

Equipping parents during COVID Crisis



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Stand for Children Indiana



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County to start COVID-19 testing in hot spots

By **TYLER FENWICK**
tylerf@indyrecorder.com

The Marion County Public Health Department will begin a new COVID-19 testing program aimed at residents in parts of the city that have been disproportionately impacted by the pandemic.

The first site will be at Eastern Star Church's main campus, 5750 E. 30th St., starting April 30. Testing will be available 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. Monday, Wednesday and Friday.

Eastern Star Church is in the 46218 zip code, which Dr. Virginia Caine, health department director, said is one of the worst hot spots in the county, though specific numbers weren't available.

The initiative will eventually include three testing locations that will be announced in the coming weeks. Caine also said there will be more initiatives to address disparities exacerbated by COVID-19.

See **TESTING, A6** ►



Eastern Star Church



Indiana Black Expo founder, James Cummings Jr., dies

By **STAFF**

James C. Cummings Jr., founder of Indiana Black Expo (IBE), died April 23 following a heart attack in a Carmel nursing home. He was 90 years old.

Cummings founded IBE alongside a group of community leaders in 1971, when the first event was held at the Indiana State Fairgrounds.

Following his death, IBE released a statement:

"It is with a heavy heart that we at Indiana Black Expo mourn the passing of Indiana Black Expo founder James C. Cummings. He was instrumental in the founding of Indiana Black Expo. He led and

See **CUMMINGS A7** ►

IndyGo changes course in response to COVID-19

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

To keep drivers and riders safe through the COVID-19 pandemic, IndyGo is no longer collecting fares and now requires rear-entrance boarding on buses. These measures are in place to enforce social distancing while continuing to get essential workers to their jobs.

Several weeks ago, IndyGo began operating on its Saturday route schedule seven days a week, running only 7 a.m. through 4 p.m. In addition, the Julia M. Carson Transit Center is closed to the public, and fares are not taken to reduce a gathering of

people at the front of the bus. Each bus is cleaned throughout the day and every night, said Lesley Gordan, director of public relations and partnerships for IndyGo.

In a webcast with the Recorder on April 23, IndyGo president and CEO Inez Evans said the company is considering installing plexiglas at the front of buses to further protect drivers.

While a shortened schedule throughout the day increases the number of people needing a ride at one time, Gordan said IndyGo takes steps to ensure there is more than one bus to accommodate riders.

See **INDYGO A6** ►



IndyGo operators now wear masks to prevent the spread of COVID-19. (Photo provided)



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DUE TO THE CURRENT SITUATION REGARDING COVID-19 (CORONAVIRUS), INDIANAPOLIS RECORDER NEWSPAPER IS NOT ACCEPTING ANY UNSCHEDULED VISITS. PLEASE REFRAIN FROM ENTERING THE BUILDING IF YOU DO NOT HAVE AN APPOINTMENT. THANK YOU FOR UNDERSTANDING.



Kountry Kitchen building demolished

A fire on Jan. 11 left Kountry Kitchen Soul Food Place, 1831 N. College Ave., damaged beyond repair. Owners Isaac and Cynthia Wilson received a \$25,000 donation from Indianapolis Colts owner Jim Irsay to help rebuild their restaurant located in the Kennedy-King neighborhood. (Photo/Curtis Gynn)

BRIEFS

VIRTUAL TOWN HALL: EQUIPPING PARENTS DURING COVID CRISIS

The Indianapolis Recorder, along with Next Generation Initiative and InnoPower, will host a virtual town hall about parenting during the COVID-19 pandemic at noon May 2.

The town hall will stream on Zoom and the Recorder's Facebook page. The Zoom link is online at indianapolisrecorder.com.

The town hall will focus on adapting to at-home education while maintaining other responsibilities, including working from home.

Panelists are Ashley

Viriden, a parent and part of EmpowerED Families; Ashley Thomas, regional organizing director for Stand for Children; Mariama Shaheed, CEO and principal at Global Preparatory Academy at Riverside 44; and Nathaniel McGuire, counselor and CEO at Empower Counseling, Coaching, and Spiritual Direction.

Recorder columnist Marshawn Wolley will be the moderator. The public can submit questions in advance by sending an email to marshawn@marshawnwoley.com.



Urban League drive-thru food distribution

The Indianapolis Urban League, in partnership with Gleaners Food Bank, Second Helpings, the Children's Bureau, WISH-TV and Radio One, on April 28 distributed food to 500 families who were impacted by job loss or layoffs caused by COVID-19.

(Photo/Curtis Gynn)

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will be able to rest, assured.



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you safe at iuhealth.org.

Puzzles4Kids

by Helene Hovanec

WORD FUN

Study the two words on each line to find the ONE letter in the left column that is NOT in the word in the right column. Write the extra letter on the blank space. Then read DOWN to answer this riddle:

WHAT DO YOU CALL CRAZY CHICKENS?

- CLEANS

SUNSET

PRICED

KNEADS

ADORED

ONside
- LANES

NESTS

PRIED

DEANS

DARED

SNIDE
- CLEARs

COLLAR

SAMUEL

SCRIPT

SKATER

LOSSES
- LASER

CORAL

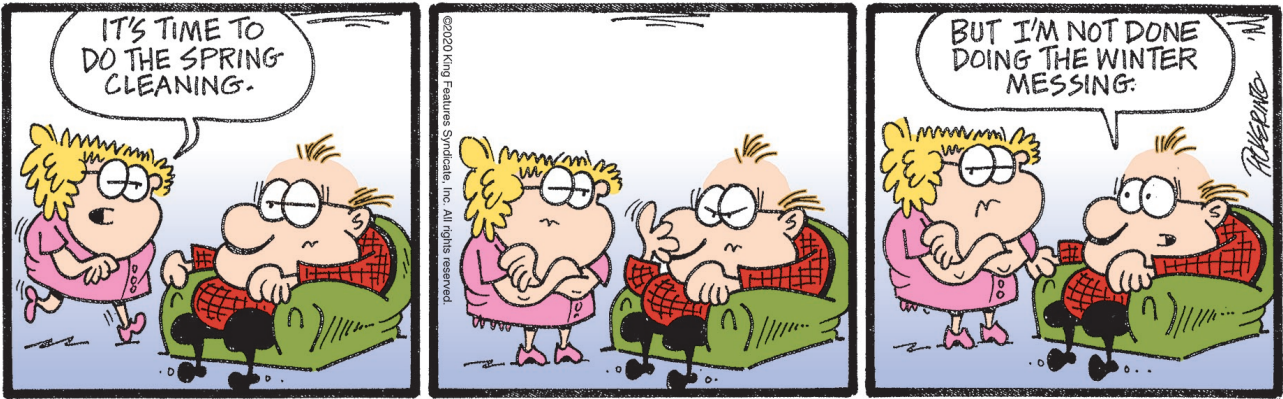
SALEM

STRIP

RATES

SOLES

THE SPATS by JEFF PICKERING



OUT ON A LIMB by GARY KOPERVAS



Answers to Super Crossword

D	I	S	C	E	R	N		U	N	S	T	E	A	D	Y		E	B	B	S				
O	N	T	A	R	I	O		R	A	P	A	L	B	U	M		M	I	R	E				
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S	A	L		N	E	R	O				E	N	U	F		T	A	L	C					
E	L	A	N		N	E	W	R	E	A	L	I	T	Y	S	E	R	I	E	S				
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	F	E	A	T	U	R	I	N	G		C	O	M	I	C		M	A	N	D	E	L		
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I	R	A	N		N	I	N	E			R	N	A		Y	S	E	R						
G	A	M	E	T	E				V	O	I	L	A			W	I	N	O	S				
H	I	S	A	S	S	I	G	N	E	D	T	A	S	K	S		C	A	P	P				
	L	I	R	E			M	O	O				A	R	A	B		T	I	A				
F	I	N	N			T	H	E	H	O	W	I	E	D			D	U	T	Y	S	H	O	W
A	N	T	E			A	I	R	I	N	E	S			P	E	R	T	A	I	N			
O	G	O	D			U	P	S	T	A	T	E	S			A	D	D	E	N	D	S		

Answers to Weekly Sudoku

4	5	8	9	1	2	7	6	3
3	9	2	4	6	7	8	1	5
1	7	6	5	8	3	4	2	9
9	3	4	8	2	1	6	5	7
6	8	7	3	5	4	2	9	1
5	2	1	6	7	9	3	4	8
7	6	3	2	9	5	1	8	4
2	1	5	7	4	8	9	3	6
8	4	9	1	3	6	5	7	2

- SOLES

RATES

STRIP

SALEM

CORAL

LASER
- S

K

C

U

L

C
- LOSSES

SKATER

SCRIPT

SAMUEL

COLLAR

CLEARs

- SNIDE

DARED

DEANS

PRIED

NESTS

LANES
- O

O

K

C

U

C
- ONside

ADORED

KNEADS

PRICED

SUNSET

CLEANS

Answer

Puzzles4Kids



If I could do one thing, I'd have a daycare closer to work.

If you could do one thing for your community, what would it be? More daycare centers? More funding for Head Start? Completing the 2020 Census is a safe and easy way to inform how billions of dollars in funding flow into your community for hundreds of services. **Respond online, by phone, or by mail.**

Complete the census at:
2020CENSUS.GOV

Paid for by U.S. Census Bureau.

Shape
your future
START HERE >

United States
Census
2020

Nutritious eating at home

Better-for-you family foods with satisfying flavor

Family Features

If spending additional time in the comfort of your home has you rethinking the family menu and looking for new ways to enjoy nutritional meals, rest assured you can make better-for-you food choices without losing mouthwatering taste.

Easy, efficient at-home recipes like Thai coconut lime freezer chicken, burrito beef and cauli mac and cheese can all be made in less than an hour while reducing the intake of carbs and unnecessary sugars. All are part of a balanced Atkins low-carb lifestyle, a long-term, healthy eating approach focused on high-fiber carbohydrates, optimal protein and healthy fats.

The eating approach, which is a more flexible version of the popular ketogenic diet, offers a balanced mix of foods containing fiber-rich and nutrient-dense carbohydrates while focusing on reduced levels of refined carbohydrates, added sugars and the “hidden sugar effect” – when carbohydrates convert to sugar when digested. You don’t see the sugar, but your body does.

Introducing your family to smarter food choices can also support your immunity. According to research published in “The American Journal of Clinical Nutrition,” simply substituting whole grains for refined grains has a modest effect on gut microbiota and immunity. Refined grains have had most of the



fiber milled out of them, leaving a refined carbohydrate that impacts your body the way sugar would. Opt for whole grains to get the fiber you need, along with protein and healthy fats.

To learn more and find additional ways to focus family meals on nutritious recipes, visit [Atkins.com](https://www.atkins.com).

Thai Coconut Lime Freezer Chicken

Prep time: 8 minutes

Cook time: 22 minutes

Servings: 4

- 1 3/4 cups coconut milk
- 2 tablespoons basil
- 1 tablespoon sugar substitute
- 1 ounce cilantro
- 1 ounce fresh lime juice
- 1/2 teaspoon salt
- 1/2 teaspoon garlic
- 1 teaspoon lime zest (optional)
- 20 ounces boneless, cooked chicken breast
- 20 ounces broccoli flower clusters

In bowl, mix coconut milk, basil, xylitol, cilantro, lime juice, salt and garlic. For more citrus flavor, add lime zest, if desired.

Add chicken, broccoli and sauce to 1-gallon zip-top freezer bag. Squeeze out any air and seal bag. Freeze bag flat up to 1 month.

To cook: Thaw in refrigerator overnight. Heat oven to 350 F.

Place in glass 8-by-8-inch pan and bake 20-25 minutes.

Burrito Beef

Prep time: 15 minutes

Cook time: 8 hours

Servings: 6

- 2 pounds beef arm chuck roast
- 4 tablespoons green taco sauce
- 1 teaspoon minced garlic
- 2 large scallions or spring onions, chopped
- 1 jalapeno pepper, diced
- 2 teaspoons chili powder
- 1/2 teaspoon cumin
- 1/2 teaspoon salt

Trim fat from beef. In slow cooker on low heat, cook beef, taco sauce, garlic, onions, jalapeno, chili powder, cumin and salt 8 hours, or until beef is tender.

Using two forks, remove beef and shred. Mix beef with 1/2 cup cooking juices before serving.



Photos courtesy of Getty Images (Thai Coconut Lime Freezer Chicken, Burrito Beef and Cauli Mac and Cheese)

Cauli Mac and Cheese



- 1 1/2 cups shredded cheddar cheese, divided
- 1 clove garlic, minced
- 1/4 teaspoon white pepper
- 1/4 teaspoon pepper sauce

Heat oven to 375 F and prepare 9-by-9-inch baking dish with nonstick cooking spray. Heat large pot of water to boiling and add 1/2 teaspoon salt.

Remove stem and leaves from cauliflower. Cut into small pieces and place in boiling water; cook until crisp-tender; about 5 minutes. Drain well then pat between paper towels to remove moisture.

In medium saucepan over medium heat, bring cream to simmer. Whisk cream cheese and powdered mustard into simmering cream until smooth. Add 1 cup cheddar cheese, garlic, remaining salt, white pepper and pepper sauce, whisking until cheese melts; about 1-2 minutes. Remove from heat and stir in cauliflower.

Pour into baking dish and top with remaining cheese. Bake 15 minutes until browned and bubbly.

Prep time: 10 minutes
Cook time: 40 minutes
Servings: 6

- Nonstick cooking spray
- 1 teaspoon salt, divided
- 1 head large (6-7-inch diameter) cauliflower
- 2 cup heavy cream
- 2 ounces cream cheese
- 1 1/2 teaspoons ground mustard



A Low-Sugar Swap to Satisfy Cravings

While spending more time at home than normal, those snack cravings can be hard to shake. Rather than relying on easy-to-grab eats from the pantry or freezer, focus on more nutritious choices that don’t sacrifice flavor.

Turn to a creamy solution to satisfy your hunger such as the Atkins Milk Chocolate Delight Shake, a filling option for chocolate lovers. The drinks are packed with 15 grams of protein, 5 grams of fiber, 20% of the daily recommended amount of vitamin D and 1 gram of sugar to keep you going throughout the day.

We have launched our Community Food Box!!!!



We are in need of donations
Non-perishable food items, canned food, ready-to-eat food items, ramen noodles, nuts and granola can be dropped off at The Indianapolis Recorder Newspaper
2901 N. Tacoma Ave. 46218

OR you can send money to [paypal.me/JAELSKINCARE](https://www.paypal.com/donate/?url=https://www.indychapter.org/donate)

OR [indychapter.org/donate](https://www.indychapter.org/donate)
Please put a note that your donation is for the food box.

Weekly SUDOKU

by Linda Thistle

4				1				3
	9				7	8		
		6	5				2	
	3			2		6		
		7	3					1
5					9		4	
7		3			5			4
		5		4		9		
	4		1				7	2

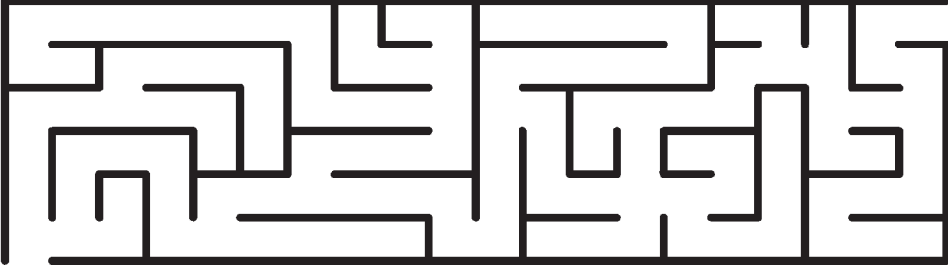
Place a number in the empty boxes in such a way that each row across, each column down and each small 9-box square contains all of the numbers from one to nine.

DIFFICULTY THIS WEEK: ♦

♦ Moderate ♦♦ Challenging
♦♦♦ HOO BOY!

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Kids' Maze

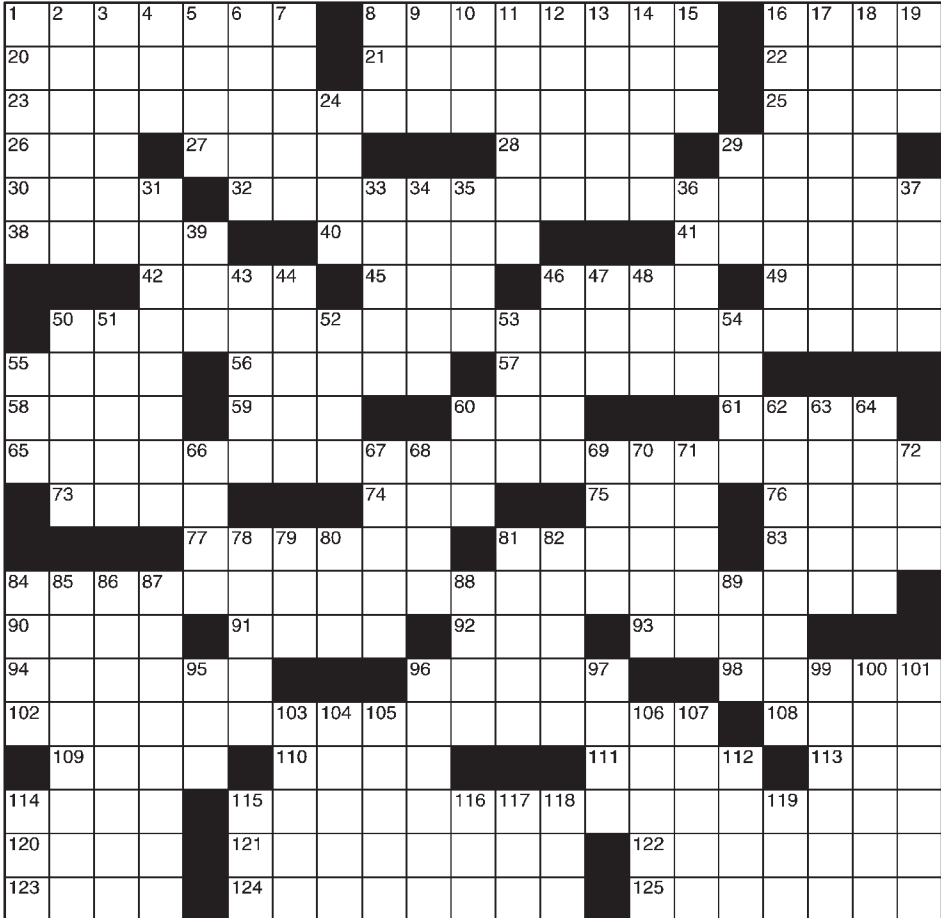


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Super Crossword

JOB SCREENING

- ACROSS
- 1 Perceive
- 8 Wavering
- 16 Dies down
- 20 One of the Great Lakes
- 21 CD from Eminem or Jay-Z, say
- 22 Marshland
- 23 Start of a riddle
- 25 Teal, e.g.
- 26 Mineo of films
- 27 First-century emperor
- 28 Sufficient, in dialect
- 29 After-bath sprinkle
- 30 Zest
- 32 Riddle, part 2
- 38 Majestic
- 40 Inane
- 41 High-pH compound
- 42 Sticky, viscous stuff
- 45 Previously called
- 46 “— have to wait”
- 49 ESPN’s Hershiser
- 50 Riddle, part 3
- 55 They often elicit groans
- 56 “Suffice it — ...”
- 57 Chinese zoo mammals
- 58 “Thou — lady”: King Lear
- 59 Hotel’s kin
- 60 Young dog
- 61 Sews an edge
- 65 Riddle, part 4
- 73 Tara of “American Pie”
- 74 Granola bit
- 75 “— Man Answers” (1962 film)
- 76 Jazzy Anita
- 77 Irritated reply to “Are you awake?”
- 81 Devours, with “down”
- 83 Accept
- 84 Riddle, part 5
- 90 Gulf nation
- 91 Good diving score
- 92 Genetic letters
- 93 Flanders river
- 94 Ovum, e.g.
- 96 “There it is!”
- 98 Souses
- 102 End of the riddle
- 108 Al who drew L’il Abner
- 109 Old Italian coins
- 110 Tie down, as a ship
- 111 Sheikh, e.g.
- 113 Actress Carrere
- 114 Mark Twain’s Huck
- 115 Riddle’s answer
- 120 Poker cost
- 121 Ethereal quality
- 122 Relate (to)
- 123 Prayer opener
- 124 Northern parts of New York and New Jersey
- 125 Numbers used in sums
- DOWN
- 1 Divining rod
- 2 Get some air
- 3 German military camp
- 4 Jaguar, e.g.
- 5 “— Brockovich”
- 6 Gone up
- 7 — Dame
- 8 Suffix with script
- 9 Round bread of India
- 10 Hot tub
- 11 In a docile way
- 12 1985 Kate Nelligan film
- 13 In re
- 14 “Dallas” actor
- 15 Singer Sumac
- 16 Begin, as a journey
- 17 — ball (pool hall item)
- 18 “Fists of Fury” star
- 19 Get sight of
- 24 “— the weather?”
- 29 Phone no.
- 31 Port of Japan
- 33 Actress Lisa
- 34 Poem of lamentation
- 35 “Hick” actor
- 36 Hayek of Hollywood
- 37 Window ledge
- 39 Parking —
- 43 — left field
- 44 Tine
- 46 Repeated statement in Windows ads
- 47 Plating metal
- 48 Kind of PC monitor
- 50 Rage
- 51 — nous
- 52 “There — ‘I’ in team”
- 53 Musical piece
- 54 Racket-raising Arthur
- 55 Rover’s foot
- 60 Fruit discard
- 62 Arcane
- 63 Annoyed with
- 64 Boa, for one
- 66 “Right, bro”
- 67 0% of the people
- 68 Biker’s bike, colloquially
- 69 Largest city on Hawaii
- 70 “Get — back!”
- 71 Abrades
- 72 Coloring substance
- 78 Dance great de Mille
- 79 Ovid’s 1,051
- 80 Diarist Anaïs
- 81 Took the prize
- 82 Florida city
- 84 Breathe loudly
- 85 Bringing up the rear
- 86 Collides with
- 87 Not deserved
- 88 Tramped (on)
- 89 “Holiday” actor Ayres
- 95 Mao — -lung
- 96 Romeo and Juliet’s town
- 97 “It’s — state of affairs”
- 99 Lane of Broadway
- 100 Narcotic
- 101 Generates
- 103 Beatnik’s “Got it!”
- 104 People on the move
- 105 Like a well-pitched inning
- 106 “Sing, Sing, Sing” drummer
- 107 Totally filled
- 112 Longtime West Virginia senator
- 116 Humid
- 117 Suffix with colour
- 118 Ar-tee link
- 119 Honored Fr. woman



BACON BITS

Producers over consumers

By ALAN BACON

In this week’s Bacon Bits column, we will focus on the need for the Black community to become producers over consumers.

It’s difficult to argue against someone else’s privilege when you lack advantage. It’s hard to trust that the humanistic moral fiber that lives in all of us will be enough to conquer bias and bigotry. Maybe, if we can just present data entrenched with Black disparities, then people will understand that the American Dream isn’t possible for all. If the privilege in power won’t allow data to inform, what will inform? More pandering? Do we need even more data?

If we, the Black community, want to position ourselves to challenge privilege, then we must transform from consumers to producers.

A consumer is a person or thing that eats or uses something. A producer, in this sense is a person or company that makes, grows or supplies goods.

Given these definitions, the key to economic emancipation is entrepreneurship.

While poverty is a barrier, institutionalized racism is a seemingly impenetrable wall. However, we can achieve self-reliance. We can begin to eradicate poverty and dismantle the ghettos that were formed to keep us from doing so by more of us becoming entrepreneurs. We can become producers, even while enduring poverty disproportionately.

I had the fortunate opportunity of traveling extensively back and forth to Johannesburg, South Africa, for 18 months while leading training initiatives for a global IT firm. Johannesburg is vehemently vibrant with people, place, food and culture. The sense of Black pride was overwhelming, as was its poverty.

I saw living conditions in which entire families were dwelling in the smallest of accommodations. “Houses” were surrounded by tin walls and dirt floor foundations. When the African sun beamed, these homes felt like ovens. When it rained, the entire house flooded.

According to the World Bank, nearly one in 10 South Africans live on less than \$1.25 a day, one in four are unemployed, and one in five are infected with HIV.

I was able to see and experience poverty from a very different lens. And while poverty exists here in the states and in Indy, it looks a lot different on the other side of the world.

Even though poverty was inescapable, people had pride. They had agency and esteem. There was ingenuity and innovation. I saw a host of producers and creators. Producers of food and clothing, houses and art, infrastructure and agriculture. Despite experiencing some of the most glaring poverty imaginable, these people were doing so much more than just surviving, they were thriving. They were creating and producing on their own, relying only on the trust and support of their community.

After talking to a few leaders in the community, I learned that before this change in behavior — before people became producers — South Africans simply weren’t surviving their circumstance. They were dying because of their reliance.

The same resilience and creativity I saw in Johannesburg is also in the lifeblood of African American culture, especially here in Indy.

Organizations like Forward Cities is working to strengthen Black entrepreneurship in our city. Kaliah Ligon, local director of Forward Cities, is leading an effort that focuses on incubator/coworking spaces, marketing wraparound services and 0% interest revolving loans to help support Black business owners and entrepreneurs. Many efforts like these will further bolster our ability to create and sustain the Black business sector.

Black people are masters of creativity. Our music inspires and instructs the world. Our style directs global fashion.

Our ingenuity created a billion-dollar sports industry in America. What if we applied that creativity to social innovation and entrepreneurship? Could it be the difference between being relevant versus relative?

If we do not possess our own, we will continue to be slaves to the system. We must ask ourselves the question, “What does our contribution to alleviate poverty look like in America?” We can’t keep wishing for a time to come to fruition when we don’t have to be so careful with the words we choose or when your ability to code-switch is what separates you from better paying jobs and more opportunities. We can’t wait for a time when data will inform and government will add equity as a key priority to their agenda.

In a world separated by the “have” and the “have nots,” people that produce will survive (and thrive). If we don’t produce, we will always have to wait in line to receive. And we see these lines growing exponentially during this COVID-19 pandemic.

Many Johannesburg residents wish they had just a smidge of the opportunity we have in the United States. From their perspective, we waste it away. On a large scale, we become complacent and continue to consume. Black Wall Street shouldn’t be history, it should be reality.

To put an end to privilege you need a revolution. You can’t revolutionize without relevancy. You can’t be relevant in America if you don’t produce. It’s time to put an end to the consumerism of the Black community and focus on creation.

Just as the South Africans moved from survival to living because of their mindset shift, perhaps we can emulate that same mindset here in Central Indiana.

Alan Bacon is a humanity advocate, community leader, musician and innovator. Contact him at alankeithbacon@gmail.com.

TESTING

► Continued from A1

Marion County got its first testing site earlier in April from the Indiana State Department of Health at the state fairgrounds, but it is only available for certain essential workers.

The county’s initiative will at first be for those who are showing symptoms — cough, shortness of breath, fever, etc. — and those who are elderly or immunocompromised. The initial phase of testing will also be reserved for frontline workers, according to Caine, and that includes employees in the food industry.

Caine said the goal is for the third testing site to be open to anyone who would like to get a test, regardless of whether you have symptoms, since testing so far has mostly been reserved for frontline workers and those with symptoms.

Those who go to a testing site through the county health department’s initiative won’t need a doctor’s recommendation, Caine said, and they also won’t need to have insurance. The health department will cover the cost.

The county health department released the first batch of data April 20 showing African Americans are three times as likely as whites to have a confirmed case of COVID-19, 2 1/2 times as likely to be hospitalized and almost twice as likely to

die.

Statewide, African Americans make up about 16% of cases and 17% of deaths, according to data from the state health department, despite only being less than 10% of the population.

Local access to testing has been a big concern for Linda Ellis, president of the Northwest Neighborhood Planning Development Corporation.

Ellis has heard concerns from people in the community who went to a hospital with symptoms and were initially sent home, only to return days later to get a test that came back positive.

And those are the ones with reliable transportation to get to a hospital.

“We have a great need to do more,” Ellis said, “but we can only work within our own confines and limitations.”

Pastor Jeffrey Johnson Sr., senior pastor at Eastern Star Church, said he’s heard from people in the community who haven’t been able to get tested because of issues such as transportation and not having access to a doctor to recommend the test.

“We need equal testing and equal remedy,” Johnson said during the announcement, “and we can’t have equal remedy if we don’t have equal testing.”

In a previous interview with the Recorder, Caine said there are systemic issues that have led to African Americans suffering a disproportionate amount of the harm caused by COVID-19; it’s not just preexisting conditions.

People with no health insurance, or with bad health insurance, may wait until they’re really sick before trying to see a doctor or getting an ambulance ride to the emergency room, which is expensive.

“It’s like a vicious cycle,” she said. “Because of my health care costs, my credit is going down. I may not be able to have a credit card to buy stuff. ... So vicious.”

The testing sites will include a drive-thru, as seen at most other testing sites, but residents will also be able to walk up to get a test. An appointment is required to get a test at Eastern Star Church. Make an appointment by registering online at mcpdredcap.hhcorp.org or calling 317-221-5515.

The goal is to start by testing a minimum of 1,000 people per week, Caine said, and then increasing that to 3,000 within a few weeks.

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

INDYGO

► Continued from A1

“One thing we have done to address [overcrowding] is that we are doing booster buses,” Gordan said. “It’s an implemented system and something that we evaluate ... and, if needed, we can deploy an additional bus to help with that capacity.”

During their routes, drivers wear masks and have access to gloves if they want them. Gordan said riders are also encouraged to practice social distancing as much as possible while riding. As of April 23, 170 of the 870 IndyGo drivers are taking leave to care for themselves and their families. According to Evans, this understaffing may force the company to go to its Sunday schedule, which includes fewer routes.

Kimberly Williams is an essential worker in the food industry. She takes the bus five times a week to get to work, and she takes precautions to limit her exposure.

“It’s usually not that bad for me, but I avoid taking the popular routes because they can be overcrowded,” she said.

While Williams feels fairly safe riding the bus during the pandemic, she recently started wearing a mask on the bus to further limit her risk.

While there are many questions surrounding when the state will reopen and go back to business as usual, IndyGo does not plan to resume normal operations immediately after Gov. Eric Holcomb decides to reopen Indiana.

“We will continue operating on that Saturday service,” Gordan said.

“Mostly because we have a number of employees eligible for leave through the CARE Act, and we have to monitor staffing to make sure that our staff can stay home if they’re sick or need to watch their kids. We need that flexibility.”

While the need for IndyGo may be greater after the state reopens, due to more people going to work, Gordan said a partnership with the ride service company Uber will help people get where they need to go at a discounted rate.

“We have an Uber partnership for essential workers,” Gordan said.

“They would be eligible for subsidized rides, one round trip, that they call in to schedule.”

There is a \$60 flat monthly fee for the Uber service, so riders can take an Uber to get to work every day if they work outside of IndyGo’s hours of operation. The partnership is scheduled to go through the end of May, so Gordan recommends registering for the program now.

“We just hope people understand that we’re trying to maintain service for essential workers and important day-to-day trips while keeping everyone safe,” Gordan said. “We ask that everyone continue to practice safety, and we encourage riders to wear masks if possible, and to spread out as much as possible on the bus.”

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

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PREK CORNER

Communicating with children about the coronavirus



By MATTIE JONES

PreK Corner intends to educate and intervene on behalf of young to adolescent children by providing communication, knowledge and strategies that may prevent and lessen the effect of unhealthy interruptions in their lives. You may ask questions and request topics about children birth through school-age by using my contact information provided at the end of each column.

This column is intended to share what I deem is one of the most important things to remember during the novel coronavirus pandemic. Also known as COVID-19, this disease is prevalent over the whole country and parts of the world.

The most important thing that I desire to share with you is to communicate, especially with young children. Children of all ages know something serious is happening around them. We must not take it for granted that children know and understand enough about what is happening to keep them from becoming stressed and depressed. They have noticed how their lives and daily routines have changed. We must talk to them about things such as why their school had to close temporarily, why you are stocking up on food and toiletries, why restaurants are closing and even why they cannot visit their friends' homes at this time.

As discussed in my previous columns, keep in mind who your child is and how they respond to things they may not understand. It is also significant to communicate at the child's age and stage of developmental understanding. When explained, children can understand the seriousness of what is happening around them. Communication may prevent unnecessary anxiety which could cause the child to have thoughts that result in confusion and panic. No matter what age children are, parents and guardians may start by asking the child what they have heard about the virus already. After knowing what they have heard, ask them if they have any questions. If the child does not know what questions to ask, start by clarifying the "whys" shared earlier. Keep in mind older children may ask more questions and may benefit from additional information.

It is essential to be clear, direct and honest when communicating with children of all ages about this prevalent, widespread event.

Dr. Mattie Jones, associate provost, professor and dean of education at Martin University and founder of PreK-Keys Consulting, can be contacted at mattielee-jones@att.net or www.prekkeys.com.

CUMMINGS
► Continued from A1

served in various leadership capacities with IBE, including chairman of its board of directors. Cummings also traveled the state of Indiana to help build IBE's membership, infrastructure, and supporter base. He dedicated his life to service, activism, and shaping IBE into a statewide organization that provides year-round programs and initiatives across the state. His legacy will continue on in the work that we do to serve as a voice and vehicle for the social and economic advancement of African Americans throughout the state of Indiana. Our thoughts and prayers are with his family and loved ones at this time."

Beyond founding IBE, Cummings also worked as a long-time reporter at the Indianapolis Recorder Newspaper. He was an active member of the Indiana Republican Party, serving in various leadership positions, and was once a candidate for Congress. Cummings founded the National Black Republican Council in the 1970s and played a large role in the election of President Ronald Reagan. Cummings was appointed by Reagan to the role of deputy assistant secretary for the U.S. Department of Housing and Development in 1985.

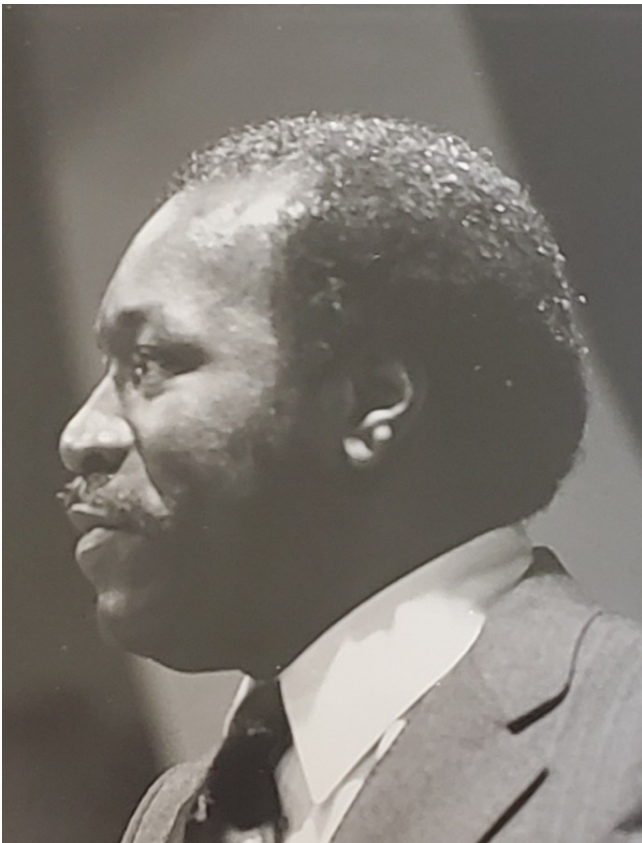
Cummings is survived by five children, 11 grandchildren and 12 great-grandchildren.

He was preceded in death by his wife, Norma Cummings, who died in 2014.

Services will be announced at a later date. Donations may be sent to Indiana Black Expo, 601 N. Shortridge Road, Indianapolis, IN 46219.



Sen. Birch Bayh, Expo princess, Expo president James Cummings, Expo queen, Mayor Richard Lugar and Gov. Edgar Whitcomb during a ribbon cutting ceremony.



Cummings worked as a longtime reporter at the Indianapolis Recorder Newspaper.



James Cummings and President Ronald Reagan.



Cummings and President George Bush.

Lilly Endowment donates millions to help those affected by pandemic

By BREANNA COOPER
BreannaC@indyrecorder.com

The Lilly Endowment has awarded over \$100 million to local and statewide nonprofits and community organizations to support areas such as food access, homeless and shelter care, disaster planning and infrastructure support and e-learning.

The United Way of Central Indiana received a total of \$19.5 million, of which \$15 million was earmarked to create the Central Indiana COVID-19 Community Economic Relief Fund (C-CERF). Indiana United Ways gave the organization the other \$4.5 million from a \$30 million Endowment grant.

"The development of the Central Indiana COVID-19 Community Economic Relief Fund is our way of ensuring our community's most vulnerable are being served during a global health crisis," Jennifer Hashem, the public and community

relations manager for United Way of Central Indiana, said. "Outside of C-CERF, we will continue to rally our community around areas of greatest need and convene with donors, advocates and volunteers to raise funds that generate true impact for our region."

The \$4.5 million United Way of Central Indiana received from Indiana United Ways will go toward COVID-19 relief in Boone, Hancock, Hamilton, Hendricks, Marion and Morgan counties.

"Our coalition of funders has been in daily communication with community leaders across Central Indiana to assess emerging needs and direct service providers to better understand their most pressing challenges," Ann Murtlow, president and CEO of United Way of Central Indiana, said. "With this information, the founding funders of C-CERF were able to make decisions on grants to organizations that serve in critical

service areas that provide flexibility to problem solve in a rapidly changing environment."

The Endowment also donated \$5 million to the state of Indiana to help state leaders respond to the needs of the city's homeless population. The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) said pandemic homeless individuals are at a higher risk of contracting COVID-19, as they often aren't able to practice hygiene recommendations.

Lilly Endowment also set aside funding specifically for e-learning. To help educators and students adapt to online schooling, the Endowment gave a \$1 million grant to the Greater Indianapolis Progress Committee to create the Indianapolis E-Learning Fund.

A large focus of the grant will be used for technology access for students. Roughly 30% of students in Indianapolis Public Schools don't have reliable internet access to do

their online work.

Claire Fiddian-Green, the president and CEO of the Richard M. Fairbanks Foundation, a funding partner for the program, said the fund is about creating an equal playing field for students.

"Not all students have access to devices or reliable internet connectivity," she said in a statement. "The Indianapolis E-Learning Fund will help address acute short-term needs not covered by federal stimulus funds and will also support the development of a longer-term e-learning strategy. The Fairbanks Foundation is pleased to join with other philanthropic, corporate and civic leaders in support of this very important effort."

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

EDITORIAL

The real ‘Don’t Rush’ Challenge



By Oseye Boyd

I love information and knowledge. I think I’ve always been inquisitive by nature, but my career path also informs my thirst for information. I ask a lot of questions. I mean a lot. And, I want definitive answers to those questions.

Well, COVID-19 has once again shown me I’m not in control and what I want doesn’t matter. The answers I seek, as well as everyone else, are elusive. We are watching this pandemic play out in real time. Scientists are experimenting and trying to find the answers to this new virus as the world is watching. Usually scientists have the opportunity to research, experiment, study their findings, do it all over again if their results aren’t what they want and then present those findings. Sometimes this process takes years. These studies are done outside of the public gaze, and it’s only when the study is

finally presented we learn scientists have been studying a particular subject for decades.

That model has been turned on its head as researchers study this virus as it infects millions around the world. We’re watching this novel coronavirus confound doctors, scientists and researchers at every turn. Every day it seems as if we learn about a new symptom — pink eye, blood clots and stroke, COVID toes and rashes. All scientists can do at this point is guess why these conditions are occurring.

The timing of the discovery of these new issues comes just as many are feeling social-distancing fatigue and want to get back to “normal.” The pervasive request from certain segments of our population is to ease or remove the stay-at-home order and allow people to go back to work. The economy, they say, is not just being crippled but it’s dying, and we need to save it. The death of the economy is more important than the death of people, it seems. Balancing life and the economy can’t be easy. I don’t envy Gov. Eric Hol-

comb.

In addition to the new symptoms, this plea to reopen comes on the heels of more deaths and testing (finally) for more people. More testing means the number of cases undoubtedly will rise. Let’s not forget many people are considered to be asymptomatic, meaning they have the virus but don’t know it because they don’t have symptoms. Asymptomatic people unknowingly can spread the disease.

Knowing all of this information about COVID-19 and absolutely nothing at the same time, how do we move forward into our new normal that somewhat resembled our old normal? No one knows.

On May 1, Holcomb will tell us whether he will lift or extend the stay-at-home order. Many businesses are already making plans to move forward, anticipating Holcomb will lift not extend the order.

My hope is that we proceed with caution. I believe social distancing will and should be around for a while, but how is it possible to social distance at a

sports event, at a concert? Most venues are designed to pack in as many people as possible. Will fewer tickets be sold? If temperatures are taken before you enter an event, will you receive a refund if your temperature is too high and you can’t enter? That will definitely mean profit margins will take a hit.

And what about those who had COVID-19? Is this virus gone? Dormant? Are they OK to resume a normal life? Are they now asymptomatic and should they be retested? People are fearful of infecting someone after they’re “over” COVID-19.

Until we get some concrete answers, there shouldn’t be a rush to return to normal. We don’t want to make the same mistakes San Francisco did during the flu epidemic of 1918. We may be watching COVID-19 play out in real time, leaving us with too few answers, but we can look to history to answer some of those questions about what we should do to keep everyone safe while still keeping as many Americans working as possible.

OPINIONS

Daddy issues

By LARRY SMITH



“Why do bad things happen to ‘good’ people?” This vexing question was posed long before the events that are recorded in the Book of Job, which some scholars believe might be the oldest book in the Bible. Indeed, from time immemorial myriad calamities have befallen the morally upright, the elderly, the feeble and the young — those who seemingly don’t “deserve” to suffer greatly. As Rev. Martin Luther King said, “unearned suffering is redemptive.” There is a name for this spiritual dilemma: “theodicy.” Theodicy can be defined as “a vindication of God’s righteousness in a world that is filled with evil.” In other words, God has a purpose for our pain — even though we might not understand it.

Agnostics and skeptics see things differently. They assert that “god” either is (1) willing, but not able, to stop evil or (2) is able, but not willing, to do so. The former, in their view, would indicate that God is arbitrary or even sadistic (i.e., not all-loving); the latter would indicate that he is impotent (i.e., not all-powerful). There are several variations on this theme, but I don’t have space to offer a comprehensive theological treatment. You get the point ...

For those who are not familiar with Job, he was a very wealthy man whom God extolled for his morality and faith. Yet, God allowed the devil to afflict Job in order to demonstrate his faithful-

ness. Perhaps the most troubling aspect of Job’s experience is the fact that God initiates the dialogue with the Devil that results in this man’s unfathomable suffering. (We use the phrase “the patience of Job” to indicate some people’s ability to endure hardships without complaint, but that phrase would be more accurately worded as “the perseverance of Job.” Job wasn’t patient, but he did endure until God restored what he had allowed to be taken.) Some argue that God “hustled” the devil at Job’s expense — like the pool sharks or expert gamblers who initially lose on purpose in order to entice their opponents into being overconfident.

Recently I read about Martin Weingarten, who resided in Carmel. Weingarten was 100 years old when he died on April 16. As a child, he had survived the Spanish flu. As a young man, he had survived the Nazis. As an old man, he was surviving dementia. Yet, he succumbed to COVID-19. According to his nephew, Weingarten was “very friendly, very happy” and “always the nicest guy in the room.” For anyone who possesses even modest compassion, this elderly gentleman’s death from the coronavirus seems like a cruel irony. Some will look at his passing and see God’s arbitrariness or even failure. Others will look at it and see God’s sovereign will, which is not subject to our approval — or even our understanding. Where we fall along that spectrum depends on the degree to which we have allowed God to form a relationship with us. (Note: God does not force his way into our lives.)

Of course, all of us suffer to some degree, irrespective of our level of

iniquity. Thus, whether we are “as pure as the driven snow,” or “as guilty as sin,” it often feels as though our pain is disproportionate to any transgressions that we have committed. No matter who we are, the “cosmic scales” often seem to be out of balance (just as our all-too-human judicial scales often seem to be weighted against us). We imagine that “Lady Justice” is peeking out from under her blindfold.

In the end, I believe that it is critically important to understand the role that free will plays in human suffering. Our suffering can generally be traced back either to our actions or the actions of others, whether we’re discussing lung cancer, famine or climate change. (And it’s important to remember that the first two people, Adam and Eve, messed things up for everyone who has been born since.) It would be wrong to blame Toyota if we got drunk and injured ourselves or others in a car crash. Likewise, it is wrong to blame God for the consequences of our actions, whether as individuals or as humanity collectively.

Regardless of what we go through, it is important to learn — and always to bear in mind — that we have a heavenly father who cares for us. Jesus, in his model prayer (often referred to as “the Lord’s Prayer”), entreats us to acknowledge God as “our Father.” Similarly, the Apostle Paul in Romans 8:15 affirms the right of God’s children to address him by using the word “Abba.” An appropriate translation of that word is “daddy.” Some Christians might be surprised, or even taken aback, by what appears to be a colloquial — almost disrespectful — description. But I agree with theologian

William MacDonald, who wrote “... He who is infinitely high is also intimately nigh.”

Christians should not consider it paradoxical that God’s absolute holiness does not contradict his desire to be close to us. (Please note the use of masculine pronouns for God is a biblical construction; God is not and has never been human, except in the person of Jesus Christ while he walked among us 2,000 years ago. Assigning a gender to God is an anthropomorphism that helps us to relate to him better.)

As a minister, I have long wrestled with these and other questions, both because of my personal inquisitiveness and because distressed people frequently turn to the clergy for solace and clarity in times of crisis. In trying to help people navigate the currents of life, there are times when it is appropriate to be a theological analyst; there are other times when it is infinitely better to be a sympathetic comforter. The reality is that it is often difficult to judiciously apply unvarnished truth and patient compassion at the same time, or even to discern when to apply one as opposed to the other. Above all, my role is to stress that God — our daddy — loves us more than we can possibly imagine. Admittedly, that is often difficult to believe given what we experience (directly or indirectly). But, in the wise words of our ancestors, we can take refuge in the knowledge that we’ll understand it better “by and by.”

Larry Smith is a community leader. Contact him at larry@leaf-llc.com.

Count it all joy



By MAGGIE LEWIS

Let me first start by saying that my thoughts and prayers are with each and every one of you during these uncertain times.

I know many of us are conducting business via Zoom, GoToMeetings, WebEx, Google Hangouts, etc. And if you’re like me, you end the day scratching your head trying to figure out how you managed to have eight meetings in one day, all the while squeezing in a workout, cleaning the house, cooking meals for your families, maneuvering through e-learning, hanging with friends at Club

Quarantine, hosting virtual cocktail parties and spending quality time with your significant other. Whew! It’s a lot!

Before, the second week in March. We were all living our best pre-quarantined lives doing what we do best — being overly busy. We were working long hours, going to movies, church on Sundays, dining at our favorite restaurants, shopping at local businesses and, let’s not forget, greeting each other with handshakes or hugs (OK, maybe the hugs were just me. I’m country!). Anyway, we were able to wander about freely. Now that we are faced with a stay-at-home order, we’re given the opportunity (maybe

even forced) to slow down, pause and reflect on our lives.

Staying home is giving us the opportunity to reconnect with our families and friends. But let’s be honest here: While things may feel difficult for us grown folks, we can’t lose sight of our youth. Our youth need us now more than ever and their needs should be a top priority for us all.

So, the next time you find yourself frustrated about being stuck at home, or you find that your constant trips to the kitchen have caused you to pack on the COVID-19 or 15, and you just want a moment to complain, remember what the good book taught us

in James 1:2-3, “Count it all joy, my brothers when you meet trials of various kinds, for you know that the testing of your faith produces steadfastness.”

Until we meet again, be well and stay safe.

Maggie A. Lewis is member of the Indianapolis-Marion County City-County Council.

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Eskenazi Health Offers Advice on Coping with COVID-19

By Dr. Broderick Rhyant, Chief Physician Executive, Eskenazi Health Center Forest Manor



A short time ago the thought of all of us being ordered to live a quarantined existence was unimaginable, but unfortunately the COVID-19 pandemic that has attacked virtually every corner of the globe has made a life of isolation the norm rather than the exception.

Although our continued good health and well-being demands that we all practice social distancing for safety, we all need to do what we can to stay in contact with people whether it's our family members, friends or people we work with.

While the importance and personal and public health benefits of social distancing at this time is clear, it is also important for our well-being as human beings to maintain a sense of connection.

As adults continue to navigate their way through this strange and unsettling time, many of them are parents suddenly burdened with the responsibility of helping their children understand why they're not going to school or able to play with their friends. With their kids always at home these days, a number of parents have been thrust into role of teacher, which for many comes as a responsibility they never imagined for themselves.

In helping your children with their schoolwork or e-learning assignments, remember that teaching

is not you're chosen profession and focus on doing the best you can. Look for ways to set goals for you and your child as you work together and celebrate with each other when those objectives are achieved.

Connecting in new ways with family is key. However, reaching out to those who live outside our homes who are isolated with a phone call or writing a letter and simply asking someone how they're doing can have a positive effect on someone and make them feel more connected and cared for.

If approached in a positive way, this can be a time of tremendous growth for all of us. This difficult and challenging period of our lives will eventually come to an end, but until it does we should do everything possible to take good care of ourselves and look out for each other. Social distancing is a physical concept and necessary. Staying connected is an emotional need. Let's remember to do both and assist others as well in this unprecedented time.

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



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Wearing gloves may help spread COVID-19



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

Marquis Coleman is an essential worker. Throughout his shifts at a grocery store, he wears latex gloves to protect himself and customers from COVID-19. He also wears gloves when he has to do grocery shopping of his own.

“I’m just trying to be safe,” Coleman said.

According to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), however, gloves may not be necessary to protect people from COVID-19 and are instead giving individuals a false sense of security.

In fact, Dr. Lindsay Weaver, chief medical officer for the Indiana State Department of Health, thinks wearing gloves to places such as grocery stores may be doing more harm than good.

In a press conference April 28, Weaver said while health care professionals were trained on how to properly use gloves — only using one pair of gloves

to perform one task before washing their hands and replacing them — everyday citizens risk cross-contamination by wearing gloves in public.

“You go and touch several surfaces and therefore spread the virus around,” Weaver said.

According to the CDC, you can spread the virus to various items and surfaces regardless of whether or not you’re wearing gloves. Further, the false sense of security from wearing gloves may make people less likely to wash their hands.

Instead of wearing gloves, Weaver said the best way to keep yourself healthy while at the grocery store and other essential businesses is to use hand sanitizer and wash your hands frequently.

Weaver also recommends putting your cell phone either in your purse or your pocket and not touching it until you have a chance to wash your hands, as you can spread the virus to your phone and risk contaminating yourself via your cell phone. She also recommends wearing a mask when out in public.

While the World Health Organization (WHO) said earlier this month that it isn’t necessary for otherwise healthy individuals to wear masks, the CDC argued the use of cloth coverings while out in public can help curb the spread of COVID-19.

“Cloth face coverings fashioned from household items or made at home from common materials at low cost can be used as an additional voluntary public health measure,” the CDC wrote.

According to the CDC, cloth face coverings should not be placed on children under 2 years old or anyone who has trouble breathing. The CDC also does not recommend using surgical masks or N-95 respirators, as those supplies should be reserved for health care workers and first responders.

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

CORONA VIRUS (COVID-19) IS DISPROPORTIONALLY KILLING BLACK AMERICANS.

Here is what you can do if you are
at a higher risk of severe illness
or death from COVID-19.

Are You at Higher Risk for Severe Illness?



Based on what we know now, those at high-risk for severe illness from COVID-19 are:

- People aged 65 years and older
- People who live in a nursing home or long-term care facility

People of all ages with underlying medical conditions, particularly if not well controlled, including:

- People with chronic lung disease or moderate to severe asthma
- People who have serious heart conditions
- People who are immunocompromised
 - Many conditions can cause a person to be immunocompromised, including cancer treatment, smoking, bone marrow or organ transplantation, immune deficiencies, poorly controlled HIV or AIDS, and prolonged use of corticosteroids and other immune weakening medications.
- People with severe obesity (body mass index [BMI] of 40 or higher)
- People with diabetes
- People with chronic kidney disease undergoing dialysis
- People with liver disease

Here’s What You Can do to Help Protect Yourself



Stay home if possible.



Wash your hands often.



Avoid close contact (6 feet, which is about two arm lengths) with people who are sick.



Clean and disinfect frequently touched surfaces.



Avoid all cruise travel and non-essential air travel.

Tips for Meal Kit and Food Delivery Safety

During the stay-at-home orders for COVID-19, restaurants have been limited to carry out and delivery orders for food.

Subscription meal kits, mail-order food, and home-delivered groceries are also an option for many. What used to be a convenience has become more of a necessity, but home-delivered food must be handled properly so it is safe to eat.

Whether food is shipped to the home or delivered by a local service, it needs to stay at a safe temperature to prevent the growth of germs that could make someone sick.

Ask questions before ordering. Research companies and call customer service to ask about food safety standards. This is important if buying the food for someone who is more likely to get food poisoning, such as adults 65 and older, children younger than age 5, people with weakened immune systems, and pregnant women.

Ask how the company responds if food is delivered at an unsafe temperature or is otherwise not safe to eat. Find out if the company provides information with each shipment on safe handling and preparation of food, including cooking temperatures.

Also, arrange for delivery when someone is at home so food can be refrigerated quickly instead of being left outside until someone is at home. If no one can be there in person, see if a neighbor can help.

When the food arrives, examine the box and packaging. Look for stickers on the box that say “Keep Refrigerated” or “Keep Frozen” if the order has perishable food such as meat, seafood, poultry, eggs, or dairy.

Checking the temperature with a food thermometer is also important. Perishable food should arrive frozen, partially frozen with ice crystals still visible, or at least as cold as it would be in a refrigerator, which is 40 degrees Fahrenheit or below.

The only way to know that the food is safe to eat is to use a food thermometer to make sure that the ingredients are at the proper temperature. Even if a perishable food product is smoked, cured, vacuum-packed, or fully cooked, it still must be kept cold.

Make sure the company uses insulated packaging and materials such as dry ice or frozen gel packs to keep perishable food cold in transit.

Refrigerate or freeze the delivery as soon as possible. Bacteria can multiply rapidly if food is kept in the “danger zone” between 40 degrees and 140 degrees Fahrenheit for more than two hours.

Notify the company if food arrives above 40 degrees Fahrenheit. Don’t eat any of the food or even taste it to see if it is safe. Food can be unsafe and still taste, look, and smell normal. When in doubt, throw it out.

When handling the food, wash hands and kitchen utensils. Use soap and water for at least 20 seconds before, during, and after handling any food. Wash utensils, cutting boards, and countertops with hot, soapy water after using them.

Rinse fresh fruits and vegetables under running water and separate foods to avoid cross-contamination. Keep raw meat, poultry, seafood, and eggs away from other foods, and use separate cutting boards for these ingredients. Refrigerate leftovers within two hours.

For more information, please visit [FoodSafety.gov](https://www.foodsafety.gov) or contact the Marion County Public Health Department’s Food and Consumer Safety department at (317) 221-2222.

COVID-19 Call Center 317-221-5500



**MARION COUNTY
PUBLIC
HEALTH
DEPARTMENT**

Prevent. Promote. Protect.



In this photo taken on Friday, April 24, 2020, a volunteer wearing protective clothing and a face mask to protect from coronavirus, walks through the car park of Central Jamia Mosque Ghamkol Sharif in Birmingham, England. The holy month of Ramadan is underway, and the Central Jamia Mosque Ghamkol Sharif should be full of worshippers. But this year, the main arrivals are the dead. While the mosque in the central England city of Birmingham has been closed in response to the coronavirus pandemic, its parking lot has been transformed into a temporary morgue with room for 150 bodies. (AP Photos/Matt Dunham)

Mosque’s makeshift morgue shows virus toll on UK minorities

By JO KEARNEY and JILL LAWLESS
Associated Press

BIRMINGHAM, England (AP) — The holy month of Ramadan is underway, and the Central Jamia Mosque Ghamkol Sharif in Birmingham should be full of worshippers. But this year, the main arrivals are the dead.

While the mosque in the central England city has been closed in response to the coronavirus pandemic, its parking lot has been transformed into a temporary morgue with room for 150 bodies.

The volunteer-run mortuary, with its white tents, industrial refrigerators and neat stacks of coffins, is evidence of the toll the virus is taking on Britain’s Muslim and ethnic-minority communities. The two most diverse regions of the U.K. — London and the Midlands area centered in Birmingham — have seen the largest number of deaths in the outbreak.

Mohammed Zahid, a mosque trustee who helped set up the mortuary with a firm of Muslim funeral directors, said the mosque in Birmingham’s predominantly South Asian Small Heath district normally holds one or two funerals a week.

In the last few weeks, “we were doing five to six a day,” he said.

“You can see how the families were grieving,” said 44-year-old Zahid, who wears a mask, coveralls and gloves as he moves among the coffins.

Local government social-distancing rules allow only six people to attend each burial.

“Especially when they can’t get their own cousins and brothers and sisters around them — it’s made it really hard for the people who’ve lost their loved ones,” said Zahid, who has lost two aunts to COVID-19. “What do you say to a family who’s got five sons or daughters, and some of them have to stay home?”

It’s a similar story at the nearby Green Lane Mosque, where coffins lie stacked up inside the prayer hall. Usually the mosque holds about 25 funerals a year. For the past three weeks it has seen five a day.

“Everybody’s worrying about whether it will be their family members next, their loved ones,” said Saleem Ahmed, the mosque’s head of welfare and services.

Britain has recorded more than 20,700 hospital deaths of people with coronavirus. Thousands more are likely to have died in nursing homes.

The virus has hit people of all ages and backgrounds, including Prime Minister Boris Johnson, who spent three nights in intensive care. But evidence suggests that ethnic-minority Britons are feeling a disproportionate impact.

Statistics show that 16% of those who died in Britain with the coronavirus up to April 17 were from Black, Asian or minority ethnic (BAME) backgrounds. About 14% of the U.K. population comes from those backgrounds.

Even more starkly, data from Intensive Care National Audit and Research shows that a third of people in intensive care with COVID-19 in the U.K. are non-white. And many of the over 100 health care workers who have died in the outbreak were from BAME backgrounds.

The government has asked public health officials to investigate the virus’ heavy impact on minorities.

A similar trend has been seen in countries including the United States, where an Associated Press analysis found that about 42% of Americans who have died from COVID-19 were Black, while African Americans account for roughly 21% of the population in the areas analyzed.

In France, the poor and largely

immigrant neighborhoods on the fringes of Paris have seen some of the highest increases in mortality since the outbreak began.

Kamlesh Khunti, a professor of primary care, diabetes and vascular medicine at the University of Leicester, said complex factors may be involved. While Black Americans often have worse access to medical care than white Americans, “in the U.K. we have a free health care service, so we can’t put it down to just inequalities in care,” he said.

Khunti said ethnic-minority Britons are more likely to live in large, multi-generational families and cramped housing. Many hold jobs with a high risk of infection: doctors, nurses, taxi drivers and transit workers.

Black and South Asian people, in Britain and elsewhere, also have higher rates of cardiovascular disease, diabetes and hypertension, conditions that have been linked to more severe COVID-19 symptoms.

Others argue that racism is a factor. Gurch Randhawa, professor of diversity in public health at the University of Bedfordshire, said extensive research shows that minority nurses and health care assistants “often receive poorer treatment than their colleagues.”

“In the context of the present crisis, this means they may have worse access to (personal protective equipment), more trying shift patterns and greater exposure to COVID-19 patients,” he said.

In Birmingham’s Muslim community, everyone seems to know someone who has died. Haly Bano lost her uncle, a taxi driver who likely caught the virus from a customer.

“It is really hard for mum, because she can’t go to pay respects to the family or anything,” she said. “So we just called on the phone and Face-Timed and that’s all we could do.”

Picking up meat for a Ramadan meal in the predominantly South Asian Sparkbrook neighborhood, Bano said she was shocked at the number of people thronging the supermarkets and butcher shops. Some wore masks but few were following government instructions to remain two meters (over six feet) apart.

“People are not listening,” she said. “It is really scary and dangerous.”

At the Ghamkol Sharif mosque, Zahid is thankful that the temporary morgue hasn’t reached its capacity. It was set up amid fears that without sufficient refrigerated storage, bodies would have to be cremated, counter to Muslim custom. But everyone who has been brought here has had a proper burial.

SPIRITUALLY SPEAKING: Just how strange are you?

By JAMES A. WASHINGTON JR.
Publisher of the Dallas Weekly Newspaper

You know God has a history of using people in the strangest ways. Or is it that he uses the strangest people to carry out his divine will? After all, doesn’t the Bible let us know that those who feel quite strange about it, are chosen by God to carry out heavenly tasks here on Earth?

Moses was a murderer. Paul (Saul) killed a few Jesus lovers in his time. Rahab was a ho and Jacob was, well, y’all know all about Jacob’s shortcomings. And David, I ain’t gon’ even talk about this guy.

The point is that God uses the least of us (by our definition) to carry out his plans in spite of what we think we’re capable of, or what we think we’re worthy of. I mean, most of the prophets were reluctant participants at best as implementers and vehicles of God’s message to his people and those around them.

As a matter of fact, most wanted nothing to do with their assignments because they didn’t think anyone would listen, they weren’t worthy or someone else was better suited for the challenge.

Whatever the reason, we should all be mindful that the hand of God is at work where he deems it will do the most good, regardless of what we think. Anyone and everyone are candidates for greatness in the eyes of the Lord, including you, and yes, including even me.

I used to think that only those called to preach had the gift of ministry. Try telling that to anyone who has accepted Christ as their personal Lord and savior and watch how quickly they get corrected. I know I did or was. Slowly and reluctantly, I’ve accepted we all have a ministry according to the gifts given to us by God.

Neither economic status, academic achievement or social standing means anything if God says “tag” and it’s your turn to do his bidding, carry his message or simply let others see him in you.

One thing is for certain. You cannot refuse to hear him when God comes knocking. Just ask Moses, Ezekiel, Isaiah or Jeremiah. More importantly, ask yourself as I have lately, what are you reluctant to do in the name of God?

Only you know if you’re in denial. Only you know if you’re trying to convince God to choose someone else.

The question is how long will it take you to realize that eventually, as have so many others, you’re going to do what God is telling you to do? I think you might want to get to that conclusion before God stops asking and starts telling. God is apt to stop asking and abandon you altogether and accept your no as a final answer.

The prospect of that gives a whole new meaning to Ezekiel 3:18: “When I say to a wicked man, ‘You will surely die,’ and you do not war him from his evil ways in order to save his life, that wicked man will die for his sins and I will hold you accountable for his blood.”

I now believe that the measure of your life and mine is how we respond to God’s call and not how hard we work, even if we judge that work as beneficial to others. According to what we’re called to do.

The question then is how do we know when God is the one doing the talking? I believe God doesn’t confuse us. I also believe he’s talking all the time. The key for us is to make a conscious and deliberate effort to listen and hear him. That requires persistence and prayer. Combined, listening then becomes habitual.

All I’m trying to say is I’m trying each and every day to hear God. In doing so, I’m obligated to share with you that maybe my calling and my job is to accept as a blessing this platform, use it as but another wonderful conduit for God’s will and continue to say loudly and publicly that Jesus is Lord.

And if you also believe this, then you probably better tell somebody. May God bless and keep you always.

James A. Washington is a father, husband, Christian, writer, entrepreneur and the owner/publisher of the Dallas Weekly.



Stimulus payment answers: The beneficiary edition

sa.www4.irs.gov

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Official website of the United States Government

IRS

Exit

Get My Payment

If you need additional help, please visit our [Frequently Asked Questions](#) page.

All fields marked with an * (asterisk) are required.

Social Security Number (SSN) or Individual Tax ID Number (ITIN) * ?

Date of Birth *
MM/DD/YYYY

Street Address * ?

ZIP or Postal Code * (Required, except for countries without ZIP or postal codes) ?

CONTINUE

IRS

IRS Privacy Policy | Accessibility

By **BRITTANY SABALZA**

Recently, the IRS and U.S. Treasury began distributing the first round of stimulus checks to taxpayers across the nation. While millions of taxpayers began to receive their stimulus relief, many questions have gone unanswered for some. Retirees, vets and disabled Americans are asking stimulus questions and we've got a few answers here below.

I RECEIVE RETIREMENT OR DISABILITY PAYMENTS AND I'M NOT REQUIRED TO FILE TAXES, DO I QUALIFY FOR THE STIMULUS PAYMENT?

The stimulus package passed by Congress offered relief to certain low-income citizens including Social Security beneficiaries, railroad retirees, veterans and others with disabilities. So if you didn't file a 2018 or 2019 tax return because you weren't required to file, you're still eligible to receive your stimulus payment.

HOW MUCH WILL THE PAYMENT BE?

Individuals will receive \$1,200, \$2,400 for married couples and an extra \$500 per qualifying dependents under 17. The payments phase out for individuals who made over \$75,000-\$99,000 and \$150,000-\$198,000 for married filers. It's reduced by \$5 for every \$100 between income limits and then eliminated completely.

I HAVE DEPENDENTS. HOW DO I RECEIVE A STIMULUS PAYMENT FOR THEM TOO?

Non-filing beneficiaries who have dependents under 17 need to take additional steps. To receive payments for qualifying dependents, you'll need to add any dependent information to the IRS non-filer

portal to ensure they receive the economic impact payment you qualify for. If you didn't do this by April 22, you'll have to wait until the next filing season to receive the applicable payments for qualifying children. If you filed your taxes and claimed a dependent on your 2018 or 2019 tax return, the IRS will use that information to determine eligibility, calculate the correct payment automatically and send the payment for taxpayers and their qualifying dependents.

WHAT SHOULD I DO TO GET MY CHECK?

Most beneficiaries don't need to do anything to get their economic impact payment from the IRS. Those who were required to file a 2018 or 2019 must have a return on file and the IRS will automatically mail or direct deposit the payment using the bank account or mailing address found on the most recent return.

Non-filing beneficiaries with no dependents will automatically receive their stimulus payments the same way they receive their benefits. The vast majority of payments will be directly deposited to a bank account, direct pay debit card and others will be mailed.

I STILL HAVEN'T RECEIVED MY STIMULUS, WHEN CAN I EXPECT MY RELIEF TO ARRIVE?

Earlier in April the government began depositing stimulus checks to those who filed a 2018 or 2019 tax return and had their direct deposit information on file. Payment disbursements started in reverse AGI order, so they were issued to those with lower income first. According to the IRS, Retirees and certain others should begin seeing direct deposits as early as this week but will continue to roll out over the next several weeks. If you're receiving your check in the mail, it could take much longer. Checks are in the mail now but are expected to be delivered anywhere from now through September. If you want

to track your payment or add direct deposit info visiting the IRS "Get My Payment" at IRS.gov will allow you to do that.

WILL STIMULUS MONEY AFFECT MY BENEFITS OR NEXT YEAR'S TAXES?

The economic impact payment is not considered additional income and thus will not affect your benefits in any way. You won't have to pay it back and it won't lower your refund. The payment is actually an advance of a 2020 refundable tax credit, so it's non-taxable and it won't affect next year's taxes in a negative way.

WHAT ELSE SHOULD I KNOW?

You've got to watch for scams! There's a lot of crooks and scoundrels out there looking to bamboozle taxpayers out of their stimulus money. So be careful. Con artists prey on the vulnerable, and in times like these, older members of society are often a target. Remember that no one should be calling you to sign up for your check or to get your personal information. The IRS or U.S. Treasury will never call you, email you or contact you on social media about your stimulus check. If you're contacted by a potential scammer, disconnect and don't entertain them. You shouldn't engage with a scammer even if you think you know that it's a scam.

For official, up-to-date information about the economic impact payment visit IRS.gov/Coronavirus. To update payment information or track your payment visit IRS.gov and click the "Where's My Payment" link. To learn more about scams and reporting visit IRS.gov and visit the Report Phishing and Online Scams page.

Brittany Sabalza, enrolled agent, is director of continuing education for Pro Tax Solutions Indianapolis and a tax columnist.

RECEIVE A \$3,000 GRANT

Toward down payment and/or closing costs with purchase of a home.*

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We have launched our Community Food Box!!!!

Items to donate:

- Non-perishable food items,
- canned food,
- ready-to-eat food items,
- ramen noodles,
- nuts and granola.

The purpose of the community food box project is to temporarily provide immediate relief to a larger issue within urban communities: food deserts. Community food boxes will provide those in need with free food until the city and other stakeholders invest in the urgent needs of people living with food insecurity. We need your help! We are asking for food items to keep our box stocked for those in need.

Please drop your donations off at
The Indianapolis Recorder Newspaper
2901 N. Tacoma Ave. 46218

CLASSIFIED

PATERNITY

SUMMONS - SERVICE BY PUBLICATION
STATE OF INDIANA
COUNTY OF MARION SS:
IN THE MARION COUNTY
CIRCUIT COURT
PATERNITY DIVISION -
TITLE IV-D
CAUSE NO:
49COI-0406-JP-1578
IN THE MATTER OF
SUSAN WHITLOCK
Petitioner,
v.
EMANUEL HARDMAN
Respondent,
And
MANDEE WHITLOCK,
Intervenor.

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 above named.
The nature of the suit against you is:
Intervenor and maternal aunt, Mande Whitlock, by Counsel, Marcia J. Cossell, respectfully petitions this Court to substitute guardian of the parties' minor child. This summons by publication is specifically directed to the following respondent(s) whose whereabouts are unknown:
Emmanuel Hardman a/k/a Manuel Hardman
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 petition in writing, by you or your attorney, on or before the day of , (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.
Myla A. Eldridge, Clerk
04/10/20
04/17/20
04/24/20
05/01/20

PUBLIC NOTICE

Celco Partnership and its controlled affiliates doing business as Verizon Wireless (Verizon Wireless) proposes to build two 47-foot Light Pole Communications Towers at the approx. vicinity of 65 South Hawthorne Lane and 102 South Downey Avenue, Indianapolis, Marion County, IN 46219. Public comments regarding potential effects from this site on historic properties may be submitted within 30 days from the date of this publication to: Trileaf Corp, Patricia Rees, p.rees@trileaf.com, 2121 W. Chandler Blvd., Suite 108, Chandler, AZ 85224, 480-850-0575.
hspaxlp 05/01/20

PUBLIC NOTICE

2004 Dodge Stratus #1B3EL46X44N226609 w/b sold 9AM 5-16-20@ 8051 Bach Dr \$500.
hspaxlp 05/01/20

PUBLIC NOTICE

2004 Kenworth T800 #1NKDLBOX44J397745 w/b sold 9AM 5-16-20@3721 Schofield charges \$7000.
hspaxlp 05/01/20

PUBLIC NOTICE

2004 Chevrolet Tracker #2CNCB734746916714 w/b sold 9AM 5-16-20@ 3373 Colorado \$800.
hspaxlp 05/01/20

PUBLIC NOTICE

The following w/b sold 9AM 4/16/20@5341 Lakeside Manor Dr for charges: 2011 KIA Optima #KNAGM4A71B5148196 \$1000; 2007 GMC Yukon #11GKFC13047R234042 \$1000.
hspaxlp 05/01/20

PUBLIC NOTICE

Following w/b sold 9AM 5/16/20@2735 Madison Ave for charges: 2003 Jaguar S #SAJEA01U43HM57454 \$3550; 2006 Toyota Tacoma #5TEENX22N66Z32066 \$1850.
hspaxlp 05/01/20

PUBLIC NOTICE

Following w/b sold 9am 5/16/20@2334 S. California charges: 2005 Saturn Relay #5GZDV03L05D182905 \$1980; 2000Chevrolet S10 #1GCGS1446YK143612 \$2150; 2006 Chrysler Town Country #1KAGP45R66B8505833 \$1920; 2017 KIA Sportage #KNDP-M3AC3H7268897 \$2880.
hspaxlp 05/01/20

PUBLIC NOTICE

Following w/b sold 9AM 5/16/20@3924 Millersville Dr charges:2004 GMC Yucon #3GKFK16Z44G167399 \$2500; 1996 Chrysler Newpport #CLC23G63249794 \$2500; 1965 Plymouth Fury #P356260150 \$3500; 1976 Oldsmobile X39 #3X39T6M381531 \$2500.
hspaxlp 05/01/20

PUBLIC NOTICE

1966 Pontiac Bonneville #262376P280542 w/b sold 9am 5/16/20@ 965 N Sherman \$5300.
hspaxlp 05/01/20

PUBLIC NOTICE

1999 Ford Expedition #1FMRU1861XLB13289 w/b sold 9AM 5/16/20@85223 Rowan Ct charges \$1000.
hspaxlp 05/01/20

PUBLIC NOTICE

1999 Ford Expedition #1FMRU1861XLB13289 w/b sold 9AM 5/16/20@85223 Rowan Ct charges \$1000.
hspaxlp 05/01/20

PUBLIC NOTICE

NOTIFICATION OF REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS
The Trustees of Purdue University will solicit and interview prospective CMC firms for the Wade Utility Plant Remote Utility Connection Project – 2020. The RFP process will consist of two stages. The first stage (RFP-A/B) will be a qualifications based review. From these responses, firms will be shortlisted to proceed to the next stage. The second stage (RFP-C) will consist of interviews, which will be conducted via WebEx. The Trustees of Purdue University will receive RFP-A responses until Noon Eastern Daylight Time (EDT) on the 11th of May, 2020 at: Capital Program Management, Purdue University, Purdue Technology Center Aerospace 1801 Newman Road, Ste. 208, West Lafayette, IN 47906-4510. To obtain Request for Proposal documents, please email: Ron Reehling, Construction Project Manager, Senior, reehling@purdue.edu. THE TRUSTEES OF PURDUE UNIVERSITY James K. Kline Sr. Director of Capital Program Management Date: 4/21/2020
hspaxlp 04/24/20
05/01/20

PUBLIC NOTICE

2009 Chevrolet Malibu #1G1Z157B94262926 w/b sold 9AM 5/16/20@10706 Deandra Dr charges \$1900.
hspaxlp 05/01/20

PUBLIC NOTICE

Celco Partnership and its controlled affiliates doing business as Verizon Wireless (Verizon Wireless) proposes to build a 47-foot Public Lighting Structure Communications Tower at the approx. vicinity of 3505 Brookside Pkwy SDR, Indianapolis, Marion County, IN 46201. Public comments regarding potential effects from this site on historic properties may be submitted within 30 days from the date of this publication to: Trileaf Corp, Patricia Rees, p.rees@trileaf.com, 2121 W. Chandler Blvd., Suite 108, Chandler, AZ 85224, 480-850-0575.
hspaxlp 05/01/20

SUMMONS

MDK # 19-034483
STATE OF INDIANA
COUNTY OF MARION SS:
IN THE MARION SUPERIOR COURT #2
CAUSE NO.
49D02-2003-MF-010434
US Bank Trust, N.A., not in its individual capacity but solely as Owner Trustee for VRMTG Asset Trust Plaintiff,
vs.
Denise Carpenter, as Possible Heir to the Estate of Theodore D. Amos, et al. Defendants.
NOTICE OF SUIT
SUMMONS BY PUBLICATION
TO: The Unknown heirs, devisees, legatees, beneficiaries of Theodore D. Amos and their unknown creditors; and, the unknown executor, administrator, or personal representative of the Estate of Theodore D. Amos;
BE IT KNOWN, that US Bank Trust, N.A., not in its individual capacity but solely as Owner Trustee for VRMTG Asset Trust, the above-named Plaintiff, by its attorney, Elyssa M. Meade, has filed in the office of the Clerk of the Marion Superior Court #2 its Complaint against Defendant, The Unknown heirs, devisees, legatees, beneficiaries of Theodore D. Amos and their unknown creditors; and, the unknown executor, administrator, or personal representative of the Estate of Theodore D. Amos, upon diligent inquiry is unknown, and that said on the promissory note and to foreclose a mortgage on the following described real estate in Marion County, State of Indiana, to wit:
Part of the Southeast 1/4 of the Northeast 1/4 of Section 32, Township 17 North, Range 3 East, in Marion County, Indiana, more particularly described as follows:
Beginning at a point in the North line distant West 90 feet from the Northeast corner; running thence West in and along the North line 90 feet; thence South parallel to the East line thereof 307.3 feet; thence East parallel to the North line aforesaid 90 feet; thence North parallel to the East line aforesaid 307.3 feet to the place of beginning, containing in all 0.63 acres, more or less.
This tract is also known as Tract #46 in a survey designated as O. D. Patrick's Home Place, recorded in the Office of the Recorder of Marion County, Indiana, in Deed Record 1523, Page 542.
Also known as Tract 46 in survey designated as O. D. Patrick's Home Place 2nd Amended recorded in the Office of the Recorder of Marion County, Indiana, in Deed Record 1720, Page 631, on September 23, 1958,
commonly known as 2406 West 67th Street, Indianapolis, IN 46226.
NOW, THEREFORE, said Defendant is hereby notified of the filing and pendency of said Complaint against them and that unless they appear and answer or otherwise defend thereto within thirty (30) days after the last notice of this action is published, judgment by default may be entered against said Defendant for the relief demanded in the Complaint.
Dated, Clerk, Marion Superior Court #2
Elyssa M. Meade (25352-64)
Stephanie A. Reinhart (5071-06)
Sarah E. Barngrover (28840-64)
Chris Wiley (26936-10)
J. Dustin Smith (29493-06)
Nicholas M. Smith (31800-15)
Attorneys for Plaintiff
MANLEY DEAS KOCHALSKI LLC
P.O. Box 441039
Indianapolis, IN 46244
Telephone: 614-220-5611
Facsimile: 614-220-9613
Email: self-emmeade@manleydeas.com
04/17/20
04/24/20
05/01/20

HELP WANTED

FINANCE: Cummins Inc. seeks Financial Analysis Managers to work in Indianapolis, Indiana to be responsible for development & preparation of RFP's, analyzing & evaluating financial plans & budgets. Req: MS in Finance, Acctg, Bus – Financial Analysis or rtd fld & 3 yrs rlvnt exp or BS in Finance, Acctg, Bus – Financial Analysis or rtd fld & 5 yrs rlvnt exp. Exp to include: AOP, budget processes, capital forecasts & reporting; Oracle Inventory, General Ledger, Oracle ERP R12, and Hyperion Enterprise/Retrieve, Hyperion HFM, BI Analytics; Financial analysis design, plans of action for investment & reporting; Materials & Operations - Financial Analysis & Mgmt; Actuals & Forecasting Models & Process; Costing Process - Standard Costing; Variance Analysis; NPV & IRR to model financial impact. Apply online at: www.cummins.com or send resume with cover letter to Cummins Business Services, PO Box 290159, Indianapolis, IN 3720159. Reference Job #IN816.
04/24/20
05/01/20

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Unemployment insurance causing headaches as state begins distributing extra cash



By TYLER FENWICK
tylerf@indyrecorder.com

Phone lines are tied up, and answers seem to be trickling in only a little bit at a time. Desperate for clarity, unemployed Hoosiers are relying on each other.

The Facebook group “Indiana Unemployment Peer to Peer Information” has nearly 1,800 members and gets dozens of posts per day.

One woman said she emailed 79 claims investigators at once about an employer stopping her unemployment payment.

Someone else wanted answers, too. “will you send email list?” he commented. [sic] More than 75,000 people made unemployment claims in the week ending on April 18. It was the third consecutive week of that number declining. To put that in perspective, though, there were 2,719 claims made during the third week of April last year, according to state data.

Nationwide, a record 22 million Americans had applied for unemployment benefits in the four weeks through April 11.

This has been a unique recession because the government is essentially trying to incentivize not working — or at least not working around others — due to the current danger of being in a physical workplace with other people.

That means a temporary jolt to unemployment benefits.

In addition to traditional unemployment insurance, Congress created a temporary federal unemployment insurance program — Pandemic Unemployment Assistance, or PUA — for people who wouldn’t normally be eligible for benefits.

The program is part of the federal CARES Act. Eligible workers now include gig workers, those who are self-employed and those who don’t have a sufficient work history to qualify for benefits.

The Indiana Department of Workforce Development (DWD) had to create a new system in order to implement the federally-funded program, so applications for PUA just recently became available online at in.gov/dwd.

Applicants must first apply for traditional unemployment insurance and get denied.

For those who applied for PUA as soon as it was possible on April 24, DWD Commissioner Fred

Payne said the first payments are targeted for May 8.

The PUA program also provides an additional \$600 to existing unemployment benefits through July. That money, which applies to anyone who qualifies for unemployment benefits, is taxable and subject to child support withholding.

The \$600 payments are effective back to March 29 and will be paid retroactively. Applicants who qualify for traditional unemployment benefits or PUA don’t need to do anything else to get the \$600.

Some who were already receiving regular unemployment benefits already started seeing the \$600 payments. For the first weekend those payments were added, the department paid out \$276 million over a three-day period. That’s \$46 million more than what the department paid out in unemployment benefits total last year.

The average wait time for benefits is about 21 days, Payne said, but he noted that can vary significantly.

Those receiving benefits must file a voucher each week in order to keep receiving the benefits. It’s recommended to file vouchers on a Tuesday or later to take stress off of the DWD’s system, which is experiencing high traffic volumes.

As of April 27, the department had already received about 65,000 PUA applications, according to Payne, though some were duplicates from regular unemployment insurance.

The federal CARES Act also provides 39 weeks of unemployment benefits, 13 more than normal.

Payne said during a recent COVID-19 briefing he’s not worried about the state running out of money to pay benefits. Indiana has a little under \$650 million in a trust fund to pay those benefits, he said, and there is federal money available in case that fund gets too low.

One of the common complaints from those looking for answers about unemployment benefits is how difficult it’s been to actually talk with someone from the DWD.

Payne said it’s best for people to use the self-help tool on the website because it takes a “massive” amount of time to answer those questions over a phone call. The department has been hiring and training more staff to keep up with demand.

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



Indiana enclave awaits return of racing

By MICHAEL MAROT
AP Sports Writer

SPEEDWAY, Ind. (AP) — A.J. Foyt came to Indianapolis in 1958 a fearless rookie who rented a basement for \$15 per week and slept on a cot not too far from the roar of the cars and crowds at Indianapolis Motor Speedway.

Sometimes, he would walk to Main Street and join other drivers for breakfast at a drug store. When Foyt won his first Indianapolis 500 in 1961, he splurged by taking his wife, Lucy, to a local White Castle for 11-cent burgers.

“Like I’ve always said, a lot of the guys think they made Indy; Indy made A.J. Foyt,” the first four-time race winner said. “Everybody remembers who won Indy.”

Residents in this 94-year-old town understand that better than anyone. The namesake track is part of the lifeblood of Speedway, and it is far too quiet around here with auto racing on hold along with the rest of sports because of the coronavirus pandemic.

The estimated annual economic impact on Indiana from the iconic track is a jaw-dropping \$510 million, according to a study by the Indiana University Public Policy Institute using the years 2010-12. The number will surely take a hit this year, it’s just not clear how much it will be.

Tom Beaudry owns two small businesses, Indy Screen Print and Guts Wear, and travels to most Indy-Car races to sell T-shirts and memorabilia. Last year, he also rented out Airbnb spots for the 500, which has been postponed to August from its Memorial Day weekend spot.

Right now, those revenue sources have dried up. “It has affected my income significantly,” said Beaudry, whose father started selling Indy 500 shirts in the 1960s and the two later parked cars to make money from the crowds. “But I think we’ll get to race in August and I really believe we’ll get some other races in this year, too.”

Speedway certainly hopes so with its redeveloped Main Street virtually barren. Not far away, former IndyCar driver Sarah Fisher found the perfect spot for her new venture, Speedway Indoor Karting, just a short stroll from the track.

“The karting business is all about location, location, location,” she said. “You can go to any mainstream outlet and say ‘Indy 500’ and they know what that means. So to be walking distance from the track, it was just a no-brainer.”

Carl Fisher thought so, too. More than a century ago, he scouted spots for a possible automobile test track. He considered the dirt oval at the Indiana State Fairgrounds and the city of French Lick before finding the perfect place down the road.

Fisher, James Allison, Arthur Newby and Frank Wheeler purchased four 82-acre plots of farmland across the street from a railway stop and the historic 2.5-mile oval was completed in August 1909.

Fisher had grander plans. He envisioned a city with homes on one side of town, factories on the other. The real transition began in 1912 when Fisher and Allison relocated their headlight manufacturing company from downtown following a plant explosion and other automotive companies soon joined him.

Ray Harroun won the inaugural 500 in 1911 with the help of the first rear-view mirror. Seat belts were strapped onto cars in 1922. Two years later came the first super-charged engines, and in 1929 some cars started using front-wheel drive. Over the decades, the track became a testing ground for all things big and small — rear-powered engines, aerodynamics, tires and everything in between. Some worked. Others failed, some miserably.

Through it all, Speedway chugged along thanks to the sprawling, brick-and-mortar track that became inextricably intertwined in the lives of locals, who now number about 12,000 in the enclave six miles northwest of downtown Indianapolis.

“A lot of streets are named for early automobiles, most are either named after an early driver or an early automobile company,” said longtime track historian Donald Davidson, who lives in Speedway. “How neat it was in the summers when you could go down Main Street and see drivers in the barber shops or the grocery store.”

NBA inching toward a bad decision

By DANNY BRIDGES

As a self-confessed NBA junkie, I continue to struggle with the suspension of the current professional basketball season and proclaim my agony to anyone who will listen. Keep in mind, you’re reading the random thoughts of someone who’ll watch a west coast contest between the two last place teams in the conference on a weeknight, so yes, I am a highly troubled individual to begin with.

I’ve even resorted to watching reruns of games in which I know the outcome and pretending it’s actually a suitable substitution.

Forget the fact that I’m actually up in the wee hours telling my three dogs what is about to transpire in a game that was played seven years ago, as I need to make sure that 3-pointer goes in during the third time I watch the game, sitting bleary-eyed in front of my big screen, pretending this season isn’t a complete washout.

However, the reality of the situation does not lend to such occurring, at least until recently when NBA Commissioner Adam Silver stated teams may resume working out at their respective facilities on May 8.

Silver, who in my opinion has been a stellar executive to date, actually wanted to give the aforementioned a go on May 1 and received some pushback from a few of the owners he works for. So, like many of the decision makers in these terribly challenging times, he’s deferring to a week-to-week assessment of the situation, using the decisions of governors in the respective states that have franchises as to when states can put up the proverbial “We’re open for business” signs again and allow players to take the floor and practice, albeit in small numbers and without coaches in attendance.

After a couple of weeks, chances are he’ll loosen up the regulations even more and allow for full scale practices to be conducted in hopes of salvaging the 2020 playoffs and crowning a champion.

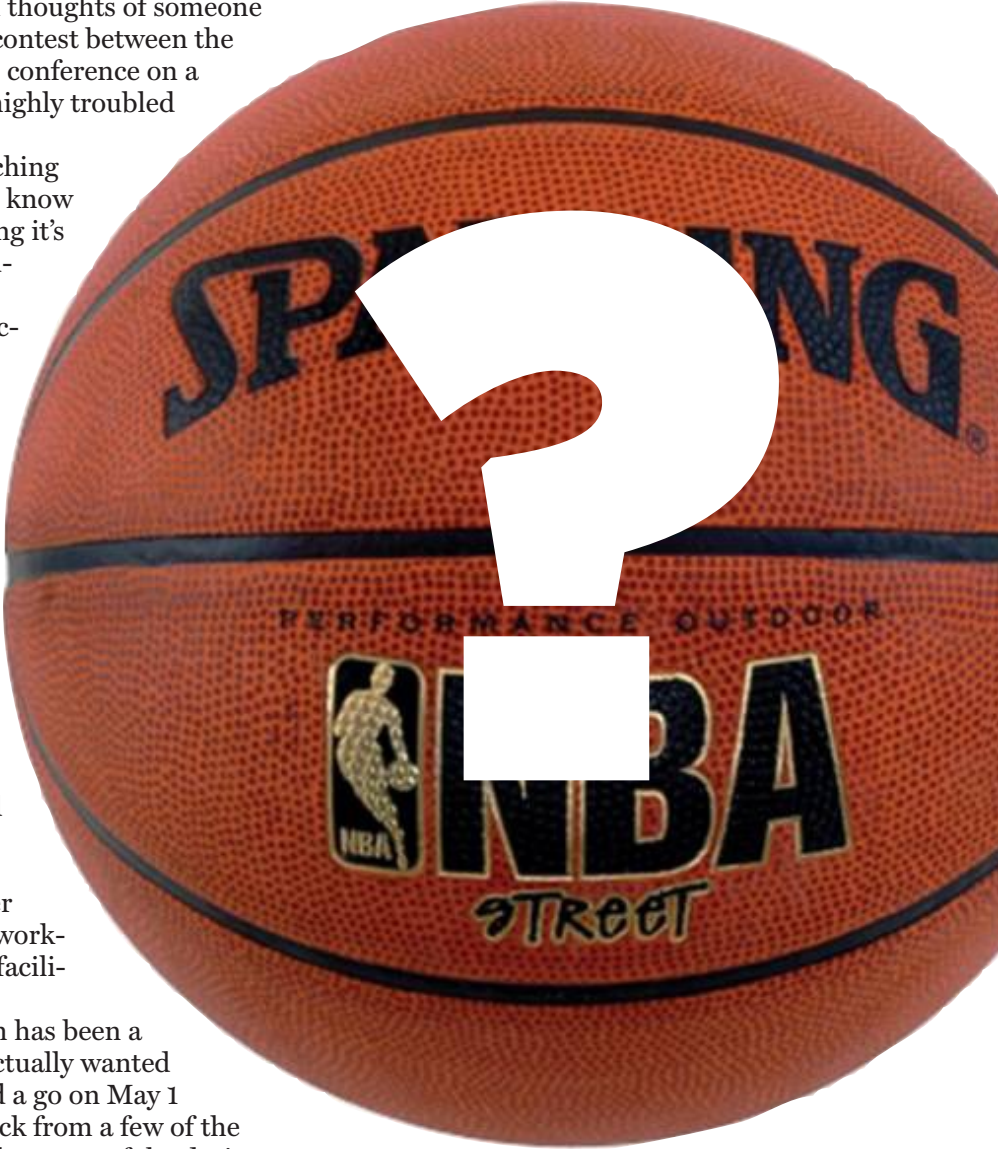
Now normally that would be music to my ears, but with a number of medical experts with advanced degrees stating this pandemic isn’t even close to being over, and with some predicting a second wave in the fall, how realistic is Silver’s effort to resuscitate the season?

As a good friend stated to me just this morning, we cannot sustain self-isolation forever, and while gradually resuming things is a logical desire, the fact remains that the NBA is no different than any other business entity who is chomping at the bit to reinvigorate their revenue streams by filling their arenas and selling overpriced sodas.

As I continue to feel terrible for the large number of hard-working television technicians in this market who derive a large portion of their income from NBA telecasts, the question is just how safe is it to resume your professional endeavors at this juncture?

Asking an old curmudgeon like me is not what you want to do if you’re looking for a green light, the coast is clear analogy, so I’ll point out a couple of billionaire NBA team owners with contrasting views. Mark Cuban, who, of course, owns the

Dallas Mavericks put it in simplistic terms when saying, “Is it safe yet for my children to attend a movie or a public gathering, and the answer is no.” Conversely, Herb Simon, who owns the Indiana Pacers, plans to open some of his corporation’s



shopping malls in our community this weekend.

While Simon has generally been a great steward of the franchise, I believe his decision is a hasty one, and unfortunately mirrors that of the NBA. Sure, they don’t care what a 60-year-old man trying to make it to 61 thinks, and I fully understand that. I’m inclined to agree with Cuban, and his rightful protection of his children aside, what is really wrong with pumping the brakes here for another 30 days? How does that impact the NBA Playoffs you might ask?

Well, if you haven’t figured it out by now, this hoops junkie doesn’t care if he sees any more dunks and 3-pointers again this season if it will help preserve the health and welfare of our nation. Play the games with no fans in attendance if you must, but the NBA can be a leader when it comes to professional sports and the example it sets can have dramatic impact on everyone, and not just those who love the game. Commisioner Silver has a decision to make, and while it seems daunting in some aspects, it appears crystal clear to me.

It’s too early for large crowds in basketball arenas, and the danger is real. Take the month of May and think about it, Mr. Silver, and be a leader who evaluates what is good for your fan base. It’s downright depressing to think about jettisoning the season, but that’s where you’re at. Hopefully, you’ll make the right decision by letting your heart guide you entirely, instead of your balance sheet.

Danny Bridges who thinks the NBA should cancel the 2020 season and encourages everyone to safely lay low as long as possible, can be reached at 317-370-8447 or at bridgeshd@aol.com.

SPORTS QUIZ

By RYAN A. BERENZ

- 1. What former University of Connecticut stand-out was the first player selected by the expansion Charlotte Bobcats in the 2004 NBA Draft?
- 2. In 2018, the NHL’s Philadelphia Flyers introduced an orange-furred, googly-eyed creature as their official mascot. What’s its name?
- 3. In what league do the Chesapeake Bayhawks, New York Lizards, Boston Cannons and Connecticut Hammerheads compete?
- 4. The 1974 “Rumble in the Jungle” heavyweight title fight between Muhammad Ali and George Foreman took place in what African country?
- 5. In 1994, basketball great Michael Jordan played for what Minor League Baseball team?
- 6. What former NFL running back livened up his press conferences by appearing in costume as Southeast Jerome, Sheriff Gonna Getcha, Bro

- Sweets and other characters while a member of the 2005 Washington Redskins?
7. What actor, who died in 2018, played football at Florida State University and ran for 134 yards and two touchdowns in his 1954 freshman season?
- ANSWERS**
- 1. Emeka Okafor.
 - 2. Gritty.
 - 3. Major League Lacrosse.
 - 4. Zaire (now the Democratic Republic of the Congo).
 - 5. The Birmingham Barons.
 - 6. Clinton Portis.
 - 7. Burt Reynolds.

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