

Check out a racial justice mural from Indy Public Library

By **BREANNA COOPER**
BreannaC@indyrecorder.com

When downtown stores and businesses were boarded up over the summer to prevent property damage during protests, local artists saw an opportunity to create. The Arts Council of Indianapolis and arts organization Pattern paired local Black artists with business owners to create racial justice-themed murals on storefronts.

Thanks to a partnership between the Arts Council of Indianapolis and the Center for Black Literature and Culture, 28 mural replicas are available to check out from the Indianapolis Public Library.

See **JUSTICE**, A6▶



"Rejoice" by local artist Shade Bell was displayed outside of the Homespun shop on Massachusetts Avenue. (Photo provided)

Shelters brace for double whammy of winter weather, COVID

By **BREANNA COOPER**
BreannaC@indyrecorder.com

Anthony has been struggling with homelessness off and on for three years. A recovering addict with a criminal record, finding a stable job has been difficult.

Before the pandemic, Anthony, whose last name is being withheld, would occasionally stay at local shelters. While he wasn't fond of how "preachy" some shelters can be, it was an opportunity for a bed and a warm

place to sleep. Since the beginning of the pandemic, however, Anthony hasn't felt comfortable going to shelters.

"I'm really not tryna' die out here," Anthony, 31, said. "I don't like sleeping downtown, but I can be by myself. You don't know what kind of s*** other people have."

As the days continue to get colder, though, more people are venturing into shelters rather than staying on the street.

Steve Kerr, executive vice president

of advancement for Wheeler Mission, said the shelter is currently providing beds to the number of people they would typically see in January, sparking concerns not just about an influx of people in need, but how Wheeler will meet the need in the midst of the pandemic.

Wheeler has been working with city leaders and the Coalition for Homelessness Intervention and Prevention (CHIP) Indianapolis to modify its winter contingency plans for COVID-19.

See **HOMELESS**, A6▶



**Celebrating 125 years
From the
Recorder Archives
Jan. 31, 2008**

Report serves as 'wake-up call'

By **BRANDON PERRY**

Community leaders, educators and citizens across the state are examining ways to respond to the results of a report on Indiana's Black youth.

Last week Indiana Black Expo (IBE) released its biannual State of Our Black Youth report, which serves as a survey of how African American youth are holding up in areas such as economics, education, health care and juvenile justice.

This time the report appears to be a mixed bag for most readers. On one hand it presented good news, such as the fact that there are more Black students attending four-year universities and two-year vocational and technical colleges. In addition, the number

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What's next for Belinda Drake? For now, healing

By **TYLER FENWICK**
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Belinda Drake's campaign for state Senate was a long shot in the conservative District 32, but election night was still special.

Drake's family traveled from Gary to be with her, and she spent time with volunteers and the county Democratic Party, along with her now-fiancée.

"I was just extremely appreciative for family and overwhelmed with the possibilities of the outcome," she said.

Drake lost that night to Republican incumbent Aaron Freeman by 18 points, and one of Marion County's rising Democrats — a 35-year-old



Belinda Drake, then a candidate for Indiana House of Representatives in District 89, adjusts a #BelieveInBelinda sign on the podium at her campaign launch event Dec. 5, 2019. (Recorder file photo)

gay Black woman — had to step back and figure out what should come next.

For now, it's healing.

Drake's political tour has spanned three campaigns in a little less than two years.

She was first a candidate for the Indianapolis City-County Council in 2019, but Drake wasn't allowed to run as a Democrat in the primary because the party said she hadn't voted in a Democratic primary before, which is one of the requirements for the slating process. Drake tried to run as a write-in candidate but didn't get enough signatures to appear on the ballot.

Drake turned her sights to

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Volume 125
Number 51
Two Sections

INDIANAPOLIS RECORDER USPS (262-660)

Published weekly by: The George P. Stewart Printing Co., Inc., P.O. Box 18499, 2901 N. Tacoma Ave., Indianapolis, IN 46218. Periodicals postage paid at Indianapolis, IN.
POSTMASTER: Send address changes to: The Indianapolis Recorder, P.O. Box 18499, 2901 N. Tacoma Ave., Indianapolis, IN 46218.

Subscription price by mail or carrier: \$39 per year; \$19.50 for 6 mos., 75 cents per copy. National advertising representative: Amalgamated Publishers Inc., 45 W. 45th St., New York, NY 10036. Member: National Newspaper Publishers Association, Central Indiana Publishers Association, Hoosier State Press Association.

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Due to uncertainties associated with COVID-19 (coronavirus), the 16th annual Champions of Diversity awards dinner scheduled for Jan. 15, 2021, is canceled. Visit indianapolisrecorder.com to learn of other ways to support the Recorder and Indiana Minority Business Magazine.



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Here in Indianapolis, we’ve donated masks to local partners to distribute to those most at risk. We’ve provided lending to local small businesses through the Paycheck Protection Program (PPP) to help strengthen our local economy. And we continue to partner with local nonprofits and organizations that are working to advance racial equality and economic opportunity in the communities we serve.

We’re grateful for our employees, who have worked tirelessly to support our clients. And we are especially grateful to the healthcare and essential workers who have helped Indianapolis recover.

My teammates and I remain fully committed to the work to come in 2021 and beyond.



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E-learning sites fill critical gap while school is virtual

By TYLER FENWICK
tylerf@indyrecorder.com

The 60 students who get e-learning help at KIPP Indy’s elementary and middle school on East 30th Street are a small batch of the hundreds, maybe thousands, of students around Marion County who rely on organizations and school districts to provide e-learning support.

KIPP’s learning site is in collaboration with Edna Martin Christian Center (EMCC), which provides staffing support to go along with the school’s teachers. Students receive breakfast, lunch and a snack, and there’s a registered nurse on site.

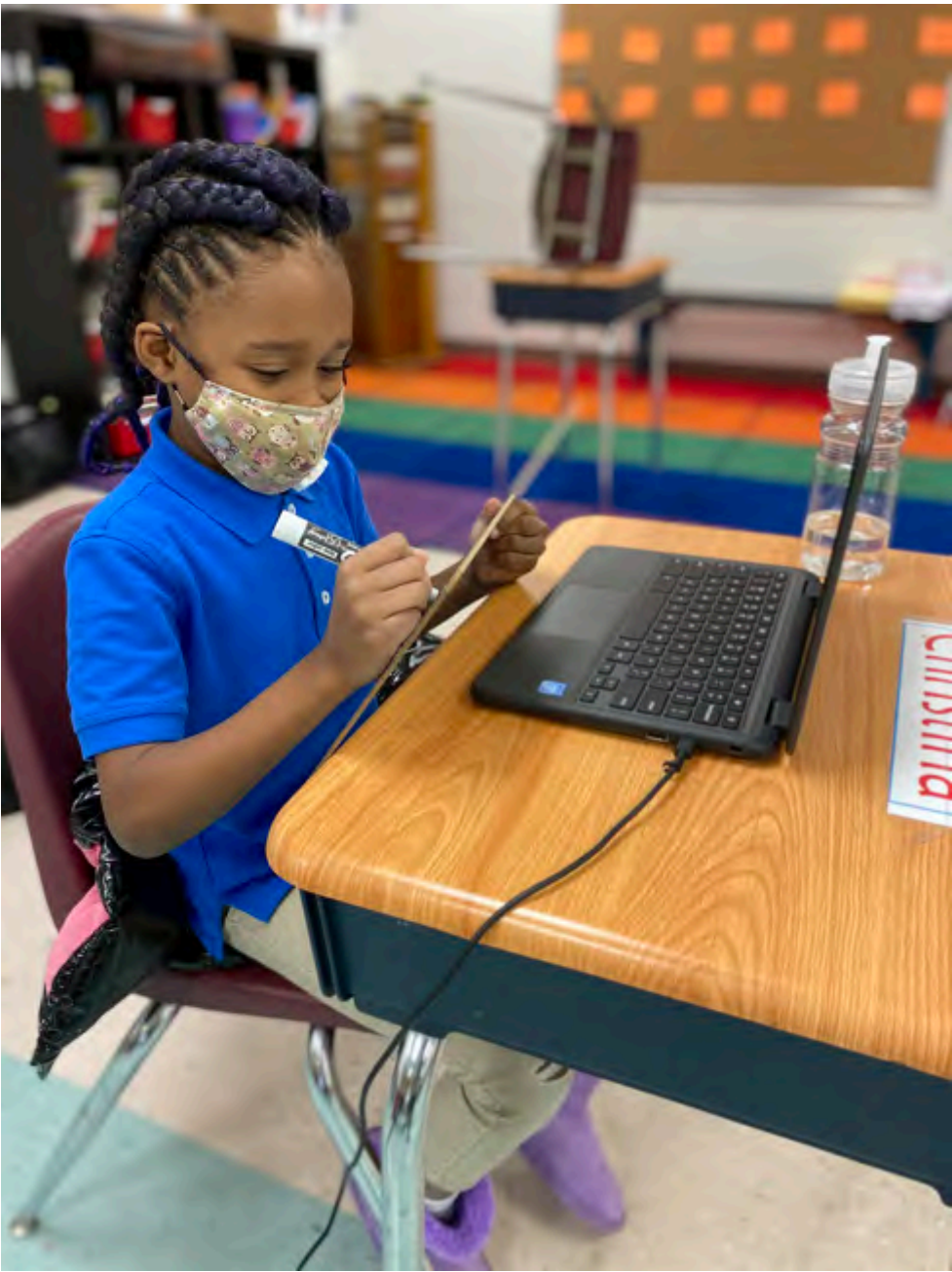
“We had to act quickly but also with a long-term view of what comprehensive supports needed to be in place,” said Andy Seibert, KIPP’s executive director.

Seibert said KIPP will continue to provide in-person e-learning support as long as school is virtual.

The Marion County Public Health Department said students may be able to return to in-person learning as early as Jan. 4, but some districts, including Indianapolis Public Schools, quickly announced they won’t reopen schools to students that soon.

The Mind Trust has been one of the leaders with e-learning hubs locally. The education nonprofit has partnered with organizations to open 26 Community Learning Sites, which are free for Indianapolis families. The Mind Trust has invested about \$488,000 in the learning sites, and Lilly Endowment awarded another \$500,000 to help expand the program.

Shannon Williams, senior vice president of community engagement at The Mind Trust, said parents reached out to the organization after the health department’s announcement to say they wouldn’t be comfortable with their students going back to



Students at KIPP Indy can get e-learning help from KIPP teachers and staff from Edna Martin Christian Center. (Photo provided)

school then. Funding for Community Learning Sites is supposed to last through Jan. 15, but Williams said the organization is prepared to extend that timeline for existing sites and open new sites.

One of The Mind Trust’s partners is Brookside Community Development Corporation, which operates a learning site with a capacity for 55 students, who work in classrooms with five to 10 other students sepa-

rated by grade. Andrew Neal, the organization’s COO, said most of the students have parents who work during the day, so even if children were able to stay home for e-learning, they likely wouldn’t have someone there to make sure they stay on task and have what they need.

“It’s pretty incredible to think about the different organizations that are coming together to make this happen,” Neal said. “This is what it was going to take to pull off something of this magnitude. But it’s what we need to do.”

Remotely, an education services company, set up a learning pod on the northwestern edge of Washington Township for homeless students and students in the foster care system. There are currently 10 students, according to Remotely President Jenn Watts.

The learning pod started after Remotely put out a call for anyone needing help with tutoring or e-learning. Students experiencing homelessness are sometimes left alone out of necessity because their parents have to look for a job.

Remotely’s staff started working with School on Wheels, which provides tutoring for students impacted by homelessness, and established the learning pod in late November. College Park Church donated the space in its youth ministry center, which has a soccer field, TVs and a kitchen, and Patachou Foundation provides meals.

For many students, the learning pod is their first opportunity to keep up with e-learning.

“Just getting them on the computer consistently for a week was a win for us,” Watts said.

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

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Lt. Gov. praises Black barbers as ‘powerful’ in stopping mental health stigma

By HILARY POWELL

On a quiet day this month, barber Trey Cato had someone new in his chair — someone who’d come for the conversation, not the haircut.

“When kids’ friends get shot and they die, [the kids] go get the [memorial] T-shirt, but before he goes to the church and the funeral, he stops at the barbershop to get a haircut,” Cato recalled telling Lt. Gov. Suzanne Crouch, who traveled hours from the state capital to visit his shop in Fort Wayne. “The barbers have so much influence.”

Cato is part of a national coalition of haircutters doing double duty to improve the health of Black men. Operating under a vision that they are “more than a pair of clippers,” national nonprofit The Confess Project is helping Black barbers talk about mental health, one client at a time.

Crouch said mental health is more than a conversation, it’s a statewide priority for the governor’s administration — especially amid the pandemic’s “human cost to families.”

“Clients are very faithful, and they develop relationships,” she said. “They actually become friends and confidants. It has grown even stronger throughout COVID-19 because [Cato] is doing a one-on-one, kind of a by appointment only.”

After reading about Cato’s efforts to break down mental health stigma, Crouch started a conversation with The Indiana Commission on the Social Status of Black Males. She wants to give the state’s Black barbers more tools for their discussions on mental health and connect them to a



Indiana Lt. Gov. Suzanne Crouch talks with Fort Wayne barber Trey Cato, who is part of an effort to get Black barbers to talk to their clients about mental health. (Photo provided)

network of health care professionals.

“I really enjoyed his dedication and commitment,” she said. “His being committed to his roots and faith. Just serving others.”

The Confess Project can touch people who may be unconvinced mental health professionals have the cultural competence needed to understand their everyday experiences.

In Indiana, Black men and boys are more than three times as likely to die by suicide than females. In 2017, the latest year the data is available,

the state health department reports more than 75% of Black Hoosiers who died by suicide were male.

State health officials say Black men experience depression and anxiety differently than counterparts from other racial and ethnic backgrounds. A wide range of factors can affect their mental health, such as exposure to violence or racism, access to health care, access to stable and affordable housing, and a general misunderstanding of mental illness.

When Black men seek care, the state health department

says they should not be afraid to confront a provider about cultural competency. Blacks are underrepresented among mental health care providers, and others may not always understand important cultural issues such as racism, the agency said.

Crouch said she’s working to make a statewide Black male mental health network more concrete in 2021, starting with the men who know their clients best.

“Trey is changing people’s lives one at a time,” she said. “People in their ordinary day-

to-day work can really have an influence on those they come into contact with. I think it’s powerful.”

Lorenzo Lewis, founder of The Confess Project, said the thought of formalizing a packet of referrals of mental health professionals with cultural competency is “exciting.”

This story was reported as part of a partnership between WFYI, Side Effects Public Media and the Indianapolis Recorder. Contact Hilary Powell at hpowell@wfyi.org. Follow her on Twitter @mshilary.

Don’t let stress take over your holiday season. Make time for self-care.

The holidays bring feelings of joy and love, but they can also bring stress.

For some, this time of year brings feelings of pressure, sadness and sometimes depression. In fact, the American Psychological Association says that people report higher stress levels during the holidays. Many things can add to these feelings like busy to-do lists, family issues, financial concerns and more.

“If you or someone you love is struggling this holiday season, and are concerned it may be depression, see a doctor or therapist for help,” said Dr. Julie Keck, Medical Director, Indiana Medicaid, Anthem Blue Cross and Blue Shield.

But not all holiday stress is a sign of depression. Just because a person doesn’t share the same joy for the holidays, it doesn’t mean they’re depressed. The holidays can mean different things to different people.

One thing everyone can focus on during this stressful time is self-care. Get enough sleep, exercise often and eat healthy food. Also focus on emotional self-care by doing activities that calm you down and relax your mind.

Families who typically have strict budgets can certainly feel more stress because of the pressure to spend more money. When income is tight, parents often put themselves last to make sure their children enjoy the holidays. A person’s health can suffer from this behavior.

“Take time for you. Try to get some rest. Even though the holidays may be hectic, take your medicines. Find a system that helps. For example, keep your pill bottle near your toothbrush. Remember, a healthy parent is the ultimate gift,” says Dr. Keck. Your family and friends really just want to enjoy your company.

It’s important to set boundaries when it comes to visiting loved ones and traveling. Plan ahead and figure out which family members and friends you’ll visit. Be honest by saying that you simply cannot get around to everyone, every year. It’s OK to say no. They’ll understand.

It’s also OK to have no plans and spend time at home. Think about what brings you happiness. Maybe its baking cookies, watching a movie, or cuddling up with a good book and a cup of coffee. Whatever it is — enjoy and take it easy.

Stress is a natural part of life. It can actually help you meet some of the challenges the holidays bring. Just don’t stress about being stressed.

“Know when to say no, take time for yourself, and keep a realistic view,” concludes Dr. Keck.

Contributed by Dr. Julie Keck, Medical Director, Indiana Medicaid, Anthem Blue Cross and Blue Shield.



Don’t let stress take over the season. Remember self-care.

- The joy of the holidays can often be lost to the increased stress. It’s easy to worry about tight budgets and busy schedules. So make sure to set aside time to take care of yourself. Here are a few ways to relieve stress during the holidays:
- Bundle up and take a walk.
 - Bake cookies — the scent will improve your mood!
 - Play games with family or friends. Laughter is contagious!
 - Keep gifts few and simple.

Enjoy your family, friends and the holiday season!



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JUSTICE

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“Local artists poured their hearts into these murals,” Nichelle M. Hayes, special collections librarian and founding leader of the CBLC, said in a statement. “As the buildings start to open again, we want to preserve these paintings that capture what we, as a community, were experiencing during these challenging and transformative times.”

The banners, which are high-resolution prints of the murals, will be on display at the library through Jan. 20, 2021, and are 3-by-5-foot vinyl pieces. Library patrons can request and pick up the murals from any Indianapolis library branch to display at home, businesses or events. Eight murals can be checked out at a time for 42 days. The banners can’t be renewed, but they are exempt from late fees.

Polina Oshero, executive director of Pattern, said there were already plans to paint storefronts before the pandemic and protests. However, after the first weekend of protests, they wanted to draw attention to the Black Lives Matter cause and give Black artists an opportunity to make their voices heard through creativity. When the murals were

removed, they were displayed in various cultural centers and galleries throughout the city.

Among the murals you can check out is “Rejoice” by Shade Bell.

Bell’s piece was on display at the Homespun shop on Massachusetts Avenue. Bell signed on to the project because she wanted to get involved in the protests and share her thoughts on issues such as Black Lives Matter and police brutality.

Through “Rejoice,” which depicts a group of Black people under a wide sun, Bell hopes her message of unity and hope will speak to people for years to come.

“I wanted to make the painting something that you’ll have to look at and to feel and reflect on the current state of the world at the moment,” Bell said in a previous interview. “My message? Black lives matter. You matter. Be unapologetically yourself.”

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

For more information on the murals, visit indypl.org.

DRAKE

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the Statehouse after that, first in a brief campaign for the House of Representatives and then as a candidate for Senate.

“Running for office this year, I gave everything I had to give,” she said. “I’m emotionally and mentally 100%, but physically my body is still recovering.”

Drake is a former college basketball player — she’s had surgery on both feet — and talks about politics in sports terms. She likes to say you can’t win the next game if you’re still thinking about the one you just lost, which is part of why she said she is the “complete opposite of discouraged.”

Drake, a family case manager at Family and Community Solutions, said the issues her campaign focused on — marijuana legalization, an increased minimum wage and other progressive stances that often get squashed in Indiana — got the attention of people in District 32. Her 18-point defeat was the closest margin of defeat for a Democrat since at least 2004.

She’s still committed to trying to clear a path for Black people in the LGBTQ community to have representation in government.

As for another run at office, Drake didn’t commit one way or the other but said she would have to consider it

if she felt God was calling her in that direction and the people in her community wanted her to.

People within the Democratic Party in Indiana want Drake to eventually run for office again.

Arielle Brandy, president of Indiana Young Democrats, which Drake is a part of, said she would encourage Drake to run again if that’s what Drake wants to do.

Brandy commended Drake for her efforts in District 32 and for being a voice in politics for Black queer people.

“I hope she continues to do that work,” Brandy said.

Leigh Riley Evans, who ran for a seat on the city-county council at the same time as Drake, said she hopes Drake considers running for office again, whether that’s at the local or state level.

“She’s been very determined and just sincere in her approach to supporting the community,” said Evans, who spoke at Drake’s campaign kickoff for the House of Representatives in December 2019. “... I think she has a voice that needs to be heard.”

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

HOMELESS

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In the past, Wheeler used the gym floor or partnering churches if there weren’t enough beds. Social distancing guidelines, however, don’t allow for that. Instead, through the partnership with the city and CHIP, Wheeler is working with two local hotels to house men, women and children through March 31, 2021.

“The city has been an amazing leader in this,” Kerr said. “They’ve just done a phenomenal job. Between the city and CHIP, it’s made a world of difference.”

Matt Giffen, executive director of the Office of Public Health and Safety, said the city used funding from his department to cover the costs of 300 hotel rooms.

“This is obviously, because of COVID, a uniquely challenging winter stacked on top of what is a

struggle every single year,” Giffen said. “Not only are there plenty of people experiencing homelessness in this city, the logistics of providing shelter space that meets spacing requirements was a challenge.”

The 2020 Point-in-Time Count, conducted by CHIP and IUPUI’s Public Policy Institute, found 1,588 Marion County residents were experiencing homelessness in January. Of those individuals, 864 were Black.

Conditions such as short distances between beds and limited bathrooms and sinks create a heightened risk for contracting the novel coronavirus, according to research conducted by the Congressional Research Service.

That’s why Kerr is thankful the city stepped in to help. Those housed in a hotel are encouraged

to remain in the hotel room as much as possible to limit the spread of COVID-19. Hygiene items are provided at the site, and case management services are available to help find permanent housing.

“Normally, hotel rooms are out of the question,” Kerr said. “But this year, because of the pandemic, we’re able to spread our guests out further to make sure we’re protecting them as best we can from the virus.”

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

For more information on finding shelter this winter, visit www.shelterlist.com.

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VIRGINIA A. CAINE, M.D., *Director & Chief Medical Officer*
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Eastern Star Church celebrates 100 years of service

Special to the Recorder

For nearly three years, volunteers for Eastern Star Church had been making plans to recognize its 100th anniversary with an uplifting celebration that would accommodate 3,000 guests at a downtown hotel.

As with many events, the COVID-19 pandemic disrupted those plans — which had been scheduled for December 2020.

Undaunted, the volunteers switched to Plan B — a virtual celebration featuring Grammy Award-winning artist Smokie Norful, greetings from leaders from around the country, trivia games, encouraging messages from Senior Pastor Jeffrey A. Johnson Sr. and Lady Sharon A. Johnson and highlights of the church's ministry.

And, this time around, the guest list is unlimited. Eastern Star Church is welcoming everyone to view the 100th Anniversary Celebration which is scheduled for Dec. 18. The event will be streamed on YouTube and Facebook. Viewers also can tune in to watch the event at 7 p.m. Dec. 18 and at 9 p.m. Dec. 19 on Channel 40 WHMB-TV.

During its 100-year history, Eastern Star Church has had a significant impact on the community of Indianapolis. Pastor Johnson, who has led the church for more than 32 years, will share some of those highlights during the celebration.

Some achievements and highlights include the following:

1988: Pastor Jeffrey A. Johnson Sr., voted in as pastor on April 7, 1988. Membership 600. Leading the church for more than 32 years.

1992: Eastern Star Church opens a new church at 5750 E. 30th St., its main campus.

2001-2006: Vision of increasing outreach comes to life. Eastern Star Church plants three churches: New Life Worship Center, New Beginnings Fellowship Church, and New Horizons.

2011: Eastern Star Church dedicates the Cooper Road Church Campus, 5800 Cooper Road. Today, Eastern Star Church operates as One Church. Three locations, two in Indy and one in Fishers

2016: Eastern Star Church launches the Financial Freedom Institute (FFI) for church members to provide a practical business approach to managing financial resources and it offers online courses.

2017: Eastern Star Church launches the ROCK Initiative (Renewing Our Community for the Kingdom) to improve the quality of life in the impoverished Arlington Woods community — ZIP code 46218. It's near the site of its main campus at 5750 E. 30th St.

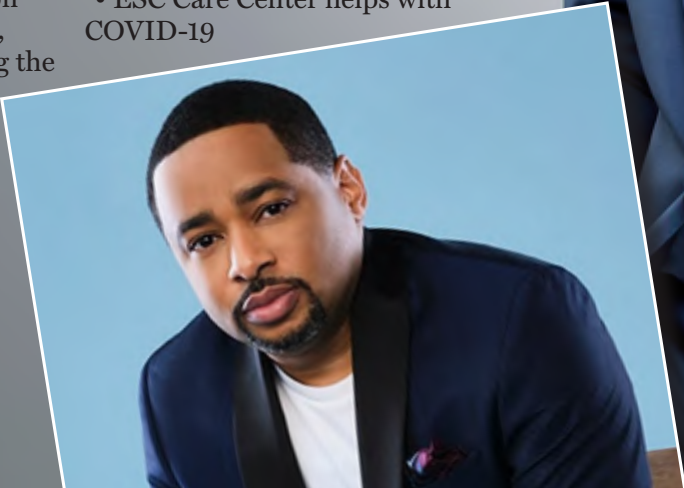
- Nearly 40% of residents in the Arlington Woods area live at or below the poverty line
- The five-year plan, paid for primarily by church members and using some of the church's land, includes building 25 to 30 new homes in the neighborhood and affordable apartments with the help of non-profit partners.
- Eastern Star Church has renovated and built some homes, as well as Sunstone at Arlington Woods, a commercial and residential apartment/homes facility.
- The church also invests in neighborhood schools, donating more than \$200,000 for computer equipment; supplying church mentors; and helping provide healthy meals.

2020:

- ESC Care Center helps with COVID-19

support by serving as a testing site, providing food through a drive-thru pantry, emergency rent and utility assistance and providing grants for 11 small churches.

- Church prepares to celebrate 100th anniversary with a virtual event.
- Eastern Star Church initiates plans to build a 60,000-square-foot youth center, slated to open in 2022.



A graphic showing two hands, one above the other, holding a large, stylized cross. The hands are white with black outlines, and the cross is a solid brown color.

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ARCHIVE

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of juvenile crime charges being filed against Black youth has fallen significantly.

However, many have also been startled by alarming statistics that cry out for change.

For example, almost two-thirds of Black Hoosier families are now headed by a single parent, more than three-quarters of Hoosier Black children were born to unmarried parents between 2000 and 2005, the child poverty rate for Black children has increased by more than 30 percent and over 50 out of ever 1,000 Black students are dropping out of high school.

Arvis Dawson, chairman of the board of IBE, advised individuals who view the report to not become discouraged, but instead take action and view the information as a wake-up call.

“It’s a challenge,” Dawson said. “I don’t see it as negative. It’s a challenge, and we must get prepared to meet that challenge. Among other things we have to work harder to instill the importance of education to our youth.”

Among other trends, the report noted the number of Black babies born outside marriage in Indiana has increased from over 75% in 2000 to 77% in 2005, and the birth rate among Black teenage girls in Indiana has now exceeded the national average.

“We’re facing an absolute tragedy,” said Dr. Marvin Scott, professor of sociology at Butler University, who is African American. “It all goes back to how much (or how little) we emphasize values in this country and our attitude toward success and responsibility. We can embrace as many alternative lifestyles as we want, but until we strengthen the institution of the family these problems aren’t going away.”

The IBE report also indicated that Indianapolis, despite being the state’s largest city, has fewer youth service organizations and mentoring programs than other cities in Indiana.

Rev. Ronald Covington, pastor of Friendship Baptist Church in India-

napolis, believes the main challenge in that area is economic.

“Basically there’s a financial need that’s not being met,” said Covington, whose congregation operates a Westside recreation center for youth. “Revenue from both private and public sectors must be raised to adequately support youth programs.”

Covington said many existing youth organizations, especially those that are faith-based, have been doing everything possible with their own resources, but need more support from outside investors to expand outreach in large neighborhoods.

“In our case many people expressed a willingness to help get our facility up and running,” he added. “But the financial resources have been hard to find.”

In another alarming disclosure, the report indicated over 50 out of every 1,000 Black students statewide are failing to graduate from high school, up from the 30 out of every 1,000 who dropped out in 2000.

City-County Councilman Jose Evans believes educators should abandon the traditional “one size fits all” approach that many schools use and diversify the way they engage students from what he calls “the hip-hop” generation.

He applauds Indianapolis Public Schools for establishing themed “small schools,” but believes they should be made more “democratic” so students can play a greater role in shaping classroom programs and actually retain interest in what they learn.

“Educators must see hip-hop culture as an asset, validating and affirming urban and Black youth identity. This taps into the oppositional culture of hip-hop, creating new and more inclusive forms of schooling,” said Evans. “It is also important to emphasize culturally relevant teaching, which creates critical thinkers who do not just assimilate in the dominate culture without questioning, but who constructs their own knowledge.”

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God, grant me the serenity
to accept the things I cannot change
and courage to change the things I can

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Three tips for keeping families close during the holidays

By **SHELLY SHAFER CATES**

It's no secret that the holidays are looking different this year due to COVID-19. Families and friends are looking for new ways to celebrate while keeping everyone safe. This change can serve as an opportunity to create new traditions.

Part of Ronald McDonald House Charities' mission is to keep families close, and this year it is especially important to share how all families can still remain close for the holidays. Shelly Shafer Cates, director of operations at Ronald McDonald House Charities of Central Indiana, has put together a list of nontraditional ways we can celebrate this year while keeping our families close.

1. Getting Creative via Technology

For many families, this holiday season will be spent apart. While most will be unable to gather in person, we shouldn't overlook other ways to connect with family. Everyone is already using technology to connect with one another; let's take that a step further and get creative this holiday season with how we use it. For example, families can try:

- Video calls for virtual meal gatherings and holiday celebrations
- Virtual game night (exp. Pictionary, bingo, etc.)
- Virtual gift exchange or white elephant gift exchange
- Virtual watch parties for your family's favorite show or Christmas movie
- Virtual concerts

Like others, the families at Ronald McDonald House are also using technology to connect with their families throughout the holiday season. To help keep families connected, Ronald McDonald House Charities of Central Indiana offers tablets for any guests that want to get in touch with family members and friends that can't be there with them.



2. Be Open to New Traditions

Holidays are often filled with traditions for families and include activities that have been passed down for generations. This year, families should embrace the opportunity to start new traditions while others are on pause. This year may include gathering outside if weather permits, social distancing and wearing masks. Although this is not how we imagined the holidays, we can put a fun twist on this year's unique holiday season.

For example, Ronald McDonald House Charities of Central Indiana is creating these new traditions by spreading holiday spirit with extra decorations, holiday music playing throughout the House, decoration kits for family's doors, a virtual visit from Santa Claus and encouraging families to dress up and decorate their rooms as well. Families looking

for new traditions could try:

- Seeing Christmas light displays in separate cars (for example, Indiana State Fairgrounds)
- Socially distanced baked good swaps through mail or drop-off
- Sending Christmas cards or letters to those in the military

3. Celebrate by Giving


The holidays are a time for many of us to reflect on how grateful we are for everything we have. This year, many of us are reflecting on our gratitude for our health and our family's health. While some may be fortunate enough to celebrate the holidays this year, others may be facing issues that can make the holidays a challenging time.

I encourage those of us that are in a position to give to do so. Like Ronald McDonald House Charities of Cen-

tral Indiana, most nonprofit organizations are looking for donations to further help those being served by their mission. Giving near the holidays can help ensure that nonprofit organizations can continue to support those who are less fortunate and in the greatest need. Families can help other families in crisis when they donate to Ronald McDonald House Charities of Central Indiana. Donations can even be made as a gift to honor a loved one.

While the holidays look much different than they have in recent years, I encourage families to find ways to stay close even if it can't be done in person. This unique year has offered us an opportunity to use technology to stay more connected and create new traditions that may end up being celebrated for years to come.

Shelly Shafer Cates is director of operations for Ronald McDonald House Charities of Central Indiana.




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LENDER

Homegrown opera legend spreads Christmas cheer

By BREANNA COOPER
BreannaC@indyrecorder.com

For decades, soprano Angela Brown has traveled the world, performing opera in places such as Paris, Berlin and Moscow. This year, to celebrate the holiday season, Brown, 57, is returning to her hometown of Indianapolis to perform in the virtual Festival of Carols, hosted by the Indianapolis Symphonic Choir on Dec. 21.

Brown pre-recorded her set in Carmel's Palladium for the festival's 30th anniversary and is looking forward to sharing the event with the public. She sat down with the Recorder to discuss the show, COVID-19 and her podcast, "Melanated



The Festival of Carols will be held virtually at 7 p.m. Dec. 21 on MyINDY-TV 23. For more information, visit indychoir.org.

Moments in Classical Music."

Indianapolis Recorder: This is your first year performing in the Festival of Carols. What made you want to get involved this year?

Angela Brown: They invited me! I went to see the Festival of Carols last year, and it was such a beautiful program. I was standing backstage, and they asked me if I would ever like to do this, and I said "absolutely!" Who knew COVID would change things the way it did?

IR: Because of the pandemic, there won't be an audience at the show. Does this change how you approach the performance?

Brown: Absolutely. I didn't wear a mask when I was performing, but everyone around me did, and I was wearing one when I wasn't singing. You just have to be careful and protect everyone around you.

IR: Was this your first performance since the pandemic started?

Brown: No, I performed in Cincinnati this year in a socially distanced show. The rest — performances and panel discussions — have all been virtual, other than my trip to Cincinnati.

IR: If there is a silver lining in the pandemic, it's that more forms of art are accessible to more people thanks to events going virtual. Do you see this continuing once we get past COVID?

Brown: I believe it will. Opera and other forms of art can be a bit cost prohibitive. We've learned so much about performing virtually, and I think it will make it easier for audiences to tap into the richness that classical music, opera and the arts bring. Even if someone is not able to travel or have the funds to be able to experience art on a high level, they can tune in.

IR: It seems like, even before the pandemic, there was already a push to bring opera to a more diverse crowd.

Brown: Oh, yeah. I do a show called "Opera From a Sistah's Point of View" that I hope demystifies opera to an audience. We're trying to raise awareness of opera, because we find the same things in opera that you find in everyday life; love, losing love, falling in love,

mad because someone takes your love [laughs]. I do feel that opera is becoming more accessible to audiences, but we still have to continue to present it to younger audiences, so it doesn't die out.

IR: And that's something you do through your foundation, Morning Brown?

Brown: Yeah, Morning Brown is my foundation that brings culture to cultural deserts. We go into communities, schools and nursing homes, anywhere where there's a need and a want to have cultural experiences. I take my show, "Opera From a Sistah's Point of View," into these schools to help to enlighten them in a fun way that doesn't make it stuffy. I've been doing that for the last four years.

IR: You've performed all over the world. How does the classical music scene in Indianapolis compare to other places you've traveled?

Brown: The Indianapolis musical scene is just as good as any other classical music scene or theater, or entertainment scene in general. We have everything here in Indianapolis that I have seen across the world. We've got top-notch orchestras and wonderful programming that everyone can enjoy, and a fabulous opera company. You can find anything here, and Indianapolis should be proud.

IR: I'm not sure how much you can reveal about Festival of Carols, but is there a particular song you're most excited about sharing with viewers?

Brown: Oh, boy. I'm performing songs off my Christmas CD ["This Christmas"]. I enjoy all of it, but I think one of my favorites is "Sweet Little Jesus Boy." It's a simple a cappella piece, and I'm excited to hear what it's going to sound like in those beautiful auditorium acoustics.

IR: You started a podcast this year, "Melanated Moments in Classical Music," with co-host Joshua Thompson. Is there anything that you've learned throughout the course of making the show?

Brown: Well, you know, I have learned a lot about different composers and artists that I hadn't known like this, in such nitty-gritty detail. We can't cover everything in a 20-minute podcast, so what's good about "Melanated Moments" is that it whets your whistle to go and find out more information.

IR: You started singing when you were 5 years old. As a child, did you ever envision you'd be singing professionally 50 years later?

Brown: I would say opera chose me, I didn't choose it. I was always interested in singing music, and when I went to Oakwood University in Huntsville, Alabama, I realized I had this natural talent. And, because I did go and take the lump of coal the Lord gave me as a gift and shined it up to become a bright diamond, I knew I wanted to do more, and I was able to do that because of the opportunities I had here in Indianapolis at the Civic Theatre and Crispus Attucks High School. I fell in love with music, and here I am today.

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

King Crossword

ACROSS

- 1 Porter's burdens
- 5 Before
- 8 Dull sound of impact
- 12 Enticement
- 13 Blend
- 14 Abundant
- 15 Opera show-stopper
- 16 U.K. broadcaster
- 17 Black, in verse
- 18 Fight
- 20 Like a lot
- 22 Solid ground
- 26 Entire
- 29 Smack
- 30 Zilch
- 31 Bees' home
- 32 Parsons or Gaffigan
- 33 Slangy negative
- 34 — out a living
- 35 One of the Brady Bunch
- 36 Grown-up bug
- 37 Brownish orange
- 40 Warmonger
- 41 Barbershop tools
- 45 First victim
- 47 Luau bowlful
- 49 "American —"
- 50 Ring out

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- 51 Barn bird
- 52 Alaskan metropolis
- 53 Vortex
- 54 — Aviv
- 55 Get larger
- DOWN
- 1 Spill the beans
- 2 Emanation
- 3 Determination
- 4 Birthplace of Starbucks
- 5 Fireplace bit
- 6 Cage component
- 7 Cry out
- 8 Italian fountain site
- 9 Ireland
- 10 Venusian vessel?
- 11 Lair
- 19 Appomattox surrenderer
- 21 Frequently
- 23 Serengeti beast
- 24 Chinese dynasty
- 25 Choir member
- 26 Sharpen
- 27 Raise
- 28 Above
- 32 Lotto win
- 33 Incredible
- 35 Mandible
- 36 Call — day
- 38 Make a comeback
- 39 Warble
- 42 Bloodhound's clue
- 43 Quarterback Tony
- 44 Dispatched
- 45 Mimic
- 46 Foundation
- 48 Didn't pay yet

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Weekly SUDOKU

by Linda Thistle

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

DIFFICULTY THIS WEEK: ♦♦♦

♦ Moderate ♦♦ Challenging
♦♦♦ HOO BOY!

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Weekly SUDOKU

Answer

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7	3	4	8	2	1	9	5	6

SPOTLIGHT

Madam Walker Legacy Center keeps Christmas spirit alive

By TYLER FENWICK
tylerf@indyrecorder.com

The Madam Walker Legacy Center had to make some adjustments to its holiday programming because of the COVID-19 pandemic, but the organization will continue to keep the spirit of Christmas alive with Holiday on the Ave events.

The toy drive-in, in partnership with Radio One and Indianapolis Urban League, is 1-4 p.m. Dec. 22 at Indianapolis Urban League, 777 Indiana Ave. The drive-in will also feature Black Santa.

Register by Dec. 20 online at madamwalkerlegacycenter.com.

The center will host a virtual comedy show at 7 p.m. Dec. 18, headlined by comedian Dominique Witten (from “Black Jesus” and Tyler Perry’s “Boo! A Madea Halloween”) along with Henry Welch and Janet Dollar.

The center will also host a virtual paint and sip event at 7 p.m. Dec. 19 with artist Deonna Craig and in collaboration with Sip & Share Wines.

Registration online is free for both events.

Devon Ginn, the center’s curatorial manager of programs and communi-

cations, said it’s important to finish the year with something that is hopefully fun and relaxing for people.

“We want it to be something that folks can do that doesn’t feel like work,” he said.

Virtual events don’t have the same energy as in-person events, but Ginn said one advantage has been the center’s ability to reach more of a global audience. During the Summer Institute, for example, there were families from as far away as Ireland and South Africa. Ginn said his goal is to continue a global push.

Madam Walker Legacy Center’s Winter Institute is Dec. 22-30. The free virtual camp, for students ages 8-14, will include social justice, Kwanzaa principles, dance and a New Year’s vision celebration. Students will meet for an hour on Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday. Register online.

Griff, from the “Get Up! Mornings” radio show, will host the comedy show, sip and share event and Winter Institute.

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

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The New Year is upon us. As a Christmas gift, I am offering free calendars for 2021.

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EDITORIAL

Not safe in your home

By OSEYE BOYD



I'm so angry I could cry. My blood is boiling because that's how enraged I am at the trauma Anjanette Young, a social worker from Chicago, endured at the hands of Chicago Police Department (CPD). Just a week ago I wrote about how a Franklin County Sheriff officer shot and killed 23-year-old Casey Goodson as he entered his home.

This week I'm not writing about a murder of a Black American — thankfully — but still another traumatic incident involving police officers and mistaken identity. A typical day after work for Young turned into a nightmare as police entered her home with a battering ram through her door. Young, undressing in her bedroom, didn't have time to put clothes on when male police officers entered her home, so there she stood, naked. Naked with nine police officers — with body cameras operating — in her home. Young's body is blurred in the video. Did I mention it was February in Chicago and her door was destroyed by the battering ram, letting in the Chicago frigid air? The officers immediately handcuffed Young as she tried to comprehend what was happening. An officer wrapped a short jacket around her shoulders, but her front was still exposed. An officer retrieved a blanket and wrapped it around Young, but it did little good as it kept falling off. At some point one of the officers acted like he had some sense and held the blanket in place. All while this is happening,

Young is sobbing, screaming, demanding to know what this is about and telling them they have the wrong house at least 43 times. And they did. How did they end up in Young's home? An informant. An informant told police someone in the house had a gun and ammo. They busted into this woman's house for a gun and ammo — not an arsenal, but a gun. Eventually, the cops figured out they had it all wrong. They turned off the body cameras when they went outside to discuss the error. The cops didn't want to expose themselves, but they didn't mind exposing Young. As if this incident can't get any worse, the kicker is the guy they were looking for was right next door — wearing an electronic monitoring bracelet because he was on house arrest. He was easily trackable. Now, this incident happened about two years ago, but the saga doesn't end there. Chicago Police Department never wanted this incident to come to light. Young had to file a Freedom of Information Act request to get the body camera video. CPD denied her request, however, as part of her lawsuit, a judge made the department give Young the video. Then hours before a Chicago news station aired the video, Mayor Lori Lightfoot tried to block it in federal court — and her lawyers wanted to punish Young for violating a confidentiality order. When asked about this, Lightfoot did a little bobbing and weaving and dodged the questions. Now the kicker — there's more than one — is nothing has happened to the officers because the incident is still under investigation. A whole two years

later. In fact, the investigation didn't open until nine months after the incident. As I watched the video and listened to Young scream in terror, I couldn't help but feel her pain — and the pain of so many Black women who are violated and no one gives a damn. They didn't listen to her, nor did they try to explain anything when she clearly was traumatized. Instead, the officers do what we've seen them do so many times before: stare at her with a smug, arrogant look on their faces and tell her to relax. Those police officers didn't give two hoots about her privacy. They didn't care that she was in her home, the one place where we're supposed to be safe. The one place where you let your guard down and let it all hang out, literally and figuratively. Young said she was afraid to move for fear of being killed in her home. A fear that is not unfounded. Oh, another kicker: Young's door was damaged so severely it wouldn't close, so the nice police officers had to use an ironing board to keep it shut, further jeopardizing Young's safety. Young's lawyer rightly assessed that if this was a white woman from Lincoln Park, the officers would've covered her up immediately. She would've been seen as vulnerable and needing protection. Black women aren't seen that way and our bodies get little respect. I'm willing to bet when officers left Young's home, they made jokes about what they'd seen, not caring about the harm they inflicted. It took two long years for us to learn about this incident. How many more incidents have happened that we know nothing about and never will?

OPINIONS

Vaccinate or not?

By LARRY SMITH



What image comes to mind when you hear the word “doctor”? If your mind's eye didn't immediately conjure your personal physician, what image appeared? There's a good chance that it was a white (probably older) man, perhaps wearing a white lab coat. For most Americans, regardless of their race, that image tends to evoke comfort, reassurance and even happiness. But, for a substantial percentage of African Americans, the scientific community — including physicians — invokes very different responses. Such responses often include psychological, and even physiological, trauma. For example, even going to the doctor's office can be enough to cause a temporary rise in our blood pressure. In short, African Americans' historical experience with the scientific community has frequently been far less benevolent than it generally has been for white Americans. The quintessential example of this history is what hundreds of Black men

endured during the infamous “Tuskegee Experiment.” During this 40-year deadly charade (1932-1972), doctors intentionally failed to treat Black men who they (i.e., the doctors) knew had been infected with syphilis. (This is despite the fact that the doctors knew that penicillin would cure the disease.) Further, a recent paper written by researchers from Stanford Medical School and the University of Tennessee suggests that the Tuskegee Experiment causes Black men who are now around age 50 to live a year less than we otherwise might. As someone who worked in academia for several years, I am quite familiar with the Office for Human Research Protections (OHRP), which is part of the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services. When conducting research on “human subjects” (i.e., people), academicians are required to follow guidelines that are set forth by their school's “institutional review board.” This is to ensure that the subjects are treated with the highest ethical standards. However, most researchers are not aware that such safeguards were put in place as a direct result of the Tuskegee Experiment. Sadly, there are myriad other examples of blatant medical malfeasance

involving African Americans. Further, even when the scientific community hasn't engaged in intentional medical malpractice, it has advanced pseudo-scientific (and racist) theories, such as eugenics, that have negatively affected us. Another example is the fact that white doctors have been shown to believe — erroneously — that Black people have a higher tolerance for pain than whites. (One positive effect of this misinformation is that we are much less likely to become addicted to opioids, which doctors prescribe less frequently to us.) This leads me to COVID-19 and the reality that African Americans are less likely to become vaccinated against it, despite the fact that we are at a higher risk of contracting and dying from the disease than are white Americans. The reluctance that many of us feel is directly tied to our history with the scientific community. Long before social media, our ancestors handed down story after story of mistreatment by doctors. Those stories have had a lasting effect on our trust. As someone who believes strongly in the scientific method and empirical data, it pains me to know that many of the people who are most affected by the pandemic are also among the

most likely to believe that the vaccine is a government plot either to harm us or to track our whereabouts. I'm not a conspiracy theorist, but I completely understand why that is the case. To be sure, African Americans are not the only ones who have been skeptical of the medical community. In 1954, the New York Health Department launched a major campaign to encourage citizens to get the polio vaccine. Famed (and infamous) columnist Walter Winchell vehemently attacked the vaccine. Winchell said that it “may be a killer.” Interestingly, in 1956, Elvis Presley got injected with the vaccine live on the set of “The Ed Sullivan Show.” Vaccinations dramatically increased afterward. I doubt that even an endorsement of the COVID-19 vaccine from Beyonce would have the same kind of impact that Elvis' gesture did. Still, I suspect that high-profile people taking the vaccine would — pardon me — “move the needle.” While it is difficult to overcome the realities of history, the potential to save hundreds of thousands (or perhaps millions) is worth the understandable risk. Larry Smith is a community leader. Contact him at larry@leaf-llc.com.

Why Carmel has better life expectancy than Indianapolis

By ISABELLA SIMONS



Twenty-eight miles. Twenty-eight miles separate two cities in Indiana: Carmel and Indianapolis. Only 28 miles, yet life expectancy differs by 14 years. Residents of Carmel's 46033 ZIP code have an average life expectancy of 83.7 years, according to SAVI, which is part of the Polis Center at IUPUI. This is similar to Japan's life expectancy of 84 years. Yet, 28 miles south is downtown Indianapolis, where residents have an average life expectancy of 69.4 years, lower than in Bangladesh and Iraq. According to research by the Fairbanks School of Public Health at IUPUI, Indy's life expectancy is the same as it was 60 years ago, with similar life

spans to that of Iran, Uzbekistan and Bangladesh. These are all places with underdeveloped socio-economic systems and still, we have similar life expectancies. We must ask ourselves, why does this occur? According to the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, only 25% of the health of a population is attributed to genes, biology and health behaviors, and roughly 75% of population health is attributed to “social determinants of health.” This means that some populations have greater access to health resources and opportunities than others. So why is Carmel's life expectancy so much higher? Factors may include the Monon Trail, which, starting with the beginning of the trail, has a life expectancy of 83 years, and at the end of the 10-mile stretch it is down to 80. The Monon Trail offers a convenient path to walk, bike or skate on. Studies show that more physical activity can add more years to your life. A 2015 article in the Carmel Current investigated this difference in life expectancy. The writer interviewed Tess Weathers, a researcher from the Fairbanks School of Public Health. She attributed the gap to several factors, one of them being education, saying the quality can lead to better or worse jobs. Jobs with low controllability can cause chronic stress. Another reason that life expectancy differs is racism. According to U.S. National Library of Medicine, which is part of the National Institutes of Health, health inequalities with racial minorities have been persistent. Racism may be one cause of these inequities. Studies find that individuals who say they have experienced racism exhibit worse health than people who do not report it. This could be a contributing factor to the difference in life expectancy.

I interviewed Phyllis Boyd, executive director of Groundwork Indy, where the goal is to engage youth in community-based projects and enhance environmental, economic and social well-being. Groundwork Indy grows food on site and supports local community gardens. It also provides knowledge to youth of color so they can live a healthy life, in addition to skills to help them in the future. According to Boyd, “The work we do is to help engage them with the community. They have incredible potential.” She believes this project can help with life expectancy if they can make walkways accessible to people. She believes that if it were safer and easier to get to walkways, people could walk, bike and, simultaneously, improve their health. Boyd also emphasized the importance of greenways. According to the U.S. National Library of Medicine, racism is a reason for health disparities, and the elimination of disparities cannot be achieved without first undoing racism. The study lists discrimination and residential segregation as examples of social determinants of health. “Residential segregation remains pervasive and may influence health by concentrating poverty, environmental pollutants, infectious agents, and other adverse conditions,” the report says. This shows that segregation is still a problem today, and this impacts the health of residents. One thing you can do to help is get involved with Groundwork Indy. If you would like to do so, learn more at groundworkindy.org, where you can find ways to donate or volunteer. Isabella Simons is a student at Marian University studying communication. She plans to graduate in 2022.

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COVID-19 VACCINE: WHAT TO KNOW

By TYLER FENWICK
tylerf@indyrecorder.com

Indiana received its first doses of the COVID-19 vaccine this week, marking a major milestone on the path out of the pandemic that has afflicted the United States since March.

State health officials offered some answers about the vaccine during a COVID-19 update Dec. 9, including how long it will take for most people to have access to the vaccine and what scientists have learned during clinical trials.

How does the vaccine work?

The vaccine, produced by Pfizer, is an mRNA vaccine, and it became the first to be granted emergency use authorization (EUA) by the U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) on Dec. 11. Other COVID-19 vaccines in development use the same method.

Unlike vaccines for other viruses, which put a weakened or inactive germ into the body, an mRNA vaccine teaches cells how to make a protein — or part of a protein — to trigger an immune response. The immune system then produces antibodies, which is what the body uses to protect itself against the real virus.

The COVID-19 vaccine teaches cells to make a “spike protein,” which is found on the surface of the virus that causes COVID-19. The immune system recognizes that the protein doesn’t belong in the body and begins building an immune response.

Is the vaccine safe?

The mRNA technique for vaccines is new, but researchers have been studying this method for years, which is part of the reason why scientists were able to develop a COVID-19 vaccine quickly.

Trial participants for the Pfizer vaccine experienced headaches, fatigue and muscle pain — side effects are



FedEx is one of the carriers handing some of the first shipments of the COVID-19 vaccine. (Photo provided by FedEx)

common with vaccines — and the FDA has said there are “no specific safety concerns identified that would preclude issuance of an EUA.”

The Pfizer vaccine will be administered in two doses, ideally three weeks apart. The FDA says side effects were more common for trial participants after the second dose.

How many doses will Indiana get?

Indiana will receive 55,575 doses in the first week, according to Dr. Lindsay Weaver, chief medical officer for the Indiana State Department of Health.

The state will get more doses of the Pfizer vaccine — along with another

COVID-19 vaccine developed by Moderna — in the following weeks, but state health officials don’t know the exact amount.

Who gets the vaccine first?

First in line will be frontline health care workers such as doctors, nurses and other hospital staff. Indiana University Health Methodist Hospital in Indianapolis is one of five hospitals around the state slated to get the first doses. Weaver said 50 hospitals are expected to have doses by the end of the week.

Priority also will go to long-term care facility workers and residents.

The next phase of the vaccine rollout includes teachers and other “critical infrastructure” workers.

What about everyone else?

Weaver said the health department’s goal is to have a vaccine available for everyone by summer. Vaccines won’t be offered to those under 16 yet because researchers are still conducting clinical trials for younger teenagers and children.

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



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Eight Things to Know about the U.S. COVID-19 Vaccination Program

On Friday, Dec. 11, the U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) gave emergency use authorization for a COVID-19 vaccine produced by Pfizer/BioNtech.

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) offers eight important things to know about the new COVID-19 Vaccination Program and COVID-19 vaccines.

1. The U.S. vaccine safety system ensures that all vaccines are as safe as possible. CDC has developed a new tool, v-safe, as an additional layer of safety monitoring to increase the ability to rapidly detect any safety issues with COVID-19 vaccines. V-safe is a new smartphone-based, after-vaccination health checker for people who receive COVID-19 vaccines.

2. Two doses of the available COVID-19 vaccine are currently needed to get the most protection the vaccine has to offer against this serious virus.

3. Because the current supply of COVID-19 vaccine in the U.S. is limited, CDC recommends that initial supplies of COVID-19 vaccine be offered to healthcare personnel and long-term care facility residents.

4. COVID-19 vaccine supply will increase in the weeks and months to come. The goal is for everyone to be able to easily get vaccinated against COVID-19 as soon as large enough quantities are available. Once vaccine is widely available, the plan is to have several thousand vaccination providers offering COVID-19 vaccines in doctors’ offices, retail pharmacies, hospitals, local health departments, and federally qualified health centers.

5. After receiving a COVID-19 vaccination, the body may experience some side effects that are a normal sign that it is building protection. For some people, the side effects may feel like flu and should go away in a few days.

6. Cost is not a barrier to getting

vaccinated against COVID-19. Vaccine doses purchased with U.S. taxpayer dollars will be given to the American people at no cost. However, vaccination providers may be able to charge administration fees for giving the shot and get this fee reimbursed by the patient’s public or private insurance company or, for uninsured patients, by the Health Resources and Services Administration’s Provider Relief Fund.

7. The first COVID-19 vaccine is being used under an Emergency Use Authorization (EUA) from FDA. Many other vaccines are still being developed and tested. If more COVID-19 vaccines are authorized or approved by FDA, the Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices (ACIP) will quickly hold public meetings to review all available data about each vaccine and make recommendations for their use in the U.S. All recommended vaccines will be included in the U.S. COVID-19 Vaccination Program. State, tribal, territorial, and local health departments, including the Marion County Public Health Department, have developed distribution plans to make sure all recommended vaccines are available to their communities.

8. COVID-19 vaccines are one of many important tools to help end this pandemic.

“Everyone should continue taking steps to help stop the spread of this virus as we learn more about how COVID-19 vaccines work in real-world conditions,” said Virginia A. Caine, M.D., director and chief medical officer of the Marion County Public Health Department. “Please cover your mouth and nose with a mask when in public, stay at least 6 feet away from others, and wash hands often.”

More information about COVID-19 vaccines is available at CDC.gov.



Food boxes included fruits and vegetables.



Families get hundreds of boxes of food

Cars and vans lined up for several blocks around Martin University to pick up a box of free food, including turkeys and vegetables. Rev. Richard Hunter, founder of Rev. Hunter Ministries, said the organization distributed 560 boxes of food. This was the 25th year of distributing food. Volunteers also gave food to veterans and homeless in the area. (Photos/Curtis Guynn)



Indiana National Guard recruiters helped load food boxes into cars.



Rev. Richard Hunter

More US churches commit to racism-linked reparations

By DAVID CRARY
AP National Writer

NEW YORK (AP) — The Episcopal Diocese of Texas acknowledges that its first bishop in 1859 was a slaveholder. An Episcopal church erects a plaque noting the building’s creation in New York City in 1810 was made possible by wealth resulting from slavery.

And the Minnesota Council of Churches cites a host of injustices, from mid-19th century atrocities against Native Americans to police killings of Black people, in launching a first-of-its-kind “truth and reparations” initiative engaging its 25 member denominations.

These efforts reflect a widespread surge of interest among many U.S. religious groups in the area of reparations, particularly among long-established Protestant churches that were active in the era of slavery. Many are weighing how to make amends through financial investments and long-term programs benefiting African Americans.

Some major denominations, including the Roman Catholic Church and the Southern Baptist Convention, have not embraced reparations as official policy. The Episcopal Church has been the most active major denomination thus far, and others, including the United Methodist Church and the Evangelical Lutheran Church of America, are urging congregations to consider similar steps.

The Minnesota Council of Churches initiative was announced in October.

“Minnesota has some of the highest racial disparities in the country — in health, wealth, housing, how police treat folks,” said the council’s CEO, the Rev. Curtiss DeYoung. “Those disparities all come from a deep history of racism.”

The initiative, envisioned as a 10-year undertaking, is distinctive in several ways: It engages a diverse collection of Christian denominations, including some that are predominantly Black; it will model some of its efforts on the Truth and Reconciliation Commission created in South Africa after the end of apartheid; and it is based in Minneapolis, where the police killing of George Floyd in May sparked global protests over racial injustice.

“This particular event, because it was right here where we live, was a call to action,” DeYoung said. “The first thing that we did, of course, like everyone else, was get into the streets and march ... but there are deep, historic issues that require more than marching.”

The Minnesota initiative also seeks to address social justice concerns of African Americans and Na-



Rev. Brian C. Herron of Zion Baptist Church thrust his fist in the air as clergy of color led a Silent Clergy March, June 2, 2020, to the George Floyd Memorial for prayers in Minneapolis. A Minnesota initiative seeks to address social justice concerns of African Americans and Native Americans in a unified way. (David Joles/Star Tribune via AP)

tive Americans in a unified way.

“For so long these have been two separate camps — Indigenous people and African Americans felt they are competing against each other for the same limited resources,” said the Rev. Jim Bear Jacobs, a Native American who is the church council’s director of racial justice.

Jacobs belongs to a Wisconsin-based Mohican tribe but was born in Minnesota and is well-versed in the latter’s grim history about Native Americans. He cited the U.S.-Dakota War of 1862, which ended with the internment of hundreds of Dakota people and the hanging of 38 Dakota men in Mankato — the largest mass execution in U.S. history. After the war, many of the Dakota were expelled from Minnesota.

The Rev. Stacey Smith, presiding elder of the African Methodist Episcopal Church in Minnesota and a Council of Churches board member, said the reparations initiative places the state “at the epicenter of being transformed with racial justice.”

“Truth-telling in our stories is so important,” she said. “There has been such a vacuum of missing stories, not only from Black and brown people but our Indigenous people and others as well.”

In the Episcopal Church, several dioceses — including Maryland, Texas, Long Island and New York — launched reparations programs in the past 13 months, and others are preparing them.

“What is common across the whole church is the recognition that it’s time to address and reckon with the wrongs and evils of our past,” said New York Bishop Andrew Dietsche.

The largest Episcopal pledge has come from the Diocese of Texas, which said in February it would allocate \$13 million to long-term programs. These include scholarships for students attending seminaries or historically Black colleges and assistance for historic Black churches.

The Texas Diocese bishop, C. Andrew Doyle, noted the diocese’s first bishop, Alexander Gregg, was a slaveholder and its first church, in Matagorda, was built with slave labor.

The Diocese of New York, which serves part of New York City and seven counties to the north, was similarly blunt while unveiling its \$1.1 million reparations initiative in November 2019.

Dietsche said the diocese played a “significant, and

CHURCHES

► Continued from B1

genuinely evil, part in American slavery” — including some churches' use of slaves as parish servants. He noted that in 1860, on the eve of the Civil War, delegates at the diocese's convention refused to approve a resolution condemning slavery.

“We have a great deal to answer for,” Dietsche said.

In the past year, a multiracial committee has been studying possible uses for the reparations funds. Dietsche expects some will help congregations launch their own initiatives, particularly if their churches had historical involvement in slavery.

St. James' Episcopal Church in Manhattan dedicated a plaque a year ago with the inscription, “In solemn remembrance of the enslaved persons whose labor created wealth that made possible the founding of St. James' Church” in 1810.

The Episcopal Diocese of Maryland voted in September to create a \$1 million reparations fund, likely to finance programs supporting Black students, nursing home residents, small-business owners and others.

While Dietsche and Doyle are white, the bishop of Maryland, Eugene Sutton, is the first Black cleric in that post. He has talked with white people who oppose reparations, saying they're not personally guilty of slaveholding or racism.

“That is a false conception,” Sutton said. “Reparations is simply, ‘What will this generation do to repair the damage caused by previous generations?’ ... We may not all be guilty, but we all have a responsibility.”

Sutton said the \$1 million allocation represents about 20% of the diocese's operating budget.

“We wanted something that would actually not just be a drop in the bucket,” he said. “We’ve done that in recognition of the fact that this church, as well as many other churches and institutions, benefited from theft. We stole from the impoverished, from the African American community.”

SPIRITUAL OUTLOOK

God’s GPS is the best

By JOHNSON A. BEAVEN III

“When Pharaoh finally let the people go, God did not lead them along the main road that runs through Philistine territory, even though that was the shortest route to the Promised Land. God said, ‘If the people are faced with a battle, they might change their minds and return to Egypt.’ So God led them in a roundabout way through the wilderness toward the Red Sea. Thus the Israelites left Egypt like an army ready for battle.” (Exodus 13:17, 18 NLT)



Mathematics was not one of my beloved subjects of study in school, but a few things seemed to have stuck in my memory. One classic gem from geometry was that the shortest distance from the first point to the second point is a straight line. This holds true when

applied to linear, flat, or two-dimensional surfaces like a football field. There are other possibilities when applied to three-dimensional surfaces or on a sphere, such as the surface of the earth. In this case, a great circle path then becomes the shortest distance.

Life’s journey is a path taken to reach a destination; specifically, a providentially purposed destiny. I am sure you have wondered why the path you are traveling seems to be the longest or out of the way path when your perceived destination appears so nearby. Spiritually, one reason for this is that one’s relationship with God is not developed on a linear plane but multi-dimensional.

There were two basic routes the Israelites could have traveled from Egypt to Canaan; short or long. God did not lead them by the shortest or quickest direct route; rather he took them on what they considered the longest, hard and roundabout route through the wilderness. God knew they would have retreated by taking the short route.

Geographically for us, the straight line or shortest direct route is often the most desirable one to take. Yet spiritually from God’s perspective, the roundabout way is his choice route, and ultimately our best route in reaching our divinely intended destiny. At a certain point in the Israelites travel to the Promised Land, they attempted to pass through a territory using a main road to take a direct route northward. The king of that territory refused their request forcing them to turn around. (Numbers 20:14-21)

God does not always allow us to choose our way with a simple click to avoid toll roads and closed roads or take the shortest distance or direct route. Although it may not be easy, the best choice is simply to trust God for leading you because he has navigated your journey by his GPS — God’s Purposeful System. Many times, God’s navigation is not the shortest, direct and most desirable route in our view.

Short routes often hinder an important aspect in our spiritual development and walk with God. God purposes to develop our character and a relationship of trust and intimacy with us, which as in any relationship does not happen on a short run. It takes time to develop real intimacy and genuine trust; it takes trying experiences to develop character. The development of this intimacy with God and confident trust in Him becomes the delight on our spiritual journeys that are designed also to carve our character by the tests that come along the way. If your way seems to be on a hard, long roundabout road these days, enjoy the journey while enduring the test. God’s GPS is the best!

“Remember how the Lord your God led you through the wilderness for these forty years, humbling you and testing you to prove your character, and to find out whether or not you would obey his commands ... He did it to teach you that people do not live by bread alone; rather, we live by every word that comes from the mouth of the Lord.” (Deuteronomy 8:2, 4 NLT)

Rev. Johnson A. Beaven III is pastor of Citadel of Faith Church of God in Christ. Contact him via email at jabeaven@gmail.com or Twitter @jbeaven.

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Calibrate your emergency fund to a crisis-prone world

By **HAL M. BUNDRICK**
NerdWallet

It took a pandemic to convince Americans to take saving money seriously. For years, Americans set aside 7%-8% of their income. In a knee-jerk reaction to COVID-19, people stashed cash at a historic level. According to the U.S. Bureau of Economic Analysis, in April 2020, the personal savings rate exploded to over 33%.

That rush to fund emergency savings has ebbed since, but it's still been about double the 30-year average in recent months.

"The pandemic has certainly presented a whole new set of challenges, both financially, personally and professionally," said Elliot J. Pepper, a certified public accountant and certified financial planner in Baltimore. The need for an emergency fund has become even more acute so that unexpected expenses aren't rolled into costly credit card or consumer debt.

Here's how to decide how much more you may need to save and how to save it.

DETERMINING THE SIZE OF YOUR EMERGENCY FUND

If you used to keep only three months in rainy-day savings, Pepper recommends increasing it to six; if you've had a six-month cushion, increase it to nine.

The traditional advice of having three to six months of living expenses is a "good starting point," according to Natalie Slagle, a CFP in Rochester, Minnesota. She says a couple with one income source alone should lean toward six months of living expenses or even more.

Jovan Johnson, a CFP based in Decatur, Georgia, favors stashing 12 months' worth of cash for necessities.

RULES OF THUMB ARE ONLY A START

Many advisers caution against relying solely on these three-month or six-month, off-the-shelf recommendations. It's best to consider your actual monthly expenses, they say, and determine what kind of unexpected situations you are preparing for.

Logan Murray, a financial planner and tax preparer in Tempe, Arizona, suggests thinking about the "likelihood and magnitude" of events such as losing a job. "How confident are you to get another job in your industry in the short term before your emergency fund runs out?" Murray prompts.

And if your spouse lost their job, would you have enough income remaining, or would you have to rely on the cash fund? What if you both lost your jobs? Also, think about possible higher health costs from the loss of a job and employer-based medical insurance, or a health emergency or disability, Murray said.

Factors that could affect your emergency fund's size are another consideration, said financial planner Mark Struthers in the Minneapolis area.

YOU MAY NEED LARGER EMERGENCY SAVINGS IF:

- Only one spouse works.
- You have children.
- You own a small business.

YOU MAY HAVE MORE FLEXIBILITY IF:

- You have other assets you can tap, such as access to a 401(k) loan or Roth IRA. Withdrawals of your contributions and qualified distributions from a Roth are usually tax- and penalty-free, Struthers notes.
- You have a support system close by, such as parents or siblings.
- You have disability insurance or life insurance.

HOW TO MAKE AN EMERGENCY FUND A SAVINGS PRIORITY

Pepper urges clients to determine a proper emergency fund balance, divide that number by a reasonable time frame and set up an automatic transfer from their checking to a savings account until the goal is met.

"This forces people to treat savings as a part of their ongoing expenses instead of something that is more of an afterthought," Pepper says.

As Slagle said, "If you don't automate it, you will end up spending it."

Also, Johnson suggests seeking strategic ways to add to the fund, such as with a tax refund, a potential future stimulus check or credit card rewards cash.

WHERE TO KEEP YOUR EMERGENCY SAVINGS

"I recommend clients place this money in a place that is easily accessible and secure, such as an online savings account that is FDIC-insured. This money should not be put at risk," Johnson said.

Struthers recommends a three-bucket strategy, putting emergency savings into three different accounts and accessing them in this order, as needed:

- A savings account.
- A money market account. (It has "a higher yield and is safe, but with a tiny bit more risk," he says.)
- One-year certificates of deposit. ("You know the rate for a year and can just roll it over. Even with a three-month interest penalty, it can be a great option," Struthers adds.)

This article was provided to The Associated Press by the personal finance website NerdWallet. Hal M. Bundrick, CFP, is a personal finance writer at NerdWallet. Email: hal@nerdwallet.com. Twitter: [@halmbundrick](https://twitter.com/halmbundrick).





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49D14-2012-DN-043308

NOTICE OF SUIT
The State of Indiana to the Respondent above named, and any other person who may be concerned. You are notified that you have been sued in the Court named above.

DISSOLUTION
STATE OF INDIANA
COUNTY OF MARION SS:
IN THE MARION SUPERIOR COURT
CAUSE NO.:
49D14-2011-DC-041369

DISSOLUTION
STATE OF INDIANA
COUNTY OF MARION SS:
IN THE MARION SUPERIOR COURT
CAUSE NO.:
49D14-2011-DC-041369

NOTICE OF SUIT
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DISSOLUTION
STATE OF INDIANA
COUNTY OF MARION SS:
IN THE MARION SUPERIOR COURT
CAUSE NO.:
49D14-2011-DC-041369

GUARDIANSHIP
STATE OF INDIANA
COUNTY OF MARION SS:
IN THE MARION SUPERIOR COURT
CAUSE NO.:
49D08-2011-GU-041865

NOTICE OF FILING OF PETITION FOR APPOINTMENT OF GUARDIAN OVER PERSON OF MINOR AND HEARING THEREON
On the 8th day of February 2021 at 2:50 p.m., in the Superior Court of Marion County, Indiana, a hearing will be held to determine whether a permanent guardian of the person should be appointed for Audturm L. Owens II.

DISSOLUTION
STATE OF INDIANA
COUNTY OF MARION SS:
IN THE MARION SUPERIOR COURT
CAUSE NO.:
49D04-2010-DN-037394

ORDER FOR FINAL HEARING
Petitioner, through Counsel, has filed her Motion for Final Hearing and is serving the Motion on Respondent Via Publication.

DISSOLUTION
STATE OF INDIANA
COUNTY OF MARION SS:
IN THE MARION SUPERIOR COURT
CAUSE NO.:
49D04-2010-DN-037394

DISSOLUTION
STATE OF INDIANA
COUNTY OF MARION SS:
IN THE MARION SUPERIOR COURT
CAUSE NO.:
49D04-2010-DN-037394

DISSOLUTION
STATE OF INDIANA
COUNTY OF MARION SS:
IN THE MARION SUPERIOR COURT
CAUSE NO.:
49D07-2011-DC-03958

DISSOLUTION
STATE OF INDIANA
COUNTY OF MARION SS:
IN THE MARION SUPERIOR COURT
CAUSE NO.:
49D07-2011-DC-03958

DISSOLUTION
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49D07-2011-DC-03958

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NAME CHANGE
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IN THE MARION SUPERIOR COURT
CAUSE NO.:
49C01-2011-MI-039973

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49C01-2011-MI-039973

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Playing amid pandemic tests basketball teams' adaptability

By JOHN MARSHALL
AP Sports Writer

Sacramento State has a game at Cal Poly scheduled for Dec. 21, two days after the Hornets host UC Davis. Cal Poly has the same COVID-19 testing standards, so it should be easy for the Hornets to pull off.

It's not, like nearly everything that comes with trying to play college basketball in a pandemic.

Sac State's coaches and players need to have a test before they can play the Mustangs, so after traveling south, they'll have to do it early on game day. Cal Poly has an on-campus testing site, but there's no guarantee results will come back before the 2 p.m. tipoff.

So while trying to prepare for a game the day after a long bus ride, the Hornets will also be keeping an ear out for the all-clear call.

"If the results come back early, maybe we'll play at 1. If the results come back late, maybe we'll play at 3," Sac State coach Brain Katz said. "It's just the unpredictability of everything we have to go through. It's understandable, but it does take a toll."

Trying to play a college basketball season during a pandemic has not been easy. Games were canceled, programs shut down due to positive tests and replacement games were hastily scheduled — even before the start of the season on Nov. 25.

Since the season started, dozens of programs have halted activities and daily cancellations — ranging into the hundreds so far — have become the norm. A handful of teams have yet to play a single game more than two weeks into the season.

The Ivy League and a few other teams opted to not play at all before



IUPUI senior guard Marcus Burk (14) attempts an off-balance shot with Tennessee State defender Josh Linder (22) contesting. Burk's team-high 18 points led the Jaguars to a 69-66 win in the first game of the season. (Photo/Walt Thomas)

the season started and some of the coaches whose teams are currently playing have wondered why the season

is continuing as coronavirus numbers surge across the country.

"I don't think it feels right to anybody," Duke coach Mike Krzyzewski said recently before the Blue Devils canceled the rest of their nonconference schedule. "Basically, it was the mentality of, 'Get as many games in as possible.' I would just like for the safety, the mental and physical health of players and staff to assess where we're at."

College basketball was put in a difficult position when the NCAA Tournament was canceled in the spring, causing a \$375 million revenue shortfall for the NCAA. The 2021 NCAA Tournament will be played in one location — likely Indianapolis — but getting there has already proven to be difficult.

Other sports have been able to pull off seasons without too many disruptions, but college basketball is unique in that it is played indoors and has more than 300 teams trying to play at locations across the country.

Navigating the pandemic world has required creativity, adaptability, cooperation and a whole lot of patience.

"You used to just have to worry about your team and the scouting report," Baylor coach Scott Drew said. "Now you've got to worry about everything."

Baylor had to pull out of an event at Mohegan Sun in Connecticut after Drew tested positive for COVID-19 and the No. 2 Bears' showdown against top-ranked Gonzaga was shelved due to positive tests in the Zags' programs.

Nearly every school has dealt with similar issues in some form.

Even pulling off just one game has turned into a monumental task.

Every conference and just about every school has varying protocols, so coaching staffs have had to turn into

testing detectives. Once protocols are identified, there's the matter of scheduling tests around practices and games so results can be attained before game time.

Backlogs in testing, particularly in areas where the virus is surging, can lead to delays in results, pushing back games hours, even days.

Santa Clara, which has relocated to Santa Cruz because its county has shut down games, sent someone to Sac State on Dec. 11 to test players and coaches for the Dec. 12 game because it requires a PCR test 24 hours before playing.

Even when everything goes according to schedule, a game can get knocked off the rails at the last second. An official can test positive before a game. A player could test positive after flying to a road game. Contact tracing could knock players out.

Games have been canceled during warmups, so players often don't know if they're playing until the ball actually goes in the air.

"The fact is, the players were wanting to play," said Tennessee's Rick Barnes, among the handful of coaches who have tested positive for COVID-19. "It is an emotional drain on everybody, because you're getting excited and want to play."

Balancing the mental toll on players has become a part of the equation, too.

Coaches have to make sure the constant changes and unpredictability don't become too much for the players.

Finding positives in difficult situations becomes a priority.

"It's a really constant upbeat messaging to your players. Constant," Katz said. "If you get down in the dumps about it, they're going to get down further."

Colts improve playoff hopes with win vs. Raiders

Indianapolis Colts running back Jonathan Taylor (28) avoids a tackle attempt by Las Vegas Raiders safety Erik Harris (25). Taylor rushed for 150 yards, including a 62-yard touchdown, in the Colts' 44-27 win over the Raiders in Las Vegas on Dec. 13. (Photos/Jeff Brown)



Colts wide receiver T.Y. Hilton (13) and the rest of the offense celebrate one of his two touchdowns against the Raiders. Hilton got off to a slow start this season but has had at least 81 yards in the last three games and a combined four touchdowns.



Colts wide receiver Michael Pittman (11) cuts up field after a catch. The rookie out of USC caught two passes for 42 yards.

Tech downs Anderson



Arsenal Tech head coach Damon Turner and Anderson head coach Donnie Bowling, both in their first year, talked before their teams played each other Dec. 11 at Arsenal Tech. (Photos/David Dixon)



Titans guard Isaiah Lockard (1) pulls up for a jumper in Arsenal Tech's 74-60 win over Anderson.



Dayveon Turner (24), one of the top players in the state, is the son of Arsenal Tech head coach Damon Turner.

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