

CELEBRATING OUR HISTORY TODAY AND EVERY DAY — BLACK HISTORY MATTERS

John Lands came to Indianapolis for football but stayed for much more

By TYLER FENWICK
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John Lands, who moved to Indianapolis toward the end of the Civil Rights Movement and became an advocate for African Americans, died Jan. 23. He was 84 years old.

While Lands was involved all over the city, he did his most prominent work on the near west side, where he opened Our Place, a service center that offered recreation, counseling and employment opportunities, in 1968 on Indiana Avenue.

Lands joined friends Reggie Jones and Fuller Jones, whom he met at his first job at Flanner House, to open a supermarket, Our Market, on Indiana Avenue in 1985.

“John was a very concerned, committed person,” Reggie Jones said.

The market lasted for about five years but couldn’t survive as its customer base was displaced from Lockefield Gardens and other communities around The Avenue.

Hubert Canady knew Lands from Our Place, but he formally met the community leader at the now-defunct Indianapolis Skills Center, where people could go for skills training and get help with job placement. Jones was the executive director, and Lands helped run it. “Cleanest brothers in the city,” Canady said of the duo, who always seemed to be wearing a suit and tie.

Canady credits Lands and the skills center for helping him through life. He learned welding and became a heating, ventilation and air conditioning technician and a certified plumber. He retired in 2005. “He’s a beautiful brother,” Canady said of Lands.

Lands was a passionate leader who didn’t mince words when he talked about improving life



John Lands, who moved to Indianapolis in the 1960s for football and stayed to become a community leader, died Jan. 23. (Photo provided by Nephthys Lands)

for African Americans in Indianapolis.

After he opened Our Place, he praised boys and girls for helping renovate the vacant building, but he was upset with adults for not offering more assistance.

“This is something more important than giving money,” he told the Recorder at the time. “This is a moral thing. It’s part of their community and it’s difficult to do anything without the support of the community.”

Lands was also executive director of the Fall Creek YMCA from 1971 to 1979.

Lands was born in Baton Rouge, Louisiana, the fourth of 10 children. His family called him “Mickey,” according to his obituary.

The son of a preacher, Lands was known for his ability to quote the Bible. His daughter, Nephthys Lands, said he loved reading in general and had a collection of books that would rival a library. He also enjoyed country blues music and was inspired as a high schooler to memorize Shakespeare.

“If you had a conversation with my dad, you better know what you’re talking about,” Nephthys said.

Lands studied anthropology and archeology at Montana State University and considered himself a student of history. He stressed the importance of teaching Black history that extended beyond slavery. Starting Black history with slavery “serves to sever the umbilical cord between African Americans and our Mother Land,” he told the Recorder in 1985.

Lands came to Indianapolis in the early 1960s — without any family in the area — to play semi-professional football for the Indianapolis Warriors in the United Football League. According to Pro Football Archives, he played three seasons with the Warriors as a tight end and wide receiver. He also spent three seasons in other leagues with the British Columbia Lions, Fort Wayne Warriors and Charleston Rockets.

The Los Angeles Rams picked Lands in the fifth round of the 1959 NFL draft, but he elected to finish his college career. He also played basketball and did the broad jump and javelin throw on the track team. The 1959 football media guide called him “Big John.”

Lands had 11 children, all named after African royalty such as Ethiopian kings and Egyptian goddesses.

“He was very big into knowing you were here,” Nephthys said, “being proud of where you come from.”

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



The administration offices for Hamilton Southeastern Schools are on Cumberland Road in Fishers, Indiana. (WISH Photo, File)

HSE superintendent tells staff to treat Black Lives Matter as political movement

By TYLER FENWICK
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Hamilton Southeastern Schools Superintendent Allen Bourff stirred controversy by telling district staff to treat Black Lives Matter as a political movement. He apologized in a follow-up letter for the “impact” of the first letter.

In the first letter, Bourff said he has heard from “a number” of parents who are concerned that the district is advancing the cause of Black Lives Matter, which he described as a political movement.

“They contend that their children are being indoctrinated rather than taught and that this effort has been a distraction from the academic purpose of school,” he wrote.

A Change.org petition calls on Bourff to step down immediately before his retirement June 30. The petition had more than 1,800 signatures at the time of publication Feb. 10.

Emily Abbotts, a district spokesperson, said in an email Bourff does not plan to resign. She estimated the district

See HSE, A7 ►

Lack of medical school diversity could be making pandemic worse



By TYLER FENWICK
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Almost every discussion of the COVID-19 pandemic, from newspaper articles to academic papers to virtual town halls, includes some variation of the phrase: The pandemic has hit African Americans especially hard.

It’s a true statement and bears repeating, no matter how predictable its appearance is, even if it sometimes feels more like an obligatory courtesy rather than a statement that’s supposed to carry more urgency.

No one correction to four centuries of racism could single-handedly improve outcomes for African Americans during this pandemic, but what if America could wind the clock back 10 or 15 years and enroll more African American students in medical school?

Another health crisis will show up at some point. What if, between now and then, America produced

more African American doctors, nurses and other health care professionals?

“If we do not push and make the effort and annoy some people ... we’re gonna suffer the brunt of the back side of this pandemic,” said Cecil Bennett, a family physician in Atlanta. “When the dust is cleared, it’s gonna be an autopsy that says we could’ve done this, could’ve done that.”

Bennett spoke Jan. 21 with a group of media members about the COVID-19 vaccine and, in a broader discussion about health disparities, said one of the biggest drivers is inadequate representation of minorities in medical schools.

About 7.5% of students enrolled in medical schools for the 2020-21 school year are Black or African American, according to data from the Association of American Medical Colleges. The association also reports the acceptance rate for Black or

See MEDICAL, A2 ►

Hearing scheduled for bill to change oversight of IMPD

By BREANNA COOPER
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A controversial bill that would give the governor and a state board oversight of the Indianapolis Metropolitan Police Department will be heard Feb. 16 by the Corrections and Criminal Law Committee. If it passes through committee, it will be heard on the Senate floor.

Senate Bill 168, originally authored by Republican Sen. Jack Sandlin, is now co-authored by nine Senate Republicans. SB 168 would create a five-member state board of police commissioners consisting of four governor-appointed members and the mayor of Indianapolis. If passed, the board would have the authority to adopt, amend and enforce ordinances and rules related to the administration of the department, modify and approve the department’s budget, as well as the authority to appoint a chief of police.

Sandlin, who represents District 36, could not be reached for comment.

Rep. Robin Shackelford, who chairs the Indiana Black Legislative Caucus (IBLC), said she and the IBLC are against the legislation.

“Of course, we are opposed to that approach

and are hoping it does not get a hearing or move out of committee,” Shackelford said. “My hope is that these legislators who truly want to help decrease homicides in Indianapolis recognize that the answer should not be increased government oversight. We should be focusing on how the state can help locals and not take away their power.”

Indy10 Black Lives Matter representatives have been watching this legislative session carefully, and spokesperson Jessica Louise said the group opposes the bill.

“We’re not interested in having state government be a part of this,” Louise said. “It’s a little concerning that state government is concerning itself with a single city. ... It’s obvious that they’re wanting to do this in regard to civilian majority boards that popped up over the last few months.”

Louise believes this five-person board is a reflection of “government officials revealing themselves to be scared of their constituents.”

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Volume 126
Number 6
Two Sections

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

INDIANAPOLIS RECORDER USPS (252-660)

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

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MEDICAL

► Continued from A1

African American applicants was 41% for this school year, slightly below the average of 44%.

Experts say the issue isn't a lack of interest; it's that medical schools place too much of an emphasis on standardized test scores, GPA and other metrics where more affluent families — with more generational wealth — can get ahead through access to private tutors and other resources.

Bennett, who attended the Morehouse College School of Medicine, said he probably wouldn't get into medical school today because of his GPA.

Dr. William McDade, chief diversity and inclusion officer at the Accreditation Council for Graduate Medical Education, said there are other qualifications — leadership, resilience, the

ability to learn in difficult situations — that medical schools should prioritize. "We have to change the way we think about what constitutes merit," he said.

Training more African American health professionals would have real consequences outside of making medical schools more closely aligned with the demographics of the country.

McDade said there is evidence that patients who work with a doctor of their own ethnicity report increased trust and satisfaction, and they have improved outcomes. That's especially relevant now, as Black people share stories about mistreatment at hospitals during the pandemic and medical professionals — with their allies in the community — try to convince Black people to take the vaccine.

According to data from the state health department, only 4% of the roughly 719,000 people who have received at least their first dose of the vaccine are Black or African American.

Jarnell Burks-Craig, interim executive director of the Minority Health Coalition of Marion County, said bias against African Americans and African American institutions has also been an issue in the medical school selection process.

She was an intern at Indiana University School of Medicine in the late 1980s to become a registered dietician and served on the selection committee to admit students into the dietary program. Burks-Craig doesn't remember the committee admitting any Black students into the program, and the

rationale, she said, was Black students who attended HBCUs would be "out-classed" by other students.

As hospitals and universities — including local health systems — make commitments to diversify their boards and address structural racism, Burks-Craig said it's important to pay attention to who they're training to be the health professionals of the future.

"We need to make sure we hold them not only accountable for the day-to-day workers," she said, "but they're needing to be held accountable for the way they look at admissions to the medical school."

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Senate puts local renter protections back on chopping block

By TYLER FENWICK
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The Indiana Senate voted Feb. 8 to override Gov. Eric Holcomb's veto of a bill that would have nullified recently passed renter protections in Indianapolis.

Senate Enrolled Act 148, passed last session, would have prevented local governments from regulating relationships between landlords and tenants.

Holcomb, a Republican, cited the COVID-19 pandemic when he vetoed the bill in March 2020, saying it wasn't the right time to "uproot local protections for renters without understanding the consequences."

The language about landlord-tenant relations was added to the bill late in the session and lists eight things local governments can't regulate, including the "rights and responsibilities of the parties" and "any other aspect of the landlord-tenant relationship."

Housing advocates said the language was too broad, and Republicans argued the bill would give the state uniformity in renter laws.



Doris Jones, 35, stands outside of the Indiana Statehouse on Feb. 8 for a protest to urge lawmakers to uphold Gov. Eric Holcomb's veto of a bill that would weaken renter protections. (Photo/Tyler Fenwick)

Last year, the Indianapolis City-County Council passed an ordinance that requires landlords to inform renters of their rights and obligations. The ordinance also includes fines of \$2,500 and \$7,500 for landlords who violate anti-retaliation measures, as well as the creation of a Tenant Information Hotline to help with legal assistance.

SEA 148 would not have nullified the hotline.

City-county council President Vop Osili tweeted his disappointment about the veto override and said no level of government should "discourage or impede" renters getting information about their rights and responsibilities. "A home isn't just a structure you live in; it's also about health and safety," he tweeted. "We will continue our efforts to work with our colleagues at state and local levels to protect our county's renters from a small number of predatory landlords."

The Senate voted 30-17 to override the veto, an act that requires a simple majority. Eight Republicans joined all Democrats to vote against the override. The House of Representatives will also require a simple majority, though no

date has been set for a vote.

Housing advocacy groups knew lawmakers were considering overriding the governor's veto but received little warning when the vote was posted on the Senate's calendar Feb. 5.

The Hoosier Housing Needs Coalition, a collective of groups, organized a protest at the Statehouse the morning of Feb. 8 to call on lawmakers to vote against the override.

"At what point do our legislators show a molecule of care for our Hoosier renters?" Amy Nelson, executive director of the Fair Housing Center of Central Indiana, said in a statement before the vote. "Consistently, their actions show that they are only responsive to the housing industry's many demands."

Doris Jones, a 35-year-old single mother and renter at the protest, said her family was evicted many times as a child in Chicago, and she understands the importance of having supports in place for renters.

"We have to continue to be that voice and remind people that housing is a human right," said Jones, who is a member of the local chapter of the Party for Socialism and Liberation. "Nobody should have to be thrown out over profits, over money."

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

CORRECTION

The Feb. 5 edition incorrectly listed the number of units in a new housing project by Circle City Property Management and Development. Forty units will be available not 70. We apologize for the error. The Recorder makes every attempt to correct its mistakes.

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Creating Impact with AI Carroll

by Kara Kavensky

AI Carroll, the University Acquisition Senior Manager for TechPoint, is creating impact via internships and lighting a path toward careers in technology through meaningful statewide engagement.

The requirement of Butler University students to experience (2) internships during undergrad is what originally attracted AI Carroll to Indianapolis. Carroll believed this would help him secure a job after graduation. Moving to Indiana was an adjustment for Carroll, who grew up in Titusville, Florida, near Cape Canaveral. Both of his parents worked for NASA.

"My parents and their friends put people into space," says Carroll, noting that he witnessed real life excellence among all Black families growing up in that atmosphere. "As a kid, I knew that anything was possible and that we [African Americans] could make an impact."

During his undergraduate years at Butler, Carroll served as student body president and was a student representative to Butler's Board of Trustees. "I really enjoyed working with the administrators and the Board," states Carroll.

Carroll arrived on campus as a freshman at the right time: Butler went to the Final Four that year, and again a year later. Indianapolis hosted the Super Bowl, which in his first job out of college, Carroll worked as an IT auditor with PriceWaterhouseCooper (PWC) based in Indianapolis. He quickly realized that you don't get any points for being a friendly auditor and discovered that he craved human interaction.

In a new role with PWC, Carroll led PWC's professional framework across KY, OH, IN in this role,



he mentored and facilitated programming to help new hires and interns bridge into upward mobility within the company. This professional development training fueled his desire to help other. It's this particular bit of experience that truly prepared him for what he does now: create internships for college students.

As University Acquisition Senior Manager, or as Carroll prefers, "The Technology Evangelist" at TechPoint, he coordinates their outreach efforts to universities across Indiana to fuel an interest and awareness of the potential job opportunities in our state.

"Every student should study something they are interested in and makes you want to go to the back of the book," says Carroll. Many students do not follow their passions or perhaps change the focus of their interests.

A component of his efforts is through TechPoint's Jobs in Tech 101 program, through which Carroll is making an impact. The Jobs in Tech 101 workshop is designed to demystify the opportunities with careers in tech, illuminating a clear path to entry. The program explores the roles within tech companies and provides insight into the day to day job activities. From students

in high school to college, and adults wishing to change up their career — the Jobs in Tech 101 is one way Carroll's team at TechPoint is bridging accessibility.

"So many enter into the tech workforce from non traditional backgrounds. There are many career pathways that help someone totally change up and do something completely different," adds Carroll, who is working to create more possibilities for careers in tech for people of color.

Carroll is a panelist of the inaugural Rooted Schools Black IN Tech Town Hall series powered by The Indianapolis Recorder on February 12th @ 6:30 pm. Also on the panel is Linda Calvin, Vice President of IT with Ivy Tech Community College, and Dewand Neely, COO for Eleven Fifty Academy.

In addition to his role at TechPoint, Carroll serves as a Trustee with the Hugh O'Brian Youth Leadership and was recently nominated for Indy's Best and Brightest in the nonprofit & education category. He is also an advisory board member for the IUPUI LIFT Scholars (Leading Informatics for Tomorrow) Program, and The R.B. Annis School of Engineering at the University of Indianapolis.

Temperature kiosks could make return to school safer

By TYLER FENWICK
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School administrators have a lot to worry about as students begin going back to classrooms for in-person learning. Wearing masks, social distancing, paying attention to who's sniffing and sneezing — all while being ready to shift back to virtual learning in case there's a COVID-19 outbreak.

Local businessman Bob Logan can't solve every bit of unease but thinks he can help.

Logan is founder and CEO of Mobil Trackr, an Indianapolis-based company that sells kiosks to check people's temperature before they enter a building.

Mobil Trackr also markets to other businesses, but Logan said the main focus right now is schools, which can get a discount on services.

Mobil Trackr includes the technology to identify faces, which can help with contact tracing. Information is encrypted and stored on the cloud.

"If all you have is a little machine, there's really no way to talk about who came, when they came," said Logan, who had COVID-19 in December 2020.

Mobil Trackr is in two schools in Indianapolis, including Vanguard Collegiate of Indianapolis, a charter middle school on the west side.

Robert Marshall, founder and executive director of Vanguard Collegiate, said his school has two devices. The school has 87 students, according to state education data, and almost 80% are Black or African American.

"It's really crucial for us as a small school to pay attention to how we're protecting our scholars and staff and extended school community," Marshall said.

Before the school bought the kiosks, Marshall said the original plan for when students come back Feb. 16 was to have three staff members responsible for checking temperatures.

The COVID-19 pandemic will end eventually, and it won't always be a top priority for schools to make sure everyone who enters the building doesn't have a high temperature, but Marshall said he can see the usefulness of Mobil Trackr's technology after the pandemic because the facial recognition software can help with attendance and keeping track of who enters the building.



Bob Logan (left), founder and CEO of Mobil Trackr, stands with Robert Marshall, founder and executive director of Vanguard Collegiate of Indianapolis. (Photo provided by Bob Logan)

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

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What’s in a Name, Indy? Street names in Brightwood

By RICHARD MCDONOUGH

Many of the streets in Brightwood in Indianapolis have names today that are different from their original names.

Today’s 30th Street had at least two previous names. Within the main part of Brightwood, this roadway was known as Schofield Street. Within Martindale, the roadway was known as Manchester Street. According to a map provided through the Library of Congress, D. B. Schofield owned 160 acres of land south of this roadway in 1866.

Brinkman Street was the original name for the street now known as 25th Street in Brightwood. A map from 1866, provided through the Library of Congress, indicated that C. Brinkman owned 80 acres of land north of this roadway at that time. The map also indicated that C. Brinkman also owned a nearby tract of land with 54½ acres.

Willow Street was the original name for what is now known as 28th Street in Brightwood. The street took its name from the willow tree. There are a wide variety of willow trees, ranging from the weeping willow to the peachleaf willow. “Willows have an extremely long history for medicinal uses, being used to treat fevers, aches, skin conditions, and headaches, and as an anti-clotting agent,” according to a statement from the Missouri Department of Conservation. “The basic ingredient of aspirin, salicylic acid, originally came from willow bark (the chemical name comes from ‘salix,’ the Latin word for ‘willow’). In the middle 1800s, scientists first synthesized acetylsalicylic acid, a biochemical derivative of salicylic acid. Then, a few years before 1900, the German company Bayer developed this compound as a commercial pain reliever, naming

it ‘aspirin,’ which was the world’s first mass-marketed drug. It remains one of the most-used medicines in the world.”

The roadway now known as Denny Street was formerly named Foundry Street. That name came from the rail works — a foundry — that was previously located at the intersection of today’s Sherman Drive and 26th Street.

The numbered streets mentioned here — 25th, 26th, 28th and 30th Streets — get their names from being the 25th, 26th, 28th and 30th roadways, respectively, north of Washington Street. (These definitions depend on which roadways you count as you go north from Washington Street. In some areas, there are less than 25 blocks between Washington Street and 25th Street; in some areas, there are more than 25 blocks between the two roadways.)

Station Street is one of the roadways in Brightwood that has retained its original name. The street was named after the rail station that was previously located where Station Street intersects with today’s Roosevelt Avenue. At that time, passengers could travel by train from the Brightwood Station to various locales in the United States. For many decades, several blocks of Station Street served as the commercial center of Brightwood.



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ESKENAZI HEALTH

SPOTLIGHT



WE ARE Indy, a collective of Black artists, has an exhibit at the Harrison Center. (Photo provided by the Harrison Center)

Black artist collective has display at Harrison Center

By TYLER FENWICK
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A collective of Black artists has an exhibit on display at the Harrison Center now through the end of February.

WE ARE Indy, founded five years ago, includes seven active members. Their exhibit, “Primary Colors,” features sculptures, abstract works and two collages on social justice that act as a history lesson.

The exhibit is open to in-person visitors, but the Harrison Center requires appointments. Contact the center’s director, Joanna Taft, at jtaft@harrison-center.org for more information, or visit the website, harrisoncenter.org.

Bruce Armstrong, co-founder of WE ARE Indy, said it’s nice to work as part of a collective because it makes it easier for everyone to promote each other’s work, and they can better help other artists who want to get more involved in the arts scene.

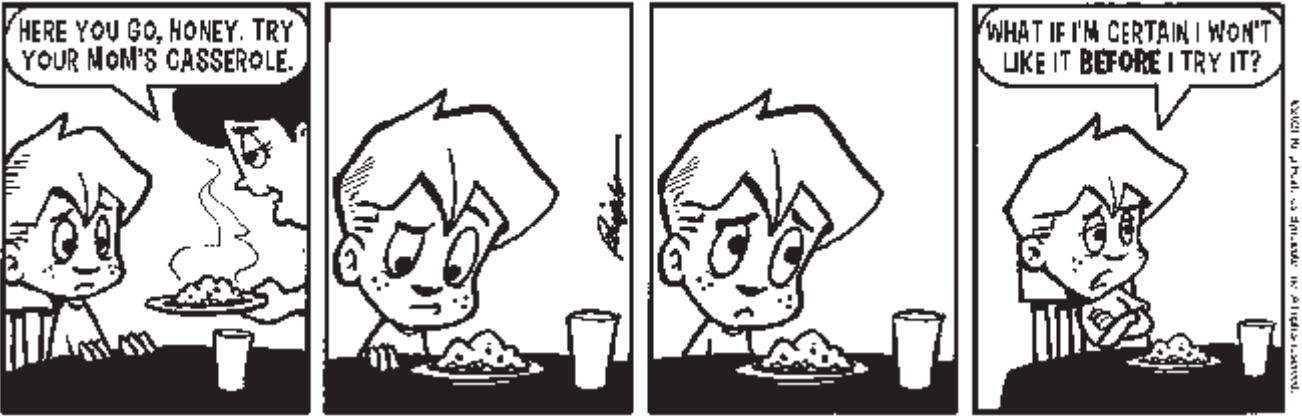
“Just enjoy and hone our craft,” he said.

WE ARE Indy’s goal is to create change through art and empower future generations of creatives.

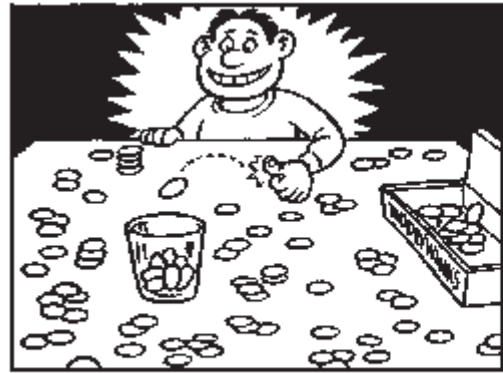
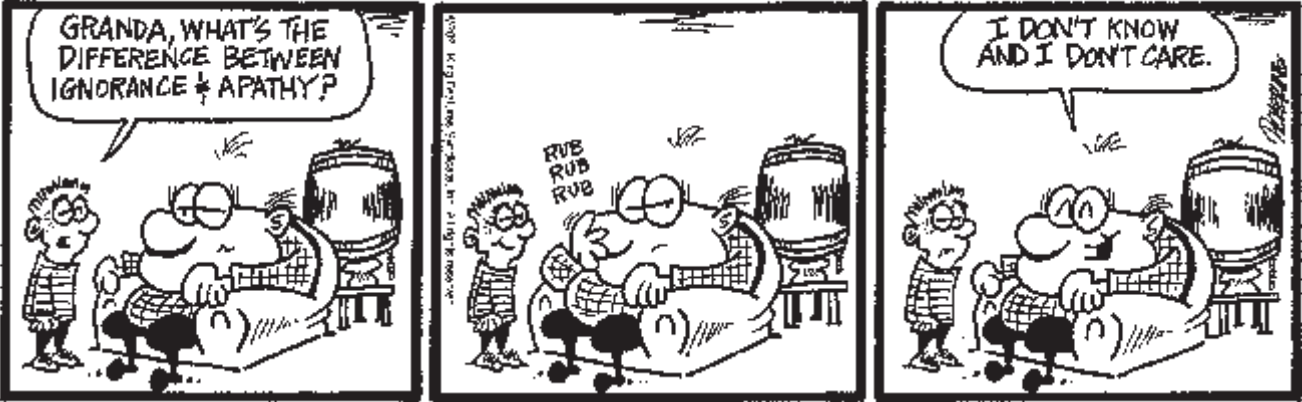
The group’s work in “Primary Colors” is for sale.

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

Amber Waves



The Spats



TIME OUT for a game of tiddlywinks! Can you correctly count up all of the disks on the table in 45 seconds?

Answer: We counted 88. Did you get that letter?

THE UP OR DOWN PROBLEM! To the right the numbers 1 through 9 have been written above or below a line according to some scheme. Can you determine where the number 10 should be placed?

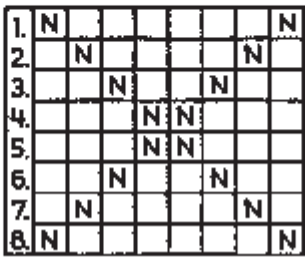
Answer: Since all of the numbers above the line are written with three letters (ONE, TWO and SIX), it follows that the number 10 should also be written above the line (TEN).

LINK-UPSI Here's a list of 12 short words, divided into two columns. Turn them into six longer words by linking them together. To do this, draw a line from one word in the left column to one word in the right.

RAMP IONS
CAB HER
BAN AGES
SOOT KING
TEA LED
ACT RED

Answers: Rampages, Ramped, banked, teased, soother, teased, soother, teased, soother, teased, soother, teased.

Junior Whirl
by Charles Barry Townsend



FIND THE BIG WORDS!
Using the definitions and the anagrams below, you must find the eight eight-letter words that fit the framework pictured on the left. For each definition, the letters in the two anagram words must be unscrambled and used to form the word asked for.

- DEFINITIONS:
1. A light element.
 2. Fabled horses.
 3. To reduce in size.
 4. How he climbed the tree.
 5. They go with nooks.
 6. A guardian.
 7. Goes with TV
 8. Type of lights.

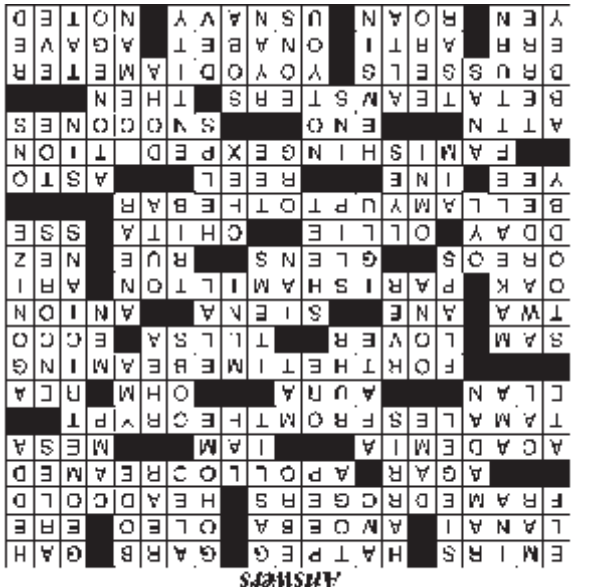
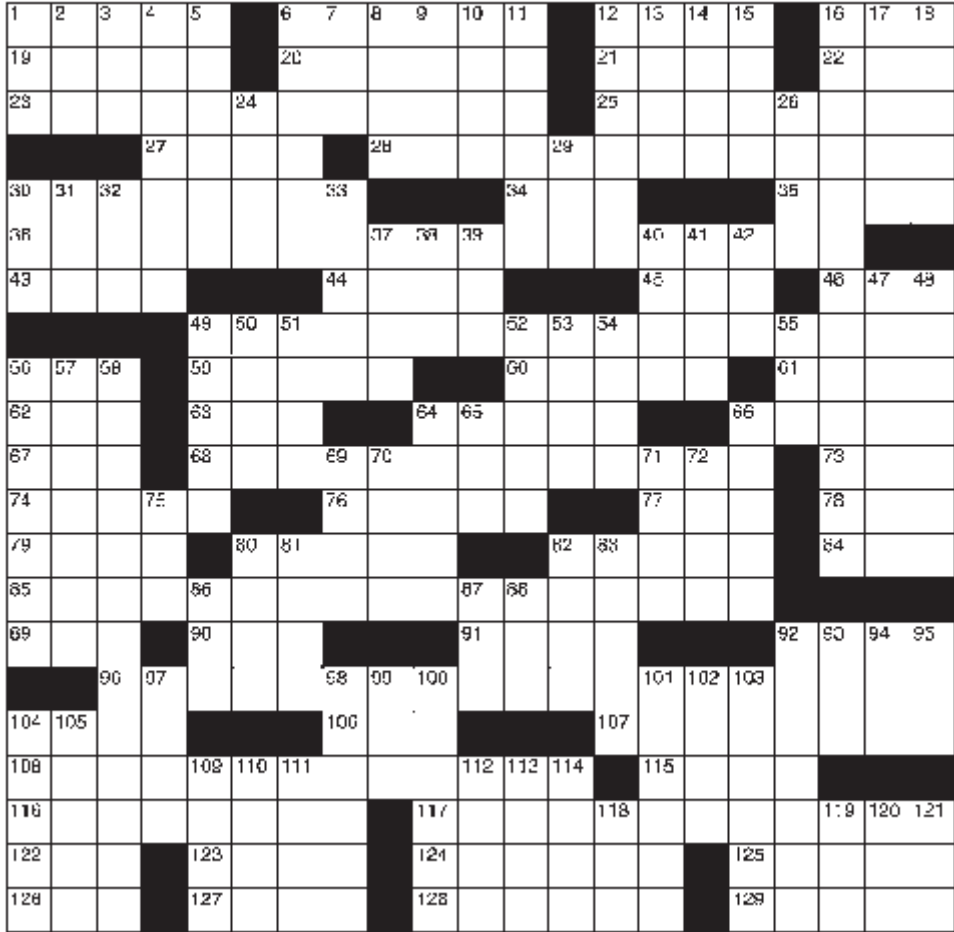
- ANAGRAMS:
- none + gift
 - coin + runs
 - dens + cone
 - dish + nine
 - cars + nine
 - lent + nine
 - nick + nags
 - horn + tern

Answers: 1. Nitrogen 2. Unicorns 3. Condenses 4. Shrimped 5. Cranes 6. Sentinel 7. Snapping 8. Northern.

Super Crossword

AM TOO!

- ACROSS
- 1 Kuwait rulers
 - 6 Pin to hang a chapeau on
 - 12 Clothes
 - 16 "This is so frustrating"
 - 19 Maui porch
 - 20 Single-celled creature
 - 21 Old term for "margarine"
 - 22 Savor them, in sonnets
 - 23 Incriminated dancer
 - 24 Handsome Greek god put half-and-half in his coffee?
 - 30 Scholars' treat
 - 34 Sec
 - 35 N in plateau
 - 36 Cornhusker-wrapped treats found in an underground vault?
 - 43 Pizazz
 - 44 Psychic glow
 - 45 Volt-per-ampere unit
 - 46 Stephen's film
 - 49 "temporarily smiling, briefly?"
 - 56 With
 - 34-Across, "Greer Eggs and Hair" character
 - 59 Sweetheart
 - 60 Oklahoma city
 - 61 Shine retail
 - 62 Former flying ints.
 - 63 Gas suffix
 - 64 Tuscan city
 - 66 Negative particle
 - 67 Iowa's tree
 - 68 Tony-winning musical performed in France's capital?
 - 73 Graynor of "The Sitter"
 - 74 Navisco treats
 - 76 Valleys
 - 77 Wish to undo
 - 78 Pinch —
 - 79 6/6/44
 - 80 Colonel North, briefly
 - 82 Broadway star Rivera
 - 84 Spoken to voice dir.
 - 85 Actor Ralph having reaped a saloon's counter?
 - 89 "— have!"
 - 90 Suffix with brilliant
 - 91 Rod go-with
 - 92 Memo starter
 - 96 Group journey that has made everyone really hungry?
 - 104 Memo starter
 - 106 British rocker Brian
 - 107 Cold carnival treats
 - 108 Group of truck drivers who were once in the same college fraternity?
 - 115 "After that ..."
 - 116 Belgium's capital
 - 117 Doubled radius of a toy on a string?
 - 122 On asway
 - 123 Intro studio course
 - 124 By wagering
 - 125 Plant used to make aquila
 - 126 Hunkering
 - 127 Pony pattern
 - 128 SEAL's mil. branch
 - 129 Rerouted
 - 38 New neighbor
 - 39 Yoga pad
 - 40 Corn bases
 - 41 Cronus' wife
 - 42 Singer
 - 47 Audience extras
 - 48 Really suffer
 - 49 Liked parts of erudite
 - 50 Astruc Chaplin
 - 51 KDA patron
 - 52 Newsy bits
 - 53 Tax-free bond, in brief
 - 54 Israeli air force
 - 55 Adult males
 - 56 Supported
 - 57 Oscar winner, e.g.
 - 58 Not go right or straight while driving
 - 64 Paper unit
 - 65 Actor Ziering
 - 66 Lard — (listen)
 - 69 Irish language word for "house"
 - 70 Small error
 - 71 Out-Town daily paper
 - 72 Lat — sign
 - 75 Popeye's gal
 - 80 Old Dodge
 - 81 Corrosive
 - 82 Rice — (seal)
 - 83 Assists
 - 86 Archer's skill
 - 87 Pt. of NATO
 - 88 Ball balance
 - 92 In a single try
 - 93 Wicked act
 - 94 Wingtip tip
 - 95 Walk — (small roles)
 - 97 Santa (hot winds)
 - 98 Enrags
 - 99 Walk — (appointment customers)
 - 100 "I meant someone else"
 - 101 Heal thing
 - 102 Qatar's por.
 - 103 "I he — Cometh"
 - 104 Monks' home
 - 105 — Haute, Indiana
 - 109 Despot of old
 - 110 Architect
 - 111 Utah ski site
 - 112 Ages or end
 - 113 Mag of film
 - 114 Japanese noodle
 - 118 Actor Patel
 - 119 Til for —
 - 120 Night before
 - 121 Ruby, e.g.



Super Crossword

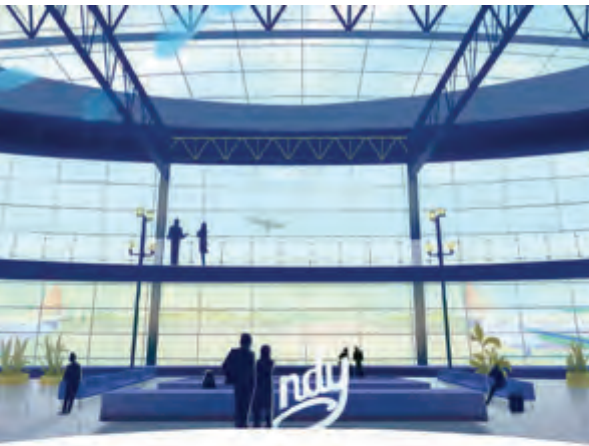
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INDIANAPOLIS INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT

EDITORIAL

Sen. Sandlin’s ‘Back to the Future’ legislation

By OSEYE BOYD



In less than a week, Feb. 16 to be exact, the Senate Committee on Corrections and Criminal Law will hear debate regarding Senate Bill 168.

You’ve probably heard of SB 168 by now. It’s the bill proposed by Sen. Jack Sandlin, R-Indianapolis, that would take away local control of the Indianapolis Metropolitan Police Department and place it under the

authority of the governor and a five-member board. Originally, the board had very little local oversight, but in the spirit of compromise, Sandlin says he’s open to the city-county council appointing a member to the board. How generous.

When news first broke about this bill, it didn’t take much thought to determine the bill’s author was Republican, white and male.

Sandlin’s reasoning is something must be done about the crime, homicides and riots in the capital city.

“I’ve seen no plan come out of the municipal authorities,” he told WIBC in January. Really? Where are you looking? Just because you haven’t seen something doesn’t mean it doesn’t exist. The Recorder has published numerous articles about the city’s efforts to curb crime and homicides. I know we’re not the only media outlet that’s reported on these efforts. It’s

disingenuous to say there are no plans.

Sandlin, a former IMPD officer, is concerned that Indianapolis will lose downtown and all the convention money that comes with it. So, Sandlin isn’t really concerned with the loss of life or the safety of Indianapolis residents, he’s concerned with money. I’m willing to bet that’s a concern for most local officials too. It comes with the territory of being a politician, but the policies they create and their words at least offer the illusion about caring for the city’s residents. Sandlin offers no such illusion.

Instead, Sandlin decided the best plan of attack is to remove local control and give all the power to a board of five people. Will those five people all be from Indianapolis? How will those five people be chosen? What qualifications must they possess? I find it ironic that someone from the party of local control wants to remove local control. Republicans are usually inclined to want the locals to have the authority to make decisions in their best interest. In this case, however, it’s a patronizing father knows best scenario. It’s also a power grab.

“Republicans are doing everything that they can to take control, little-by-little, away from Democrats in Marion County, and the police, IMPD, is another extension of that,” Rep. Cherrish Pryor, D-Indianapolis, said recently during an interview with Fox59.

What’s also interesting is Sandlin’s timing. He’s been in office since 2016, and the high number of homicides in the city isn’t new. There have been several

record-breaking years since his tenure. What is new, however, is the protests against racial injustice that happened largely in Indianapolis. This would be the riots he referenced, and the protests occurred downtown, one area of the city he specifically mentioned and is his central focus. He’s said he doesn’t want a mayor and city-county council to be swayed by the politics of the moment and not focused on what’s best for the city’s residents. I’m sorry, isn’t governance in America supposed to be about what the people want? Is this bill something his constituents want? If so, isn’t he being swayed by the politics of the moment?

Hasn’t politics always been swayed by “the moment.” Right now, Black people — and non-Black people — want racial justice for Black people in Indianapolis. So, Sandlin wants to dismiss the cries of Indianapolis’ Black residents and non-Black residents, basically saying we don’t matter during a time when we’re unequivocally stating we do. Talk about not reading the room.

Reading between the lines, Sandlin doesn’t want protests to get in the way of convention money, he doesn’t want to hear Black Lives Matter, and he doesn’t want a possibly sympathetic mayor and city-county council (whose president is Black, by the way) to allow protesters to “take over” downtown. He wants things to return to normal when everyone just pretended everything is OK and controversial legislation slipped by without controversy. That’s so 2019.

OPINIONS

Trump impeachment redux

By LARRY SMITH



This week marks the precedent-setting second impeachment trial of former President Donald Trump. On Feb. 9, Democratic impeachment managers from the House of Representatives presented an airtight, cogent, convincing argument regarding the constitutionality of the trial. (Most Republicans question the legitimacy of the trial given that Trump has left office.)

The Democrats also began to make a clear and compelling case as to why the Senate should convict Trump of “Incitement of Insurrection.” Six Republicans joined all 48 Democrats and two Independents in affirming that the trial could proceed.

The plain fact is that Donald Trump is the de facto leader of a mob that nearly toppled the United States government on Jan. 6. Indeed, there is a clear line between his behavior and the actions of the insurrectionists. (Several of those who rioted at the Capitol have stated that they were acting on what they sincerely believed to have been orders from Trump.) Long before the

insurrection, Trump became the only U.S. president to state that he might not leave office if he lost an election. Further, he repeatedly promoted the lie that the election was “stolen” from him. The “success” of that lie is evident in the fact that most Republicans believe it.

Trump built the bomb, set the timer and waited for it to explode. He then claimed, incredulously, to be shocked by the aftermath. If his incendiary words and actions as president don’t constitute impeachable offenses, literally nothing else would. (One wonders whether it would have taken the actual murder of members of Congress — or then-Vice President Pence — to convince Republicans that Trump needs to be severely punished.)

Not surprisingly, the fact that Trump was so close to leaving office when the insurrection occurred has come up several times. In response, lead impeachment manager, Congressman Jamie Raskin, argued that there should be no “January exception” to a president’s bad behavior. In other words, if a president engages in behavior that is impeachable in his first three years, or even most of his fourth year, such behavior should be impeachable in his final days as president. If that were not the case, presidents could brazenly commit

crimes conceivably mere hours before leaving office — and do so without fear of serious reprisals. (Interestingly, Trump’s former national security advisor, John Bolton, has stated that his acquittal in the first impeachment trial emboldened him to continue his reckless behavior.)

For their part, Trump’s supporters argue that he has a right to “free speech.” To be clear, he does. But that right is a shield of liberty, not a sword of sedition. In law, there is something known as the Brandenburg Test. The two-part test concerns whether speech is “directed to inciting or producing imminent lawless action and is likely to incite or produce such action.” Several lawyers agree that Trump’s actions meet that test. However, impeachment trials are not normal court trials. Thus, certain rules don’t apply. Indeed, several facts are not even relevant.

The first irrelevant fact is that Trump’s lawyers have lost the legal argument. The Constitution does not prohibit a former elected official from being impeached. (Of course, Trump was impeached while he was still president.) This leaves the question of whether he can be tried after leaving office. The answer is yes — which leads to the next irrelevant fact.

Trump’s lawyers have lost the histori-

cal argument. As legal scholars have pointed out, Secretary of War William Belknap was tried after he resigned from office a mere two minutes before the House was to vote on his impeachment.

The third irrelevant fact is that Trump’s attorneys lose the moral argument. What Donald Trump did was wrong. Colossally wrong. This is so self-evident that even his own attorney, Bruce Castor, suggested that he could be arrested at some future point.

Fourth, Trump’s attorneys are losing, well, the argument itself. Their opening statements were rambling, incoherent and amateurish. (Trump himself reportedly fumed while listening to them.)

But Trump will be acquitted because he will win the only argument that matters — the political one. Politically speaking, the numbers are in his favor. Ostensibly, this trial is about justice and accountability. It should be about preserving and protecting the world’s longest standing democracy. Every senator who votes to acquit Donald Trump will fail in his or her duty to perpetuate the American experiment.

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

Black history in the making

By ROBIN SHACKLEFORD



Every year during Black History Month, we must explain that

Black history did not begin or end with slavery. No, our stories are vast and expansive: from farmers and brilliant agriculturists to kings and queens of the greatest civilizations. Our story is doused in gold and shining bright as emeralds, even though there are dark periods throughout

the history of Black people. We cannot forget the horrors of slavery, and we must remember that Jim Crow was just a generation ago. Yet we have a new era of kings, queens and leaders, like the incredible Vice President Kamala Harris. It is important to remember that while the good history can repeat itself, so shall the bad, if we are not careful.

In 2020, we watched cities in flames and Black bodies swinging in the southern breeze. The deaths of Ahmaud, Dreajon, George and Breonna reveal that our deeply flawed criminal justice system is the same as it was during

the terrors of slavery and Jim Crow. We saw peaceful Black Lives Matter demonstrators targeted and brutalized for practicing their First Amendment rights while more recently, insurrectionists who stormed the most sacred halls of our nation, parading a treasonous flag were subjected to lesser consequences. It is evident that we as a nation have work to do. Moreover, as we battle an unprecedented global pandemic that is disproportionately killing Black and brown people, we battle the age-old monster of racism. Yes, 2020 shined a light on the many Americas we all live in today.

While none of us would like to revisit 2020, we can revisit how our young leaders were brilliant and courageous. We saw them mobilizing for social justice reform, demonstrating and stepping up to the plate to learn policy and engage in advocacy. The youth of today mobilized like the Freedom Riders of yesterday. In addition, they took pages from SNCC and the SCLC, registering voters and mobilizing for democracy.



Without the community, we as legislators could not effectively advocate. If it were not for advocates outside the Statehouse demanding change, we would not have had the platform to create historic legislation like House Bill 1006 Law Enforcement Reform. The 2021 Indiana Black Legislative Caucus (IBLC) Justice Reform Agenda is a direct result of the knowledge gained from discussions with our young leaders and community advocates.

The IBLC has been diligently collaborat-

ing with our General Assembly colleagues to make a change. From saving lives to community empowerment, our policy agenda represents a year’s worth of advocacy, wrapped into this historic session. As chair, I am proud of our members for taking on this challenge and fighting for change. We work hard to create legislation that will change the stigmatism of mental health, encourage equity in education, provide economic empowerment and advance other important community matters. We will con-

tinue to strive for these improvements because we know advocacy works. We hope you will join us during the IBLC Virtual Advocacy Series at 11a.m. every Friday to help advocate for change and move our community forward.

Congresswoman Robin Shackelford represents Indiana House District 98, is Indiana Black Legislative Caucus chair, POWER Women Caucus vice chair and Public Health Committee ranking minority member. Contact her at H98@iga.in.gov.

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HSE
► Continued from A1

received about 30 emails from parents about teaching Black Lives Matter in schools before Bourff sent the first letter.

About 8% of students in the district are Black or African American, according to state education data, and about 70% are white.

Much of the letter, which was shared on social media, is a discussion about the role of teachers when it comes to talking about political movements, and Bourff mentions state standards that include explaining the efforts of African Americans, Native Americans, Latinx and LGBTQ communities to “assert their social and civil rights.”

Bourff didn’t suggest teachers avoid talking about Black Lives Matter and says schools have led discussions for years about other political movements such as women’s suffrage and the American Revolution.

“I am requesting that if you work with the topic, treat it as a political issue, teach it without advancing it or promoting your personal views,” he wrote.

Bourff cited an AP government and politics teacher in Virginia for how

to address Black Lives Matter in the classroom.

In a follow-up letter, Bourff said his intent was to give guidance to teachers to help students develop their own positions.

“The intent of yesterday’s letter to the faculty was designed to provide instructional strategies to discuss and teach Black Lives Matter, one of the most significant issues of our time,” he wrote. “I understand that the impact was hurtful, and for that I apologize.”

He also wrote he doesn’t want teachers to “abandon their passion” for social causes and clarified that he didn’t request teachers not talk about social issues. The second letter doesn’t include any mentions of Black Lives Matter as a political issue.

The district has a chief equity and inclusion officer, Nataki Pettigrew, but Abbotts said Pettigrew has been away from work for a family matter and was not consulted about the letter.

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

Hogsett, Taylor make appointments to new IMPD board

By STAFF

Mayor Joe Hogsett and Indianapolis Metropolitan Police Department Chief Randal Taylor announced two appointments each to the new General Orders Board, which is responsible for Indianapolis Metropolitan Police Department policy.

Hogsett appointed Jasmin French, senior manager of ethics and compliance at Cummins, and Chrystal Ratcliffe, president of the local NAACP chapter. He announced the appointments Feb. 5.

Taylor appointed former IMPD Chief Bryan Roach, who retired in 2019, and IMPD Capt. David Robinson, who has been with the department for 25 years.

“These community leaders will play

an integral role in guiding transparent, effective policy for the Indianapolis Metropolitan Police Department,” Hogsett said in a statement. “I look forward to their thoughtful stewardship as we work to enhance trust and collaboration with law enforcement.”

The General Orders Board is a seven-person committee that sets department policy. The board has a 4-3 civilian majority. The Indianapolis City-County Council also gets two civilian appointments, and active members of the department elect one member. Members serve for two years.

The board, approved by the city-county council last year, replaced the General Orders Committee, which had three members and no civilians.

“One more rep” turns into two, then three, then four.




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Remember, we need to keep wearing masks and following other protective measures to keep everyone safe.



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Love yourself this Valentine's Day by looking after your heart

By CAMEUAL WRIGHT

Not only is February a month dedicated to the ones you love, but it is also a time to love yourself by looking after your heart. Although COVID-19 is an ongoing worry, heart disease is still the No. 1 leading cause of death in the U.S. This staggering statistic calls for continuous action to prioritize your heart health and improve your current lifestyle. Dr. Cameual Wright, market chief medical officer for CareSource Indiana, a nonprofit health plan, shares how you can look after your heart health this month.

What Are the Risks?

Your heart is divided, quite literally, into two pumping systems, both needing to remain clear in order to fight off cardiovascular diseases. Typical lifestyles of poor eating habits and high cholesterol levels conflict with the necessary routine to keep up with your heart health. The U.S. continues to rise in high obesity rates, escalating to 44.8% of middle-aged adults in the last five years according to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC). Knowledge is power, and the first step to combating these statistics is to understand what contributes to the risk of heart disease.

Preventive Action

Limiting your risk of cardiovascular diseases involves several important steps. First and foremost, it is crucial to visit your doctor annually and check in on your blood pressure and cholesterol levels, as those are often the biggest misses given there are no symptoms. Another important change is to eat a healthier diet of fruit, vegetables and whole grains, avoiding unnecessary saturated fats and added sugar. Implementing moderate physical activity and strength training to build muscle will also improve your heart health greatly. If you are prescribed medications, make sure you

are taking them as directed and keep in touch with your provider by asking questions as you implement these healthy changes.

The Effects of COVID-19

With the ongoing concern of COVID-19, patients are now feeling even more overwhelmed about their health. The virus affects both the respiratory and cardiovascular systems, resulting in a higher risk of death or severe illness for those with poor heart health. Additionally, the pandemic has patients worried about keeping up with in-person doctor visits. However, it is safe to come into the office, and missing those checkups could result in undiscovered health issues.

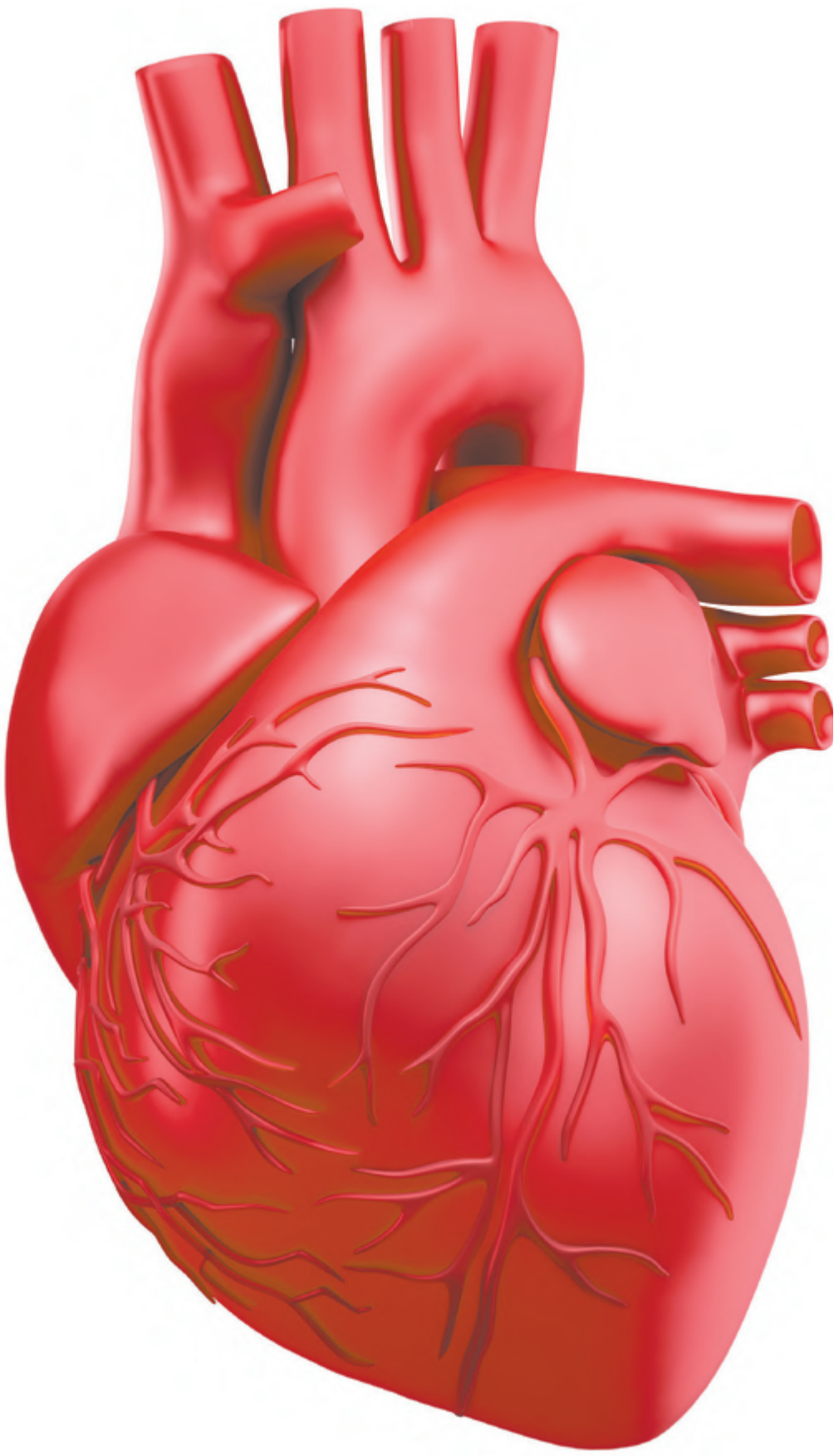
How to Improve Your Health

Along with an unhealthy diet, the added stress of the world we are in today can also increase the risks of heart complications. Exercise is one of the most underutilized stress reducers as well as keeping up with important relationships. By spending time with friends and family and focusing on improving mindfulness, you can reduce stress levels and decrease your blood pressure.

Looking after your heart can feel like a full-time job. With a full network of health providers, CareSource is here to help manage heart disease, provide necessary referrals and schedule any needed heart-related testing. Our diverse staff is readily available and well-equipped to treat communities of color as we recognize these groups are often the most vulnerable.

It is never too early to implement healthy habits for the sake of your heart and your future. To explore your options and get connected to a provider, visit caresource.com.

Dr. Cameual Wright is CareSource Market chief medical officer.



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Vaccines are needed to fight COVID-19

Many different prevention tools are important to stopping the COVID-19 pandemic. Vaccines are one of the most effective tools to protect everyone's health and prevent disease.

Vaccines work with the body's natural defenses to build immunity so it can fight the virus if a person is exposed. Other steps, like wearing a mask that covers the nose and mouth, and staying at least 6 feet away from others who don't live in the same household, also help stop the spread of COVID-19.

Studies show that COVID-19 vaccines are very effective at preventing infection of the virus. Experts also think that the vaccine may help prevent serious illness even if someone becomes infected with COVID-19. These vaccines cannot give you the disease itself.

Many people are concerned about the safety of the vaccine. The U.S. vaccine safety system makes sure that all vaccines are as safe as possible. All of the COVID-19 vaccines currently available have gone through the same safety tests and meet the same standards as any other vaccine produced through the years.

A system in place across the entire country allows the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) to watch for safety issues.

Different types of COVID-19 vaccines will be available after they go through the approval process. The two current vaccines are given in two shots, one at a time and spaced apart. The first shot gets the body ready. The second shot is given at least three weeks later to ensure the full protection.

The vaccines may cause side effects in some people, like sore muscles, feeling tired or mild fever. These reactions mean the vaccine is working to help teach the body how to fight COVID-19 if exposed. For most people, these side effects will last no longer than a day or two. Having these types of side effects does not mean that you have COVID-19. Consult a physician or primary health care provider with any questions about the vaccine or health concerns after receiving the shot.

When getting the vaccine, the patient and the healthcare worker should both wear masks. CDC recommends that during the pandemic, people wear a mask that covers the nose and mouth when in contact with others outside their household, when in healthcare facilities, and when receiving any vaccine.

Even after receiving the vaccine, everyone needs to continue to properly wear a mask, wash hands often, and stay at least 6 feet away from people outside the household. This, along with the vaccine, offers the best protection from catching the virus.

Right now, scientists are still learning more about the virus that causes COVID-19. It is not known whether getting COVID-19 disease will protect everyone against getting it again or how long that protection might last. Following the guidelines from CDC and local health departments, such as the Marion County Public Health Department, is important to reducing the spread of the virus.

Not everyone will be able to get vaccinated right away, so it's still important to protect each other from COVID-19.

To register for a vaccine in Indiana, please visit OurShot.IN.gov or call 2-1-1. Residents do not have to get vaccinated in their home county. Indiana residents can make an appointment for a clinic anywhere in the state.



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COVID-19 VACCINE

It runs in the family; Eden Missionary has a new pastor

By BREANNA COOPER
BreannaC@indyrecorder.com

Adrienne Overton grew up in Eden Missionary Baptist Church in Haughville. Her father was a pastor there, along with her grandfather and great-grandfather before him. Traditional Baptists, they didn't believe women should be in the clergy.

But when Overton, 38, heard the call from God to pastor her family church, she knew she was in no position to say "no." The tricky part, she thought, would be breaking the news to her family.

"I knew I had to let my father know," said Overton, who previously served as a youth minister. "So, I sent him a text and told him God has called me to preach, and I was so scared to see how he would respond. He was so open-minded and said, 'That's one of the things God shared with me when you were born and I first held you.'"

Overton said her grandfather had a vision that she would become a preacher when she played piano at church as a girl. "It was so liberating to hear



Adrienne Overton

these two men who have been pastors now accept me and give me that go-ahead," she said.

Overton became the head pastor of Eden Missionary Baptist Church in January after her father stepped down due to health issues. She said the congregation has welcomed her with open arms and is supportive of her and her family — which includes her husband, a deacon, and their 2-year-old daughter.

Joanne Horn, a member of Eden Missionary since 1999

and Overton's longtime neighbor, said she saw signs Overton would become a pastor when she watched her grow up.

"Later on in life, when she was going to college, that's when I realized that she was different from most of the young kids," Horn said. "She's very intelligent and a very good young lady."

Horn said she never imagined a woman leading her church, but the church took the change in stride.

"Things do change," Horn

said. "For a lot of people, it takes time to accept change ... but we're very proud and happy that she's our pastor."

Unfortunately, not everyone has been so accepting of a woman behind the pulpit. Overton said she has lost friends since becoming a pastor, and her father has gotten disparaging remarks about her doing "men's work."

However, while some were outright nasty regarding Overton's decision to become a pastor, she said much of the backlash she's faced has been implicit.

"It was in the form of not getting invited to the table," Overton said. "I remember there was one event that was talking about women in the ministry, but there were no women on the panel. There is always an expectation that I bring something to the table, but I can't sit at it."

One of Overton's goals as a pastor is to increase the visibility of women in the clergy so more women and girls can follow their own calling to the ministry. Beyond that, she

wants the word to reach as many people as possible.

"I want to make the word of God as relatable as possible," Overton said. "We should be engaging with each other and our external community to be a blessing to one another inside and outside our congregation."

Overton is aware certain life events can turn people away from religion. She's suffered miscarriages, struggled with depression and is a parent to a child with special needs. She said, however, that church leaders can use these real-life experiences to make more people feel at home in the church.

"Instead of acting like the church has it all together, how about we journey together?" Overton asked. "We all need God, because we all — from the top to the bottom — are at different places in our lives. We need to make the Bible relatable, be transparent and be empowering."

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

Pastor says fight for civil rights looks different in 2021

By JOE SEVERINO

CHARLESTON, W.Va. (AP) — For America's Civil Rights Movement, 2020 was a tough year.

Giants of the Civil Rights Movement, John Lewis and the Rev. C.T. Vivian, both died July 17. The Rev. Joe Lowery, who helped the Rev. Martin Luther King Jr. found the Southern Christian Leadership Conference, died just four months before.

All three worked closely over the years with King in the fight for racial justice and, for decades long after King was assassinated, these leaders still served as a light for that fight, said the Rev. Ron English, who served 21 years as head pastor at the First Baptist Church of Charleston.

English's ties to the King family are well known in the community. Born in 1944 in Atlanta, English grew up attending Ebenezer Baptist Church, where King's father served as senior pastor for 44 years. The two families were close, and English delivered a prayer at King's funeral in April 1968.

Toward the end of his prayer, English called for the community to deepen its commitment to King's teachings, strictly adhering to nonviolence as the foundation for change.

Now, nearly 53 years later, COVID-19 disproportionately kills Black Americans and, with the mass racial justice protests in the country last summer in response to the killing of George Floyd, English said 2020 has once again created the forum to spur systemic change.

But as longtime influential civil rights icons become fewer in number, English said, the country is deeply missing those voices during this time of crisis.

"The leadership that was rooted in the pattern of nonviolence, which was really a way of moving from harm to healing, that kind of direction is void in this moment, English said.

Crisis will present itself and find leaders like King, English said, but today it's difficult to find those people.

"What struck me was their moral compass and moral convictions were a part of how they made a difference — and we don't have on the national scene, that kind of moral consciousness and leadership," he said. "That's a vacuum that hopefully will be filled."

One person who could fill the vacuum is Georgia's newly-elected senator, the Rev. Raphael Warnock. Warnock is the state's first Black senator, and he remains senior pastor at Ebenezer Baptist in Atlanta. The senator said he plans to return home every weekend to continue services.

Warnock presided over the funerals for both of English's parents. He's led the historic church since 2005, which today boasts a congregation of more than 6,000 people.

The last time Warnock entered the U.S. Capitol building before he took office was in 2017, when he was arrested for praying in the rotunda. He and other religious leaders protested a bill introduced by House Republicans that would have cut a number of social services for the poor.

Warnock holds King's commitment to persistent nonviolent protest as a way of achieving racial justice, but in 2021, there are hardly any other folks in power who have stepped up to show they share the same beliefs, English said.

After Warnock won his race, English posted a photo to Facebook he took in 2015 of Warnock, Lewis and longtime civil rights leader Julian Bond in a back study room in Ebenezer Baptist. He congratulated his colleague, welcoming him to the famed fellowship of good trouble.

Warnock is just one man fighting for systemic change. To get things done, English said, others in power have to step up too.

"That's where I think the void is, and I really don't know where and how that void is going to be fixed," English said. "We might be dealing with that for a while until the issues become so deep that we see that they cannot just be resolved by legislation."

English, who recently took over as president of the Charleston NAACP, knows at least where the fight begins.

Community-level organizing and collaboration, with constant communication and planning from groups and individuals within communities, he said, is just the basis for generating change.

Just look at how Warnock was elected.

"I didn't think he would win. I really didn't," English said about when he first heard Warnock was wading into the hotly contested Senate race. And when all eyes turned to Georgia Jan. 6, with control of the Senate on the line, Warnock trounced his opponent by almost 93,000 votes.

Behind Warnock's victory was a team of Black women organizers who put in the groundwork and turned out the vote statewide. Leading that fight was former gubernatorial candidate Stacey Abrams, who worked tirelessly in the two years after her narrow defeat to flip Georgia blue.

English said Abrams' commitment to the community pushed Warnock across the line.

"Her genius was really what kind

of informed his platform, as well as informed his way of organizing and how that hooked up at the right time for the right cause," English said. "So I think a lot of the issues that he will address in terms of poverty, social justice and racial inequality will be largely conditioned by how the impact of Stacey Abrams helped bring that victory about."

English said when he was a young man, he was driving late in the night through Stone Mountain, east of Atlanta, which at the time was heavy Ku Klux Klan territory. Then the blue lights started flashing behind him.

"A trooper stopped without any reason, and when I got out of the car and asked him why he stopped me, he slapped me on the hand with a flashlight, almost broke my finger and said 'N****, I don't have to have a reason to stop you,' and then he told me to get in the car," English said.

When police stopped Black men near Stone Mountain, English said they didn't always make it to behind bars.

"I was glad when we arrived at the jail because a lot of times Black men who had gotten in the backseat of a trooper's car were never heard of again," he said.

Thanks to the work of King, Lewis and other civil rights leaders, this outright criminal racism is less often found. But after schools were ordered to be desegregated in 1954, English said a lot of the country looked away from the systemic racism still plaguing Black communities, especially in the Deep South.

Recalling conversations with King near the end of his life, English said King said on more than one occasion said "that his dream had become a nightmare," because of the continuing evils of racism, militarism and economic depression.

Half a century beyond English's most threatening interaction with police, Black communities still hold distrust for law enforcement. English said he's glad to help build that trust in Charleston, where he's worked with officers through trainings on emotional intelligence, helping them recognize their own biases and how their emotions affect them.

Floyd's death by the knee of a Minneapolis Police officer ignited the nationwide push for a similar system of community policing, English said.

Improving police-community relations is just one issue facing the Black population, but it's one that's instrumental to building the health of Black communities, English said. In West Virginia, Black communities suffer from high rates of racial health disparities, which the pandemic will

only worsen.

COVID-19 not only hit Black communities harder, English said, the vaccine rollout has also disproportionately favored white people in the states tracking race data. Abuses like the Tuskegee experiments still linger in the minds of Black Americans, he said, leaving these communities to further suffer if that trust is not built.

"It's really going to be a challenge for us to encourage Black folk to take the vaccine," he said.

Building wealth in Black communities is the other key to building strong communities. Similar to Charleston's Triangle District — a primarily Black community that was gutted for the construction of an interstate in the 1970s — English's boyhood neighborhood in Atlanta was once a home to Black-owned businesses and was filled with opportunities for economic development.

"One of the things that made growing up in Atlanta unique — Auburn Avenue in Atlanta was like the Black Wall Street. Everything we needed was on Auburn Avenue," he said. "It was really so close to being sufficient in the way of meeting the needs of everyday folk. That part of Atlanta was just a prized place to be."

Auburn Avenue runs right beside Ebenezer Baptist, but you won't find that same community in Atlanta today.

"Gentrification around that area has really moved a lot of folks out that were there," English said. "That's one of the sad parts of going back home and not seeing those spaces and places that I grew up with."

With a renewed spirit and ground-level momentum behind achieving racial justice, English said there is so much work that needs to be put in across-the-board. The last four years if anything have magnified the systemic racism that exists in America today, he said.

"The good news about what's happening now is that it's becoming more evident. It's becoming more revealed, and you can't heal what you don't reveal," English said.

Like the fire that King and those leaders ignited half a century ago, English said he again sees communities desperate for change. And now it's now on us to meet the moment like they did.

"There's a continuing pattern that unfolds in history, that after this kind of explosion, it begins to make a difference in terms of how the healing can take place," English said, "and unless you know the extent and depth of the harm, you can't move toward healing."

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Sandra Jean Brittain, also known as Jeannie and Granny, was born to Howard W. and (Ida) Naomi Grady on October 6, 1944 in Indianapolis, In. She attended grade school at IPS Schools #29, and #56. Sandra also attended Arsenal Technical High School where she graduated in 1963. Sandra fell in love with, and married Larry R. Brittain Sr. on June 18, 1966. Their union produced four children: David, Tracey, Lorri, Larry Jr.

Sandra (Jeannie) was a lifetime member of The Church of the Living God P.G. of T #2, where she was a faithful usher, served as the usher board president for many years, and was also a Sunday School teacher. She lived her life in service to the Lord, and others. She was a true testament to the motto "Usher for Life".

Sandra had a special place in her heart for children, and in her own words, "I have been the family babysitter since I was thirteen years old." She took pleasure in teaching children, watching them learn and grow. Although she had worked at four other daycares, Sandra, or Granny as she was commonly referred to, decided to open her own home daycare, The Potters House, in 1994. Over 50 children came through her daycare, all of whom have go on to do amazing things. She believed that all those that were under her care were a gift from the Lord, believing that she was to love & care for those children, and their entire family, as if they were her own.

She had a positive impact on everyone with whom she came in contact and was never too shy to strike up a conversation. She had a smile, and kind word for all. Her home was open to all, and everyone who entered found the peace of God. Entering her home, you felt free to unburden yourself, and then receive a comforting word, head rub, or a hug. She was in essence, "Everybody's Granny!"

Sandra (Granny) Jean Brittain departed this earthly life on Wednesday February 3, 2021 at the age of 76 years old. She was preceded in death by her loving husband Larry R Brittain Sr, both parents: Howard and Naomi Grady; one brother Howard Thomas, and 3 sisters - Alice (Grady) Coleman, Betty (Grady) Howard, Jill (Grady) Smith.

Sandra leaves to cherish her memory; her children David Brittain (Mona), Tracey Jones, Lorri Brittain and Larry Brittain Jr. Brothers: James "Sonny" (Ruth), Leslie Sr. "Les" (Jeanette), Richard "Dickie", Dale "Tony", Nicholas "Nicky Ray." Sisters: Joyce, Donna (Gerry), Sharon "Sherry" (Leon)

Grandchildren; Jason Epps, Justin Wilson (Whitney), Arianna Brittain, Sandra A. Brittain (Sandra Jr.), Sean Jones Jr., Christopher "DJ" (Tina) Jones, Whitney Jones, Jana Jones, Irviana "Yana" Williams, Davion Williams, Eboni Crooms, Akia Brittain, and Lakysa Brittain. Sixteen (16) great grandchildren, a whole host of nieces, nephews, and Church of the Living God P.G. of T. family.


SPIRITUAL OUTLOOK

Our cloud

"In order to know our routes, we must know our roots."

"Suddenly all my ancestors are behind me. Be Still, they say. Watch and listen. You are the result of the love of thousands."

"Therefore, since we are surrounded by so great a cloud of witnesses (who by faith have testified to the truth of God's absolute faithfulness), stripping off every unnecessary weight and the sin which so easily and cleverly entangles us, let us run with endurance and active persistence the race that is set before us, (looking away from all that will distract us and) focusing our eyes on Jesus, who is the author and perfecter of faith." Hebrews 12:1-2



By SHEILA P. SPENCER

This past year I have taken time to reflect on my past travels, since I haven't traveled in a while. One of my most prized possessions is a handmade Sankofa statue. It is a bird with its head turned backward taking an egg from its back. It expresses the importance of reaching back to knowledge gained in the past and bringing it into the present in order to make positive progress. This reminds me that revisiting the past can inspire and give insight for our future. There is wisdom from the elders.

This past week I have immersed myself in Cicely Tyson's memoir, "Just as I Am." She passed away at the age of 96. When she was born, doctors told her parents that she might not live three months. However, she shared that her parents had a faith in Christ and determination that she had a call on her life. She was an advocate, artist, actress, inspiration and living legend. One of her statements: "I don't know when my day is coming. None of us does. Which is why, as soon as my lids slide open each morning, I say "Thank you. Thank you, Father, for the gift of another

day. Thank you for just one more breath. Thank you for the sacred opportunity to live this life."

Now that she has transitioned, her words and the Hebrews 12:1-2 passage are like marching orders as we continue. This past season has reinforced the importance of living our true and authentic self. As time is measured, our days are more treasured. Cicely reminds us that each day is an invitation to begin again. Each day is an opportunity to walk in our gifts. Each day is an opportunity to love ourselves, our family and friends. Each day is an opportunity to live this life. Each day is a sacred opportunity to live this life. She now joins the cloud of witnesses of ancestors who have gone on before us and encourage us at this moment. I have found myself repeating her words as I wake up each day.

Shortly before her transition, during an interview Gayle King asked her, "When the time comes, what do you want us to remember about you?" Her answer was simple. "I've done my best."

Live each day and see it as an opportunity to bring Christ's light into the world. When we live out the life and gifts within us, we shine that light. We honor God and the ancestors who paved the way

before us. After all their sacrifices, how dare we not live out and use our authentic gifts. We have a cloud of witnesses.

Did you know the Association for the Study of African American Life and History (ASALH) was founded by Dr. Carter G. Woodson. He is known as the "Father of Black History" and his life's work and the mission of ASALH since its founding in 1915 represent a living testimony to the year-round and year-after-year study of African American history. The mission of ASALH is to promote, research, preserve, interpret and disseminate information about Black life, history and culture to the global community. The 2021 theme is "The Black Family: Representation, Identity, and Diversity." The Black Family offers a rich tapestry of images for exploring the African American past and present. Go to asalh.org.

Blessed to be a blessing to you,

Rev. Sheila P. Spencer
Minister Sheila P. Spencer is an author, educator, poet and speaker. She can be contacted at CustomMadeInspiration@gmail.com, and her website is sheilapspencer.com.

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Comcast program helps BIPOC-owned businesses

By TYLER FENWICK
tylerf@indyrecorder.com

Daniel and Suzette Sweatt didn't even get to unpack at the new location for their fitness center in March 2020 before they had to close the doors because of the COVID-19 pandemic.

It took a few weeks, but the Sweatts implemented a virtual model for SweattBoxx Wellness Center on North Post Road by the end of the month. Still, rent was due, and their revenue stream was on pause.

"You had to learn to pivot very quickly," said Suzette, who temporarily went on unemployment.

Suzette said they took advantage of their large parking lot for socially distanced, outdoor workouts in the summer, and the fitness center now operates on a hybrid model since gyms haven't been allowed to fully reopen.

The pandemic actually led to some positives as a new customer base got involved through the virtual model, but then there are those challenges that many business owners have had to grapple with over the last 10 months. There was rent, lackluster internet, technology issues — and limited business.

SweattBoxx Wellness Center got a boost recently from the Comcast RISE program, which provides grants, marketing, creative, media and technology services to companies owned by Black, Indigenous and people of color, otherwise known as BIPOC.

Suzette said the program afforded their business a new laptop, two iPads, security cameras, internet for a year and Wi-Fi access for customers.



Daniel Sweatt, co-owner of SweattBoxx Wellness Center, works with a client at the fitness center he owns with his wife, Suzette. (Photo provided by Suzette Sweatt)

Applications for the next phase of the RISE program will open soon.

In order to qualify, a business must be at least 51% BIPOC-owned and operated, independently owned and operated, registered to conduct business in the U.S., located within the Comcast Business or Effectv service area, and have been in operation for at least one year. (Effectv is the advertising sales division of Comcast Cable.)

Home-based services aren't eligible for a technology makeover but are eligible for other services.

According to the National Bureau of Economic Research, between February and April 2020, the number of active Black-owned businesses declined by 41%, compared to 21% for the general population.

RISE is one of several programs launched during the pandemic to address the needs of Black and other minority business owners.

Black Onyx Management, a Black-owned management consulting firm, launched Indy Accompliceship in November 2020 to help businesses and other organizations make pledges related to, among other things, spending money with Black contractors.

Eli Lilly, Citizens Energy Group and other businesses started the Indy Racial Equity Pledge in October 2020. Similar to Indy Accompliceship, businesses set specific goals such as spending a certain amount of money with Black-owned businesses.

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

Kelley School of Business alumni give \$1 million toward diversity efforts



Derica Rice and Robin Nelson-Rice. (Photo provided by the Center for Leadership Development)

By STAFF

Indiana University Kelley School of Business alumni Derica Rice and Robin Nelson-Rice donated \$1 million to support students who are part of the school's Consortium for Graduate Study in Management, which works to increase diversity in business education.

The couple's gift creates the Rice Consortium Fellows program to enhance diversity and inclusion at the Kelley School of Business and helps the school's full-time master's program attract underrepresented students. Their donation will support fellowships for two first-year consortium students and two second-year consortium students annually.

The Kelley School of Business co-founded the consortium in 1966.

"We are deeply grateful to Robin and Derica Rice for their generous support of this journey," said Idalene Kesner, dean of the Kelley School and

the Frank P. Popoff Chair of Strategic Management. "Their gift is a wonderful example of 'paying it forward.' The opportunities their gift provides to future business leaders — the gift of education — produces benefits far, far greater than one program or school or university. It is the gift that benefits entire communities."

The couple, who met as master's students at Kelley and graduated in 1990, credit the consortium for their business success.

Rice has spent more than 30 years as a health care executive, including 27 years at Eli Lilly and Co. He is currently a board member for The Walt Disney Co., Target Corp. and Bristol Myers Squibb Co.

Nelson-Rice has held marketing positions at Eli Lilly and AT&T. She is a philanthropist and volunteers on community boards and institutions, including the Indianapolis Museum of Art and the Women's Fund of Central Indiana.



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CLOSING THE GAP

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ABOUT THIS EVENT

According to the Brookings Institute, the median white household held \$188,200 in wealth in 2019, nearly eight times that of the typical African American family at \$24,100. To boost financial health in the African American community, Northwestern Mutual's Wise Financial is teaming up with INNOPOWER and the Indianapolis Recorder to present "Closing the Gap," a financial literacy initiative designed to help individuals gain a practical and thorough understanding of finance.

"Financial stress continues to affect people of color disproportionately, and this initiative will provide tools and information to help address the current wealth gap," said Mark Wise, President, and CEO of Wise Financial. "I especially want to thank Eddie Gill, a passionate member of our team who has dedicated his time to mentoring in underserved communities and is spearheading this effort."

With additional collaboration from RightHand, "Closing the Gap" aims to teach individuals how to effectively assess their financial health through a series of virtual town hall-style meetings. They will examine topics including practical ways to budget, plan for retirement, and manage debt, amongst several others.

The meetings will be streamed live on the Indianapolis Recorder's Facebook page at facebook.com/IndyRecorder, and financial insights and tips will also be shared in its print, digital and social platforms. Each meeting will take place from 11:30 a.m. – 1:00 p.m. The schedule is as follows:

Black History Month

- Session #1: Wed, February 17
- Session #2: Wed, February 24

Women's History Month

- Session #3: Wed, March 10
- Session #4: Wed, March 24

Financial Literacy Month

- Session #5: Wed, April 14 (Money Smart Week)
- Session #6: Wed, April 28

GAME CHANGERS: Manning, Woodson, Megatron headed to Hall

By EDDIE PELLIS
AP National Writer

Though others have eclipsed him in some sections of the record book, Peyton Manning's stamp on the NFL is very much a thing of 2021 and beyond.

Manning, the quarterback whose meticulous attention to detail helped turn the 21st-century gridiron into a chessboard on turf, was awarded his spot in the Pro Football Hall of Fame on Feb. 6 in his first year of eligibility.

The son of Saints legend Archie and brother of two-time Super Bowl champion Eli will be joined later this year in Canton by another first-ballot lock, defensive back Charles Woodson, who beat out Manning for the Heisman Trophy in 1997, and then spent nearly two decades trying to stop him. Calvin Johnson — aka "Megatron" — was also a first-ballot selection, his mere nine years of playmaking excellence with the Lions more than enough to convince the panel.

Also making it were guard Alan Faneca, who made nine Pro Bowls and missed only one game over 13 seasons with the Steelers, Jets and Cardinals; and John Lynch, the hard-hitting safety who burnished his reputation in Tampa Bay.

Cowboys receiver Drew Pearson, Raiders coach Tom Flores and long-time Steelers scout Bill Nunn made it in the senior, coach and contributor categories, respectively.

In a nod to COVID-19, the voters eschewed their traditional all-day meeting Saturday in favor of a virtual gathering on Jan. 19. Manning found out a few days later, with his coaches and his family delivering the news. The winners' names were made public at the NFL Honors awards ceremony. Jaguars left tackle Tony Boselli and Dolphins linebacker Zach Thomas were among the finalists whose names were not called.

Manning going into the hall was all but preordained. That's fitting, in a way, because more than any quarterback before him, he used every minute of his preparation during the week, and then every second at the line of scrimmage during the games, doing all he could to eliminate doubt about the result of every play before it happened.

His work in the video room, his "voluntary" offseason throw-and-catch sessions with receivers, his quizzing of coaches and teammates alike during practices — all were the stuff of legend.

The end game came on Sundays, for 14 seasons with the Indianapolis Colts, then four more with the Denver Broncos, when he barked "Omaha, Omaha!" at the line of scrimmage — we still don't know what it means — then went about dissecting defenses en route to 186 regular-season victories, a still-record five MVP awards and two Super Bowl titles in four trips.

When Manning retired after leading the Broncos to the title in 2016, he had the career records for passing yardage (71,940) and touchdowns (539), among others, and was part of the conversation as Greatest Of All Time.

Drew Brees and Tom Brady have eclipsed those numbers. Brady, who won his seventh Super Bowl on Feb. 7, has shut the door on the GOAT debate. Still, he's well aware of Manning's role in making the modern-day passing game what it is today.

"Like any great quarterback, there's a lot of responsibility that you take on," Brady said in reflecting on Manning's place in the game. "You want to make sure everything's a reflection of how you see the game and you want to make sure everyone's on the same page. And when everyone's seeing it through the same set of eyes, it's a great way to play football."

One-time University of Tennessee assistant David Cutcliffe says he knew Manning was something special when the quarterback, in advance of his freshman year, took three pages' worth of handwritten notes on a base play the Vols ran called 62 Meyer.

"He redefined preparation," Cutcliffe said during a 2013 interview. "He redefined the quality of the work that's expected of the people around him."

He ushered in an era that turned the reading of the Xs and Os from an art to a science, setting the template for a modern-day passing game very much reliant on pre-snap reads that lead to quick decisions and allow the smartest of quarterbacks to get out of bad plays before they happen.

All those smarts, of course, belied a physical gift that allowed Manning to



Peyton Manning was selected for induction into the Pro Football Hall of Fame Class of 2021. Manning is set to be formally enshrined in Canton on Aug. 8. (Photo/David Dixon)



play for 18 years, including a comeback from four delicate neck surgeries that left him unable to grip a football at first.

Weeks after the second operation, Manning snuck off to a Colorado Rockies batting cage to throw with his old UT buddy, Todd Helton. Manning's first toss went about 5 yards before fluttering to the ground. Helton laughed because he thought Manning was joking.

Not three years later, Manning threw 55 touchdown passes — that record still stands as the most in a season —

and started in the Super Bowl for the Broncos. Two seasons after that, he wasn't in much better shape, ailing with an arch injury that cost him half the season and what was left of his limited mobility. But he guided the Broncos to a win in Super Bowl 50 — then left the field forever.

"I called John Elway, called Dan Marino, called Troy Aikman, called Brett Favre, to let them know and (tell them) how thankful I am to be on the same team as them," Manning said shortly after he got word about his honor in an interview with the Broncos website. "And the impact they had on me, either studying them or them talking to me after a game, or whatever it may be."

Manning both entered and exited the NFL the same time as Woodson, the cornerback who went to one Super Bowl in his first eight years with the Raiders, then went to Green Bay to win his only Super Bowl title, before finishing out his career as a safety in Oakland.

He finished his career with 65 interceptions and 13 defensive touchdowns, tied for the career record with Rod Woodson and Darren Sharper.

Panthers cruise to sectional title



North Central coasted through its three sectional games, concluding with an 82-42 win over Lawrence North in the title game. The Panthers play Brownsburg in a 4A regional game Feb. 13.



North Central junior Ramiah Elliott is one of the top defenders and rebounders in the state. She also had 11 points against Lawrence North. (Photos/David Dixon)



North Central defeated Lawrence Central, 71-28, in the semifinal game.



Myles Turner (left) and Jazz forward Royce O'Neal go after the ball.

Pacers drop to .500 with loss to Jazz



Pacers guard Malcolm Brogdon scored 15 points but also committed four turnovers. (Photos/Walt Thomas)