

Holiday plans take back seat for health

By TYLER FENWICK
tylerf@indyrecorder.com

If anyone might be excused for skirting health guidelines this holiday season, Brandon Powell would be a good candidate.

All four of his children are doing e-learning right now, and his wife, Elisa, is a teacher. Powell owns a lawn care company and has been working from home during the down season. There's a lot going on at home during the day.

"Everyone at this house is hot," Powell said with a laugh.

Powell and his family aren't taking any chances this Christmas, though. They've maintained a quarantine state



Brandon Powell and his family plan to maintain their "quarantine state of mind" during the holidays. (Photo provided)

of mind throughout the pandemic, and he said there's no reason to stop now.

"We've come this far," said Powell, who hasn't been to his mother's house since February and hasn't seen his grandmother either. "Why pull back now when there's a potential end to this? If I want to have a good year next year, I need to stay home now."

The decision to forego any kind of Christmas gathering is just a matter of accepting reality, Powell said, while still trying to make the best of the season.

"As long we have good health, that is the blessing of Christmas," he said. "It's not a bunch of packages under the tree. It's not necessarily hanging out with mom and grandparents. It's that we have good health right now."

Recommendations from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) are extensive, but the baseline is this: The safest way to celebrate the holidays this year is in your home with people who live in the same household.

A national survey from YouGov found 13% of people plan to travel for Christmas. About a quarter of respondents said they would normally travel but won't this year because of the pandemic, and 5% said they were unsure of their plans.

See PLANS, A4▶



Glynita Bell

Southern Indiana Wellness Center expands to help Black women cope with racism

By HILARY POWELL

While listening to the disturbing details of how 26-year-old Breonna Taylor was shot to death by Louisville police officers in her own apartment, Glynita Bell had a sudden thought about Taylor, who lived just miles away from her New Albany, Indiana, home.

"What I know for sure as a clinician is women are the backbone of our families, of our workspaces, of our communities," she says.

Bell got to work in the way she could, offering Black women who were demonstrating on behalf of Taylor free therapy services through a program she calls The Breathe Initiative.

"To watch these women sacrifice their emotional well-being to advocate in the way that they were, the only thing I could do was be responsive," Bell says.

Amid the twin pandemics of the disproportionate impact

See COPE, A7▶

Virtual Kwanzaa events celebrate unity, faith

By BREANNA COOPER
BreannaC@indyrecorder.com

After riots swept through Los Angeles in 1966, Dr. Maulana Karenga of California State University, Long Beach, wanted to bring the African American community together. Combining elements of several harvest celebrations, the Black studies professor created Kwanzaa to unify and strengthen the African American community nationwide.

This year, in the wake of a pandemic and social unrest, Indianapolis Kwanzaa Committee Coordinator Sibeko Jywanza said it's more important than ever to recognize and celebrate Kwanzaa.

"Kwanzaa is not a religious holiday, and it's not a racial holiday," Jywanza said. "It does focus on African Americans, so as long as you're OK with that focus, no matter your race or religion, you can definitely enjoy Kwanzaa. It's about bringing communities together, and after all the social unrest that happened this year, we could all use it."

Jywanza and his family have celebrated Kwanzaa for over 30 years locally. Every family has a unique way of celebrating the seven-day holiday, which Jywanza said adds to the beauty.

"It's individualistic because you have the autonomy to be as creative as you want," Jywanza said. "Traditionally, my family loves to gather around and have conversations and celebrate and encourage each other."

This year, though, due to COVID-19, many families won't be able to safely gather. To make

See KWANZAA, A3▶



CELEBRATE KWANZAA VIRTUALLY
The Indianapolis Kwanzaa Committee will host virtual events to share the history of Kwanzaa and candle-lighting ceremonies. The virtual celebrations will focus on the seven principles of Kwanzaa.

When: 6 p.m. Dec. 26-Jan. 1
Where: Facebook Live

Kheprw Institute will host two virtual Kwanzaa events.

- Dec. 28 — Author Jessica Gordon-Nembhard will discuss her book "Collective Courage" at 6 p.m. at collectivecourage.kheprw.org
- Dec. 29 — Kheprw will host a Zoom meeting to talk about how the organization and others are helping the community. Contact info@kheprw.org for more information and a link to the Zoom meeting.

Celebrating 125 years • From the Recorder Archives • FRIDAY, DECEMBER 10, 1904

Note: As part of our look at the Recorder's archives to celebrate our 125th anniversary, this week we go all the way back to Dec. 10, 1904, when the Recorder published tips on how to have a successful Christmas.



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Harrison Center displays holiday windows and importance of art

By TYLER FENWICK
tylerf@indyrecorder.com

The Harrison Center’s tradition of turning its windows into holiday displays has taken on a special importance this year.

People have been cooped up in their homes for much of 2020, outside of work and (hopefully) other essential travel, and could use something to brighten spirits around the holidays. Plus, it’s good to stretch the legs on a walk.

Artists at the Harrison Center, 1505 N. Delaware St., have turned about 25 basement windows into unique holiday displays.

“Art has never been more important,” said Joanna Taft, executive director of the Harrison Center. “People need to express their emotions.”

The Holiday Window Walk started in early November and will be on display through Jan. 4, 2021. Taft said the best time to take the self-guided tour is at night.

Johnson Simon, one of the artists at the Harrison Center, decorated his window with an art piece featuring Mary, Joseph and baby Jesus.

“This is a time when we need to be reminded of this kind of gift,” he said.

The pandemic has been difficult for Simon. He lost his job and said it’s been tough to not be around other people and artists. The silver lining, he said, is that he got to become a full-time artist.

“Artists take what is going on right now and use imagination to take you to a different place,” Simon said. “Art is a therapy that helps when you feel overwhelmed and stress.”

There’s also a silver lining for the Harrison Center, which had window art on display earlier this year when the pandemic started and then later for racial justice protests. There usually aren’t this many window displays at the art center, but Taft said that will likely change going forward. The plan is to have window displays with different themes throughout the year in 2021.

“Constraints bring about innovation,” she said.

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



Artists at the Harrison Center have decorated some windows with holiday displays. (Photo provided)

HOLIDAY WINDOW WALK

Artists at the Harrison Center have decorated nearly 25 windows with different holiday displays.

- Where: Harrison Center, 1505 N. Delaware St.
- When: Now through Jan. 4, 2021

ARCHIVE

► Continued from A1

Small and inexpensive souvenirs of Japanese lanterns and opened parasols will give a unique touch of oriental color to the Christmas tree. From every available tip tiny bells, hearts, stars, guitars, banjos and paper mache animals, such as rabbits, donkeys and reindeers, should be suspended.

If desired the animals may be of cake, as molds are made especially for this purpose. The stars and hearts may be cut from Bristol board and given a coat of glue, then dipped in mica or metallic flock.

Small red and green apples may be used to good advantage for decorative purposes by sticking them with tiny crape paper flags. They should be suspended from the boughs by braids of red, which and blue paper.

Walnuts, hickorynuts, peanuts, pine cones, etc., will the decorative scheme also if they are gilded. The best thing to accomplish this result is smalt, which is kept by paint dealers and comes in gold and silver and all the metallic shades. First, dissolve a cake of glue in boiling water, place a tack in the end of the nut or object to be immersed, dip in the liquid glue, roll in the smalt and dry. Later, when ready to suspend from the tree, attach bright red ribbon to the gilded tack and hang in some of the places that look bare.

Another novelty which will please the children is to take the shells of the walnut, split so they will intact, remove the meats, gild or silver the empty shells, then place a tiny doll, candy or motto inside and tie with bright colored baby ribbon.

It is almost impossible to have too many objects for trimmings, as the tree is like a yawning chasm—hard to fill. Little Chinamen dangling by their cues and Japanese lads and lassies peering furtively out from among green boughs will create a great deal of amusement for the occidental boys and girls whose eyes are eagerly fixed on the tree. Milkmaids, Jack Horner, brownies, gnomes and fairies will also be an attraction, and they may serve as bonbon receptacles as well.

How to Mail Christmas Gifts.

In mailing Christmas gifts have the package weighed by some responsible person, place the exact amount of postage needed upon the parcel, and in nine hundred and ninety-nine cases out of a possible thousand your package will reach its destination safely and promptly. In addressing the package write the name of the person who is to receive it in ink, spelling both the city and state, and do not abbreviate. Place your name in small writing in either the upper or lower left hand corner.

How to Make Fig Pudding.

Fig pudding is quite as delicious as the regular Christmas pudding and is often served in its place. It is made of half a cupful of chopped figs, one-half cupful of chopped suet, two cupfuls of white breadcrumbs, one-half cupful of sugar, one cupful of milk, one-fourth cupful of flour, one-half cupful or chopped almonds, four eggs, one teaspoonful of baking powder. It can be flavored with extract. Flour the figs and suet, soak the breadcrumbs in milk, add the sugar, then the egg yolks and beat it well. Then add slowly, stirring all the time, the figs, suet, almonds, flour mixed with the baking powder, flavoring and, lastly, the whites of eggs beaten very stiff. Turn it into a covered pudding mold, filling it three-quarters full. Steam for three hours. Serve with a pudding sauce.

How to Make a Novel Paperweight.

Here is a novel and inexpensive Christmas gift for a business friend: Take five walnuts, make a hole in the end of each and dig out as much meat as possible. With a tape needle push a narrow ribbon through each one of the shells, connecting them together, and fill them with melted lead poured through the holes in the end. It will be appreciated by a business friend who must leave the office or desk with papers lying loosely about.

How to Make a Savory French Dish.

Liver puddings well truffled and plentifully seasoned with garlic, together with the national “poulet,” are seen on every Christmas table in France, accompanied, especially in the south, by

the celebrated languedoe stew, which is composed, according to M. Colombie, of the following materials: Beef, lean bacon, a clove, garlic, a small onion in which is inserted a clove, the third of a quart of wine, a small glass of cognac and some salt. Cut the beet into square pieces, very small, and put the whole into a small earthen pot, the bottom of which is lined with thin slices of bacon. Cover the pot with thick paper, closed at the edges by a flour paste made of cold water, put a plate over all, and let it simmer for six hours.

How to Frost Holly Leaves.

Pick some nice leaves from the stalks of holly and wipe them free from all moisture, then place them on a dish near the fire to get them quite dry, but not too near to shrivel; dip them in oiled butter, sprinkle over them some coarsely powdered sugar and dry them before the fire.

CHRISTMAS GAMES.

How to Amuse the Children During the Holidays.

Christmas day games for the children are as necessary as a plum pudding, and the following will please them and are welcome to many grownups, says the Chicago Tribune:

Santa Claus Pack.—All form in line and march to a lively strain on the piano to the next room, where a table holds the contents of Santa Claus’ pack. They look at every object on the table and then march back. The company now divides in half, one-half leaving the room, the table and its contents having been covered. Those remaining choose some object which they remember seeing; the piano begins to play again and the others return. The leader gives to the returning party a word which rhymes with the object chosen. Thus, if it was a ball, he might mention the word “hall.” The returning party now proceeds to guess what object has been chosen, and they express their guess by acting in pantomime. They do not all suggest the object in the same way, but each according to his individual fancy, but they must all agree upon the object they will guess. If wrong they go for another trial and so on until guessed, when the other

half of the company goes out, and they remain and select the object for the others to guess.

Hiding the Mistletoe.—All form in line, single file, and march about the room or several rooms until the music stops. They then proceed to hunt the mistletoe, which the leader carried in his hand and concealed somewhere during the march. The finder must effect return to the starting point without being touched by the leader.

Santa Claus’ Sleigh.—Six girls are harnessed to a little sleigh or sled, and the white ribbon reins are held by a seventh. The sled is filled with small parcels in colored papers containing Christmas crackers or any trifles as favors. The party goes around the room several times, dispensing the favors to the young men, who proceed to select partners and dance until a signal from the leader calls all to march around the room and back to their places.

Snowball.—A large white ball of tissue paper is suspended well out of the way of bric-a-brac. The young girls take turns at shooting at this ball with a small rubber ball. When hit with sufficient force it breaks and out falls a shower of small white balls, perhaps popcorn balls, which are gathered and presented as favors for the next march or dance. As there should be only about half as many balls as there are couples dancing, this will cause a scramble among the small boys who gather them up and who, for fair dealing, should be kept behind a certain line until the ball receives the shot that bursts it.

How to Make a Friendship Calendar.

The friendship pad calendar is especially nice to give elderly people or the “shut in” on Christmas. Either fifty-two or 365 squares of Bristol board 2 ½ by 3 ½ inches distributed to friends of the intended recipient to write a message signed with that friend’s name and date are taken to the printer, who puts the consecutive dates on in red ink and gums the slips into a pad, which can then be mounted on a decorated board or put into a leather case to stand on the table.

KWANZAA

► Continued from A1

up for that loss, the Indianapolis Kwanzaa Committee has planned virtual events each night starting Dec. 26.

Each night through Facebook Live, the committee will share the history of Kwanzaa and candle-lighting ceremonies to help bring people together. The virtual celebrations will focus on one of the seven principles of Kwanzaa — unity, self-determination, collective work and responsibility, cooperative economics, purpose, creativity, and faith — through Jan. 1.

“Tradition is really why we do things,” Jywanza said. “Going back and looking at your roots helps to form a foundation. Anything you’re going through, someone else went through it in the past. We can reinforce that by looking at things and stories from the past and bringing them into the present, and Kwanzaa is a small part of that.”

The virtual Kwanzaa celebration is cosponsored by the Center for Black Literature and Culture (CBLC) at the Indianapolis Public Library, the National Coalition of Blacks for Reparations in America and the IUPUI African

Studies Department.

Nichelle M. Hayes, Indianapolis Kwanzaa Committee member and founding leader of the CBLC, said Kwanzaa is a great opportunity for people to reflect on the principles of Kwanzaa and what they mean to their life.

“I would say that Kwanzaa is an individual decision,” Hayes said. “I don’t want people to feel that every person of African descent celebrates Kwanzaa, but a lot of people do. ... The biggest thing about Kwanzaa is that it’s a time at the end of the year to think about family.”

Hayes said the most important principle in her life is faith, and she tries to reflect on the seven principles throughout the year.

Both Jywanza and Hayes think the virtual celebrations will continue in some capacity in future years to help as many people as possible learn the history and traditions of Kwanzaa. However, Hayes said one of the best parts of Kwanzaa — like all holiday celebrations — is the gatherings.

“I see [virtual celebrations] as one tool in our toolkit to share information about Kwanzaa,” Hayes said. “But the beauty of Kwanzaa is gathering together in real time. We’ll continue some of our virtual celebrations, but our fondest hope is coming together in person and hugging each other.”

The Kheprw Institute will also host two virtual Kwanzaa events to discuss collective work and responsibility and cooperative economics. Kheprw will host a conversation Dec. 28 with author Jessica Gordon-Nembhard about her book “Collective Courage,” which discusses how African Americans practice ujima — or collective work and responsibility. Kheprw will also host a Zoom meeting Dec. 29 to talk about how the organization and others are helping the community.

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

SPOTLIGHT

Film review: ‘The Closet’

By DWIGHT BROWN
NNPA News Wire Film Critic

A child becomes a demon. It’s a cliché in the horror film genre. So how does a smart filmmaker avoid the obvious and create the new? This way.

He’s a mess. A recent car accident has taken the life of Sang-won’s (“Jung-woo Ha,” “The Handmaiden”) wife. The crash haunts him. As a busy architect, he’s overseeing the building of a new museum, and raising his young needy daughter Yi Na (“Yool Heo,” “Mother”) alone is a supreme challenge. The man is stressed and it’s taking a toll

Dad and daughter move into a new home to start over. Yi Na grows increasingly sullen because her father doesn’t spend enough time with her. He’s frustrated, concerned, but absent. One day, her personality flips. She’s eccentric and laughs inexplicably. Dad is perplexed and confused. Then when she disap-



Stills from “The Closet.” (Photo provided)

pears, he moves heaven and earth to find her, driven by guilt.

The film starts with a very intriguing and cryptic video made in 1998. A woman dressed in white appears in a room surrounded by others. She twirls around like she is dancing. A closet door opens suddenly. She whips around and there’s a knife in her hand. It’s as if a force has taken over, and the blade cuts her neck. End of scene.

Making sense of that passage and its connection to the rest of the story

is a job writer/director Kwang-bin Kim gives his audience. You have to figure out, over the course of the film, that incident’s significance. He makes you think it through. He makes you feel the distress of the father, the sadness of the daughter and keeps you in that state of confusion and despair until there is a resolution.

If this was a typical American horror film, the plot would be thin, the emotions shallow, and the tricks of the genre would be the main event. In this inventive South Ko-

rean film, it’s the opposite. Menacing ghosts appear. Bodies are hurled through the air. Necks are slashed. Dead deer lay in the road. Closet doors creek. But that kind of artifice is not the point.

In this story, people are in a crisis that won’t end until they heal themselves or someone heals them. That is a far deeper premise and richer landscape than genre fans expect. The more complex than usual screenplay gives Sang-won secondary characteristics that make him callous (pawns his child rearing duties on others) and vulnerable (panic attacks so severe he needs medication). The very pouty Yi Na is not all that likable initially. But when she becomes possessed by demons, you’re scared for her.

Dread turns into unsettling fear when the spooky closet creatures emerge. Demonic kids with creepy voices beckon from Yi Na’s bedroom closet: “Come with us.” After arms pull her in, you’re invested in her plight and her dad’s fight to find her. And

unlike most other child demons, there is more to this crew than just being evil tykes. These are lost souls mired in sorrow. Give in. You’re gonna get roped into caring about the protagonists and antagonists too.

Kwang-bin Kim’s thoughtful script grows on you. The realm of the dead land he creates, thanks to a visionary tech crew, is just enough to scare you. It looks like the sparse set of an Asian opera — if it was in your nightmares. Frightening sound effects, odd set design and weird props (an array of dolls) populate the normal world and the devil’s way station. As the horror becomes more intense, composer Yeongwook Jo knows just how to tweak the squeaky violins to make you squirm.

The adult actors provide a strong base. Jung-woo Ha keeps his father character on that precipice of change long enough to capture empathy. Nam-gil Kim (“Memoir of a Murderer”), as the mysterious man who aids Sang-won, adds needed comic relief,

especially when he slurps noodles. However, the little girls upstage the grown-ups. Yool Heo, though she sulks most of the film, finds a way to make you feel sorry for her. When she cries it breaks your heart. Si-ah Kim’s portrayal of Myung Jin, the demon girl leader, is the most disturbing. When she menaces you shiver. When she sobs, her sadness is so primal she makes the heavens rain.

Somewhere in this cloud of reality, mysticism and intrigue is a lesson on the importance of loving children before you love yourself. Parents beware. Take the hint. If you neglect your offspring these little imps are coming for you.

“The Closet” brings a bit of respect back to the horror genre.

Arriving on digital platforms and DVD Dec. 15.

Visit NNPA News Wire Film Critic Dwight Brown at Dwight-BrownInk.com and BlackPressUSA.com.

PLANS

► Continued from A1

“Even as we look to turn the corner with the first healthcare and front-line workers receiving vaccines in our community, we must remain as vigilant as ever to protect our friends, family, and neighbors from COVID-19,” Mayor Joe Hogsett said in a statement from the county health department reiterating the CDC’s recommendations.

For any gatherings that include people from different households, the CDC recommends everyone should wear a mask and wash their hands regularly.

There are several factors that contribute to how risky in-person gatherings might be, including indoor ventilation, how much exposure there would be during travel — at airports, bus stations, gas stations, etc.

— and how strictly people adhere to social distancing.

Even though it’s late December, the CDC still recommends outdoor gatherings if the weather is nice enough.

It’s also important to consider how many COVID-19 cases there are in the community hosting the gathering and the community others are traveling from, as well as how long the gathering will last. According to the CDC, being within 6 feet of someone who has COVID-19 for a cumulative total of 15 minutes or more greatly increases the risk of becoming sick.

Jerome Horne traveled with his brother from Indianapolis to suburban Atlanta to see their parents for Christmas. They skipped the airports and drove about

8 1/2 hours to get there, and Horne, who moved to Indianapolis in 2014, said he won’t catch up with old friends like he normally does.

Horne is confident his trip to Atlanta will be safe because he was able to limit his exposure to other people by using the rest of his vacation days at IndyGo, where he’s a ridership experience specialist, before leaving.

“I’m of the belief that if people have been able to isolate and get tested and feel safe, and they want to meet up with their immediate family, I think that’s doable,” he said.

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



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Three ways to support students’ mental health during COVID-19

By NICOLE DETRICK

While COVID-19 has brought health concerns for people of all ages, it has especially brought concern for children’s emotional well-being. The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) has taken steps to educate the public on social, emotional and mental well-being as trauma at a developmental stage could have long-term consequences. Nicole Detrick, upper school counselor and student support services coordinator at the International School of Indiana (ISI), an Indianapolis school that is the only one in the state to offer certified full-continuum International Baccalaureate programming and full language immersion, has tips and details to share about how we can support students’ mental health in the classroom during COVID-19.

COVID-19 has only exacerbated the steady increase in the abnormal amounts of anxiety we have been seeing in students in recent years. The uncertainty of the situation alone has added anxiety for students. Most students thrive best when they can learn in person when they are with educators and peers, but others have thrived in the remote learning environment. As educators, we must continue to find ways to support students, whether in person or virtually, with an understanding that each student faces their own unique set of challenges.

Set Aside Time to Focus on Wellness

I encourage schools and teachers to take time to focus on mental and emotional wellness. Whether it be a small part of each class or a larger time periodically, this time can be beneficial to all students. For example, at ISI, each Thursday, the middle school has a 55-minute emotional wellness program, and the high school holds wellness programming



every other Thursday. The programming can be related to timely events, like cultural identity, or standard emotional wellness topics that students may be facing. Wellness programming allows students to develop an understanding of their emotional well-being as well as mental and emotional health overall.

Additionally, ISI includes learner profile attributes in their wellness schedule, which is a part of the International Baccalaureate programing, a continuum of international education that is a part of the curriculum. These learner profile attributes encourage students to be compassionate, open-minded, reflective, caring and balanced to promote individuals being responsible members of local, national and global communities. Setting aside time specifically to focus on different aspects of mental and emotional health can help students better understand themselves and learn how

to best care for themselves.

Stay Up to Date on Best Practices by Collaborating with Other Educators

Things are changing even more quickly than normal due to COVID-19, and we need to stay up to date with these changes to understand how they are affecting students. Teachers at ISI are regularly trained in intervention to support student well-being and have taken even more steps to be supportive of students since the start of COVID-19. For example, we have seen success in collaborating with other teachers on best practices for supporting students’ mental health and brainstorming new strategies together. At ISI, each teacher partakes in professional time at the end of each day to develop these new strategies for alleviating stress on kids. I encourage teachers to work together and continue their

education on supporting students’ mental and emotional health for continued support through these ever-changing times.

Encourage Support at Home

Supporting students’ mental and emotional health is essential in school settings, but we should also be cognizant of encouraging support at home. I suggest teachers introduce a mode of communication with the student’s parents to keep everyone up to date on how a student is doing. Educators have recognized that reaching out to parents can have a negative connotation or seem like it only occurs when there is an issue. Our leadership continues to encourage its teachers to reach out weekly with something positive to open the door for two-way communication and create a cohesive support system for students. This added support helps to ensure the support is consistent wherever the students are.

For students’ support outside of school settings, we recommend apps like Calm and MyLife or websites like kidshealth.org. These resources touch on relevant topics from organizational skills to emotional support and encourage healthy behaviors.

COVID-19 has added stress to children of all ages. It is important that a student’s educational setting is adding to their emotional wellness and supporting their mental health. While the pandemic has brought obstacles to communication and social interactions, we have to adapt to continue providing support to our students.

Nicole Detrick is upper school counselor and student support services coordinator at International School of Indiana.

For more information on the International School of Indiana, visit isind.org.

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to accept the things I cannot change
and to courage to change the things I can.

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OPINIONS

Advocate for a racial justice agenda at the U.S. Department of Education

By JOHN B. KING JR. and MARC MORIAL



John B. King Marc Morial

The coronavirus has shined a light on how systematic racism, unequal access to opportunity and disinvestments in low-income communities and communities of color have compounded inequities that have long existed in our country. Black and Latino Americans, for example, are more likely to be hospitalized with and die of COVID-19, are less likely to have access to quality health care and are experiencing disproportionate and devastating economic instability as a result of the pandemic.

Meanwhile, Black and Latino children are bearing the emotional impact of seeing their communities and families ravaged by the virus and are more likely to encounter challenges with their education — which has largely moved online — due to a lack of access to high-speed internet and devices for learning.

With a new presidential administration, we have an opportunity to begin on the path to a strong recovery from the pandemic. The federal government — specifically the Biden-Harris administration’s Department of Education — can, and must, play a part in this work by reinstating its role as a civil rights agency with a robust racial justice agenda.

To be sure, if we want to “build back better,” decisive and bold federal action is required.

As the Biden-Harris administration prepares to assume office, we believe there are important ways that the Department of Education can address the immediate impacts of the COVID-19 crisis, as well as our nation’s ongoing fight against systemic racism and injustice.

First, the secretary of education must use his or her platform to lead a nationwide conversation about education through a racial equity lens.

That conversation must center on the needs of students from marginalized communities, clearly illuminate the impacts of the pandemic and demonstrate how those impacts interact with and exacerbate hundreds of years of systemic racism.

Second, the department must use all the levers at its disposal to combat educational inequities that existed prior to, and have been compounded by, the pandemic.

The department must work with Congress to take immediate action to close the digital divide, invest additional federal resources to address learning loss due to COVID-related disruptions and incentivize states to revise their funding formulas to make them more equitable so that students with the greatest needs receive the resources that are necessary to succeed in college and careers.

In the early months of 2021, the Biden-Harris administration also will be tasked with proposing a budget and advocating for that budget before Congress. We urge the new administration to hold firm to its promise to invest in programs that help our most underserved students thrive by tripling funding for Title I, making college more affordable by doubling the maximum Pell Grant, and supporting

community colleges, Historically Black Colleges and Universities, and minority-serving institutions.

Importantly, we hope the department will, along with robust investments, work with Congress to reauthorize the Higher Education Act, a fundamental lever in advancing racial equity and opportunity for today’s students.

Additionally, the department must immediately strengthen and re-issue prior guidance that supports a racial justice agenda. This includes guidance to states, schools and institutions of higher education to legally pursue desegregation strategies that increase diversity.

Finally, almost exactly five years ago, the passage of the Every Student Succeeds Act ushered in a new era that provided states with greater flexibility to meet the needs of their local contexts. While the law provides guardrails that are designed to protect our most marginalized students, it required states to take greater responsibility for ensuring the civil rights of all students are protected.

Unfortunately, and much to the concern of civil rights advocates like us, we’ve seen that the flexibility within the law and the lack of oversight by the current administration are widening gaps in access to educational opportunity for marginalized students. The Biden-Harris education department must right this wrong.

John B. King Jr. is the president and chief executive of the Education Trust and served as U.S. Secretary of Education under President Obama. Marc Morial is the president and CEO of the National Urban League.

Black voters should see themselves in congressional staff

By LaSHONDA BRENSON



As the new Congress prepares to take office and members of the U.S. House of Representatives and Senate make key staff hires, it’s time for careful scrutiny of the diversity reflected within the ranks of congressional staff. This is particularly true following an election in which Black voters were critical to its outcome.

More than 70 civil rights groups, including the African American Mayors Association, Black Futures Lab, Congressional Black Caucus Foundation (CBCF) and NAACP Legal Defense and Educational Fund Inc. (LDF), have formally called on new members of Congress to increase the numbers of staff of color within the mid-level and senior ranks of congressional offices. Our advocacy is particularly important right now, in the period between Election Day and the formal start of the new Congress when most key staff are hired.

While we saw marginal improvement in senior staff diversity after the election in 2018, the lack of diversity among senior congressional staff of

both parties is long-standing.

The data is sobering, if not surprising. People of color account for nearly 40% of the U.S. population. Yet, Joint Center research found that people of color account for just 11% of Washington-based senior staff in Senate personal offices. These include positions like chief of staff, legislative director and communications director — the most influential staff positions in Congress.

Unfortunately, our 2018 report also found that the House was only narrowly more representative with staffers of color comprising just 13.7% of senior roles.

And this inequity remains true for Republicans who represent large numbers of Black voters and for Democratic members who often depend on Black voters as a critical component of their electorate.

There’s not a single Black senior staff member in the personal offices of the Republican senators who represent Mississippi and Louisiana, despite the fact that African Americans account for a third or more of the population in these states.

Similarly, though Black voters made up 37% of Democratic voters in Virginia in 2016, and 47% of Demo-

cratic voters in Maryland, there’s not a single Black person holding a senior staff position within the offices of the Democratic senators who represent these states.

Meanwhile, the Congressional Black Caucus (CBC) is leading by example among congressional Democrats, with Black staff representing just over 53% of CBC top staff — compared to just 2.1% of the senior staff of white Democratic members of the U.S. House. Only 35% of African Americans in the United States live in districts represented by CBC members, but 78.5% of the Black top staff in the U.S. House are employed by CBC members.

This data is particularly troubling at a time when we desperately need more, not fewer, Black staff who can advise members of Congress in better understanding and responding robustly to structural inequality, racism and anti-Blackness.

Yet, there is an opportunity for change.

There will soon be at least 60 new members of the U.S. House and there could be as many as nine new senators. With each appointing a chief of staff, legislative director and communications director, that amounts to 207 senior positions. Far more of them

should be filled by talented African Americans.

Continued progress will require that congressional leadership bring real resources to bear. More congressional offices should formalize diversity and inclusion plans and measure progress. And all offices should focus on diversifying mid-level positions like press secretary and legislative assistant to further bolster the pool of talent that can eventually step into top positions.

Without question, some members can rightfully point to Black staff serving as state or district directors, or to improvements in the diversity of non-senior staff.

But at a time when the pandemic and economic turmoil has fallen disproportionately on Black people, robust representation of Black Americans in senior roles matters now more than ever.

Real progress is possible, but it will require that members of Congress choose action over the status quo. And it demands that we hold them accountable for doing so.

Dr. LaShonda Brenson is the senior fellow for diversity and inclusion at the Joint Center for Political and Economic Studies.

The myth of the perfect victim

By TOO BLACK



“The victims were Black, and the reports are so written as to make it appear that the helpless creatures deserved the fate which overtook them.” - Ida B. Wells

The myth of the perfect victim is an absurdity demanding the victims of police killings prove — from beneath the barren wombs of unmarked graves — that only one death is sufficient. It summons the dead to argue that R.I.P. is more than a clichéd acronym but an ethical duty owed to them. However, when it comes to the dead, particularly those of a darker corpse, the police live to haunt this mantra.

For the police, the perpetual reenactment of death — such as lying on the street for four hours of death, the deadly denial of paramedics as she is still breathing until death, the death of “it looks like

a closed casket, homie” after death — is a public ritual demonstrating the cost of imperfection. Because only when the victims of police killings can prove their humanity does this myth come to life.

Of course, the dead cannot speak for themselves. Public opinion cannot hear them. Their line of communication was left off the hook as the police cradled to form a quorum unanimously deeming them a threat, and voted to then perform the state execution — “public safety” style. So this myth is as dead as the Black people the police kill with impunity. Yet, the police act as the spokespeople for the dead by perpetuating this myth:

*Okay, yeah, Breonna Taylor might have been murdered cold in her home but she shouldn’t have dated a drug dealer nor have lived in a neighborhood that was prime for gentrification. Okay, it might be true that Dreasjon Reed was running away, but he shouldn’t have been running! And you know what? He had a gun! A gun we believe was fired in a completely unrelated and irrelevant drive-by that occurred months prior to us killing him, but a weapon nonetheless. You know, a gun like the Subway sandwich *oops I mean a weapon* that Casey Christopher Goodson Jr. was twirling before we had to kill him too.*

Each reference implies that it is because of the alleged imperfections of these victims that they now belong to the dead.

Police are bred with a warrior mentality that bestows a birthright upon them to cleanse our world of its imperfections. These imperfections harvest the marks of Blackness, Black maleness, homelessness, mental illness, queerness, etc., all conspiring in tandem as perceived threats that serve as potential stains to the sanctity of the state. These threats must be explained away through cop talk:

“Disorderly populations”
“Justifiable homicide”
“Officer-Involved Shooting”
“The police feared for their life”

“Unarmed vs. armed”

Cop talk conditions us to see each “officer-involved shooting” through the eyes of the police. This gerrymandered view exempts us from critically asking what the victim’s state of mind was, or if they “feared for their life” while fleeing the pursuit of an officer like a helpless creature on the verge of becoming prey. Police officers are always “armed” with the propensity to hunt — yet the idea of the prey shooting back is seldom rationalized as “justifiable.” The law does not permit such consideration for “disorderly populations” purged to the bottom of the food chain.

Unfortunately, the only perfect victims are the police. It’s the police for whom the law morphs to sanction their complete latitude to kill. It’s the police for whom the state authorizes to make the “right decision” they claim no one else has the elective courage to make. It’s the police who have the unmitigated freedom to kill Black people, investigate themselves, feed the news media their propaganda to parrot as gospel and still fund a union to defend their murderous behavior in court, providing none of the aforementioned protections proved satisfactory — our last line of defense against the imperfections of society.

In America, Black people are scourged as the imperfections. Not because of our skin but because of the threat we serve to expose the contradictions of the capitalist system. Our exploitation is necessary for social relations to function properly. The denial of our humanity is essential to the order of racial capitalism. It is the police who are hired to protect and serve this order. And it is against us, the imperfections, that the police are hired to kill.

Too Black is a poet and host of The Black Myths Podcast based in Indianapolis. He can be reached at tooblack8808@gmail.com or @too_black_ on Twitter.

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Support for substance abuse around the holidays

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

Aaron Smith finds he's more likely to "need" a drink around the holidays.

Smith said he typically drinks a few times a month throughout most of the year. Around the holidays, however, he said he drinks a few times a week.

"Family is definitely one reason," Smith said. "And then, with winter, I've got seasonal depression."

According to the American Addiction Center, roughly 7.4% of Americans have a substance abuse disorder. However, roughly 29% of Americans say they drink more during the holiday season. This year, alcohol sales increased over 50% as lockdowns took place around the country.

Melissa Cyders, associate professor of psychology at IUPUI, is part of a research team at the Regentrief Institute studying the effects that the upcoming holidays and COVID-19 can have on those struggling with alcoholism and addiction.

"There are many factors to relate to spikes in substance use around the holidays, many of which are worsened by this year," Cyders said. "One, there are more parties and get-togethers with alcohol around the holidays, which normalizes such overindulgences. Two, holidays can be tough times for those who have lost loved ones or who are isolated. Third, holidays are stressful in general — lots to do, being around family may not be positive for some — all of which can increase substance use."

Despite an increase in overall alcohol sales as a result of the pandemic, Cyders thinks there may be fewer stressors that may lead people to drink

"In the U.S., alcohol overindulgence is normalized and somewhat encouraged," Cyders said. "In some ways this year it could be better, since there are fewer parties. However, there is such a normalization of alcohol use during the pandemic — like 'quarantinis' — and some evidence suggesting ... alcohol consumption has increased."

According to the National Center for Biotechnology Information, roughly 7% of African Americans have an alcohol use disorder. While that's lower than the national average, Black Americans are less likely to complete treatment, either due to a lack of resources or stigma surrounding addiction. However, Cyders said families can play a large role in helping loved ones in their recovery.

"It's important to not blame the person or judge them; rather provide support if you are able," Cyders said. "It's important to see the substance use behaviors as a symptom of the disease rather than something the person is doing to hurt you or others. However, it's also important not to enable the behaviors, so sometimes it's best to be open and clear about what you can and cannot do and to help the person connect with the right kind of help for their struggles."

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

Pacers Sports & Entertainment, partners team up for BIG Toy Giveaway



As part of the Pacers Season of Giving delivered by Papa John's, the Pacers once again have teamed up with JAKKS Pacific, Indianapolis Recorder Newspaper and Indianapolis Chapter of Indiana Black Expo for the BIG Toy Giveaway.

Left: Indianapolis Chapter of Indiana Black Expo (ICIBE) board member Marlo Bruce poses with two recipients of the toy giveaway, chosen by the ICIBE. (Photos submitted)



Toys were sorted for delivery at the Recorder. The BIG Toy Giveaway helped 10 families this year, which is especially important as people deal with the COVID-19 pandemic and job loss.

COPE

► Continued from A1



Heart 2 Heart Wellness Center recently expanded its wellness self-care services into Indianapolis and Louisville. (Photos provided)

of the coronavirus on Black Hoosiers and the reckoning with systemic racism in America, Bell, a behavioral therapist and licensed clinical social worker, says she's opened her door to more Black women who need emotional support.

Last month, her business, Heart 2 Heart Wellness Center, expanded its wellness self-care services into Indianapolis and Louisville and increased its workforce by 76% to meet the need.

"If you are willing to sacrifice, or should I say risk your health in a pandemic — because the police were often unkind and aggressive — as well as deplete yourself mental health-wise," she says, "the very least I could do is offer my skill set to help you just talk it through."

Research shows African Americans are less likely to access treatment for mental illness. The Indiana State Department of Health reports the percentage of African Americans who seek mental health care is 25%, compared to 40% for their white counterparts, as of 2017.

Cultural norms and the stigma associated with having a mental illness are partly to blame, according to Shardé Smith, assistant professor of human development and family studies at the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign.

Bell says to dispel these stigmas, she's focused on making a space feel cozy, not clinical. Her Wellness Center in New Albany — a southern Indiana town perched along the Ohio River, across from Louisville — is a spa-like setting in a mission to remove the negative stigma of receiving mental health therapy.

When clients step into the facility, they can participate in yoga, meditation and massages, as well as speak to a licensed therapist.

Bell has also expanded her telehealth platform for online therapy and appointments so more women in the Midwest can practice wellness techniques in the privacy of their homes.

She wants to empower more Black women to embrace boundaries as a way to cope.

Alicia Mckoy, founder of mental well-being firm Peak Mind in Indianapolis, says working from home has magnified the work environment and made it harder to find balance.

"Before, people could go clock in, clock out, leave work there, not take it home and create that mental barrier separation," Mckoy says. "Now, you're working on your sofa, you're working in your bedroom, so it's as if we've crossed and blurred this line. Now our emotions are even more entangled with it all."

She encourages all workers to ask their employer about employee assistance programs, which often include free counseling sessions.

Through her free therapy sessions, Bell hopes to hold space for more women to make self-care a "priority."

"We empower our clients to reach their full potential by encouraging them to own and elevate their self-care," she says. "Being responsible for your mental health is genuinely just good, old self-care."





“I’M OKAY”

DISCUSSING MY PROBLEMS.

When it comes to your mental health, it can be hard to admit when you need help. But if you’re having trouble dealing with the stress, anxiety, and uncertainty caused by the COVID-19 pandemic, it’s important to know that you’re not alone. If you’re ready to talk about the problems you’re facing, we’re ready to listen.

Change the conversation about COVID-19 and mental health.
Visit [Indy.gov/CopingWithCOVID](https://www.indy.gov/CopingWithCOVID) to find help.

‘Obamacare’ enrollment rising as COVID-19 pandemic deepens

By RICARDO ALONSO-ZALDIVAR
Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — Sign-ups for “Obamacare” health insurance plans are trending more than 6% higher amid surging coronavirus cases and deepening economic misery, according to preliminary figures released by the government.

The Centers for Medicaid and Medicare Services, or CMS, said more than 8.2 million people had signed up through the close of open enrollment Dec. 15 in the 36 states served by the federal HealthCare.gov website.

An apples-to-apples comparison with last year’s sign-ups translates to a 6.6% gain, the agency said. Unlike last year, two populous states that had used the federal website are now running their own. Numbers from New Jersey and Pennsylvania were not counted in the tally from HealthCare.gov states taken Dec. 18. They’ll be reported in coming weeks, along with those from other remaining states.

Created by former President Barack Obama’s health law, the insurance markets offer taxpayer-subsidized private plans to more than 11 million people who don’t have job-based coverage. Insurers cannot turn away customers with preexisting medical conditions. Medicaid expansion, another component of the Affordable Care Act, covers about 12 million people.

President Donald Trump failed to repeal “Obamacare” his first year in office, an early defeat he never forgot. Although Trump has been trying to convince a skeptical Supreme Court to overturn the law in its entirety, his administration took credit Dec. 18 for what officials called a successful enrollment season.

“We’ve opened more pathways to enroll by taking advantage of private sector and people are clearly finding the coverage they need at this critical time,” CMS Administrator Seema Verma said in a statement.



FILE - This file image provided by U.S. Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Service shows the website for HealthCare.gov. (U.S. Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Service via AP)

Nonetheless, the Trump administration ignored calls to provide a special sign-up period related to the pandemic, something President-elect Joe Biden has said he will do.

Former Obama administration officials who keep a close eye on the health law celebrated.

“This is the largest increase in HealthCare.gov enrollment since 2016 and it’s the only increase during the Trump administration,” said Joshua Peck, who once served as marketing chief for the program. It’s “a testament to the role the ACA is playing in creating a strong safety net.”

Some states that run their own enrollment campaigns are also reporting stronger numbers. Maryland said it signed up more than 166,000 people, a record.

Final numbers for HealthCare.gov, expected soon, will include people who started their applications before the Dec. 15 deadline but weren’t able to finish. Those usually track close to the preliminary results reported Dec. 18. The official national enrollment report will be released sometime early next year, counting big states like California and New York that run their own sign-up efforts.

Of some 28 million uninsured

Americans before the pandemic, the nonpartisan Kaiser Family Foundation estimates more than 16 million were eligible for some form of subsidized coverage through the health law.

With coronavirus shutdowns leaving even more people uninsured, Biden has pledged to build on the ACA to provide coverage to all Americans. His path forward doesn’t look that easy, since he will come into office with a closely divided Congress and most Republicans still opposed to “Obamacare.”

ACA coverage starts Jan. 1 for those who signed up this year.

Tobacco Product Use Among Youths Declined in 2020

A report last week from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), in partnership with the Food and Drug Administration (FDA), found that current tobacco product use declined among U.S. middle and high school students from 2019 to 2020.

While the report points to a decrease in e-cigarette, cigar, and smokeless tobacco use, the National Youth Tobacco Survey also found that about 4.5 million students used some type of tobacco product in 2020.

The study looked at the use of tobacco products over a 30-day period, including e-cigarettes, cigarettes, cigars, smokeless tobacco, hookah, pipe tobacco, and heated tobacco products.

Results show nearly 1 in 4 high school students were current users of any tobacco product in 2020, down from about 1 in 3 students in 2019. About 1 in 15 middle school students surveyed were current users of any tobacco product in 2020, down nearly half from 2019.

For the seventh year in a row, e-cigarettes were the most commonly used tobacco product among both middle and high school students.

“The decline in tobacco product use over the past year is a win for public health,” said CDC Director Robert R. Redfield, M.D. “Yet, our work is far from done. Nearly 4.5 million U.S. youths still use tobacco products, putting a new generation at risk for nicotine addiction and other health risks.”

“These findings demonstrate success in reducing youth use of tobacco overall, while also revealing changes in use patterns that will inform policymakers,” said FDA Commissioner Stephen M. Hahn, M.D. “FDA will continue to monitor the marketplace, expand our public education efforts, and use our regulatory authority to further ensure all tobacco products,

and e-cigarettes in particular, are not marketed to, sold to, or used by kids.”

Youth use of tobacco products in any form is unsafe. Tobacco use is the leading cause of preventable disease, disability, and death in the U.S. Nearly all tobacco use begins during youth and young adulthood.

The ongoing use of evidence-based tobacco control strategies, combined with tobacco product regulation by FDA, is needed for continuing progress toward reducing and preventing all types of tobacco product use among youths.

As the tobacco product landscape continues to change, monitoring youth tobacco product use, including new products, is important to inform public health policy and practice at national, state and local levels.

To learn more about quitting tobacco product use and preventing youths from using tobacco products, please visit BeTobaccoFree.gov and FDA’s “The Real Cost” campaign.

Join ABC of Diabetes Classes Virtually in 2021

The ABCs of Diabetes is a FREE four-part diabetes education series offered by the Marion County Public Health Department. Topics include eating healthier, increasing activity, and understanding medications. This program is free and open to anyone with diabetes, pre-diabetes, family members and friends.

Due to COVID-19, classes are being held online until it’s safe to meet again in-person. Participants don’t have to be tech savvy to join. Help is available if needed. Classes in January will be held on Thursdays, Jan. 7, 14, 21 and 28 from 1:30-3 p.m. Please plan to attend all four classes.

To register for a class, please visit MarionHealth.org/diabetes, or call 317-221-2094.

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AND FIGHT THE FLU TOGETHER.

Getting a flu vaccine is more important than ever. Roll your sleeve up and help protect the Indianapolis community by getting your flu vaccine this fall.

To learn more about flu shot clinics near you, visit MarionHealth.org/immunize or call 317-221-2122.

Virtual holiday market

Scott United Methodist Church served more than 100 families during a recent virtual holiday market and toy giveaway. Scott UMC pastor James C. Anyike and other volunteers gathered free toys and other items for sale. (Photos/Curtis Guynn)



Pastor Anyike and Tamard Ajimati, founder of "Caring for a Cause."



Crystal Price (left) and Yajaira Perry (right) selected toys for their children.



Other items were also for sale.



35th Annual Christmas Adopt-A-Family Giveaway

Volunteers loaded cars as attorney Nathaniel Lee looked on.

The Lee Foundation held its 35th Annual Adopt-A-Family Giveaway recently at Olivet MBC on North High School Road. Volunteers prepared containers for 120 families who drove by to pick up their food and clothes. The Adopt-A-Family program serves as a tribute to the late Carman Lee, who worked as an educator in Indianapolis. This is the sixth year that Pastor Wayne Moore and Olivet MBC has partnered with the Lee Foundation to expand the program. (Photos/Curtis Guynn)



Volunteers loaded cars with food.



Volunteers helped with boxes of food.

Church vandalism exposes divisions over faith and politics

By ELANA SCHOR
Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — Vandalism at four downtown Washington churches after rallies in support of President Donald Trump is exposing rifts among people of faith as the nation confronts bitter post-election political divisions.

Among the damaged houses of worship were two historically Black churches where people ripped down Black Lives Matter banners, with video posted to social media showing one banner being burned. Those defacements — which are being investigated as possible hate crimes, according to the police — raised questions among some clergy and churchgoers about why more fellow Christians were not speaking out against the incidents.

The Rev. Dr. Ianther Mills, senior pastor at Asbury United Methodist Church, recently issued a statement likening the torched banner to a cross burning and said she hopes more evangelical Christians condemn the destruction.

Mills also underscored that she didn't "want to make this into a political statement" and said her intention was to "move us all to greater healing and to more of a commitment to building a beloved community where all are welcome." The church planned a prayer service to help foster unity and healing, she said.

The nearby Mount Vernon Place United Methodist Church reported that vandals slashed a banner printed with colors supporting LGBTQ rights and rejecting "acts of hate or violence" against others, pastor Donna Claycomb Sokol said.

She added that the episode at her church was "incredibly minor compared with what happened to our neighbors" and urged that attention be paid to the damage at Asbury and Metropolitan A.M.E. Church, both historically Black institutions.

"People need to denounce it and call it an act of racial violence," Claycomb Sokol said. "People who have been really quick to be silent need to wrestle with what actually took place on our streets on Saturday, and how silence



FILE — In this Saturday, Dec. 12, 2020, file photo, with the U.S. Capitol building in the background, supporters of President Donald Trump stand along Pennsylvania Avenue during a rally at Freedom Plaza, in Washington. Vandalism at four downtown Washington churches after rallies in support of Trump are exposing rifts among people of faith as the nation confronts bitter post-election political divisions. (AP Photo/Luis M. Alvarez, File)

can actually be a sign of support, of complicity."

The tearing down of Black Lives Matter signs came after pro-Trump demonstrations in the capital that attracted a sizable number of Proud Boys, a neo-fascist group prone to violent encounters. The protests were planned to bolster the president's claims of election irregularities, although the absence of widespread election fraud has been confirmed by a range of officials nationwide, including Attorney General William Barr.

Police in Washington are seeking public help in identifying suspects in the defacements, with the FBI's Washington field office also offering a reward for those who aid the investigation.

The Rev. William H. Lamar IV, pastor at Metropolitan A.M.E., said in an interview that he saw not division but two separate faiths, contrasting his own beliefs with that of conservative evangelicals whose faith "clearly buttresses the status quo."

"Their faith is not my faith and is not the faith of my ancestors," Lamar said in an interview.

Some members of the affected

churches noted the contrast between the vocal Christian response to property destruction during protests against racial injustice this summer and the comparatively quieter push-back now.

"When evangelicals can speak on behalf of unborn babies, can speak on behalf of law and order when it comes to white people and white property, but are silent when it comes to banners that proclaim 'Black lives matter,' the moral silence is stupefying," said Cornell William Brooks, former president of the NAACP and a member of Metropolitan A.M.E.

"We've gone from having to say 'Black lives matter' to now having to say 'Black churches matter,'" added Brooks, a professor at Harvard University's Kennedy School graduate program.

The Episcopal bishop of Washington, who criticized Trump during the summer's racial inequality protests after protesters were forcibly cleared in order for him to stage a visit to a fire-damaged church, issued a statement with the dean of the Washington National Cathedral decrying the recent church vandalism as well as "the racist and religious overtones

surrounding the effort to discredit the presidential election." One pro-Trump rally counted several religious conservatives as headliners.

Some pro-Trump conservative evangelicals criticized the church vandalism, while describing it as part of a broader trend that has marked a year of heightened political tensions.

Johnnie Moore, president of The Congress of Christian Leaders and an evangelical adviser to the administration, said that "we must put extremists on the far right and the far left on notice that these acts stop now."

"Whether it's synagogues in Portland, Los Angeles, or Kenosha, a Catholic shrine in Southern California, or historic — especially historically Black — churches in Washington, D.C. — America's places of worship must never be targeted in any form, whatsoever, by violent extremists," Moore said by email.

The Rev. Samuel Rodriguez, an evangelical leader who has advised Trump, said in a statement that "there is quite a difference between a movement driven by righteousness and justice, truth and love, and a movement driven by chaos," describing attacks on houses of worship as "a clear, unbridled depiction of the true agenda behind many of these so-called 'movements.'"

While stopping short of fully acknowledging Trump's election loss, several top evangelical conservatives have refrained from echoing the harsh rhetoric that the president directed toward President-elect Joe Biden during the hard-fought campaign.

White House spokesman Judd Deere said by email, "President Trump condemns violence in all forms and any group that expounds hate and bigotry."

Cameron French, a Biden-Harris transition official, said in a statement places of worship are sacred spaces and protected under the law and "acts that target these places because of their views, are unacceptable and undermine our work to build a more perfect union."

Associated Press religion coverage receives support from the Lilly Endowment through the Religion News Foundation. The AP is solely responsible for this content.

SPIRITUAL OUTLOOK

This Christmas

By SHEILA P. SPENCER

“... but those who wait for the LORD shall renew their strength, they shall mount up with wings like eagles, they shall run and not be weary, they shall walk and not faint.”
Isaiah 40:31



“God loved the world so much that he gave his one and only Son so that whoever believes in him may not be lost but have eternal life.” John 3:16
Advent is the season that calls us to wait. Advent marks the start of a season of preparation that looks forward to the celebration of the birth of Christ. We light the candles of hope, faith, joy, peace, and the Christ candle is lit on Christmas Day. Christ is the gift that we anticipate and celebrate. It is a season of waiting and expectation. It feels as if this year has been preparation and practice in the art of waiting. Christ is the gift that we anticipate and celebrate. We say that Jesus is always the reason for the season. And this year has been a season.

Jesus is still the reason for the season, even if our celebrations aren’t the same. Whether we gather physically or virtually, it’s all done in Jesus’ name. Jesus is still the reason for the season and always brings the greatest gift from above. God gave us the gift of God’s son completely covered in love. Jesus is the reason for the season, even as we’re doing things we’ve never had to do before. It presents the opportunity to be creative and appreciate this season even more. I believe this season has deepened our appreciation for each other. Let’s continue to seek ways to be encouraging to one another. Give yourself the gift of grace and be loving with yourself. Doing this will allow you to extend this to someone else.

Jesus is the reason for every season, and we celebrate in His name. We’re also reminded, no matter what, the real work of Christmas will always remain.

The Work of Christmas

When the song of the angels is stilled,
When the star in the sky is gone,
When the kings and princes are home,
When the shepherds are back with their flock,
The work of Christmas begins:
To find the lost,
To heal the broken,
To feed the hungry,
To release the prisoner,
To rebuild the nations,
To bring peace among others,
To make music in the heart.
Dr. Howard Thurman

Blessed to be a blessing to you,
Rev. Sheila P. Spencer

Rev. Sheila P. Spencer is an author, poet, teacher and preacher. You can contact her at CustomMadeInspiration@gmail.com and her website is www.sheilapspencer.com.

BIBLE TRIVIA

by Wilson Casey

1. The main Christmas story is paraphrased from what two New Testament books? Mark/John, Acts/Romans, Matthew/Luke, Jude/Revelation
2. From Luke 2:34, who prophesied to Mary that this Christ child is set for the fall and rising again of many? Melchior, Simeon, Cyrenius, Felix
3. What bright phenomenon led the wise men (Magi) to the young Jesus and Savior? Whirlwind, Star, Rainbow, Rain-fall of sparkling gold
4. Where was the young child when the Magi came to visit Him to present gifts? Manger, Under the stars, House, Temple
5. By what method did the shepherds learn of Christ’s birth? New star, Angel appearance, Walking stranger, Donkey speaking
6. How many times does the word “Christmas” appear in the Bible (KJV)? Zero, 1, 2, 7
- ANSWERS:
1) Matthew/Luke; 2) Simeon; 3) Star; 4) House; 5) Angel appearance; 6) Zero
- Comments? More Trivia? Gift ideas? Visit [www.TriviaGuy.com](#)
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BIBLE WORD SEARCH

by Elie’s Spiritual Treasures

Colossians 3:16

Let the message of Christ dwell among you richly as you teach and admonish one another with all wisdom through psalms, hymns, and songs from the Spirit, singing to God with gratitude in your hearts.

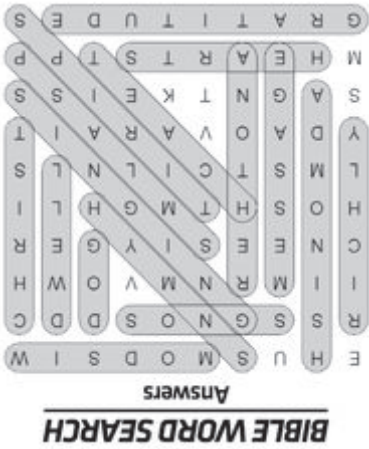
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Y D A O V A R A I T
S A G N T K E I S S
M H E A R T S T P P
G R A T I T U D E S

Find the **bolded/underlined** words in the diagram. They run in all directions — forward, backward, up, down and diagonally.

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Pastor

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Pastor Chas A. Sheppard
Lady Edna M. Sheppard

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Sunday School
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6:00am
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Thurs. Family Living
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Fri. Victory Over Addictions
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Local inventor wants to ‘save a lot of lives’

By TYLER FENWICK
tylerf@indyrecorder.com

It's been 22 years since Bernice Taylor started a fireplace accessories company, and she's got nothing to hide when she says she thought about leaving her job at the post office. It seems natural, after all, to drop out of one career when you start another.

That hasn't happened, though. Taylor, 63, has been a busy woman — a business owner and a postal worker at the Castleton branch for 32 years — and she's trying to up her status at her company, Ashes to Go, before leaving the post office.

Benita Harris-Ferrell, Taylor's coworker, calls her a soldier and thought for sure Taylor would have stopped working at the post office by now.

"She was extremely focused and intense," Harris-Ferrell said of Taylor when she started Ashes to Go in 1998. "It was her baby, and she was determined."

No one has standing to doubt Taylor's determination. She started her company while helping take care of a family — one child of her own to go along with six stepchildren — and had a frustrating time searching for different companies that could do production, distribution, packing and everything else required.

It's easier now that there are more one-stop-shop companies to handle all of that.

Taylor almost gave

up on the fireplace tray she invented until she heard about a house fire that was caused by discarded fireplace embers in Connecticut on Christmas morning in 2011. The fire killed three girls and their grandparents.

That was her motivation to create a tray that's practical and improves safety.

Taylor's fireplace tray weighs six pounds — it used to be 30 — and has a lid to seal ashes to prevent re-ignition. The tray is only two inches high and a little more than two feet wide. It retails starting at \$120.

"I believe the tray can save a lot of lives," she said.

Back in the invention stage, June Harrington, the Castleton branch manager, remembers a passionate Taylor walking around the post office with video clips and prototypes of the design to show co-workers what she was up to.

"I think it's amazing that she came up with this idea," Harrington said.

It's good to be put a priority on fire safety no matter the circumstances, but Taylor believes it will be especially important during the winter season and with more people staying inside because of the COVID-19 pandemic.



Bernice Taylor

With many sectors of the economy closed or operating with limited capacity, it stands to reason those with a fireplace may use it more often in the winter months, and Taylor said it's good to know her work could help make it a safer holiday season.

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



Indiana budget outlook improves, although money still tight

By TOM DAVIES
Associated Press

INDIANAPOLIS (AP) — Indiana's state tax revenues have largely stabilized from the plunges seen early in the coronavirus-caused recession, although state budget leaders warned Dec. 16 that money could remain tight as legislators begin work on a new two-year spending plan.

New revenue projections presented to the State Budget Committee showed Indiana could end the current budget year next June 30 with about \$2.3 billion in reserves. That would be nearly the same level the state had in June 2019 — and a significant turnaround considering the state saw a 23% drop in tax revenue during the March-June period this year with widespread business closures and other restrictions prompted by the COVID-19 pandemic.

The revenue projections estimate state government collecting 2.2% and 3% more in the next two years, although much of that could be consumed by expected increases in state expenses toward the Medicaid program providing health coverage for low-income residents.

School districts avoided funding cuts for this year even as Republican Gov. Eric Holcomb's administration ordered spending reductions for most state agencies.

While state budget leaders said Dec. 16 that protecting school funding would be a priority during the upcoming legislative session, they held out little prospect for much additional money toward boosting Indiana's lagging teacher pay just days after a Holcomb-appointed commission released recommendations that could cost more than \$600 million a year.

Senate Appropriations Committee Chairman Ryan Mishler, a Republican from Bremen, said he believed avoiding school funding cuts with the recession will be a victory.

"The way today is playing out is a flatline is a win, even in K-12 when other states are making drastic cuts," Mishler said. "So, in Indiana I don't think you're going to see a cut in K-12 like other states."



The Republican-written spending plan approved in 2019 increased base funding for traditional schools by about 2% a year.

Longtime education lobbyist Dennis Costerison said the new state revenue projections were a relief after more dismal expectations a few months ago and that he was hopeful of lawmakers avoiding school funding cuts in the new state budget that's expected to be approved in late April.

"I'm not very optimistic that the General Assembly will look at making any major adjustments to the school formula and adding a lot of new money," said Costerison, executive director of the Indiana Association of School Business Officials. "They are just trying to keep a flat line. I think that will be their challenge."

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ADOPTION

STATE OF INDIANA
COUNTY OF MARION SS:
IN THE MARION SUPERIOR COURT
CASE NO.: 49D08-2011-AD-041417
IN THE MATTER OF THE ADOPTION OF KIARRH HAMILTON
NOTICE TO UNNAMED FATHER

The unnamed putative father of the child born to Jasmine Bryant on May 19, 2012, or the person who claims to be the father of the child born to Jasmine Bryant on May 19, 2012, is notified that a petition for adoption of the child was filed in the office of the clerk of Marion Court, 200 E Washington St, W122, Indianapolis, IN 46204. If the unnamed putative father seeks to contest the adoption of the child, the unnamed putative father must file a motion to contest the adoption in accordance with IC 19-19-10-1 in the above named court within thirty (30) days after the date of service of this notice. This notice may be served by the Court, or by the Court clerk. If the unnamed putative father does not file a motion to contest the adoption within thirty (30) days after service of this notice, the above-named putative father loses the right to contest the adoption of the child, by affidavit or otherwise, in Indiana or any other jurisdiction. Nothing Jasmine Bryant or anyone else says to the unnamed putative father of the child relieves the unnamed putative father of his obligations under this notice.

Under Indiana law, a putative father is a person who is named as or claims that he may be the father of a child born out of wedlock but who has not yet been legally proven to be the child's father. This notice complies with IC 31-19-4-4 but does not exhaustively set forth the unnamed putative father's legal obligations under the Indiana adoption statutes. A person being served with this notice should consult the Indiana adoption statutes.

12/11/20
12/18/20
12/25/20

DISSOLUTION

STATE OF INDIANA
IN THE MARION COUNTY SUPERIOR COURT
COUNTY OF MARION
CAUSE NO. 49D04-2010-DN-037394
IN RE: THE MARRIAGE OF ROBERTA ANN ESCOBEDO, PETITIONER,
AND SAUL ESCOBEDO PEREZ, RESPONDENT

12/11/20
12/18/20
12/25/20

GUARDIANSHIP

STATE OF INDIANA
COUNTY OF MARION
IN THE MARION COUNTY CIRCUIT COURT
PROBATE DIVISION
IN RE THE GUARDIANSHIP OF AUDTUM L. OWENS
MINOR
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, Indianapolis, Indiana a hearing will be held to determine whether a permanent guardian of the person should be appointed for Audtum L. Owens. At the hearing the court will determine whether Audtum L. Owens is an incapacitated minor under Indiana law. This proceeding may substantially affect the rights of Audtum L. Owens and other interested individuals. If the Court finds that Audtum L. Owens is an incapacitated minor, the Court at the hearing shall also consider whether Bennie Owens II should be appointed as guardian of Audtum L. Owens. The Court may, in its discretion, appoint some other qualified person as guardian. The Court may also, in its discretion limit the powers and duties of the guardian. The Court may where required, appoint a guardian ad litem to represent Audtum L. Owens at the hearing. The Court may, on its own motion or on request of any interested person, postpone the hearing to another date and time.

12/11/20
12/18/20
12/25/20

Kathy Krag Williams, Clerk

12/11/20
12/18/20
12/25/20

DISSOLUTION

STATE OF INDIANA
COUNTY OF MARION
IN RE THE MARRIAGE OF: DONNA BARTOLON LONG
PETITIONER,
AND JOSE LUIS BARTOLON ROBLOERO
RESPONDENT
IN THE MARION SUPERIOR CIVIL DIVISION ROOM 14
CAUSE NO. 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. The nature of the suit against you is: Dissolution

This summons by publication is specially directed to the following named Respondent whose address is: And to the following Respondent whose whereabouts are unknown: Jose Luis Bartolon Roblero In addition to the above-named Respondent being served this summons there may be other Respondents who have an interest in this lawsuit. If you have a claim for relief against the Petitioner 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. On or before the day of 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 Petitioner has demanded. Date: December 9, 2020

12/18/20
12/25/20
01/01/21

Myla A. Eldridge, Clerk

12/18/20
12/25/20
01/08/21

DISSOLUTION

STATE OF INDIANA
COUNTY OF MARION
COURT OF CIVIL DIVISION
CLANIVAT O. AKINRINSOL Plaintiff
Vs
ADEWALE A. AKINRINSOL Defendant
CAUSE NO. 49D14-2011-DC-041369
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. The nature of the suit against you is Petition for Dissolution of Marriage. And to the following respondent whose whereabouts are unknown: Adewale A. Akinrinsol. In addition to the above named respondent being served by this summons there may be other defendants who have an interest in this law suit. If you have a claim for relief against the Petitioner 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, on or before the day of 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.

12/18/20
12/25/20
01/01/21

Myla A. Eldridge, Clerk

12/18/20
12/25/20
01/01/21

DISSOLUTION

STATE OF INDIANA
IN THE MARION COUNTY SUPERIOR COURT
COUNTY OF MARION
CAUSE NO. 49D04-2010-DN-037394
IN RE: THE MARRIAGE OF ROBERTA ANN ESCOBEDO, PETITIONER,
AND SAUL ESCOBEDO PEREZ, RESPONDENT

ORDER FOR FINAL HEARING

Petitioner, through Counsel, has filed her Motion for Final Hearing and is serving the Motion on Respondent Via Court. The Court, having reviewed the previously filed Verified Petition for Dissolution of Marriage and the Motion for Final Hearing, now sets the matter for Final Hearing WHEREFORE, it is ordered the matter now be set for a hearing to be held on the 15th day of January, 2021 at 2:30 pm. and shall last 30 minutes, via WebEx. IT IS SO ORDERED.

October 27, 2020 Date
Myla A. Eldridge, Clerk

12/18/20
12/25/20
01/01/21

GUARDIANSHIP

STATE OF INDIANA
COUNTY OF MARION
IN THE MARION COUNTY CIRCUIT COURT
PROBATE DIVISION
IN RE THE GUARDIANSHIP OF AUDTUM L. OWENS
MINOR
CAUSE NO. 49D08-2011-GU-041865
NOTICE OF FILING OF PETITION FOR APPOINTMENT OF GUARDIAN OVER PERSON OF MINOR AND HEARING THEREON

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12/11/20
12/18/20
12/25/20

Myla A. Eldridge, Clerk

12/11/20
12/18/20
12/25/20

GUARDIANSHIP

STATE OF INDIANA
COUNTY OF MARION;
IN THE MARION COUNTY SUPERIOR COURT
JUVENILE DIVISION
JACOB BATDORF 186414
MINOR CHILD
PATRICIA DARRAH
PETITIONER
CAUSE NO. 49D09-2011-GU-000041
IN RE: THE GUARDIANSHIP OF: MOTHER: Amanda Troxell
Address Unknown

You are hereby notified that you have been named as a respondent in an action for the guardianship of your child, Jacob Batdorf, in the cause number and Court indicated above. If this Summons is accompanied by an Order to Appear you must appear in the Court on the date and time stated in the Order to Appear. If you do not appear, evidence may be heard in your absence and a determination made by the court of all issues raised by the Petition. If you wish to retain an attorney to represent you in this matter, it is advisable to do so before the date stated in the order to appear. If you take no action in this case after receipt of this Summons, the Court can grant the petition for guardianship and make a determination regarding any of the following: child custody, child support, parenting time, payment of medical expenses, or any other matters related to your child.

12/11/20
12/18/20
12/25/20

Myla A. Eldridge, Clerk

12/11/20
12/18/20
12/25/20

ORDER SETTING FINAL GUARDIANSHIP HEARING I. APPEARANCE

A. ADMINISTRATIVE Ruling, no parties present. II. NARRATIVE, Comes now the Court, having received and reviewed the PETITIONERS VERIFIED PETITION FOR LEAVE TO EFFECTUATE SERVICE BY PUBLICATION AND PRAECIPRO FOR SUMMONS filed by Petitioner Patricia Darrah with her attorney on 12/6/2020 and the Court grants the motion and sets this matter for a final guardianship hearing. Court vacates the pre-trial set in January.

12/18/20
12/25/20
01/01/21

Myla A. Eldridge, Clerk

12/18/20
12/25/20
01/08/21

NAME CHANGE

STATE OF INDIANA
COUNTY OF MARION SS:
IN THE MARION CIRCUIT COURT CIVIL DIVISION
CAUSE NO. 49C01-2010-MI-036673
IN RE: THE NAME CHANGE OF: KAMRYN JAY BUTLER, MINOR CHILD, BY NEXT OF FRIEND: JOSE RODOLFO CRUZ SILVA, Co-Petitioners.

ORDER TO APPEAR
Comes now Petitioner, Kamryn Jay Butler, by next of friend and biological father, Jose Rodolfo Cruz Silva, in person and by counsel, Anthony Zapata, and files his Verified Petition for Name Change of a Minor. And, the Court, being duly advised in the premises, now finds that said Petition should be set for hearing and ORDERS that said Petition and all collateral matters shall be heard in the Marion County Circuit Court, City-County Building, 200 E. Washington Street, Room W506, Indianapolis, Indiana 46204; however, if the COVID-19 pandemic is ongoing, or the Court gets authority to continue remote hearings, this hearing will be held remotely, by WebEx or Zoom, and the Court will send a separate WebEx or Zoom email invitation with instructions, to join the hearing. Date NOV 16 2020

12/18/20
12/25/20
01/01/21

Myla A. Eldridge, Clerk

12/18/20
12/25/20
01/01/21

NAME CHANGE

STATE OF INDIANA
COUNTY OF MARION
IN THE MARION CIRCUIT COURT
CASE NO. 49C01-2009-MI-032155
IN RE: THE CHANGE OF NAME OF MINOR: ISAAC SCOTT SMITH PATRICIA LYNETTE YOUNG, PETITIONER.

ALIAS NOTICE OF HEARING FOR PUBLICATION IN NEWSPAPER

Notice is hereby given that Petitioner, Patricia Lynette Young, as a self represented litigant, filed a Verified Petitioner Change of Name of Minor Child to Isaac Scott Smith to Isaac Jeremiah Young, the Petition is scheduled for hearing in the Marion Circuit Court on March 23, 2021 at 9:00 a.m., Which is more than thirty (30) days after the third notice of publication. Any person has the right to appear at the hearing and to file written objections on or before the hearing date. This hearing will be held in the Marion Circuit Court, which is located at 200 E. Washington Street, City-County Building, Room W506, Indianapolis, IN 46204. The hearing will be held remotely by WebEx. A separate WebEx invitation will be sent with instructions to join the hearing.

Date December 10, 2020
Clerk of Marion Circuit Court
Myla A. Eldridge, Clerk

12/18/20
12/25/20
01/01/21

NAME CHANGE

STATE OF INDIANA
COUNTY OF MARION, ss:
IN THE CIRCUIT COURT
IN RE: THE NAME CHANGE OF MINOR: LORENZA MUHAMMAD, PETITIONER.
CAUSE NO. 49C01-2010-MI-036683

ORDER TO APPEAR

Comes now Petitioner, Jobani De Jesus Vazquez, by next of friend and biological mother, San Juanita Vazquez Don Juan, in person, and by counsel, Anthony Zapata, and files his Verified Petition Name Change of a Minor. And, the Court, being duly advised in the premises, now finds that said Petition should be set for hearing and ORDERS that said Petition and all collateral matters shall be heard in the Marion County Circuit Court, City-County Building, 200 E. Washington Street, Room W506, Indianapolis, Indiana 46204, on the 23rd day of February, 2021 at 9:00 AM. This hearing may be held in person at the City-County Building, 200 East Washington Street, Room W506, Indianapolis, IN 46204; however, if the COVID-19 pandemic is ongoing, or the Court gets authority to continue remote hearings, this hearing will be held remotely, by WebEx or Zoom, and the Court will send a separate WebEx or Zoom email invitation, with instructions, to join the hearing.

So Ordered: 11-19-2020
Myla A. Eldridge, Clerk

12/11/20
12/18/20
12/25/20

NAME CHANGE

STATE OF INDIANA
COUNTY OF MARION, ss:
IN THE CIRCUIT COURT
IN RE: THE NAME CHANGE OF MINOR: LORENZA MUHAMMAD, PETITIONER.
CAUSE NO. 49C01-2010-MI-036683

ORDER SETTING HEARING

Notice is hereby given that Petitioner, Lorenza Muhammad, pro se, filed a Verified Petition for Change of Name of Minor to change the name of minor, child, from Olivia Monet Mitchell to Olivia Monet Muhammad. The petition is scheduled for hearing in the Marion Circuit Court on February 2, 2021 at 9:00 am which is more than thirty (30) days after the third notice of publication. Any person has the right to appear at the hearing and to file written objections on or before the hearing date. The parties shall report to 200 East Washington Street Room W506, Indianapolis, IN 46204; however, if the COVID-19 pandemic is ongoing, or the Court gets authority to continue remote hearings, this hearing will be held remotely, by WebEx or Zoom, and the Court will send a separate WebEx or Zoom email invitation, with instructions, to join the hearing.

So Ordered: 11-19-2020
Myla A. Eldridge, Clerk

12/11/20
12/18/20
12/25/20

NAME CHANGE

STATE OF INDIANA
COUNTY OF MARION SS:
IN THE MARION COUNTY CIRCUIT COURT CIVIL DIVISION
CAUSE NUMBER: 49C01-2010-MI-038179
IN RE THE NAME CHANGE OF: ROBERT RICHARD GOWEN.
AN Adult;

NOTICE OF NAME CHANGE

You are hereby notified that on the 28th day of October, 2020, the Petitioner, Robert Richard Gowen filed the Verified Petition for Change of Name in the Marion County Circuit Court, under Cause No. 49C01-2010-MI-038179 requesting the name of Robert Richard Gowen be changed to Robert Paul Chan. Hearing on this Petition for Change of Name will be held in the Marion County Circuit Court on February 9, 2021 at 9:00 a.m. This hearing may be held in person at the City-County Building, 200 East Washington Street, Room W506, Indianapolis, Indiana 46204; however, if the COVID19 pandemic is ongoing, or the Court gets authority to continue remote hearings, this hearing will be held remotely by WebEx or Zoom, and the Court will send a separate WebEx or Zoom email invitation with instructions, to join the hearing.

11/6/2020
Myla A. Eldridge, Clerk

12/18/20
12/25/20
01/01/21

NAME CHANGE

STATE OF INDIANA
COUNTY OF MARION, ss:
IN THE CIRCUIT COURT
IN RE: THE NAME CHANGE OF: JAMES TRIBLET
Petitioner
CAUSE NO. 49D08-2010-MI-030778
NOTICE OF PETITION FOR CHANGE OF NAME

Notice is hereby given that Petitioner James Triblet, filed a verified Petition for Change of Name of Minor, Raymond J. Wettrick, III, was appointed personal representative of the estate of SHARON A. WETTRICK, deceased, who died on October 19, 2020. All persons having claims against this estate, whether or not now due, must file the claim in the Office of the Clerk of this Court within three (3) months from the date of the first publication of this notice, or within nine (9) months after the decedent's death, whichever is earlier, or the claims will be forever barred. Dated at Indianapolis, Indiana, this December 11, 2020.

12/18/20
12/25/20
01/01/21

Myla A. Eldridge, Clerk

12/18/20
12/25/20
01/01/21

NAME CHANGE

STATE OF INDIANA
COUNTY OF MARION, ss:
IN THE CIRCUIT COURT
IN RE: THE NAME CHANGE OF: JAMES TRIBLET
Petitioner
CAUSE NO. 49D08-2010-MI-030778
NOTICE OF PETITION FOR CHANGE OF NAME

Notice is hereby given that Petitioner James Triblet, filed a verified Petition for Change of Name of Minor, Raymond J. Wettrick, III, was appointed personal representative of the estate of SHARON A. WETTRICK, deceased, who died on October 19, 2020. All persons having claims against this estate, whether or not now due, must file the claim in the Office of the Clerk of this Court Within three (3) months from the date of the first publication of this notice, or within nine (9) months after the decedent's death, whichever is earlier, or the claims will be forever barred. Dated at Indianapolis, Indiana, this December 11, 2020.

12/18/20
12/25/20
01/01/21

Myla A. Eldridge, Clerk

12/18/20
12/25/20
01/01/21

NAME CHANGE

STATE OF INDIANA
COUNTY OF MARION
IN RE THE CHANGE OF NAME OF: Cory Wright, Petitioner
IN THE MARION CIRCUIT COURT
Case number, 49C01-2010-MI-038228
NOTICE OF PETITION FOR CHANGE OF NAME

Notice is hereby given that Petitioner, Cory Wright, filed a Verified Petition for Change of Name from Cory Wright to Courtney Wright. The Petition is scheduled for hearing in the Marion Circuit Court on February 9, 2021 at 9:00 a.m. which is more than thirty (30) days after the third notice of publication. Any person has the right to appear at the hearing and to file written objections on or before the hearing date. The parties shall report for hearing in the Marion Circuit Court, which is located at 200 E. Washington Street, Room W506, Indianapolis, IN 46204; however, if the COVID-19 pandemic is ongoing, or the Court gets authority to continue remote hearings, this hearing will be held remotely, by WebEx or Zoom, and the Court will send a separate WebEx or Zoom email invitation with instructions, to join the hearing. Date NOV 16 2020

12/18/20
12/25/20
01/01/21

Myla A. Eldridge, Clerk

NAME CHANGE

STATE OF INDIANA
COUNTY OF MARION
IN THE MARION CIRCUIT COURT
CASE NO. 49C01-2009-MI-032155
IN RE: THE CHANGE OF NAME OF MINOR: ISAAC SCOTT SMITH PATRICIA LYNETTE YOUNG, PETITIONER.

ALIAS NOTICE OF HEARING FOR PUBLICATION IN NEWSPAPER

Notice is hereby given that Petitioner, Patricia Lynette Young, as a self represented litigant, filed a Verified Petitioner Change of Name of Minor Child to Isaac Scott Smith to Isaac Jeremiah Young, the Petition is scheduled for hearing in the Marion Circuit Court on March 23, 2021 at 9:00 a.m., Which is more than thirty (30) days after the third notice of publication. Any person has the right to appear at the hearing and to file written objections on or before the hearing date. This hearing will be held in the Marion Circuit Court, which is located at 200 E. Washington Street, City-County Building, Room W506, Indianapolis, IN 46204. The hearing will be held remotely by WebEx. A separate WebEx invitation will be sent with instructions to join the hearing.

Date December 10, 2020
Clerk of Marion Circuit Court
Myla A. Eldridge, Clerk

12/18/20
12/25/20
01/01/21

NAME CHANGE

STATE OF INDIANA
COUNTY OF MARION, ss:
IN THE CIRCUIT COURT
IN RE: THE NAME CHANGE OF MINOR: LORENZA MUHAMMAD, PETITIONER.
CAUSE NO. 49C01-2010-MI-036683

ORDER SETTING HEARING

Notice is hereby given that Petitioner, Lorenza Muhammad, pro se, filed a Verified Petition for Change of Name of Minor to change the name of minor, child, from Olivia Monet Mitchell to Olivia Monet Muhammad. The petition is scheduled for hearing in the Marion Circuit Court on February 2, 2021 at 9:00 am which is more than thirty (30) days after the third notice of publication. Any person has the right to appear at the hearing and to file written objections on or before the hearing date. The parties shall report to 200 East Washington Street Room W506, Indianapolis, IN 46204; however, if the COVID-19 pandemic is ongoing, or the Court gets authority to continue remote hearings, this hearing will be held remotely, by WebEx or Zoom, and the Court will send a separate WebEx or Zoom email invitation, with instructions, to join the hearing.

So Ordered: 11-19-2020
Myla A. Eldridge, Clerk

12/11/20
12/18/20
12/25/20

NAME CHANGE

STATE OF INDIANA
COUNTY OF MARION, ss:
IN THE CIRCUIT COURT
IN RE: THE NAME CHANGE OF MINOR: LORENZA MUHAMMAD, PETITIONER.
CAUSE NO. 49C01-2010-MI-036683

ORDER SETTING HEARING

Notice is hereby given that Petitioner, Lorenza Muhammad, pro se, filed a Verified Petition for Change of Name of Minor to change the name of minor, child, from Olivia Monet Mitchell to Olivia Monet Muhammad. The petition is scheduled for hearing in the Marion Circuit Court on February 2, 2021 at 9:00 am which is more than thirty (30) days after the third notice of publication. Any person has the right to appear at the hearing and to file written objections on or before the hearing date. The parties shall report to 200 East Washington Street Room W506, Indianapolis, IN 46204; however, if the COVID-19 pandemic is ongoing, or the Court gets authority to continue remote hearings, this hearing will be held remotely, by WebEx or Zoom, and the Court will send a separate WebEx or Zoom email invitation, with instructions, to join the hearing.

So Ordered: 11-19-2020
Myla A. Eldridge, Clerk

12/11/20
12/18/20
12/25/20

NAME CHANGE

STATE OF INDIANA
COUNTY OF MARION, ss:
IN THE CIRCUIT COURT
IN RE: THE NAME CHANGE OF MINOR: LORENZA MUHAMMAD, PETITIONER.
CAUSE NO. 49C01-2010-MI-036683

ORDER SETTING HEARING

Notice is hereby given that Petitioner, Lorenza Muhammad, pro se, filed a Verified Petition for Change of Name of Minor to change the name of minor, child, from Olivia Monet Mitchell to Olivia Monet Muhammad. The petition is scheduled for hearing in the Marion Circuit Court on February 2, 2021 at 9:00 am which is more than thirty (30) days after the third notice of publication. Any person has the right to appear at the hearing and to file written objections on or before the hearing date. The parties shall report to 200 East Washington Street Room W506, Indianapolis, IN 46204; however, if the COVID-19 pandemic is ongoing, or the Court gets authority to continue remote hearings, this hearing will be held remotely, by WebEx or Zoom, and the Court will send a separate WebEx or Zoom email invitation, with instructions, to join the hearing.

So Ordered: 11-19-2020
Myla A. Eldridge, Clerk

12/11/20
12/18/20
12/25/20

NAME CHANGE

STATE OF INDIANA
COUNTY OF MARION, ss:
IN THE CIRCUIT COURT
IN RE: THE NAME CHANGE OF MINOR: LORENZA MUHAMMAD, PETITIONER.
CAUSE NO. 49C01-2010-MI-036683

ORDER SETTING HEARING

Notice is hereby given that Petitioner, Lorenza Muhammad, pro se, filed a Verified Petition for Change of Name of Minor to change the name of minor, child

Christmas gifts for those who tolerate me year-round

By DANNY BRIDGES

While COVID-19 has impacted 2020 in a profound way, it hasn't stolen my penchant for the holidays, and it's time to give a little something to all who deserve a gift from me.

To those at 16th Street and Georgetown Road and across the street at the IndyCar Series offices, I give you superb weather and no more cancellations of great races. Special thanks to Kate Davis and Arnie Sribhen of IndyCar for all the resources they always provide. Likewise to Suzi Elliott of IMS media, who always helps me out.

It was a crazy year this past season and may we never have to again endure the Indianapolis 500 without your diehard fans in attendance. Kudos also to the legendary Roger Penske for keeping IndyCar going and adhering to the strict safety standards, which kept the media safe at IMS.

To the Indiana Pacers media relations staff, thanks for making it easy to cover a game in your beautiful building. David Benner, Krissy Myers and Wes Kaminski deserve something nice in their stocking for all they do.

The Indianapolis Colts have again been great to me, and I appreciate all the precautionary measures they've taken to ensure my safety as well this season. Matt Conti and Pam Humphrey are two of the best in the business, and may Santa remember them both again.

Speaking of the best in the business, my colleagues at the Indianapolis Recorder are simply magnificent at what they do every day. They also deserve a gold medal for putting up with missed deadlines, my rants about certain players (wink) and for being the only newspaper and website in the state with a social conscience now a days. Thank you all for your tolerance and your patience

with me.

Finally, to all of you who read and critique the copy I submit for your approval each week, may Santa give us each other's company for yet another year. That not only goes for those who offer me a kind word from time to time about what I write, but to those who think I'm either wrong or completely crazy all the time. Your emails and text messages are the best thing I could ever ask for, and not just at Christmas time.

I'll see you all either on the sidelines or in the cheap seats. Either way, the pleasure will always be mine, sports fans.

Danny Bridges, who only wants the disappearance of COVID-19 and some new socks for Christmas, can be reached at 317-370-8447 or at bridgeshd@aol.com.

Pacers lose final preseason game



Left: Malcolm Brogdon attempts a shot in the Pacers' final preseason game against the 76ers on Dec. 18 at Bankers Life Fieldhouse. Philadelphia won, 113-107.

Bottom: Victor Oladipo drives by 76ers defender Dwight Howard. Oladipo finished with 20 points and made four 3-pointers. The Pacers open the regular season Dec. 23 at home against the Knicks. (Photos provided by Pacers)



Indianapolis Colts offensive guard Mark Glowinski (64) picks up running back Jonathan Taylor (28) after Taylor scored a touchdown in the first quarter of the Colts' 27-20 win over the Houston Texans on Dec. 20 at Lucas Oil Stadium. (Photos/Jeff Brown)



Colts sweep Texans, improve playoff standing

Colts wide receiver Zach Pascal (14) celebrates after a reception for a first down. Pascal led the team with five receptions for 79 yards and two touchdowns. The Colts won both of their games this season against the Texans. Indianapolis is tied with the Tennessee Titans for the lead in the AFC South with two games left to play.

Buckeyes get another title

Ohio State running back Trey Sermon hurdles a Northwestern defender during the Buckeyes' 22-10 win over the Wildcats on Dec. 19 in the Big Ten championship game. Sermon's 331 rushing yards set a new school record and conference championship game record.



Ohio State has won four straight conference championship games and five overall since the Big Ten introduced a title game in 2011. Ohio State's six appearances in the game is tied with Wisconsin for the most. (Photos/David Dixon)



IU gets comeback win vs. Butler

Indiana erased a five-point halftime deficit to beat Butler, 68-60, in one of the Crossroads Classic games Dec. 19 at Bankers Life Fieldhouse. (Photo/Walt Thomas)

