafsir) on Qur'an by Imam Warith Deen Mohammed" is scheduled for release in September, published by WORDS-MAKE-PEOPLE Inc. A team of African American Muslims from around the United States, under the leadership of Imam Nasir Ahmad of Miami, have compiled this historical collection of tafsirs (Qur'anic commentaries) as given by the late Imam Warith Deen Mohammed; "Wallace," the son of the Honorable Elijah Muhammad.

Imam W. Deen Mohammed succeeded his father as the leader of the Nation of Islam in 1975 and he led the largest indigenous group of Muslim Americans until his passing in September 2008. Now his students have compiled from his 30-plus years of commenting on the Qur'an this new hard-bound publication.

Very many African American Muslims greatly welcome this publication, seeing it as a "return home" to a great legacy that was stolen from Africans by the evils of American slavery. Often Imam Mohammed quoted the great African American theologian Dr. C. Eric Lincoln, who said he believes strongly that there is an Islamic genetic memory in Black people. Building upon Dr. Lincoln's beliefs, Imam Warith (Wallace) Mohammed said, "That's why you have an interest in Islam, many of you; not all of you. That's why you are happy when you become Muslim and you can't wait until you learn Islam. You don't mind that inside your body the genes are shouting, 'I'm back again where I was before; in Islam.'"

This publication is historical. The "Commentary (Tafsir) on Qur'an by Imam Warith Deen Mohammed" is the first Qur'anic publication produced by African American Muslims that is based on the Qur'an itself, specifically for learning the deep insights into the Qur'an. It is a book written for all people of all faith traditions. There is something good for everyone in this commentary of selected verses from the Qur'an.

An excerpt of the book, explaining an important portion of the Muslim daily prayer that is recited in Arabic, reads:

"Then you say, 'As salaamu alainaa wa alaa ibaadullaahi salihheen, Peace be on us because of you and on the righteous servants of G_d'. 'Alainaa,' aren't we the righteous servants of G_d? Why do we say, 'Wa alaa ibaadullaahis salihheen' (and on the righteous servants of G_d)? It is because there are righteous servants out there among the Christians, among the Jews and other people and we wish them peace, too. Isn't that beautiful? When you really know what you are practicing,



ing, it is salvation. It is beauty. It is what will make us comfortable with other good people all around the world and make them comfortable with us. If you just take them my commentary, it will open up the world to you. People won't fear you. They will love you."

Imam Warith (Wallace Deen) spent his 33-year leadership uniting and reconciling the human family. His commentary on the Qur'an — while strongly maintaining traditional Islamic values — connects scriptural language from various faiths, namely the scripture of Jews and Christians.

Another excerpt that relates to Chapter 30 verse 30 of the Qur'an reads:

"It is said that if a Muslim does not believe in Christ Jesus, he is not truly a Muslim. He is ignorant of his own identity, because to believe in Jesus Christ is to believe in yourself. It is to believe in the possibility for your own self if G_d puts His Spirit and His Word into you. You should be able to become Christ-natured and we agree in that. But we do not call it Christ nature. We call it fitraa, the original life pattern and discipline that G_d established in creating human beings for them to evolve into it, to hunger for it, to struggle and work hard for it, until you arrive there."

The "Commentary (Tafsir) on Qur'an by Imam Warith Deen Mohammed" is coming to you soon via all the major book outlets and at your local masjid (mosque) for \$45 (wholesale price TBA). At this time we ask for your supportive prayers for the success of this historical African American Muslim publication. Ameen!

Michael "Mikal" Saahir is the resident Imam of Nur-Allah Islamic Center. He can be reached at nur-allah@att.net or at 317 753-3754.

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Indiana on pace to deplete jobless benefits in September

INDIANAPOLIS (AP) — Indiana’s unemployment insurance trust fund will be depleted in September if Hoosiers continue seeking assistance for joblessness at the current pace due to the coronavirus pandemic, a state official says.

The fund, which provides jobless benefits for the unemployed, had about \$886.8 million in early March, before the pandemic, according to data from the U.S. Department of Treasury. But the fund’s balance had fallen to \$171.8 million as of Aug. 5, The Indianapolis Star reported.

The Indiana Department of Workforce Development projects the fund would become insolvent sometime in September because of the pace that the state is burning through the remaining money.

“We’ve only probably got a handful of weeks if we continue the current pace of payments,” said Josh Richardson, the state agency’s chief of staff.

Hoosiers have filed 948,000 new requests for unemployment insurance benefits over the course of about 10 weeks due to the economic fallout from the pandemic, according to a tally of initial claims by The Indianapolis Star. More than 200,000 people have continued to file for benefits after submitting an initial claim.

Because Indiana’s trust fund is financed by payroll taxes, money is consistently added to the fund. But those taxes haven’t been enough to keep up with the unprecedented level of pandemic-related job losses.

The Treasury Department maintains Indiana’s unemployment insurance trust fund. There are no federal requirements for the number of funds a state should keep in its unemployment insurance trust



fund.

When the fund is depleted, Indiana can borrow money from the federal government to cover unemployment insurance compensation.

“There’ll probably be a grace period where there’s not going to be any interest charged, probably for a couple of years,” said Christopher O’Leary, senior economist with the W.E. Upjohn Institute for Employment Research. “The state will have a chance to pay it (the loan) back without incurring any interest, so it’s just a very simple mechanism.”

Indiana has borrowed from the federal government before to cover unemployment insurance benefits. In the early 1980s, the state used a loan to cover an unemployment insurance fund deficit.

Indiana also depleted the fund during the Great

Recession, when unemployment skyrocketed and demand for compensation exceeded reserves. The state borrowed upward of \$2 billion to pay unemployment claims. It finished repaying the loan several years ago, according to published reports.

Indiana’s looming trust fund insolvency isn’t unique. Numerous other states have applied for federal advances to cover unemployment insurance benefits. According to Ernst & Young LLP, 13 states and jurisdictions applied to receive federal Title XII advances to cover unemployment insurance benefits by July 1. They are California, Massachusetts, Colorado, Delaware, Hawaii, Illinois, Kentucky, Minnesota, New York, Ohio, Texas, the Virgin Islands and West Virginia.

How to get started if you’ve never had a bank account

By SPENCER TIERNEY
NerdWallet

Managing your money without a bank account is doable. But it can pose challenges — and the COVID-19 pandemic has only added more.

A bank account can make life easier in these situations, among others. To avoid future issues, consider opening one — or try again if you’ve been rejected in the past. Here’s a guide to getting started.

ASSESS YOUR MONEY NEEDS

If you’re one of the 14 million adults without a bank account in the U.S., you might have a system that works for you. Maybe that includes using alternative products such as prepaid debit cards and check cashing services.

Check cashing stores like Check ‘n Go and ACE Cash Express may operate for longer hours than banks and have easy approval processes to get cash quickly. But this comes with a steep fee, which can range from 1% to 6%, or more, of the check amount.

Bank accounts can fulfill money needs beyond what prepaid cards and check cashing services can. For example, their fraud protections can limit what you pay if you’re victimized, and many accounts let you lock debit cards remotely when stolen.

And once you’ve begun a relationship with a bank, other doors open: Credit cards, auto or small business loans and cheaper alternatives to payday loans may eventually be within reach.

FIND A BANK THAT FITS YOU

If you find banks intimidating or have had issues getting an ac-



count before, community banks and credit unions tend to be more accommodating than national banks and are often mission-driven — for example, focusing on the financial health of their surrounding communities.

“We’re very lenient at giving someone a second chance,” says Pedro Murillo, area branch manager in the San Francisco Bay Area for Self-Help Federal Credit Union. “If an employee comes in to apply for a loan and doesn’t have pay stubs, what else (can they) show us? A letter from (their) employer? We don’t want to give up.”

Like other credit unions, Self-Help requires a person to open a savings account to become a member; the minimum to open an account is typically a few bucks. Then members can apply for other products, like a credit builder loan.

WHAT TO KNOW ABOUT APPLYING

To open an account, you’ll generally need your Social Security number, one or two forms of identification and money for the first deposit.

It’s common to apply for two

bank accounts at the same time: a checking and a savings account. The checking account grants access to a debit card, bill payment system and other services, while the savings account lets you set money aside and, ideally, grow by earning interest.

Banks usually screen applicants on ChexSystems, a national reporting agency that keeps records of accounts closed against a person’s will. If you have lost access to a bank account in the past, you might be rejected by other banks until you settle your ChexSystems record. This can mean paying off debt to a bank or disputing errors on the record.

Once you’re cleared, consider what banks often call a second chance checking account or a BankOn-approved checking account. Many of these don’t charge overdraft fees, which kick in if you try paying for something that would put your balance in the negative.

Finding and opening the right bank account involves some effort. But once you’re approved, having a safe place for your money and a better chance to get affordable loans can make it worthwhile.



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PUBLIC NOTICE

Ordinance Number: 2020-03
Be it ordained/resolved by the Board of Directors that for the expenses of INDIANAPOLIS PUBLIC TRANSPORTATION for the year ending December 31, 2021 the sums herein specified are hereby appropriated and ordered set apart out of the several funds herein named and for the purposes herein specified, subject to the laws governing the same. Such sums herein appropriated shall be held to include all expenditures authorized to be made during the year, unless otherwise expressly stipulated and provided for by law. In addition, for the purposes of raising revenue to meet the necessary expenses of INDIANAPOLIS PUBLIC TRANSPORTATION, the property tax levies and property tax rates as herein specified are included herein. Budget Form 4-B for all funds must be completed and submitted in the manner prescribed by the Department of Local Government Finance. This ordinance/resolution shall be in full force and effect from and after its passage and approval by the Board of Directors.

Name of Adopting Entity / Fiscal Body		Type of Adopting Entity / Fiscal Body	Date of Adoption	
Board of Directors		Board of Directors	08/20-2020	
Fund Code	Fund Name	Adopted Budget	Adopted Tax Levy	Adopted Tax Rate
8001	SPECIAL TRANSPORTATION GEN	\$ 81,857,567	\$ 41,172,610	0.1008
8090	SPECIAL TRANSPORTATION CUMULATIVE	\$ 8,000,000	\$ 3,900,000	0.0095
	TOTAL	\$89,857,567	\$45,072,610	0.1103

Home-Ruled Funds (Not Reviewed by DLGF)		Fund Name	Adopted Budget
Fund ID	Fund Code		
1023	9500	Capital Grants Projects	\$ 84,250,000
1024	9501	Federal Pass Through	\$ 750,000
1025	9502	Income Tax Revenue Fund	\$ 56,362,620
1026	9503	Income Tax Debt Service Fund	\$ 6,500,000
		Total	\$237,720,187

Special Notes: The proposed tax levies listed included in column 3 include a special tax levy under IC 36-9-4-49 in the amount of \$14,800,000. Said proposed special tax for 2021 will be in addition to the Maximum Levy set under IC 6-1.1-18.5-1.

Name	Signature
Greg Hahn, Chair	Aye <input type="checkbox"/> Nay <input type="checkbox"/> Abstain <input type="checkbox"/>
Adairus Gardner, Vice-Chair	Aye <input type="checkbox"/> Nay <input type="checkbox"/> Abstain <input type="checkbox"/>
Mark Fisher, Secretary	Aye <input type="checkbox"/> Nay <input type="checkbox"/> Abstain <input type="checkbox"/>
Richard Wilson, Treasurer	Aye <input type="checkbox"/> Nay <input type="checkbox"/> Abstain <input type="checkbox"/>
Tommy Jones	Aye <input type="checkbox"/> Nay <input type="checkbox"/> Abstain <input type="checkbox"/>
Juan Gonzalez	Aye <input type="checkbox"/> Nay <input type="checkbox"/> Abstain <input type="checkbox"/>
Lise Pace	Aye <input type="checkbox"/> Nay <input type="checkbox"/> Abstain <input type="checkbox"/>

ATTEST	Title	Signature
N Jill D. Russell	Secretary/General Counsel	

hspaxlp 08/07/2020 08/14/2020

PUBLIC NOTICE

PUBLIC PROJECT
Engineering and Polytechnic Gateway
Purdue University West Lafayette, IN.

Shiel Sexton is seeking prequalified subcontractor bids for the Engineering and Polytechnic Gateway project for work associated with the following bid packages:
Contract No. 33 – Masonry (Interior & Site)
Scope includes: Interior cmu wall and site masonry walls for the new 5 story Academic building.
Contract No. 34 – Walls and Ceilings
Scope includes: Interior metal stud and drywall partitions, blocking, drywall finishing, and ceilings for the new 5 story Academic building.
Contract No. 35 – Flooring
Scope includes: Carpet, linoleum, resilient, rubber tile, walk off mats, resilient base, ceramic tile, mosaic tile, porcelain tile, and quarry tile for the new 5 story Academic building.
Contract No. 36 – Paint and Wallcoverings
Scope includes: Wall coverings, interior painting, and exterior painting for the new 5 story Academic building.
Contract No. 37 – Site Pavements and Amenities
Scope includes: Site concrete, concrete paving joint sealants, unit pavers, asphalt paving, and site furnishings for the new Academic building.
Contract No.38 – Earthwork, Utilities
Scope includes: Site clearing, utility demolition, site utilities, sanitary sewers, subgrade prep for hardscapes, and final grading for the new Academic building.
Plans & specifications will be available Thursday, August 13, 2020. Plans & specifications may be viewed online at reprographix.com, iSqFt.com, integrityoneplanroom.com, and blueprintspecialties.net. For questions regarding the bid documents contact Chris Metzger at cmetzger@shiel-sexton.com or (317) 716-8765.
Pre-Bid Meeting will be held Wednesday, August 26, 2020 at 1:00 PM (EST) virtually through Zoom.
Each bid over \$200,000 shall be accompanied by a bid security in the amount of 5% of the total base bid amount. Bids are due Thursday, September 10, 2020 at 2:00pm (EST). Sealed bids shall be submitted to Shiel Sexton, Attention: Chris Metzger, at purduegatewaybid4c@shielsexton.com
hspaxlp 08/14/20 08/21/20

PUBLIC NOTICE

Indianapolis Public Transportation Corporation (IndyGo)
Notice of Public Meeting

Attend IndyGo's Upcoming Purple Line Public Meeting
IndyGo will host a virtual public meeting and socially-distanced open houses to update the public on the Purple Line Rapid Transit Project. The project will bring rapid transit and major infrastructure improvements to 38th Street and Post Road, with construction starting in 2021 and lasting through 2023. IndyGo will provide information on design and alignment, advancements in ordinance changes and funding, and a timeline for moving forward with the rapid transit project.
In addition, IndyGo will provide information on archaeological reviews and site investigations conducted as part of the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA). During this investigation, IndyGo, its consulting partners, the Federal Transit Administration, and the State Historic Preservation Officer determined that one archaeological find was historically significant.

- Meeting dates and times are as follows:
- Public Meeting: Tuesday, August 18 | 5:30 PM – 6:30 PM | I CAFE Indy - 8902 E 38th St
 - Open House: Wednesday, August 19 | 11:00 AM – 1:00 PM | I CAFE Indy - 8902 E 38th St
 - Open House: Wednesday, August 19 | 5:00 PM – 7:30 PM | I CAFE Indy - 8902 E 38th St
 - Purple Party: Thursday, August 20 | 11 AM – 2 PM | Carson Transit Center - 201 E Washington St

For the virtual public meeting link, visit www.indygopurple.com. For more information or if you cannot attend any of these events, you may visit this website and submit questions.
hspaxlp 08/14/20

PUBLIC NOTICE

Indiana's Finest Wecker will be having an auction/public sale on August 24th, 2020 at 8AM, 7576 W Washington St Indianapolis, IN 46231. List of vehicles to be included in the sale:

Year	Make	VIN	Sale Price
2012	HYUNDAI	KMTHC6AD0CU019231	\$1,500.00
1999	CHEVROLET	1G1ND52M7XY100785	\$1,500.00
2013	HYUNDAI	KMH4E2D0631369	\$1,500.00
2005	DODGE	1D4GP24R95B156406	\$1,500.00
2003	VOLKSWAGEN	WVWVWH63B99E003487	\$1,500.00
2008	CHEVROLET	2G1WU583889208714	\$1,500.00
2008	MERCEDES-BENZ	WDDGF81X48F070400	\$1,500.00
2002	OLDSMOBILE	1G3NL52EX2C114494	\$1,500.00
2011	HONDA	5FNRL5H24B8023108	\$1,500.00

hspaxlp 08/14/20

SUMMONS

STATE OF INDIANA
COUNTY OF MARION
IN THE MARION CIRCUIT COURT
CAUSE NUMBER:
22C01-2003-MF-000380
Citi Mortgage, Inc.,
Plaintiff,
vs.
Dennis E May, et al.
Defendants.

NOTICE OF SUIT
SUMMONS - SERVICE BY PUBLICATION

The State of Indiana to the defendants above named, and any other person who may be concerned. You are notified that you have been sued in the Court above named. The nature of the suit against you is a foreclosure of the real estate mortgage, legally described as:

LOT 50 IN HUNTER'S EMBERTON HEIGHTS SUBDIVISION, THE PLAT OF WHICH IS RECORDED IN PLAT BOOK 29, PAGE 297 IN THE OFFICE OF THE RECORDER OF MARION COUNTY, INDIANA. This property is commonly known as 736 South Bancroft Street, Indianapolis, IN. 46203. This summons by publication is specifically directed to the following Defendants whose addresses are known:

Dennis E. May
736 South Bancroft St.
Indianapolis, IN. 46203
And to the following defendant whose addresses are unknown:
Walsh Securities, Inc.
In addition to the above named Defendants being served by this summons there may be other Defendants who have an interest in this lawsuit. If you have a claim for relief against the Plaintiff arising from the same transaction or occurrence, you must assert it in your written answer. You must answer the Complaint in writing, by your attorney, on or before the 13th day of September, 2020, (the same being within thirty (30) days after the Third Notice of Suit), and if you fail to do so a judgment will be entered against you for what the Plaintiff has demanded. /s/ Amanda L. Krenson
Matthew C. Gladwell (30493-49)
Joel F. Bornkamp (27410-49)
Gregory A. Stout (29517-15)
Amanda L. Krenson (28999-6)
Attorneys for Plaintiff
Reisenfeld & Associates LLC
3962 Red Bank Road
Cincinnati, OH 45227
Voice: 1-513-322-7000
Facsimile: (513) 322-7099
ATTEST: 7/16/2020
Clerk of the Marion County Circuit Court

REAL ESTATE

Hud Housing Available
Studio's & 1 Bedrooms
3475 Boulevard Place
317-925-0555
or
317-925-0069
TTY
07/31/20 08/07/20 08/14/20

SUMMONS

STATE OF INDIANA
COUNTY OF MARION
IN THE SUPERIOR COURT OF MARION
CIVIL DIVISION
CICELY WARREN,
Plaintiff,
Vs
TIMOTHY PRICE and
AMERICAN FAMILY INSURANCE,
Defendants.
CAUSE NO.
49D03-2003-CT-01806
AFFIDAVIT
REGINALD B. BISHOP being of lawful age and being first duly sworn, states:
That he is the attorney in the above entitled action.
That the names and residences of all defendants known to me are as follows:
That the names of all known defendants whose residences are unknown are as follows: TIMOTHY PRICE, 3424 OXFORD ST, INDIANAPOLIS, IN 46218
That the affid do not know and with reasonable inquiry and diligence is unable to ascertain the residence of those defendants, who are or may be concerned with the subject of this litigation, and who he desires to serve by publication.
That this action is one of those mentioned in Rule 4.4 of the Indiana Rules of Civil Procedure.
Subscribed and sworn to before me, a Notary Public, in and for the State of Indiana and County of Marion on August 3, 2020.
Myia A. Eldridge, Clerk

08/14/20 08/21/20 08/28/20

SUMMONS

STATE OF INDIANA
MARION SUPERIOR COURT
CIVIL DIVISION
CONRAD BAKER
CAUSE NO.
49D10-2006-CT-020447
Plaintiff
Vs
JILLIAN WATTS
Defendants.
NOTICE OF SUIT
The State of Indiana to the Defendant above named, and any other person who may be concerned. You are notified that you have been in the Court above named. The nature of the suit against you is : PERSONAL INJURY
This summons by publication is specifically directed to the following named Defendant(s) whose addresses are n/a
And to the following Defendant whose whereabouts is unknown: Jillian Watts
In addition to the above named defendants being served there may be other defendants who have an interest in this law suit.
If you have a claim for relief against the plaintiff arising from the same transaction or occurrence, you must assert it in your written answer. You must answer the Complaint in writing, by you or your attorney within thirty (30) days after third Notice of Suit is published, and, if you fail to do so, judgment by default may be rendered against you for the relief demanded.
Myia A. Eldridge
Clerk

08/07/2020 08/14/2020

HELP WANTED

Software Engineer—Indianapolis, IN. Use modern technologies & frameworks to write code; collaborate w/ cross-functional teams; take ownership of product features. UX/UI Design to meet needs of the users & business. Responsible for: Prototyping; User Testing; Design Systems; Create experiences on web & mobile; Provide design for mobile products; Launch products; Build, maintain & communicate product launch plans; Provide escalation management throughout new product launch. Requires: Bachelor's degree in Software Engineering, Computer Science, related & 2 yrs of software engineering exp to include UI/UX design, product lead, Ruby, JavaScript & Ruby on Rails. Please apply: Jen Burkus, Developer Town LLC, 5255 Winthrop Ave., Indianapolis, IN 46220 or <https://developertown.com/jobs>

08/07/2020 08/14/2020

HELP WANTED

ADVERTISERS: You can place a 25-word classified ad in more than 140 newspapers across the state for as little as \$340.00 with one order and paying with one check through iCAN, Indiana. Classified Advertising Network. For information contact the classified department of your local newspaper or call iCAN direct at Hoosier State Press Association, (317) 803-4772.

FISHING & HUNTING

VACATION CABINS FOR RENT IN CANADA. Fish for walleyes, perch, northern, bass, motors, gasoline included. Visit www.best-fishing.com or www.canadian-fishing.com for more information. For a free brochure call Hugh 1-800-426-2550.

Paramount Cottage Home ribbon cutting



Paramount Cottage Home is a mayor-sponsored charter school for grades K-4. The school recently held a ribbon cutting to celebrate the completion of the Cottage Home Campus. Social distancing measures were in place as attendance was limited and masks were required. The school opened in 2018 in Community Heights before relocating. (Photo/Curtis Guynn)

Emotionally Preparing Your Children for Back-to-School Season

(Family Features) Between sheltering-in-place, online learning and time away from friends, many children will need a little extra support as they head back to school this fall.

Consider these tips from the experts at KinderCare to help you emotionally prepare your children to return to school with confidence, optimism and excitement.

ADDRESS YOUR FEELINGS (AND THEIRS)

Children often take cues about how to react from their parents. Think about what it takes for you to feel calm and prepared (or even excited) for the start of a new school year. That could mean talking with your child's teacher or school about the safety precautions they're taking so you can feel more at ease, taking a few minutes to establish a morning routine or stepping away from news that makes you anxious. Focus instead on the positive aspects of school, like the opportunity your child will have to learn, make friends, interact with others and grow into his or her own person.

"Children need a sense of belonging, and school provides an important connection point for them," said Dr. Elanna Yalow, chief academic officer for KinderCare Learning Centers. "Nothing builds a sense of community like personal contact with friends and teachers. That connection is essential in supporting a child's growth and development."

SET EXPECTATIONS ABOUT WHAT TO EXPECT BEFORE THE FIRST DAY

Some children may feel ready to go and eager to explore, while others can be more reserved or even fearful of new places, faces and routines. When your child knows what to expect, it can go a long way in soothing any worries he or she may have about leaving home and go-

ing to school.

It's also important to respect your child's growing independence and empower him or her to help others. As you explain safety precautions like covering the mouth when sneezing or coughing, or proper hand washing, emphasize how your child's actions can help keep family, friends and teachers safe.

"Children may already be apprehensive about returning to school, let alone trying to cope with new safety practices," said Dr. Joelle Simpson, a pediatric emergency medicine physician and medical director for emergency preparedness at Children's National Hospital. "Explaining these precautions ahead of time can help your children see them as part of the school day routine instead of something to fear. For parents, remember that while children can get sick from this virus, it occurs less frequently than in adults and at lower rates than the flu."

CELEBRATE THE START OF A NEW SCHOOL YEAR

Try to plan a special activity or some extra family time the week before school starts and encourage your child to participate in the planning.

"Remember, children didn't have time for a clean break and celebration at the end of the last school year, and this can help your child mentally adjust to a new routine and schedule," Yalow said.

Let your child know how proud you are to see him or her growing up, learning how to be a good friend and exploring and learning about the world. Be sure to talk with your child each school day – what was learned, funny things friends said, the things that seem little but are important to your child.

For more tips about how to help your child prepare for the new school year, visit kindercare.com.

No shortage of points scored inside the NBA's bubble

By **TIM REYNOLDS**
AP Basketball Writer

LAKE BUENA VISTA, Fla. (AP) — The last time there was a slate of five or more NBA games on the same day, with every team scoring at least 110 points, was more than 32 years ago.

That is, until the opening of the league's so-called bubble amid the coronavirus pandemic — where it already has happened twice.

Scoring numbers are soaring inside the NBA's bubble, where the restarted season is happening at Walt Disney World. Through Aug. 9, 15 of the 22 teams inside the bubble were exceeding what had been their scoring averages before the season was suspended on March 11 because of COVID-19.

Games on average have seen nine points more than what had been the norm this season. The number of 3-pointers in each contest — which had been on a record clip when the season got suspended — is up as well. And Indiana's T.J. Warren, not even a top-50 scorer when the pandemic hit, is leading the bubble in points per game so far, averaging 34.4 and nearly doubling what was his season average.

"T.J. Warren is on a different planet right now," Pacers guard Victor Ola-

dipo said.

He's not alone. The bubble is working for just about everybody, or so it seems.

There was a six-game NBA schedule on Feb. 21, 1988, and all the teams playing that night scored at least 110 points. That hadn't happened, on a day of five or more games, again in the NBA until July 31 — the second day of bubble games. It happened again Aug. 9.

Dallas coach Rick Carlisle says there might be multiple reasons why the numbers are up, but foremost on the list is that the NBA has created an environment where players are comfortable.

"We came from a situation at home where players could only do individual workouts, you know, with a coach with a mask on and rubber gloves," Carlisle said. "When you walked in the practice facility, you had to clean your shoes. You had to fill out a form, you had to take your temperature, you had to do a lot of things and that was before serial testing began. So a lot has gone into this."

It's paying off.

Maybe this should have been expected, even after teams went 4 1/2 months without playing a real game during the suspension. Hostile fans

aren't screaming at and distracting shooters in the bubble. Nobody is weary from a long flight the night before. And the conditions inside the three different game arenas at Disney — from the lighting to the temperature — are relatively close to identical.

"Obviously, even though we are playing on different courts, they all kind of feel like the same arena," Milwaukee's Brook Lopez said. "It's not like we're going from Milwaukee to Philly, Miami, back to Milwaukee or anything like that. It's pretty consistent in that regard."

A team that is among the few exceptions to the bubble scoring fest right now is the Los Angeles Lakers, who have the No. 1 seed for the Western Conference playoffs but are managing a restart-low 100.8 points per game at Disney.

"It's a very weird dynamic," Lakers star LeBron James said. "I haven't played in an empty gym in a very, very long time. It's been a very long time since no one has been watching me play the game. I'm just trying to find that rhythm and lock in."

Put simply, it is taking a ton of points to win. Entering the bubble, San Antonio had been 58-5 under coach Gregg Popovich when scoring 125

points or more; the Spurs are 0-2 at Disney when scoring that many. And through Aug. 9, there had been 61 games completed in the bubble — with the winning team scoring at least 100 points in all 61 of them.

"I think shooting travels," New Orleans' J.J. Redick said. "If you can make shots, you can make shots. ... I've shot in high school gyms. I've shot in civic centers. I've shot in arenas. I've shot in basements of Catholic administrative buildings. If you can make shots, you can make shots."

Carlisle has another theory or explanation that can't be argued: Wherever they are, bubble or no bubble, pandemic or no pandemic, NBA players in this era can score from practically anywhere.

"To me, it's just the level of aggression of the players," Carlisle said. "And the fact that, you know, the skill sets of NBA players are increasing exponentially by the month. I mean, it's just getting harder and harder to guard these guys. There's a high level of enthusiasm. The closeness of the games has been crazy to watch. It's just been a very special time here — even though it's been quite unusual."

2020 Indy 500 opens for practice at IMS



Defending Indy 500 champion Simon Pagenaud, driving for Team Penske, gets some practice laps in behind the wheel of his Chevrolet power car as the 2020 Indy 500 opens for practice.



A sign of the times. No fans were in the stands for the first day of practice for the 2020 Indy 500. (Photo/Walt Thomas)



NHRA Indy Nationals

Leah Pruett drove her Top Fuel dragster to the lowest elapsed time of the meet at 3.749 seconds at the Dodge NHRA Indy Nationals at Lucas Oil Raceway Park.



Pruett (Dodge SRT) has earned 11 total event wins in her career, including eight in Top Fuel and three in Pro Modified. (Photos/Walt Thomas)



Ron Capps won the Funny Car title at the Dodge NHRA Indy Nationals. He drove his Dodge Charger SRT Hellcat Funny Car to victory at 263.20 miles per hour and an elapsed time of 4.27 seconds.

Championship night at The Factory



Everyone in the Bite Size League won on championship night at The Factory.



The Factory's Bite Size League youth range from 3-4 and 5-6 years old. They received skills training and played games. (Photos/David Dixon)



Fans at The Factory were required to wear masks and have their temperature taken before entering the facility. There was also hand sanitizer located throughout the building.