

CELEBRATING OUR HISTORY TODAY AND EVERY DAY – BLACK HISTORY MATTERS

Madam Walker mural unveiled at airport

By BREANNA COOPER
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An 11-foot tall and 75-foot long mural, “Entrepreneurs Awakening: The Making of a Legacy,” featuring Madam C.J. Walker was unveiled Feb. 23 at the Indianapolis International Airport.

Walker, who was the first self-made female millionaire, made her mark on Indiana Avenue when she relocated her beauty company to the city in 1910.

“This endeavor has been in the works for more than a year, and it took a diverse group of community partners and talented individuals to bring it to life,” said Indianapolis Airport Authority Executive Director Mario Rodriguez. “It is an incredible piece of artwork, worthy to represent the tremendous inspiration Madam Walker is to the history of American entrepreneurship and our great city.”

When local artist Tasha Beckwith, 38, was selected to create the mural by the Indianapolis Airport Authority and the Arts Council of Indianapolis, she re-



One panel of “Entrepreneurs Awakening: The Making of a Legacy” by Tasha Beckwith. (Photo provided by Indianapolis International Airport)

See WALKER, A2 ►



Members of the Indiana Black Legislative Caucus (IBLC) called for reprimands for Republican legislators following several altercations Feb. 18. (Photo provided by IBLC)

IBLC calls for reprimands, implicit bias training

By BREANNA COOPER
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Members of the Indiana Black Legislative Caucus (IBLC) are calling for implicit bias training for Indiana House and Senate members and for Indiana Republican legislators to be reprimanded for incidents that occurred Feb. 18.

During debate on House Bill 1367 last week, several members of the IBLC were booed while sharing their experiences with racism and discrimination. After the vote, Rep. Vernon Smith, D-Gary, said he was verbally assaulted by Rep. Alan Morrison, R-Versailles, in a Statehouse restroom.

Smith said he was washing his hands when Morrison walked into the restroom and began berating him.

“He started on a tirade about how I was a bully on the floor but was really a coward,” Smith said during a press conference Feb. 23. “I ignored him as much as I could, but I didn’t take time to dry my hands, because many of them [Republican lawmakers] carry weapons and it’s my word against his, and he could say I

started something.”

Smith said Morrison followed him out into the hallway and continued berating him until one of Morrison’s colleagues pulled him aside. Smith has served in the Indiana House of Representatives for 31 years and said he has never been booed or been afraid of his colleagues.

“If we’re not able to share viewpoints, we’re a sad group of people,” Smith said. “Our minds have to be open when we’re solving problems. I refuse to be intimidated. I have a right to speak, and [Republicans] won’t program what I’m going to say.”

Morrison declined to comment.

Rep. Vanessa Summers, D-Indianapolis, got into a near-violent altercation with Rep. Sean Eberhart, R-Shelbyville, after the bill was voted on. Eberhart claimed Summers verbally assaulted him and called him a racist, according to the IndyStar. Summers told the Recorder she was speaking to Rep. Jim Lucas, R-Seymour, who was standing next to Eberhart.

“[Eberhart] went from one to 100 as soon as he heard ‘racist,’” Summers said.

Eberhart was shoved into a restroom by Rep. Bob Morris, R-Fort Wayne, and Summers was

See IBLC, A2 ►

Frederick Douglass Park to get new family center through city investment



The Frederick Douglass Park Family Center will get a new facility thanks to a \$20 million investment from the city. (Photo/Tyler Fenwick)

By TYLER FENWICK

Mayor Joe Hogsett announced proposed funding for a series of upgrades to city-county facilities, including \$20 million that will go toward a new Family Center for Frederick Douglass Park.

Frederick Douglass Park is celebrating its centennial this year, and community members have long targeted the 65-year-old Family Center as a site that needs upgraded.

“For a century now, Frederick Douglass Park been a significant neighborhood asset, one that our stakeholders hold very dear,” Barato Britt, president and CEO of the Edna Martin Christian Center, said in a statement. “Its revitalization ensures that the citizens of Martindale Brightwood and our surrounding communities have a recreational amenity that serves all, while preserving our neighborhood’s rich history and legacy.”

The money will also go toward additional parking and

See PARK, A2 ►



COVID-19 one year later: Lasting effects and things we wish we knew then

By TYLER FENWICK
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Alicia Murray picked up a bag of Fritos recently, took a bite of one and thought the taste was off. It was disgusting, she thought, even though Fritos didn’t taste weird when she had some the week before.

That’s become a common occurrence for Murray, who, along with the rest

of her family, was sick with COVID-19 about 11 months ago. She’s one of those “long-haulers” still experiencing symptoms months after getting infected.

Murray’s issues with taste and smell show up randomly and change every few weeks — from rotten eggs to cigarette ash (even though there aren’t any smokers in the house) to “a really odd, sweet menthol smell.”

Murray’s COVID-19 illness was much less severe than what her husband, Gene, experienced. He ended up at an emergency room. Looking back, though, avoiding serious illness didn’t mean she was in the clear.

“I wouldn’t wish what he had on anyone,” said Murray, who also may have developed asthma because of COVID-19, “but he was one-and-done, and I’m still the one suffering.”

Murray represents one of the most unnerving things about COVID-19: the unknowns.

Scientists have learned a lot about the virus — enough to create vaccines for it — since it was discovered in humans a little more than a year ago, but questions remain. One question for Murray and other long-haulers: Will these symptoms just become part of their life?

See COVID, A7 ►



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City officials unsure when NYU public safety partnership will conclude

By **TYLER FENWICK**
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Mayor Joe Hogsett announced a partnership with the Criminal Justice Lab at New York University’s School of Law in June 2020 to chart a new path for public safety, but city officials still aren’t sure when it will conclude.

The partnership is supposed to lead to policy recommendations following community polls and surveys and a review of Indianapolis Metropolitan Police Department.

Anne Milgram, founding director of the Criminal Justice Lab, helped disband the police department in Camden, New Jersey, in 2012 and said during the announcement last summer she feels there is “a real possibility of systemic change” in Indianapolis.

The city organized public safety conversations — which have been virtual because of the pandemic — since August.

Milgram presented data from a survey and poll during the first conversation, including that two of the top issues for Indianapolis residents are homicides and gun violence.

The city’s partnership with the Criminal Justice Lab came amid protests in Indianapolis as people called for everything from more transparency in public safety to defunding the police.

Some African American leaders were initially upset when Hogsett announced the partnership because they felt excluded from the process.

“We have the capacity to lead, and for whatever reason, he’s not interested in seeking out community response before he makes an announcement on how he’s going to spend money or how he’s going to study us,” Indy10 Black Lives Matter organizer Jessica Louise said at the time.



Protesters spray-painted an apology to Jack’s Donuts owner Chris Karnavas after his business was vandalized during riots in May 2020. (Photo/Tyler Fenwick)

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

WALKER

► Continued from A1

flected on what Walker meant to her as a Black woman from Indianapolis.

“When I see pictures of her in textbooks with her friends and in her Ford Model T, I just thought ... what a boss,” Beckwith said. “I wanted Hoosiers to see that she wasn’t afraid to take risks, and that it doesn’t matter where you start in life, it’s where you end.”

Born Sarah Breedlove in the Louisiana Delta, Walker worked her way from laundress to a millionaire business owner and employed thousands of women in her Indianapolis shop and around the country.

“Madam Walker carved out opportunities not just for herself, but she shared them with others,” Vop Osili, president of the city-county council,

said at the unveiling ceremony. “That is her real legacy. She beat the odds. But what we really need to be asking is why were the odds so long in the first place? We honor Madam Walker by creating a community that embraces and supports more Madam Walkers.”

The mural, which consists of seven panels in the airport’s Civic Plaza, is part of the city’s Bicentennial Community Project and was endorsed by the Bicentennial Commission in October 2020. Beckwith was chosen out of hundreds of candidates nationwide to work with the Arts Council of Indianapolis and the Madam Walker Legacy Center.

“The restoration of the Madam Walker Legacy Center, and the

partnerships created to ensure its sustainability, demonstrate this community’s dedication to preserving and honoring the legacy of our most influential leaders,” Madam Walker Legacy Center Board Chairperson Joyce Rogers said in a press release. “This mural prominently displays our namesake for all to learn from and enjoy. It truly takes a village, and we are thankful to our partners for uplifting a rising star in our local arts community and aligning her with the empowering and inspirational legacy of Madam C.J. Walker.”

At the unveiling ceremony, Mayor Joe Hogsett said Walker is a constant reminder of the importance of diversity.

“Madam C.J. Walker proved some-

thing valuable that we can still learn from,” Hogsett said. “That Black-owned businesses catering to the needs of Black residents, more diversity in the workforce and giving back to the community can turn a huge profit. ... The real miracle of her life was the legacy she left in our city.”

Rodriguez estimates roughly 10 million people will see the mural each year.

“I just hope I did her justice,” Beckwith said. “It’s mind-blowing to me that a Black woman in her day could have the kind of success she had.”

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

IBLC

► Continued from A1

escorted out by Democratic caucus members after Eberhart allegedly attempted to hit Summers.

“He didn’t just try to hit me,” Summers said. “If they had to pick him up and carry him out, he was ready to fight me.”

Eberhart has not responded to the Recorder’s request for comment.

Rep. Robin Shackleford, D-Indianapolis, chair of IBLC, is calling for Republican members involved in last week’s altercations to be reprimanded, and said conversations with Speaker of the House Rep. Todd Huston, R-Noblesville, were productive. However, she said Huston has yet to commit to reprimands for Morrison and Eberhart.

As for Summers, Shackleford said she was trying to apologize to Eberhart before the physical aggression began, and she would like to see the two come

together and talk after Eberhart’s actions have been looked into by Republican leadership.

“To be silent in times like these is to do a disservice to those before us and those after us,” Shackleford said during the press conference. “... This behavior is intimidating and not becoming of a legislator. This is our call to action.”

IBLC is also calling for mandatory racism and implicit bias training for members of the state legislature. However, there are some concerns that it may fall on deaf ears.

Following the events of Feb. 18, Lucas told The Tribune, a publication in Seymour, he left the chamber when discussions of racism began.

“Give me a better thing to do,” Lucas said. “Sit there and listen to it?”

Lucas has not responded to the Recorder’s request

for comment.

Shackleford, however, believes training is the first step in solving some racial tension in the Statehouse.

“Many members feel that when we discuss legislation that would have an impact [on Indiana’s Black community], they personally feel that we’re calling them racist,” Shackleford said. “They don’t understand the difference between working on legislation and taking it personally. I’m not saying that ... if they’re already a racist that this training will help them. What we’re trying to do is help everyone understand what systemic racism is and how to address it.”

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

PARK

► Continued from A1

playground improvements.

The investment in Frederick Douglass Park is part of a \$190 million project called Circle City Forward. The city-county council will need to approve the funding.

Other initiatives include \$11 million for Riverside Park, \$30 million for a modernized forensics crime lab, \$40 million for a new Youth and Family Services Center to replace the Juvenile Detention Center and \$16 mil-

lion for an upgraded coroner facility.

The initiative will be funded by a property tax increase that will effectively replace the chunk of property taxes that currently pay for a pension relief fund for some police officers and firefighters. The city will pay off its debt for that fund this year, which means homeowners will ultimately see a small decrease on their property tax burden.

The Martindale-Brightwood

community will celebrate Frederick Douglass Park’s 100th anniversary this summer. The park was the first in Indianapolis open to African Americans.

Community members gathered in January 2020, along with officials from the city and parks department, to discuss the history of the park and the possibility of building a new Family Center.

“We have to put the love and invest-

ment into Frederick Douglass Park,” former Deputy Mayor David Hampton said at the meeting, “because it’s one of our historic parks.”

The estimated cost of a new center at the time ranged from \$15 million to \$20 million.

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

Jazlyn Graham

SALESFORCE FUNCTIONAL SOLUTION ARCHITECT

FUN FACTS:

- I lost my car and cried in Ekhart, IN
- I am a Big Sister for BBBS
- I was an A-Rod Superfan for over 10 years & bet on it in Indy

WHY DID YOU JOIN INDY BLACK MILLENNIALS?

I wanted to bring some interesting topics and experiences to an environment with black millennials like myself.

MEMBER SPOTLIGHT

Natalie James

COALITION BUILDER

FUN FACTS:

- I once climbed Mount Cameroon
- I lived in Jamaica as a child
- My go to throw song is Fire and Desire by Rick James & Tems Marie

WHY DID YOU JOIN INDY BLACK MILLENNIALS?

I joined Indy Black Millennials because I was looking for opportunities to build community with other young people in the city.

MEMBER SPOTLIGHT

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INDY MINORITY BUSINESS

Celebrate Black history by casting new visions of excellence

By DENNIS E. BLAND

As we embark upon another year of celebrating Black History Month, we do so at a grave moment in time that is perhaps as tumultuous, violent and pernicious a period as any we have experienced as a collective society. There truly is a lot going on. Therefore, Black History Month 2021 confronts us with a challenge and opportunity like no other time. With all the calamity, social upheaval, division, violence and unrest transpiring in our city and throughout the nation, my encouragement is that we adopt a Black History Month paradigm shift. In this shift, we move from not only reflecting

Salute these African American stalwarts by appreciating them and then launching a new enterprise in their honor. Write a book. Kick off a new venture. Announce your invention. Start a new business. Launch a citywide plan to increase African American high school graduation rates to record levels. Return to school and finish your degree or high school diploma. Leverage Black history to launch some idea or enterprise of excellence, big or small. What powerful, inspiring, captivating vision do you have for the future that could benefit others and uplift the human condition? How can you improve health? Employment? Education? Neighbor-

society would begin taking note. We would begin anticipating future Black History Month celebrations with enthusiasm and bated breath. This idea of using February to propel great, life-transforming ideas might even become informally known as Black History Launch! Our society is presently steeped in chaos and crisis. Given this sobering reality, we can no longer afford for Black History Month to be virtually limited to celebrating our outstanding history. As powerful a role as history plays in informing and inspiring us, history, without more, will not save us. Too long a look backward blinds us to the vast sea of opportunities before us.

While it is great to celebrate African American history, it would be more compelling, transformative and empowering if we also lifted our communal sights higher and further and implemented bold, strategic ideas that result in dramatic change and uplift for youth, our city, our society and future generations.

on past achievement but also on propelling future excellence. Looking forward, we begin to view Black History Month not only as an annual ritual to celebrate the past and affirm our dignity and worth, but also as a crucial period on the calendar where we cast inspiring visions, launch bold, innovative ideas, and aspire to new transcendent heights of achievement. We approach Black History Month with an entirely new attitude and mojo: elevating aspirations and catalyzing excellence. It's time to go on the offensive. What if we established February and Black History Month as a signature marker on the calendar where we unveil and unleash the next big ideas, innovations and inventions? Would you like to pay true homage to historic titans like Arna Bontemps, Ida B. Wells, Mary McLeod Bethune, E. Franklin Frazier and Howard Thurman? Want to express a greater measure of gratitude to the scholar Carter G. Woodson, the pioneer who gifted us Black History Week, which ultimately evolved into Black History Month?

hoods? Life? Youth? How can we use Black History Month to help transport the most impoverished to breathtaking heights? How do we use the foundational support of history to cast a bold, inspiring vision for Blacks of today and tomorrow? Of great concern to me, how do we transform the lives of African American youth — en masse? Where is our Black History vision? By reflecting on the tremendous accomplishments and feats of past trailblazers and pioneers and using the remarkable achievements of our ancestors as foundational catalysts from which we start significant initiatives and dreams, we could begin to heal, rebuild and transform the African American community and our nation. Each year, we would look forward with great excitement and anticipation as Black History Month becomes synonymous with the implementation of fresh, imaginative ideas that enrich lives, build community and elevate humankind. The new ideas and innovations announced would be so inspiring, intrepid, cutting edge and consequential that

While it is great to celebrate African American history, it would be more compelling, transformative and empowering if we also lifted our communal sights higher and further and implemented bold, strategic ideas that result in dramatic change and uplift for youth, our city, our society and future generations. Using Black History Month as a distinctive period to cast bold, aspirational vision and introduce inspiring ideas and discoveries would lead to remarkable progress and uplift for African Americans and for our entire community. A new community mindset based on launching excellence and pursuing inspiring, transformative goals would lead to results really worth celebrating. What brilliant ideas, strategies and visions will we catapult into the future to build and heal our community?

Dennis Bland is president of the Center for Leadership Development and a 1982 CLD alumnus.

Super Crossword SUMMONING JEKYLL AND SEUSS

ACROSS

1 Station, e.g.
6 Saudi, e.g.
10 Floals
15 Livers (up)
19 Opic layers
20 Female adult
21 Accustom
22 Roman 951
23 Sweet capsicum variety
25 Bacon piece
26 Give kudos
27 Quoon, in Spanish
28 Mickey & Sylvia hit of 1957
31 Don
32 Sudo only became alert
35 Telly pouch
36 Extremely scarce
41 President pro —
43 Brainsy bunch
44 Bit of veil gear
45 Tonic "sum" of "Cogito, ergo sum"
46 Rona —
47 Christmas poem upriver
49 Sinister powers
54 Winner with tu-vas

58 Comic blows
59 Fragrant
60 Best Actress nominee for "Brooding the Waves"
63 Tim as de
64 Category
65 Hit, as a gnat
66 Pace
67 Lure for fish
71 Decorant target
74 Song from "Oklahoma!"
77 low fast airplane
80 Govt. agent
81 Comic Gilda
82 Deep pessimism
84 installed, as brick
86 Actor Ladd
87 Soft throw
88 Churn
89 Jhasa (small dogs)
94 Visibly angry
95 highly venomous cephalopod
101 Filled the fuel tank, with "up!"
103 User of our-later words
104 "— Smile Be Your Umbrella"

105 "Guys and Dolls" guy
109 Rockers
113 What you do when you look at the ends of nine long answers in this puzzle
117 Regal Norse name
118 Adam tussily
119 Movies in movies
120 Haggard of country
121 Where AT&T is "I"
122 Squiggly letters
123 Breeding 1-Across
124 Camo (Tajal dish)

DOWN

1 Central area
2 Make backneyeo
3 Brush up on
4 City near Monterey
5 Fox Sports alternative
6 High, rugged peak
7 Drake's music
8 University in Nassau County
9 Mechanical way to earn
10 Prudent
11 Part of AB/1
12 Animal coats
13 French for "sad"
14 Days of the week, e.g.
15 Campus workstation locale
16 Tending to radiate something
17 Provided juice "or?"
18 Pro or con
19 Give relief to
24 Composer Carl Maria Weber
30 Cheer shout
31 Printer dog
33 Org. in "The Martian"
34 With 53-Down, requests
37 Broken-down
38 Knights, e.g.
39 Tic-toe link
40 Red professors
42 Defrost
45 Was achy or regretful
46 "Holy cow!"
49 Hoot or paw
50 Totally dominate
51 Good traps not
52 Krate work
53 See 34-Down
54 Place
55 Novelist Tan
56 Small Lila
57 Comedic actor Jackie
58 H.S. junior's exam
61 It has flutery leaves
62 Twirl, as one's thumbs
63 Naturalist Fossey
65 Con game
68 "Author" writer Rand
69 Suffix with Fero
70 The Raptors, on NBA schedules
72 Engine stat
73 "— culpa"
74 "I think" in lexia
75 Half of hexa
76 Anwar of Egypt
77 Culture base
78 In a criminal way
79 Book full of street maps
80 Desert in Mongolia
83 Palmae —
84 Sunny buys
85 Balm plant
88 Most choicy
90 Maintains order over
91 Prisma' color bands
92 Was a better oddder than
93 Org. issuing nine-digit IDs
95 Youth org. with troops
96 Delaware Valley tribe
97 Cow's milk delivers
98 Put's superior
99 False appearances
100 Street — (urban acceptance)
102 Cut off stubble
105 An iner. gas
106 Certain dwarf planet
107 Cock info
108 Gyn. lift's units
110 Tonic's variety
114 Water, in Nantes
115 Give relief to Irish actor Stephen

► Super Crossword Answers on A5

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‘THE UNITED STATES VS. BILLIE HOLIDAY’

By Dwight Brown
NNPA News Wire Film Critic

It’s a major showcase. Viewers can watch the brilliant musical talent Andra Day take center stage as she crosses over into the world of film acting. With the bright lights on her, she summons up an astonishing, all-in, Oscar-caliber portrayal of Billie Holiday. A feat achieved by Diana Ross five decades ago. Same role, similar story. But Day’s interpretation of “Lady Day” is decidedly more raw.

See HOLIDAY, A5 ►



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ESKENAZI HEALTH

HOLIDAY

► Continued from A4

Director/producer Lee Daniels has been building up to this moment. Producing strong women’s stories (“Precious”), casting actors in career-changing, award-winning roles (Halle Berry, “Monster’s Ball”) and chronicling African American history (“Lee Daniels’ The Butler”). Now, he’s hired Pulitzer Prize-winning playwright Suzan-Lori Parks (“Topdog/Underdog”) to adapt “The Black Hand,” a chapter from Johann Hari’s 2015 bestseller, “Chasing the Scream: The First and Last Days of the War on Drugs.” That segment of the book focuses on the Feds chasing, harassing and arresting Billie Holiday. Seemingly for drug use, more likely for her singing the controversial anti-lynching protest song “Strange Fruit.” Parks’ touching screenplay, with its strong characters, poignant dialogue and easy to-discern storyline, makes a near perfect blueprint for this ambitious project.

In 1939, the U.S. Congress has failed to pass anti-lynching bills, though the tragic hanging of Black men by white mobs is evident. Yet the government finds time to initiate a “war on drugs” policy. That effort is led by Harry Anslinger (Garrett Hedlund, “Mudbound”), the racist chief of the Federal Bureau of Narcotics (precursor to the DEA). Anslinger is specifically rankled by Billie Holiday’s (Day) song “Strange Fruit,” a million-selling Top 10 hit: “Those lyrics provoke people.”

He laser focuses on the singer and is determined to infiltrate the jazz world she inhabits, deeming it a bastion of drug consumption. Under Anslinger’s orders, Jimmy Fletcher (Trevante Rhodes, “Moonlight”), the country’s first Black

FBN agent, insinuates himself into Holiday’s entourage. He flirts, courts, sparks and bamboozles her into a relationship. One that leads to her arrest. She is devastated by his betrayal. He is on a mission: “My father told me that drugs would be the death of Black people.”

Wounded and humiliated, Holiday continues to record albums, tour the country and have affairs with women and bad relationships with cads. Her assistants, Roslyn (Da’Vine Joy Randolph, “Dolemite Is My Name”) and Freddy (Miss Lawrence, “Empire”), her surrogate family, accompany her. PTSD from an abusive childhood, rape and other ordeals haunt her. She buries her

is rarely questionable. While the only music more beautiful than Kris Bowers’ (“Green Book”) score is Day singing from Billie’s catalogue (“All of Me”) and new vintage-sounding material (“Tigress & Tweed”).

However, Daniel T. Dorrance’s production design (“The Paperboy”) and Elise de Blois and Pascale Deshenès’ set decoration go overboard. Especially in dressing room scenes that look more like a store window

TVish. The vacillating between gripping historical bio/drama and syrupy melodrama is something viewers will have to weather. That inconsistency in tone is a small price to pay for watching Daniels pull captivating performances from the entire cast. He gives them room to work their magic, and they don’t disappoint.

Supporting actors bring context to Holiday’s troubled life: Rob Morgan is super sleazy as her lover turned

boyfriend all perfectly surround the leading actress in distinct ways. Like planets revolving around the sun.

Day sensitively, meticulously embodies Billie Holiday’s spirit. Her raspy, smokey speaking voice aches. She sings like a bird with a broken wing. Her mannerisms and attitude reflect a woman who is equal parts streetwise, heroic and aggrieved. She’s all facets of Billie. Glamorous. Pansexual. Bossy. Defiant. Playful. Unrepentant.

Day’s process for the role is very reminiscent of Halle Berry’s approach to her Oscar-winning performance in “Monster’s Ball”: Infuse yourself into the character with complete abandonment. If substance abuse, nudity and sex scenes are part of the deal, do it. And, Day’s style of acting is similar to that of Naomie Harris and Jessica



husband, Louis McKay. Ditto Tone Bell as the abusive nightclub owner John Levy. Natasha Lyonne as Holiday’s girlfriend, Tallulah Bankhead, brings an edge to the role. Furly Mac (“Empire”) gleams in a pivotal scene that underlines the evils and irony of Jim Crow laws. He’s a hotel elevator operator who won’t let Holiday ride with him. “No Negroes allowed on this elevator, except me,” says the liftman.

Also impressive is Adriane Lenox (“21 Bridges”) as Mrs. Fletcher, who schools her duplicitous son on the legacy of Holiday, the woman he entraps: “She’s singing it for all of us. Ain’t no other Negro bold enough to do it!” Hedlund as her Fed nemesis, Lawrence and Randolph as her sidekicks and Rhodes as her love/hate

ous flashback scenes, Holiday’s hallucinations and artsy title cards flashing on the screen and the film’s heavy-handed style almost stifles any hope of realism. Holiday’s life is complicated enough. Overwrought imagery is unnecessary. Less fluff and more attention to authenticity would have taken this production to a higher level. To the high summit where Day’s flawless performance dwells.

Vivid, dramatic sequences, like Holiday handcuffed to a hospital bed by the Feds, feel genuine. Moments of spectacle, infighting or posing for photographers feel a bit shallow and

pain in nicotine, heroin and alcohol, leading to addiction, drug busts and prison terms. The incessant misery surfaces in her vulnerable voice. A vocal quiver that mesmerizes legions of fans — Black and white.

The film’s style is quite elaborate, which is a blessing and a curse. Costumes by designer Paolo Nieddu (“Empire”) create dazzling silhouettes. Andrew Dunn’s cinematography (“Precious”) makes the sunlight incandescent in outdoor scenes. Jay Rabinowitz’s editing (“8 Mile”) gives the two-hour and 10-minute footage a pace that

Lange: Build the character from the inside out, emotionally and invisibly.

Lee Daniels gave a gifted singer a golden opportunity to shine as an actor, and Andra Day was up to the challenge. She leaves nothing to the imagination. Every ounce of her interpretation of Billie Holiday is left on the screen. It’s a performance that will touch adult audiences in the deepest ways. Premieres Feb. 26 on Hulu.

Super Crossword																	
Answers																	
1	C	R	E	E	A	R	A	B	W	A	F	T	S	E	E	P	E
2	N	L	S	E	A	D	I	N	U	L	C	L	I				
3	T	I	E	P	E	R	A		R	I	A	R	E				
4	R	E	I	N	A	L	O	V	E	S	T	R	A	N	G	E	
5	J	H	A	P	E	C	A	P	I	T	I						
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EDITORIAL

Racism and disrespect in the Statehouse

By OSEYE BOYD



You can't make this stuff up. I'm sure you've heard the phrase, "the truth is stranger than fiction," or some variant. It's definitely true when it comes to actions at the Statehouse a week ago.

There's so much to unpack, I'm not sure where to begin. I think I'll start with the general disrespect.

Adults booing other adults in a professional setting, in the Statehouse no less. The place where decorum rules. The Statehouse isn't a gymnasium or stadium. Booing is considered appropriate in these venues because you want your opponent to lose. However, legislation isn't a game. People's lives are involved in every single piece of legislation lawmakers create. I understand there often is the perception of winners and losers based on the bills that pass and those that don't, but the idea is to draft legislation for the good of all Hoosiers.

Those grown people who thought booing was an appropriate response need to apologize not only to their fellow legislators, but also to their constituents and all residents of Indiana. We made the national news and not for a good thing. We made it for an absolutely nonsensical dumb thing. I'm flummoxed at the lack of a reprimand from the Indiana GOP and House Speaker Todd Huston for such disappointingly childish behavior.

A former senator said he doesn't believe the booing was racist. It sure seemed that way when you boo a Black man talking about a bill that could discriminate on race and another who shared his experiences with race-based discrimination. I see how white men don't see the existing racism because they never do. That's why we're still here in 2021.

I'll be honest, I was too through at the booing. I thought there's no way this thing could get any worse, and then it did.

Rep. Jim Lucas was so bothered by the listening to experiences of racism that he walked out. He even told another publication he wanted something better to do than "sit there and listen to it." Again, disrespectful, and it certainly looked racist. Now, Lucas is no stranger to racism. He was reprimanded last summer for sharing a racist meme, so I can see why Rep. Vanessa Summers called him a racist. However, it wasn't Lucas who took offense. It was the guy standing next to him, who Summers said she wasn't even talking to, Rep. Sean Eberhart.

Now, Eberhart told another news outlet, "I don't have a racist bone in my body." I have to chuckle on that. I don't know Eberhart, but I know America, and we live in a society built on racism. He needs to get a deeper understanding of the word and how it permeates just about every facet of our lives. But Eberhart's reaction was so visceral, Summers must've struck a nerve. He didn't object profusely or have a conversation with Summers about her misperception. No,

he got big mad and tried to fight her, according to Summers. He had to be pulled away. This man was enraged. So, if he's not racist, he appears to be violent and abusive toward women. None of these are good looks — especially for a lawmaker.

Again, where is the GOP or Huston on this?

It doesn't end there, however, as there was a second incident in the restroom where Rep. Vernon Smith said Rep. Alan Morris verbally assaulted him. Maybe this incident has nothing to do with race, but it's definitely disrespectful (again). And guess what, disrespect is often tied to race. So, I can see how the Black people involved would see racism, and I can see how the white people involved don't.

Again, nothing from the GOP or Huston.

At the very least, the Republican party and state lawmakers should be concerned with looking disrespectful of their colleagues. Their deafening silence comes through loud and clear. They don't care because they don't have to — or at least that's what they thought.

But as so often seems to happen, they didn't read the room. This isn't 2019.

The Indiana Black Legislative Caucus (IBLC) has called for reprimands and implicit bias training. I have no doubt Rep. Robin Shackleford, IBLC chair, will stand firm. Not only does she have the backing of IBLC members, but Black people and those in the fight against racism have her back, and we're not letting this slide.

OPINIONS

For the sake of (white) children

By LARRY SMITH



Several years ago, a television commercial asked parents to consider the lengths to which they would go to protect their children. After the narrator poses a series of rhetorical questions appealing to parents' bravado, a child asks

poignantly — yet pointedly — "Would you ... buy a minivan?" The message is that parents don't need to risk life and limb to prove that they love their children; they merely need to act responsibly. One doesn't have to be a superhero, or even extraordinarily brave.

Acting to protect children is an issue that should not be bound by class, race or political partisanship. Neither should fighting against racial discrimination. More specifically, white Americans should support practical and simple efforts that fight racial and socio-economic injustice — which is analogous to the minivan example above. Most white Americans profess that they are against racial discrimination. For us to take them at their word, they simply need to act in accordance with what they say they believe.

Unfortunately, history teaches us that

white Americans often are willing to harm themselves if doing so keeps African Americans from achieving equity. For example, as their descendants like to remind us, most Confederate soldiers did not own African Americans. But that begs the following question: Why would they be willing to sacrifice their lives to maintain a system that disadvantaged them economically? After all, it's extremely difficult to compete economically against unpaid labor. The answer is what scholar W.E.B. DuBois termed the "psychological wage" of being white. In short, whites perceive racial discrimination as a benefit to them that outweighs the tangible economic benefit that they would receive by destroying racism.

Perhaps the most prominent contemporary example is white Americans' opposition to the Affordable Care Act (aka "Obamacare"). There is no question that most Americans — of all races — have benefitted from Obamacare. Yet, opposition among white Americans remains high, largely because a Black man implemented it. (Not surprisingly, white Americans are less hostile to the Affordable Care Act than they are to "Obamacare.") It's certainly true that the law isn't perfect, though it could be improved if Republicans weren't reflexively against it. In any

case, the irrational and self-defeating battle first to prevent its passage, and then to repeal it, has been jaw dropping.

I've shared in previous columns Thurgood Marshall's declaration that, "No one benefits from racism." But Marshall's statement doesn't go far enough. Heather McGhee, in her new book, "The Sum of Us," makes an empirically-based case that racism harms white Americans. For example, she points out that, according to Citibank's calculations, racism has cost America \$16 trillion dollars during the past 20 years. Note that this data comes from a pillar of capitalism, not a "looney liberal" think tank. Another example that McGhee points to is the frequent refusal of white workers to unionize — even though doing so would benefit them financially. Such opposition is often based on whites' unwillingness to share the fruits of progress with their Black and Latino co-workers.

Even the 20th century fight against communism largely was due to the government's fear that the racial caste system — which oppressed poor whites nearly as much as it did African Americans — would be undone. Further, beyond the economic costs, we know that the effects of racial discrimination cause white Americans to die younger

than they otherwise would. Perhaps most stunningly, the cumulative impact of racial discrimination is largely responsible for the fact that, for essentially the first time in American history, white children will be less well-off financially than their parents are (except for the children of the wealthy).

To be clear, I'm not suggesting that white people should give up racism because it is economically detrimental to them. My appeal to them is primarily moral, not socio-economic. They should actively dismantle systemic racism because it is the right thing to do. The financial benefits should be a side reason. (Unfortunately, I don't have space to address the spiritual and emotional toll that racism takes on white America.)

Still, as a minister, I am delighted that we now have a solid empirical basis upon which to demonstrate that there is an economic benefit to acting in accordance with the teachings of Jesus. The question that remains is whether racism's psychological wage is more important to our white brothers and sisters than the well-being of their children and grandchildren.

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

Well past time to remove white supremacy, toxic culture from the art world

By NICHELLE HAYES



Earlier this month a job posting for Newfields (formerly Indianapolis Museum of Art) went viral. Newfields advertised a job opening by stating that the museum was looking to attract a more diverse audience while "maintaining the museum's traditional, core, white art audience." This social media post elicited a huge outcry from around the country. This centering of the white gaze as the priority is a real issue and speaks to white supremacy. During a time when many cultural institutions nationwide are being pressed to diversify their collections and staff, this statement illustrates how the leadership lacks a basic understanding of real DEI (diversity, equity and inclusion). For several days the

leadership of Newfields stood pat on their stance that the original post was simply a misunderstanding. A petition was signed by approximately 500 cultural workers from the community, demanding immediate change and not hollow apologies. (To be transparent, I was one of the signers of that petition.) A letter was also created and signed by 100 employees of Newfields, demanding the resignation of the CEO Charles Venable.

The toxic culture and lack of awareness in the arts regarding the necessity of anti-racism was highlighted by resignations in the last few years of several diverse staffers. Dr. Kelli Morgan's open resignation letter in July 2020 brought the most attention to the atmosphere of inequity and discrimination. At the time of her resignation, Morgan's concerns did not appear to have been addressed by the CEO or the board.

Incidents (and environments) such as this are not new to Indianapolis or the United States. The esteemed poet, playwright and civic leader Mari Evans, who lived in Indianapolis from 1947 till her death in 2017, spoke about the atmosphere of the city. Evans wrote an essay that was part of a book "Where We Live" published in 1988 for the Indiana Humanities Council. It was in that essay she stated, "What we find is that racism, in this up-South city at the end of the twentieth century, is like a steel strand encased in nylon then covered in some luxurious fabric. The intent is to avoid, if possible, blatant offenses, to soothe, mollify, if necessary, dissemble — while racism, the steel strand, still effectively does the job." Unfortunately for residents of color that quote still rings very true. This atmosphere is not isolated to museums but at most organizations in the city.

You might be asking yourself, "Why do these issues matter?" They matter because fair and equitable treatment matter. The extra burden that is heaped upon individuals who are forced to navigate these

dangerous waters contributes to physical and mental illness in these individuals. That affects the city as a whole. We cannot continue with business as usual.

Morgan confirmed this in her piece, "To Bear Witness," that was printed in this paper on June 23, 2020. "I realized that no matter where in the world we work, many of us are experiencing similar traumas and complete mental exhaustion from navigating and twisting and strategizing and contorting ourselves around abhorrent manifestations of white supremacy in museums and the art world at large."

Jason Reynolds, co-author of "Stamped: Racism, Antiracism, and You," stated that it would be wise to check in with employees of color. Most of them are having a very different experience than the majority groups. Oftentimes that experience is not a positive one. Reynolds also mentions that it's important to listen to women of color who are working in their organizations. Women of color have been fighting for civil rights for everyone in our society for hundreds of years.

In summary, racism exists in all aspects of society. As a nation we need to be vigilant and work against it. Everyone has skin in the game, not just the ones who are being openly oppressed.

It is important for us to stand up for what is right and not allow bullies to win and cripple organizations and, more importantly, individuals, with toxic behavior. A few of the warning signs of white supremacy at work are perfectionism, (false) urgency and quantity over quality. "If not now, when? If not us, who?" first century BCE Hillel the Elder. #WeAreStrongerTogether

Nichelle M. Hayes, who holds a Master of Public Administration and Master of Library Science, is a third-generation Indianapolis resident and vice president of the Black Caucus of the American Library Association, www.bcala.org.

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Indiana Coalition Against Domestic Violence broadening the conversation

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

Conversations about interpersonal violence and sexual health often center the experiences of white women. Timike Jones and the Indiana Coalition Against Domestic Violence (ICADV) are trying to change that.

Jones, a primary prevention program specialist at ICADV, said addressing systemic barriers in areas such as health care and employment can drastically reduce incidents of domestic and sexual violence.

Last year, the organization surveyed Black women and girls about their concerns regarding their health and access to services. Over 220 women around the state participated in the survey, which found the main concerns among the group were structural racism, implicit biases and stereotypes about Black women, mental health issues and the mass incarceration of Black men.

“The CDC [Centers for Disease Control and Prevention] says what surrounds us shapes us,” Jones said.

“When we address the structural concerns, issues and needs of humanity, people are less likely to engage in behaviors that are negative.”

By creating a society in which people’s needs are met, Jones said violence will decrease in turn.

In January, over 80 people who previously participated in ICADV’s survey participated in focus groups to find solutions for the concerns they shared.

ICADV also partnered with LifeSmart Youth for “Black Girls Matter” listening sessions to hear from young women ages 12 to 24 about their experiences with health access and healthy relationships.

Tammie Carter, CEO of LifeSmart Youth, said listening to younger girls and working with them to solve some of the problems they face can prevent interpersonal violence and medical issues later in life.

“It makes such a huge difference when you reach girls at a young age,” Carter said. “Some of the feedback we’ve received has said our programs have helped young women make better

decisions, and one indicator that it’s working is that the teen pregnancy rate in Indiana is dropping.”

Carter said her biggest takeaway from the January listening session was Black women and girls are largely ignored by medical professionals and made to feel they can handle pain better than white women. Carter said this dismissal makes Black women less likely to seek care for mental health concerns and interpersonal violence.

In a follow-up survey after the session, less than 50% of the group said they would feel comfortable seeking help for mental health issues, while over 70% of the respondents reported feelings of depression, anxiety, or the loss of a loved one within the past year.

The next step is working with health care providers, medical schools and community centers to combat the stereotypes and stigmas Black women face.

Likewise, in the coming months, Jones and ICADV will work to find solutions for the issues raised by focus groups. Both Jones and Carter are

hopeful this will make a difference in Indiana.

“I do think the timing right now is far better than it’s ever been, and more people are willing to listen and be more accepting that these issues are a reality and it’s not just someone complaining,” Carter said. “But solutions will have to be collaborative. The next step will be assembling a collective group of people who can affect change.”

For Jones, the goal isn’t just to end domestic or interpersonal violence, it’s to create a world without violence. Focusing on peace in every facet of life, Jones said, will work toward preventing harm to Black women across the board.

“There’s always a co-occurrence of violence,” Jones said. “Where there’s domestic violence, there’s gun violence and child abuse. When you want to address one form of violence, you have to look at the issue holistically.”

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

COVID

► Continued from A1

“I don’t want to say I’m OK with it,” she said, “but in a sense I am because it could be so much worse.”

If you care to look back

It hasn’t been quite one year since the U.S. had its first confirmed death from COVID-19, and there have been more than 500,000 since, with millions more infected.

As the U.S. approaches and passes COVID-19 anniversaries — most of which are morbid and some of which are just mundane — it’s worth looking back at what was happening around this time last year.

- **Jan. 9 — The World Health Organization (WHO) reported that Chinese health authorities determined a new strain of coronavirus was the cause of a pneumonia outbreak in Wuhan.**
- **Jan. 11 — Chinese media reported the first death from the coronavirus.**
- **Jan. 19 — The U.S. had its first case of the coronavirus in Washington.**
- **Feb. 11 — The WHO announced the new coronavirus would be called COVID-19.**
- **Feb. 29 — The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) announced the first**

COVID-19 death in the U.S. in Washington, though health officials and media have since tracked deaths that occurred earlier in February.

- **March 6 — Gov. Eric Holcomb announced the first COVID-19 case in Indiana, which was found in Marion County, and declared a public health emergency.**
- **March 12 — Local health officials ordered schools in Marion County to close. The initial back-to-school target date was April 5, but schools remained closed for the rest of the school year.**
- **March 16 — Holcomb announced the first COVID-19 death in Indiana.**

The mask question

Think back to February and March last year. Health professionals wanted to preserve a limited stockpile of personal protective equipment — including professional-grade masks — for health care workers who were at the highest risk of interacting with infected people.

It was also early enough in the pandemic that scientists didn’t have much information about how

COVID-19 spreads.

The result: The WHO and CDC, along with other health authorities, initially said only those who were sick or caring for those who were sick needed to wear a mask. Former U.S. Surgeon General Jerome Adams tweeted in February that people should stop buying masks.

Scientists then found evidence of asymptomatic spread, meaning someone could be infected and spread the virus without knowing it. That’s when health officials started encouraging people to wear cloth masks and other masks that aren’t as high-quality as what a doctor might wear but still protect other people.

Dr. Aaron Carroll, a pediatrics professor at the Indiana University School of Medicine, said he’s willing to forgive people who were skeptical about masks in April or May because the messaging was confusing but that it’s no longer an acceptable excuse to doubt masks work.

“It’s now 2021,” he said, “and it’s not as if the messaging has changed eight times since then.”

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

The Importance of Digital Literacy

by **Kara Kavensky**

According to a study by the U.S. Department of Education on digital literacy (May, 2018). The study found that adults who are not digitally literate are, on average, less educated, older, and more likely to be Black, Hispanic, or foreign born, compared to digitally literate adults. The national estimate of 16 percent of adults who are not digitally literate translates into 31.8 million Americans who do not have sufficient comfort or competence with technology to use a computer.

The study states that “little is known about those who are not digitally literate. As our economy and society become increasingly reliant on technology, it is important to understand who does not have digital literacy skills. A report from the Council of Economic Advisers (2015) notes that although the United States is a world leader of advanced Internet services and technology, the benefits of these technologies do not reach all Americans and a “digital divide” remains, particularly among older, less educated, and less affluent populations, as well as in rural parts of the country.”

During the pandemic, the technology divide has widened. Many families who had been required to shelter in place lacked the resources to maintain their children’s schooling. This has been a major problem. Another issue applies to adults who lack online access to make an appointment for a vaccination.

“So many simple things, such as making a doctor’s appointment, has been moved to online,” shares Emil Ekiyor, Founder of INNOPOWER. “Checking assignments, online classes, and keeping up with educational needs of children has been nearly impossible for many who do not have devices nor online access.”

In the U.S., 74% of adults ages 16 - 65 use a computer at work and 81% of adults use a computer in every day life. The percentage of Black adults who are not digitally literate is twice the percentage of White adults (22 versus 11 percent), with the rate among the

Hispanic population being even higher at 35%. Being digitally illiterate directly impacts where someone works. If someone is digitally illiterate, they work in an unskilled occupation and are typically laborers, which means they are earning a low wage.

The study, which was done pre-pandemic, showed that 30% of those who are not employed are digitally illiterate.

“Tech is supposed to be the great equalizer for vulnerable populations, yet it takes Herculean effort to lift communities out of poverty,” says Ekiyor.

“The timing is right for us to be deliberate and strategic. Cities cannot grow to their potential if people are left behind.”

Education can make a big impact. Those with a high school diploma but no further education fall right at the average, whereas someone with an associates degree or higher are found to be 95% digitally literate.

What if someone wants to become digitally literate, what are their options? Communities with the most vulnerable populations (MVPs) are a focus for InnoPower and their partnering organizations are seeking targeted solutions. Eleven Fifty Academy is working on a three-tiered course to help MVPs leverage technology.

Digital literacy ensures access to technology with a basic understanding of personal safety, which is important for vulnerable populations. The goal is to provide individuals with the essential digital skills of device usage and handling, creating and editing, communicating, transacting, and being safe and responsible online. The four principles of digital literacy include: comprehension, interdependence, social factors, and curation.

“Eleven Fifty Academy [and other community partners] are proud to engage with INNOPOWER to help lift MVPs through education of online and IT safety,” states Jonathan B. Huer, EdD., Chief Learning Officer for Eleven Fifty Academy. “This will be done through tiered courses to provide an onramp to technology.”

No one should be left out of the digital age.



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Access to telemedicine poses challenge for African Americans

By FARAH YOUSRY

After DorShann Lewis, a Black working mother in Fishers, had her baby late last year, she relied on virtual visits to see her doctor.

“It was much more convenient,” she said. “I didn’t have to deal with the mask and just the overall fear. And just having the flexibility to be at home and to know that I was safe at home with the kids.”

The COVID-19 pandemic has jump-started telemedicine — remote health care services that take place on a computer or phone.

But many Hoosiers who don’t have a computer, or who lack stable internet access at home, risk being left behind. And new research shows that Black communities are the most likely to lack complete access to telemedicine services.

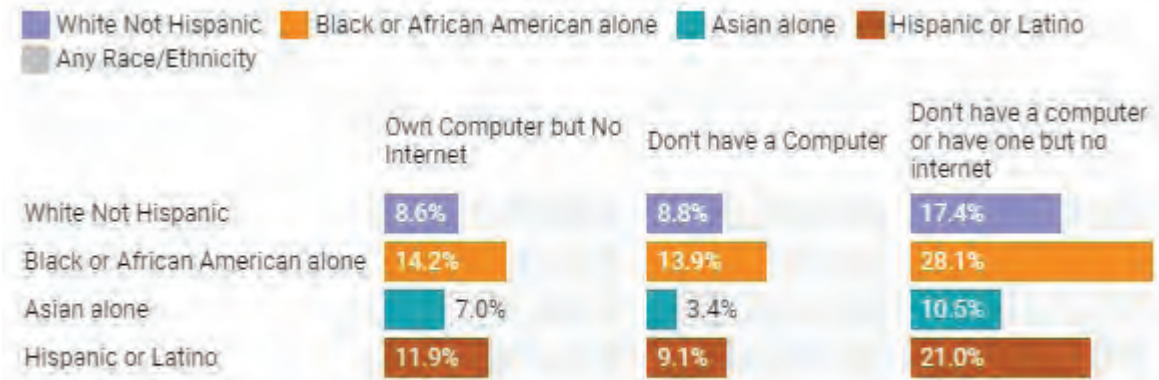
Data analysis by the research group SAVI at IUPUI shows that more than a quarter of Black Hoosiers do not have a computer or reliable internet service at home.

Analyst Unai Miguel Andres said the disparity is so big that we should pause and think.

“It is important to understand who is benefiting from these services and who is not,” he said of the data compiled for Side Effects Public Media and the Indianapolis Recorder. “And I think looking at this access to a computer, internet ... or both can provide a really good lens on who might be left out.”

At the MLK Center, executive director Allison Luthe sees the impact of this connectivity gap.

“Even recently, with all of the rental and utility assistance that’s available, the emergency assistance and even unemployment assistance, you have to



Data shows more than a quarter of people who identify as Black or African American don’t have access to a computer or have one but without internet. (Graph provided by SAVI Community Information System)

be able to do that online,” she said.

But it is not just that. Since the pandemic started, telemedicine services have increased 154% across the U.S., according to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC). And Indiana is no exception.

“So, if you look at last year’s numbers, we were lucky to complete about 20 visits a day ... and now we complete almost 2,000 visits a day,” said Dr. Michele Saysana, chief medical officer for virtual care at IU Health.

She said a lot of these services can be handled over the phone. But as institutions develop new virtual health options to enhance the quality of care, not having access to the internet could mean that Black Americans will be missing out.

Dr. Patrick McGill, vice president of Community Health Network, agrees.

“We do see the disparities between race as it comes to access with reliable telephone and internet access ...” he said. “Some of our minority patients preferred telephone versus video. And so whether that’s related to comfort, whether that was related to usability of the system, whether that was related to reliable internet access versus telephone access, we haven’t been able to

tease those out.”

Community Health Network aims to address this disparity. It asks patients about a range of factors that can influence health, including access to reliable housing, food and transportation.

McGill said it is adding two new questions: Do you have access to reliable telephone service? Do you have access to reliable internet access or access to reliable internet?

But why does this disparity in internet access — seen in rural areas as well as cities — exist in the first place?

“Rural communities tend to lack adequate access to the technology,” said Roberto Gallardo, director of Purdue University’s Center for Regional Development. In urban areas, it tends to be an issue of affordability.

He said many families can’t afford a home internet subscription as well as a cellular phone data plan. Given that choice, they opt for the phone plan.

To bridge this gap, Gallardo said the first thing needed is reliable data.

“It’s very hard to get accurate, granular data,” he said. “The federal data set is the closest we have but it is known to overestimate coverage or access. Another big, big dark area that exists is that there is no cost data. We don’t

know how much is being charged in certain areas, and for what technologies.”

The federal government included \$7 billion in the second stimulus package to improve internet access. Some internet providers have also offered assistance programs for low-income families during the pandemic.

Luthe of the MLK Center said these programs are a step in the right direction but are not always as helpful as they sound.

“Even the ones that came out and let folks have a free Wi-Fi hotspot, you had to have no outstanding balance,” she said. “So for some folks, they had an old bill, or a previous bill at a previous address that had to be cleared up before they could get internet access.”

It is like a vicious cycle — with one hurdle leading to another, she said.

This story was reported as part of a partnership between WFYI, Side Effects Public Media and the Indianapolis Recorder. Contact Farah Yousry at fjyousry@wfyi.org or 857-285-0449. Follow her on Twitter @Farah_Yoursrym.

HOW DO I REGISTER FOR THE COVID-19 VACCINE?

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Facts to Know About High Blood Pressure

Heart disease continues to be the greatest health threat to Americans and is still the leading cause of death worldwide. High blood pressure affects nearly half of the adult population in the United States, yet many people who have the condition do not know they have it.

Uncontrolled high blood pressure raises the risk for heart disease and stroke. Fortunately, high blood pressure is treatable and preventable.

To lower the risk, get a blood pressure check regularly and take action to control high blood pressure.

Recent studies show that high blood pressure is linked to a higher risk for dementia, a loss of cognitive function. Evidence suggests that having uncontrolled high blood pressure during midlife, ages 44 to 66, creates a higher risk for dementia later in life. This means it is never too early to start thinking about blood pressure and taking steps to manage the condition.

High blood pressure doesn’t just happen to older adults; young people can have it, too. Nearly 1 in 4 adults aged 20 to 44 have high blood pressure, a leading cause of stroke, which is on the rise among younger people. Experts think the increased risk for stroke in this age group is a direct result of the rising rates of obesity, high blood pressure, and type 2 diabetes – chronic health conditions that are preventable and treatable.

High blood pressure usually does not have any symptoms, which is why it is sometimes called the “silent killer.” Most people with high blood pressure do not have any symptoms. People think that, because they feel fine, they do not need to get their blood pressure checked.

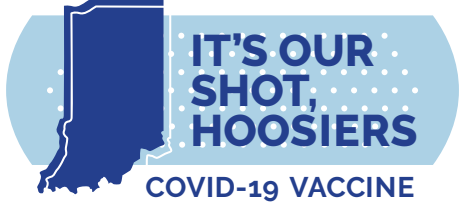
About 1 in 3 adults in the U.S. have high blood pressure don’t know it. Even though most people with uncontrolled high blood pressure have health insurance and visit a healthcare provider at least twice a year, the condition is often not diagnosed. Learn what blood pressure numbers mean and if they are too high.

Women and African Americans face unique risks when it comes to high blood pressure. Women who become pregnant are more likely to have complications during pregnancy than those with normal blood pressure. High blood pressure during pregnancy can harm a mother’s kidneys and other organs, and it can lead to premature delivery and low birth weight babies.

African American men and women have higher rates of high blood pressure than any other racial or ethnic group. These individuals are also more likely to be hospitalized for high blood pressure. Experts think these health disparities are tied to higher rates of obesity and diabetes.

Living a healthy lifestyle helps keep blood pressure in a healthy range and lowers the risk for heart disease and stroke. A healthy lifestyle includes: Eating a healthy diet, maintaining a healthy weight, getting enough physical activity, not smoking, and limiting alcohol use.

Lifestyle changes, such as reducing sodium in your diet, being more physically active, and reducing stress, can help lower blood pressure. The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) supports several public health efforts that address high blood pressure. To learn more about these programs, and steps for preventing or controlling high blood pressure, visit [CDC.gov](https://www.cdc.gov).



Ahmaud Arbery memorialized in Georgia a year after slaying

By RUSS BYNUM
Associated Press

SAVANNAH, Ga. (AP) — When white men armed with guns pursued and killed Ahmaud Arbery as he ran through their neighborhood, few outside the Georgia port city of Brunswick paid notice in the days and weeks that followed.

A year later, those closest to the 25-year-old Black man want to make sure his death isn't overlooked again as three men await trial.

A memorial procession led by Arbery's family was planned for Feb. 23 through the Satilla Shores subdivision, where he fell bleeding in the street from three close-range shotgun blasts. Organizers asked supporters outside Brunswick to participate in a virtual 2.23-mile (3.59-kilometer) run in memory of Arbery, an avid runner whose family says he was jogging when he got killed.

"It is important to remind people of the origins, when it all started," said Jason Vaughn, Arbery's high school football coach and an organizer of the anniversary events. "For a long time, it was like we were yelling into the dark, and nobody was listening."

Immediately after the shooting, police interviewed Arbery's killer and two others involved in the chase and let them walk free. The first prosecutor assigned to the case saw no reason to bring charges. Pleas for justice by Arbery's family went largely unheard as Georgia and the nation entered lockdown as the coronavirus pandemic took hold.

Arbery had been dead for more than two months when a national outcry erupted after cellphone video of the shooting leaked online May 5. The Georgia Bureau of Investigation took over the case the next day and quickly arrested the shooter, Travis McMichael, his father, Greg McMichael,



In this May 17, 2020, photo, a recently painted mural of Ahmaud Arbery is on display in Brunswick, Ga., where the 25-year-old man was shot and killed in February. It was painted by Miami artist Marvin Weeks. (AP Photo/Sarah Blake Morgan)

and neighbor Roddie Bryan on murder charges.

Outrage over Arbery's slaying still simmered when a Minneapolis police officer killed George Floyd on May 25, igniting protests across the U.S. denouncing racial injustice.

In Brunswick, the death of Arbery served as a wake-up call to many residents, both Black and white, that they needed to be more active in holding elected officials accountable, said the Rev. John Perry. He served as president of the Brunswick NAACP chapter at the time of the killing. Now he's running to be the city's next mayor.

"Previously, we elected people into office and just trusted that they would do the right thing," Perry said. "The failure to carry out justice in the Ahmaud situation said we needed to do more as citizens."

In November, voters angered by Arbery's death ousted District Attorney Jackie Johnson. Greg McMichael had worked as an investigator for John-

son, who recused her office from handling the case. Many blamed Johnson for playing a role in the delayed arrests, an accusation she denies.

Meanwhile, Republican Gov. Brian Kemp is asking Georgia lawmakers to all but eliminate an 1863 state law authorizing private citizens to make arrests. The prosecutor first assigned to the Arbery case cited that law in concluding the killing was justified.

Attorneys for all three men charged in the case insist they committed no crimes. The McMichaels' lawyers have said they pursued Arbery suspecting he was a burglar after security cameras had previously recorded him entering a home under construction. They say Travis McMichael shot Arbery fearing for his life as they grappled over a shotgun. It was Bryan, the third defendant, who took the cellphone video of the shooting from the driver's seat of his pickup truck.

Prosecutors have said Arbery



In this May 17, 2020, photo, Wanda Cooper-Jones visits the Satilla Shores neighborhood in Brunswick, Ga. In February, her son Ahmaud Arbery was shot and killed by two men who told police they thought he was a burglar. (AP Photo/Sarah Blake Morgan)

you keep Ahmaud's name alive, but it's like reading an obituary over and over again,"


Vaughn said. "It's like reliving the past all over again. You've got to stay strong."

SPIRITUAL OUTLOOK

Allah made us more than a skin color

By MICHAEL SAAHIR

"Seest thou not that Allah sends down rain from the sky? With it We then bring out produce of various colors. And in the mountains are tracts white and red, of various shades of color, and black intense in hue. And so amongst men and crawling creatures and cattle, are they of various colors. Those truly fear Allah, among His Servants, who have knowledge: for Allah is Exalted in Might, Oft-Forgiving." [Qur'an 35:27-28]

 Muslim American leader Imam W. Deen Mohammed strongly discouraged accepting "Black" as a label to describe us as a race or ethnicity.

Speaking in Harlem, New York, in April 1984, Imam Mohammed shared, "Sometime, I wonder why the whites like to call us Black and them white? Then it came to me. They are speaking to a reality that we would like to ignore or shut our eyes to. That reality is that we lack, we lack the means, supports, etc., to establish our race in America. We are people lacking. Do you know that B.L.A.C.K is 'B-lack'? We say Black but it's 'b-lack,' be lacking. We are be lacking in so many ways. Now, that's not our language, that's English. I wonder how come they like to call us Blacks? I've been talking to them, and I say, 'Why are you calling me Black?' I show them something that's darker than me. I say, 'What color is that?' They say, 'Dark brown.' I say, 'How come I'm Black and that's dark brown and I'm lighter than that?'"

Below are a few salient points

to ponder when discussing whether the descendants of Africans in America should describe themselves by more than a mere color.

Is the color "Black" sufficient to describe us as human beings when we are so much more than a mere color? Doesn't our humanity and dignity demand more?

Is it even possible for the color "Black" to adequately capture the three-plus centuries of chattel slavery and

the 100 years of Jim Crow we suffered and survived as a people?

Additionally, when we consider the fact that the actual color of our skin is not "Black" — but more like Joseph's coat of many colors (shades) — that one color cannot properly describe. No color can describe our greatness. Our skin color

is not Black, as that of a black ant; and this is true for even the darkest of our people in America.

Who are the intellectuals of our people who decided that we should call ourselves "Black" as a race or ethnicity? "Black" has no geographical locality, heritage or history. It is a cheap label that leads our children into race-based inferiority.

The Irish come from Ireland; Chinese come from China; French come from France, etc.,

so why are we reduced to a mere color? Our existence did not begin or end with slavery. It was the slaveholders who first called us Black, so we argued to be called "Negro," which is "black" in Spanish. Oh, well!

Other ethnic groups only accept being described as a color in certain circles that necessitate color descriptions. But the group pride is not in a mere color; they know — and we should know — that our best description is in our human excellence. Each people's history places them on a trajectory toward their destiny. A skin color is not a destiny. Allah made us more than a skin color.

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



BIBLE TRIVIA
by Wilson Casey

1. Is the book of 2 Peter in Old or New Testament or neither?



2. From Matthew 4, how many days and nights did Jesus fast before his temptation by Satan? 3, 12, 40, 7x70
3. In Genesis 24, who played the matchmaker for Isaac and Rebekah? Nahor, A shepherd, Bethuel, Abraham’s servant
4. From Proverbs 6, what is held up as an example to the lazy man? Bee, Flea, Locust, Ant
5. Who said, “The Lord gave, and the Lord hath taken away”? Satan, Adam, Job, Haman
6. Who/what was Shishak? Roast lamb, Birthplace of Moses, Serpent, King of Egypt

ANSWERS: 1) New; 2) 40; 3) Abraham’s servant; 4) Ant; 5) Job 1:21; 6) King of Egypt

Sharpen your understanding of scripture with Wilson’s Casey’s latest book, “Test Your Bible Knowledge,” available in bookstores and online.

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BIBLE WORD SEARCH
by Elie’s Spiritual Treasures

1 Peter 3:17-18

For it is better, if it is God’s will, to suffer for doing good than for doing evil. For Christ also suffered once for sins, the righteous for the unrighteous, to bring you to God. He was put to death in the body but made alive in the Spirit.

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Z T S I R H C T U P

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

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Pastor Chas A. Sheppard
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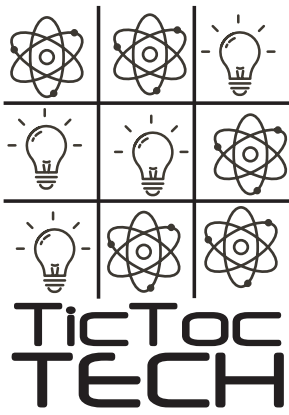
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A crucial conversation on COVID-19 with Dr. Kristina Box



By RUPAL THANAWALA



Women & Hi Tech's Executive Women's Forum (EWF) of 2021,

featuring Indiana Health Commissioner Dr. Kristina Box, was very informative and educational. This EWF event was hosted by Women & Hi Tech's past president and EWF director, Angela B. Freeman and Linda Calvin, respectively, on Feb. 11 during Black History Month, and on the International Day of Women & Girls in Science as declared by the United Nations General Assembly.

Before becoming Indiana's health commissioner, Dr. Box worked as a gynecologist and obstetrician for 30 years in Indianapolis. She was responsible for building the first multidisciplinary Women's Center at Community



Health and spent her early career focused on reducing infant mortality in minority populations. She also led efforts to ensure all women could access preventive health screenings.

Dr. Box started her summary about Indiana's COVID-19 response on a high note — the continuing decline in Indiana's positivity rate.

Dr. Box then dove into Indiana's COVID-19 numbers. She shared that while only 23% of cases have been in individuals age 60-plus, 93% of statewide deaths have been in that population. One-third of cases have been in those under age 30 while 45% of cases have been in those age 30 to 60. Dr. Box said some of these cases have been

because of ignoring mandates for self-isolation and masking, but many more have been because following those mandates wasn't always possible.

Dr. Box shared insights about the process and reasoning behind Indiana's strategy to distribute COVID-19 vaccines. "We engaged a statewide external advisory with clergy, community leaders, diverse minority leaders, health care professionals and more to judge 'is the vaccine appropriate?' and 'is our strategy to distribute it ethical?'"

Dr. Box and her colleagues are extremely focused on vaccine awareness in rural, minority and diverse communities. "There is a very real and justified

fear in minority communities resulting from past injustices like the Tuskegee Experiments. We seek to address this by sharing information with community leaders who can spread the message. We are so appreciative of these partnerships and are continuing to identify such leaders in every single county. We want to educate anyone who wants to learn about the specific efficacy of the vaccine in their population."

Dr. Box explained that Indiana is leading the nation in vaccine strategy and distribution, though faulty national data is causing us to not get the credit. "We have 92 health departments across the state, as well as our nationally-ranked

hospitals and private pharmacies, all helping with the distribution effort—simply because we asked," she said. "When I get on the national status calls, other states...don't understand this is just another example of how Hoosiers have stepped up to the plate, as usual."

Dr. Box shared that Indiana is receiving 100,000 vaccine doses a week. Over 250,000 people have been fully vaccinated and over 900,000 have had a first dose or have scheduled an appointment. "As we prioritize individuals whose age and pre-existing conditions make them a high-risk group, as well as those in frontline industries like health care, emergency response, and retail, I absolutely expect

any Hoosier who wants a vaccine will be able to get one well before the end of 2021."

Visit coronavirus.in.gov to learn more about COVID-19, register for vaccination, schedule a COVID-19 test and get critical information about the virus. You can watch the recording of the event by visiting the YouTube channel for Women & Hi Tech.

Rupal Thanawala is managing director at Trident Systems, a leading business and technology consulting practice, and tech editor for the Indianapolis Recorder. Contact her at rupalt@indyrecorder.com.



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CLOSING THE GAP

FINANCIAL LITERACY INITIATIVE



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
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New Rates

As an historic publication that has served the Indianapolis community for nearly 124 years, it's with regret that the Recorder must raise its rates for legal notices.

Over the past few years there have been undeniable increases in the cost of the paper, yet our company has absorbed the costs without increasing rates. Unfortunately, that is no longer feasible as costs continue to skyrocket. While our rates will increase effective Jan. 1, 2019, the rates are still lower than other media outlets.

We want to thank you for all the support you have shown us and ask for your continued support.

If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to call Raphael Matthew at (317) 924-5143 or email legals@indyrecorder.com

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STATE OF INDIANA
COUNTY OF MARION SS:
IN THE MARION SUPERIOR COURT
PROBATE DIVISION
CAUSE NO.
49D08-2012-AD-043247
IN THE MATTER OF THE ADOPTION OF:
AVERY RAE GAUVY,
A MINOR CHILD
NOTICE TO UNNAMED FATHER
The unnamed putative father of the child born to ESTAMELIE GAUVY on December 4, 2020 or the person who claims to be the father of the child born to ESTAMELIE GAUVY on December 4, 2020, is notified that you have been sued in the Court above named.
The nature of the suit against you is a Dissolution of Marriage action.
This Summons by Publication is specifically directed to the following named Respondent whose whereabouts are unknown: Corey Audrice Marks
If you have a claim for relief against the Petitioner arising from the same transaction or occurrence, you must assert it in your written answer. You must answer the Complaint in writing, by you or your attorney, on or before thirty (30) days after the Third Notice of Suit. If you fail to do so a Judgment/Decree will be entered against you for what the Petitioner has demanded.
Myia A. Eldridge, Clerk
02/19/21
02/19/21
02/26/21

DISSOLUTION

SUMMONS - SERVICE BY PUBLICATION
STATE OF INDIANA
COUNTY OF MARION
IN RE THE MARRIAGE OF:
Pettitioner: Maria Magdalena Isidro Gill
Respondent: Jose Alvarez Boyza
SUPERIOR COURT #14
CASE #
49D14-2102-DN-000538
NOTICE OF SUIT
This Petitioner is directed to Jose Alvarez Boyzo who is being sued and whose whereabouts are unknown. In addition to the above person being served by this summons, there may be others who have an interest in this law suit. Darrell I. Dolan represents the person seeking service by publication, and can be located at 6525 E. 82nd Street, Suite # 1, Indianapolis, IN 46250. The nature of the Suit against you is a Dissolution of Marriage and the property at issue is marital property. You must answer the Complaint in writing, by you or your attorney, within thirty days after the last notice of notice is published. If you fail to do so a judgment will be entered against you for what the Plaintiff I Petitioner has demanded.
Myia A. Eldridge, Clerk
02/19/21
02/19/21
03/05/21

DISSOLUTION

STATE OF INDIANA
COUNTY OF MARION
SUPERIOR COURT #-
CASE #
49D14-2102-DN-000876
IN RE THE MARRIAGE OF:
Pettitioner: Nimah Oyelade
Respondent: Timothy China
NOTICE OF SUIT
This notice is directed to Timothy China who is being sued and whose whereabouts are unknown. In addition to the above person being served by this summons, there may be others who have an interest in this law suit. Darrell J. Dolan represents the person seeking service by publication, and can be located at 6525 E. 82nd Street, Suite #101, Indianapolis, IN 46250. The nature of the Suit against you is a Dissolution of Marriage and the property at issue is marital property. You must answer the Complaint in writing, by you or your attorney, within thirty days after the last notice of notice is published. If you fail to do so a judgment will be entered against you for what the Plaintiff I Petitioner has demanded.
Myia A. Eldridge, Clerk
02/19/21
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NAME CHANGE

STATE OF INDIANA
COUNTY OF MARION
IN RE THE CHANGE OF NAME OF MINORS:
ABDULRAHMAN BADRI TAHIR
MARIYAN BADRI TAHIR
SOPHIA BADRI TAHIR
BADRI MOHAMED BAKAR,
Petitioner.
IN THE MARION CIRCUIT COURT
CASE NUMBERS:
49C01-2010-MI-036322
49C01-2010-MI-036331
49C01-2010-MI-036332
ALIAS NOTICE OF HEARING FOR PUBLICATION IN NEWSPAPER
Notice is hereby given that Petitioner, BADRI MOHAMED BAKAR, on behalf of the Minors, filed for each Minor a separate Verified Petition For Change Of Name Of Minor, on October 14, 2020, to change the Minors' names from ABDULRAHMAN BADRI TAHIR to ABDULRAHMAN BADRI MOHAMED MARIYAN BADRI TAHIR to MARIYAM BADRI MOHAMED SAPHIYA BADRI MOHAMED
The Petition is scheduled for hearing in the Marion Circuit Court on March 30, 2021, at 9:00 a.m., which is more than thirty (30) days after the third notice of publication. Any person has the right to appear at the hearing and to file written objections on or before the hearing date. The parties shall report for hearing, which will be held remotely. The Court will issue a WebEx/Zoom invitation for attendance at the hearing.
So Ordered: January 7, 2021
Myia A. Eldridge, Clerk
02/19/21
02/19/21
02/26/21

NAME CHANGE

STATE OF INDIANA
COUNTY OF MARION SS:
IN THE MATTER OF THE PETITION OF:
SHERRY M. CATHEY, An Adult,
For Change of Name
IN THE MARION COUNTY CIRCUIT COURT
CAUSE NO.
49C01-2101-MI-003362
NOTICE OF PETITION FOR CHANGE OF NAME
Notice is hereby given that I have filed in the Office of the Clerk of Marion County Circuit Court my Petition for change of my name from Sherry M. Cathey to Sherry M. Rice and that said Petition will be heard by the Court on this date: April 13 2021, or as soon thereafter as may be convenient with the Court, at 9:00 A.M. Any person has the right to appear at this hearing and file an objection.
Sherry M. Cathey, Petitioner
02/12/21
02/19/21
02/26/21

NAME CHANGE

STATE OF INDIANA
COUNTY OF MARION SS:
IN THE MATTER OF THE PETITION OF:
ABIGAIL MATHERS WODOCK
IN THE MARION CIRCUIT COURT
CAUSE NO.
49C01-2102-MI-004455
NOTICE OF PETITION FOR CHANGE OF NAME
Abigail Mathers Wodock, whose residential mailing address is 3224 Hedback Way, Indianapolis, Indiana 46220, of Marion County, Indiana, hereby gives notice that she has filed a Petition with the Superior Court of Marion County requesting that her name be changed to Abigail Mathers Wodock. Notice is further given that the hearing will be held on said Petition on the 16 day of April, 2021 at 9:00 o'clock a.m.
Debra Chloe Durbin
02/19/21
02/26/21
03/05/21

NAME CHANGE

STATE OF INDIANA
COUNTY OF MARION SS:
IN RE THE NAME CHANGE OF:
EMILY ANNE WODOCK
IN THE MARION CIRCUIT COURT
CAUSE NO.
49C01-2102-MI-004457
NOTICE OF PETITION FOR CHANGE OF NAME
Emily Anne Wodock, whose residential mailing address is 3224 Hedback Way, Indianapolis, Indiana 46220, of Marion County, Indiana, hereby gives notice that she has filed a Petition with the Superior Court of Marion County requesting that her name be changed to Emily Anne Mathers. Notice is further given that a hearing will be held on said Petition on the 20th day of April 2021 at 9:00 A.M.
Myia A. Eldridge, Clerk
02/19/21
02/26/21
03/05/21

NAME CHANGE

STATE OF INDIANA
COUNTY OF MARION SS:
IN RE THE NAME CHANGE OF:
JASMINA ISABELLA PEREZ-ALDUCIN
MARIA GUADALUPE ALDUCIN-ACEVEDO,
Petitioner.
ORDER RESETTING HEARING
On February 2, 2021, Petitioner, Maria Guadalupe Alducin-Acevedo, appeared for hearing, via WebEx video, with her attorney, EsperanzaAlonzo, on a Verified Petition For Change Of Name Of Minor, filed on October 23, 2020. Publication was not filed and has not been completed. The Court now resets this matter for hearing, on April 16, 2021, at 9:00 a.m. This hearing will be held remotely, via WebEx/Zoom, and the Court will issue the invitation, with instructions, to join the hearing. Petitioner is ordered to file the Publisher's Affidavit and a copy of the publication so that the Court can proceed with testimony on the Petition. The Court orders an interpreter for the Spanish language to assist Petitioner and the Court at the hearing. Any party or agency has the right to appear at the hearing (in person or remotely), and file written objections to the Petition on, or before, the bearing date.
Myia A. Eldridge, Clerk
02/19/21
02/19/21
02/26/21

NAME CHANGE

STATE OF INDIANA
COUNTY OF MARION SS:
IN THE MARION CIRCUIT COURT
IN RE THE NAME CHANGE OF:
Cymerlyne John
Petitioner
CAUSE NO.
49C01-2102-MI-004131
ORDER SETTING HEARING AND NOTICE OF PETITION FOR CHANGE OF NAME
Cymerlyne Subrynna Lynnette John, whose mailing address is: 2909 Denny St., Indianapolis, IN 46218, and if different, my residence address is: , in the Marion County, Indiana, hereby gives notice that Cymerlyne Subrynna Lynnette John has filed a petition in the Marion Circuit Court requesting that her name be changed to Princess Subrynna Bandana.
Notice is further given that the hearing will be held on said Petition on April 16, 2021 at 9:00 A.M. This matter will be held remotely and the Court will issue a WebEx/Zoom invitation for attendance at the hearing;
Myia A. Eldridge, Clerk
02/26/21
03/05/21
03/12/21

NOTICE OF ADMINISTRATION

IN THE MARION COUNTY SUPERIOR COURT
PROBATE DIVISION
STATE OF INDIANA
IN THE MATTER OF THE UNSUPERVISED ADMINISTRATION OF THE ESTATE
CAUSE NO.:
49D08-1912-EU-051368
OF DOLORES ANDERSON, Deceased
NOTICE OF UNSUPERVISED ADMINISTRATION
Notice is hereby given that Matthew N. Cook was on February 18, 2021, appointed personal representative of the Estate of Marilyn L. Cook, deceased, who died on the 29th day of January, 2021.
All persons having claims against said estate, whether or not now due, must file the claim in the Office of the Clerk of this Court within three (3) months from the date of the first publication of this notice, or within nine (9) months after the decedent's death, whichever is earlier, or the claims will be forever barred.
Dated at Indianapolis, Indiana, on February 18, 2021
Myia A. Eldridge, Clerk
02/26/21
03/05/21

NOTICE OF ADMINISTRATION

NOTICE OF ADMINISTRATION
IN THE SUPERIOR COURT OF MARION COUNTY, INDIANA
PROBATE DIVISION
IN THE MATTER OF THE ESTATE OF
MARILYN L. COOK, deceased
ESTATE NO.
49D08-21 02-EU-005452
Notice is hereby given that Matthew N. Cook was on February 18, 2021, appointed personal representative of the Estate of Marilyn L. Cook, deceased, who died on the 29th day of January, 2021.
All persons having claims against said estate, whether or not now due, must file the claim in the Office of the Clerk of this Court within three (3) months from the date of the first publication of this notice, or within nine (9) months after the decedent's death, whichever is earlier, or the claims will be forever barred.
Dated at Indianapolis, Indiana, on February 18, 2021
Myia A. Eldridge, Clerk
02/26/21
03/05/21

NOTICE OF ADMINISTRATION

STATE OF INDIANA
COUNTY OF MARION ss:
IN THE MARION SUPERIOR COURT
PROBATE DIVISION
CAUSE NO.
49D08-2102-EU-004611
IN THE MATTER OF THE UNSUPERVISED ADMINISTRATION OF THE ESTATE OF:
STANLEY CHARLES WARD, DECEASED
NOTICE OF ADMINISTRATION
Notice is hereby given that on February 10, 2021, Steven Ward and Scott Ward were appointed as the Co-Personal Representatives of the Estate of Stanley Charles Ward, who died on the 18th day of December, 2020.
All persons having claims against this estate, whether or not now due, must file the claim in the Office of the Clerk of this Court within three (3) months from the date of the first publication of this notice, or within nine (9) months after the decedent's death, whichever is earlier, or the claims will be forever barred.
Dated February 10, 2021
Myia A. Eldridge, Clerk
02/19/21
02/26/21

NOTICE OF ADMINISTRATION

STATE OF INDIANA
COUNTY OF BOONE ss:
IN THE BOONE SUPERIOR COURT
ESTATE COCKET
CAUSE NO.
06C01-2103-EL-000011
IN THE MATTER OF THE UNSUPERVISED ESTATE OF BETTY JEAN CHANEY DECEASED
NOTICE OF ADMINISTRATION
Notice is hereby given that BOBBIE GUTIERREZ AND/OR DORIS G. BRAUMAN MOORE, were on February 8, 2021, appointed as Personal Representatives of the Estate of BETTY JEAN CHANEY, deceased, who died on the OCTOBER 25, 2020.
All persons who have claims against this estate, whether or not now due, must file the claim in the office of the Clerk of this Court within three (3) months from the date of the first publication of this notice, or within nine (9) months after the decedent's death, whichever is earlier, or the claims will be forever barred.
DATED at Indiana, this February 8, 2021
Jesika Fouts, Clerk
02/19/21
02/26/21

NOTICE OF ADMINISTRATION

NOTICE OF ADMINISTRATION
In the Marion Superior Court Probate Division
In the matter of the Estate of John Crawford, deceased.
Cause Number
49D08-2101-EU-002527
Notice is hereby given that Brad Crawford was on day of 2021, appointed Special Administrator of the estate of Debra Crawford, deceased, who died on the 25th day of July, 2020.
All persons Who have claims against this estate, Whether or not now due, must file the claim in the office of the clerk of this court within three (3) months from the date of the first publication of this notice, or Within nine (9) months after the decedent's death, whichever is earlier, or the claims Will be forever barred.
Dated this day of
Myia A. Eldridge, Clerk
02/26/21
03/05/21

NOTICE OF ADMINISTRATION

STATE OF INDIANA
COUNTY OF MARION SS:
IN THE MARION SUPERIOR COURT
PROBATE DIVISION
CAUSE NO.
49D08-2102-EU-005172
IN THE MATTER OF THE UNSUPERVISED ESTATE OF MICKEY SHARON MCCOLLY, DECEASED.
Notice is hereby given that JoEllen Ash was appointed the Personal Representative of the estate of Mickey Sharon McColly, deceased, on the date written below and was authorized to proceed with her unsupervised administration.
All persons having claims against said estate, whether or not now due, must file their claim with the Court within three (3) months from the date of the first publication of this notice or within nine (9) months after the decedent's death (whichever is earlier), or said claims will be forever barred.
Dated: February 18, 2021
Myia A. Eldridge, Clerk
02/26/21
03/05/21

PUBLIC NOTICE

Legal Notice
Cause No. 45493
VERIFIED PETITION OF INDIANAPOLIS POWER & LIGHT COMPANY ("IPL") FOR (1) ISSUANCE TO IPL OF A CERTIFICATE OF PUBLIC CONVENIENCE AND NECESSITY FOR THE ACQUISITION AND DEVELOPMENT BY A CERTAIN PARTY OWNED BY IPL OF AN ALTERNATIVE GENERATING FACILITY TO BE KNOWN AS HARDY HILLS SOLAR ("THE HARDY HILLS PROJECT"); (2) APPROVAL OF THE HARDY HILLS PROJECT, INCLUDING A JOINT VENTURE STRUCTURE BETWEEN AN IPL SUBSIDIARY AND ONE OR MORE TAX EQUITY PARTNERS AND A JOINT VENTURE FOR DIFFERENCES BETWEEN IPL AND THE PROJECT COMPANY THAT HOLDS AND OPERATES THE SOLAR GENERATION ASSETS, AS A CLEAN ENERGY PROJECT AND ASSOCIATED TIMELY COST RECOVERY UNDER IND. CODE § 8-1-8.8-11; (3) APPROVAL OF ACCOUNTING AND RATEMAKING FOR THE HARDY HILLS PROJECT, INCLUDING AN ALTERNATIVE REGULATORY PLAN UNDER IND. CODE § 8-1-2.5-6 TO FACILITATE IPL'S INVESTMENT IN THE HARDY HILLS PROJECT THROUGH A JOINT VENTURE; AND (4) TO THE EXTENT NECESSARY, ISSUANCE OF AN ORDER PURSUANT TO IND. CODE § 8-1-2.5-6 DECLINING TO EXERCISE JURISDICTION OVER THE JOINT VENTURE, INCLUDING THE PROJECT COMPANY, AS A PUBLIC UTILITY.
Notice is hereby given that on February 12, 2021, Indianapolis Power & Light Company ("IPL") filed a Petition with the Indiana Utility Regulatory Commission ("Commission") for (1) issuance to IPL of a certificate of public convenience and necessity ("CPCN") for the acquisition and development, by a wholly-owned IPL subsidiary, of Hardy Hills Solar, including development of transmission interconnection and network upgrades ("Hardy Hills Project" or "Project"); (2) approval of the Hardy Hills Project, including a Joint Venture structure between an IPL subsidiary and one or more tax equity partners, and a contract for differences between IPL and the Project Company that holds and operates the solar generation facility, as a Clean Energy Project, and associated timely cost recovery under Ind. Code § 8-1-8.8-11; (3) approval of accounting and ratemaking for the Hardy Hills Project including an Alternative Regulatory Plan ("ARP") to facilitate IPL's investment in the Hardy Hills Project through the Joint Venture; and (4) to the extent necessary, issuance of an order pursuant to Ind. Code § 8-1-2.5-6 declining to exercise jurisdiction over the Joint Venture, including the Project Company, as a public utility. This notice is provided to the public under Ind. Code § 8-1-2.5-6(d). A copy of the Petition and other submissions in this proceeding is on file with the Commission, PNC Center, 101 West Washington Street, Suite 1500 East, Indianapolis, Indiana 46204. The telephone number of the Commission is (317) 232-2701. Anyone wishing to protest, challenge, or intervene in this action may do so by contacting the Commission.
02/26/21

NOTICE OF ADMINISTRATION

STATE OF INDIANA
COUNTY OF MARION ss:
IN THE MARION COUNTY SUPERIOR COURT
PROBATE DIVISION
CAUSE NO.
49D08-2101-EU-002548
Notice is hereby given that Brad Crawford was on day of 2021, appointed Special Administrator of the estate of Debra Crawford, deceased, who died on the 27th day of July, 2020.
All persons Who have claims against this estate, Whether or not now due, must file the claim in the office of the clerk of this court within three (3) months from the date of the first publication of this notice, or Within nine (9) months after the decedent's death, whichever is earlier, or the claims Will be forever barred.
Dated this day of January 27, 2021
Myia A. Eldridge, Clerk
02/26/21
03/05/21

NOTICE OF ADMINISTRATION

STATE OF INDIANA
COUNTY OF MARION ss:
IN THE MARION COUNTY SUPERIOR COURT
PROBATE DIVISION
CAUSE NO.
49D08-2102-EU-004013
DECEASED.
NOTICE OF ADMINISTRATION TO BE PUBLISHED
In the Matter of the Unsupervised Estate of Scorchy E. Woods, deceased.
Notice is hereby given that on February 5, 2021, Phyllis M. Miller was appointed Personal Representative of the Estate of Scorchy E. Woods, deceased, who died tested on December 11, 2020.
All persons having claims against said estate, Whether or not now due, must file a claim in the Office of the Clerk of this Court Within three (3) months from the date of the first publication of this notice or Within (9) months after the decedent's death. Whichever is earlier, or the claims will be forever barred.
Dated at Indianapolis, Indiana, January 22, 2021
Myia A. Eldridge, Clerk
02/19/21
02/26/21

NOTICE OF ADMINISTRATION

STATE OF INDIANA
COUNTY OF MARION SS:
IN THE MARION SUPERIOR COURT
PROBATE DIVISION
CAUSE NO.
49D08-2101-EU-001314
IN THE MATTER OF THE UNSUPERVISED ESTATE OF ROBERT H. GLOVER DECEASED.
NOTICE OF ADMINISTRATION
Notice is hereby given that on January 14, 2021, Lowell S. Glover was appointed personal representative of the estate of Robert H. Glover, deceased, who died on the 22nd day of November, 2020.
All persons having claims against this estate, whether or not now due, must file the claim in the office of the Clerk of this Court within three (3) months from the date of the first publication of this notice, or Within nine (9) months after the decedent's death, whichever is earlier, or the claims Will be forever barred.
Dated at Indianapolis, Indiana, on January 14, 2021
Myia A. Eldridge, Clerk
02/19/21
02/26/21

PUBLIC NOTICE

Indiana's Finest Wrecker will be having an auction/public sale on March 8th, 2021 at 8AM, 7576 W Washington St, Indianapolis, IN 46231. List of vehicles to be included in the sale:			
Year	Make	VIN	Sale Price
2010	FORD	3FAHP0HA6AR318353	\$1,500.00
2012	CHEVROLET	3GNAL2EK7CS529578	\$1,500.00
2009	DODGE	1B3LC56B79N555894	\$1,500.00
hspxlp			02/26/21

NOTICE OF ADMINISTRATION

STATE OF INDIANA
COUNTY OF MORGAN
SUPERIOR COURT
PROBATE DIVISION
CAUSE NO.
55D02-2102-EU-000022
IN RE: THE ESTATE OF JOSHUA WAYNE DONICA
NOTICE OF UNSUPERVISED ADMINISTRATION
Notice is hereby given that WILLIAM MARK DONICA was (were) on the 9th day of February, 2021 appointed personal representative(s) of the estate of JOSHUA WAYNE DONICA, deceased, and is (are) serving as personal representative of the decedent's estate, and was (were) authorized to proceed under unsupervised administration. Decedent died on December 23, 2020.
All persons who have claims against this estate, whether or not now due, must file the claim in the office of the Clerk of this Court within 3 months from the date of the first publication of this notice, or within 9 months after the decedent's death, whichever is earlier, or the claim will be forever barred.
Dated at Martinsville, Indiana, on this the 10th day of February, 2021
Stephanie Elliott, Clerk
02/19/21
02/26/21

NOTICE OF ADMINISTRATION

STATE OF INDIANA
COUNTY OF MARION SS:
IN THE MARION SUPERIOR COURT
PROBATE DIVISION
CAUSE NO.
49D08-2102-EU-004954
IN THE MATTER OF THE UNSUPERVISED ADMINISTRATION OF THE ESTATE OF:
LAWRENCE P. PERRONIE, DECEASED.
Notice is hereby given that Nicholas J. Wildeman was on FEBRUARY 12, 2021, appointed as personal representative of the estate of Lawrence P. Perronie, deceased.
All persons who have claims against this estate, whether or not now due, must file the claim in the office of the clerk of this court within three (3) months from the date of the first publication of this notice, or within nine (9) months after the decedent's death, whichever is earlier, or the claims will be forever barred.
Dated at Indianapolis, Indiana, this FEBRUARY 12, 2021
Myia A. Eldridge, Clerk
02/26/21
03/05/21

NAME CHANGE

STATE OF INDIANA
COUNTY OF MARION SS:
IN THE MARION CIRCUIT COURT
IN RE THE NAME CHANGE OF:
Cymerlyne John
Petitioner
CAUSE NO.
49C01-2102-MI-004131
ORDER SETTING HEARING AND NOTICE OF PETITION FOR CHANGE OF NAME
Cymerlyne Subrynna Lynnette John, whose mailing address is: 2909 Denny St., Indianapolis, IN 46218, and if different, my residence address is: , in the Marion County, Indiana, hereby gives notice that Cymerlyne Subrynna Lynnette John has filed a petition in the Marion Circuit Court requesting that her name be changed to Princess Subrynna Bandana.
Notice is further given that the hearing will be held on said Petition on April 16, 2021 at 9:00 A.M. This matter will be held remotely and the Court will issue a WebEx/Zoom invitation for attendance at the hearing;
Myia A. Eldridge, Clerk
02/26/21
03/05/21
03/12/21

New baseball team expands opportunities for players with disabilities

By TYLER FENWICK
tylerf@indyrecorder.com

Like most baseball fans, David Lowe has a romantic way of talking about the sport he grew up playing.

The one-on-one struggle between a pitcher and a batter — Lowe loves it.

“There’s nothing like it,” he said.

Lowe is now the head coach of the Indianapolis Flames, a new team that’s part of the Alternative Baseball Organization. The league is for players with autism and other disabilities.

Lowe and his wife, Brittany, are the team’s general managers.

It’s unclear when the Flames or any of the other 82 teams across the country will be able to take batting practice and field grounders because of the COVID-19 pandemic, but when that time comes, the Lowes said they want to create a supportive environment where wins and losses are secondary.

“I want us to kind of be a family,” said David, who played baseball through high school and recently got his coaching certificate.

The Lowes have a 5-year-old son with autism and understand the importance of creating spaces that are not only tailored to people with physical or mental disabilities, but also spaces that focus on the positives.

Services such as therapy are necessary, but they can also become overwhelming. A baseball diamond is where people can have fun and build friendships.

“It’s a judgment-free zone,” said Brittany, who runs an informal support group on Facebook for parents who have children with autism. “We’re not gonna focus on what it is



David throws a ball for his son to hit.

David and Brittany Lowe with their 5-year-old son, Damien. The Lowes are general managers of the Indianapolis Flames, part of the growing Alternative Baseball Organization. (Photos provided by Brittany Lowe)

they might struggle with. We’re trying to shed light on their gifts, their talents.”

Brittany said the ideal situation would be to have two Flames teams in Indianapolis — one north and one south — to accommodate players on opposite sides of the city, but that would require more players, coaches and volunteers.

The season likely won’t start until June, she said. There is no maximum age limit, but players must be at least 15.

Learn more about how to get involved at alternativebaseball.org.

Taylor Duncan started the Alternative Baseball Organization in 2016. Duncan, who has autism, loves baseball but had a difficult time finding accep-

tance in the sport as a kid.

“It’s a fantastic feeling to be able to go out there and serve others like myself,” he said.

The league had 20 teams before the pandemic but grew rapidly, Taylor said, because of expanded media coverage as people craved sports with major American leagues on

pause. Unlike most other sports leagues for people with disabilities, the league does not include on-field “buddies” to help players, but gameplay is designed to match each player’s skill level. That means, for example, some batters face overhand pitching while others face underhand pitching or hit off of a tee.

Other than that, the standard rules of baseball apply. Three strikes and you’re out; four balls is a walk. Players can lead off and steal bases, and games go to extra innings if there’s a tie.

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

EXPLAINER: A trickier NCAA bracket in this unusual season

By STEVE MEGARGEE
AP Sports Writer

There’s no need to worry about geography in this year’s NCAA Tournament.

Get ready for plenty of talk about the so-called “S curve” instead. And don’t worry — it’s not that complicated.

With the entire tournament taking place in or near Indianapolis, there is no reason for the four geographic regions that have been a part of past NCAA brackets. The NCAA doesn’t have to ensure the best teams play closer to home.

The NCAA instead is trying to use the “S curve” in which a team’s placement is more dependent on its strength than its location. The No. 1 overall seed ideally would have the No. 8 overall seed as the second-best team in its region, the top No. 2 seed in the same section with the No. 7 overall seed and the same approach for 3 vs. 6 and 4 vs. 5.

Whether that happens isn’t a sure thing: Rules prevent conference rivals from facing off early in the tournament and the S curve — the NCAA helpfully put out a specific explanation of this term — often gets broken up.

“The likelihood of being able to be a perfect S curve is probably unlikely,” said Kentucky athletic director Mitch Barnhart, who chairs the NCAA Division I men’s basketball committee. “There’s going to have to be modifications.”

It is creating plenty of uncertainty for teams competing for bids — as well as the people filling out the bracket.

“This is just an unprecedented tournament, an unprecedented time,” Wisconsin coach Greg Gard said. “Hopefully it’s only a one-off and we’re only going to have to do this and navigate this one time this way.”

THOSE CONFERENCE MATCHUPS

Teams from the same conference can’t meet before the regional final if they’ve already played each other at least three times in a season. If they’ve faced off twice, league foes can’t meet until the regional semifinals.

Some of this is already being played out. For instance, when the committee revealed last week which schools would earn the top 16 seeds if the bracket were being announced that day, No. 4 overall seed Ohio State was included in a region with No. 14 seed Texas Tech, rather than No. 13 seed Iowa. Ohio State and Iowa already met once, are scheduled to face off again Feb. 28 and could battle each other a third time



Staff members for the NCAA place the names of the teams in the Sweet 16 on a bracket in the media work room before the start of practices, Thursday, March 23, 2017, at the East Regional of the NCAA college basketball tournament. (AP Photo/Julie Jacobson)

in the Big Ten Tournament.

No. 8 overall seed Houston was in a region with No. 3 overall seed Michigan rather than No. 1 overall seed Gonzaga. Plenty of other pairings also didn’t quite match what a true S curve would have reflected.

LACK OF NONCONFERENCE GAMES

Division I teams played fewer than half as many nonconference games as usual this year. That makes it tougher than ever to compare the credentials of teams from various leagues.

It also could make it particularly challenging for teams from outside the major conferences to land at-large bids. Typically, contenders from those leagues build their resumes by beating schools from bigger leagues. Those schools didn’t get nearly enough of those opportunities this year.

Barnhart said the biggest challenge is the fact that pandemic-related pauses have caused some teams to play fewer games than others through no fault of their own. There’s also the dilemma of how to rate a team that might lose a game or two due to the rust factor after a long layoff.

“There is no hard-and-fast rule,” Barnhart said. “I think the thing we’ve got to understand is, we’re going to play the ball as it lies. The resumes are the resumes.”

HOW LOW IS TOO LOW?

Up to now, no team has ever earned an at-large bid with a worse record than the 16-14 mark that Villanova had in 1991 and Georgia had in 2001.

That could change this season, because the pan-

demic limited the number of so-called guarantee games that allow major conference teams to boost their records.

Jerry Palm, who forecasts the NCAA brackets for CBS Sports, said a team could make it this year while being only one or two games above .500 as a possibility. Joe Lunardi, who predicts the bracket for ESPN, believes even a team with a losing record could get an at-large bid.

Finding a team that fits that profile is tricky. Maryland (13-10) was an obvious candidate before the Terapins won three straight games to pull above .500.

The highest-rated team with a losing record in the NET rankings is Penn State (7-10). The Nittany Lions dealt their NCAA hopes a severe blow by falling to Michigan State and Nebraska in their last two games.

MEASURING ROAD WINS

One dilemma facing the committee is how to determine the value of a road win during a pandemic, when teams are playing in front of no fans or much smaller crowds than usual.

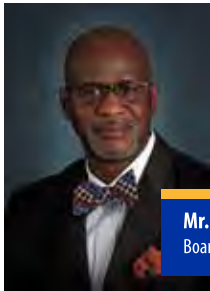
“It diminishes the effect of the home-court advantage, so to speak,” Barnhart said. “But I never want to lose sight of the fact the team has to test to get on the bus or play, they’ve got to travel, they’ve got to stay in a hotel, they’re out of their element, they’re playing in an area they aren’t used to, all those things.”

Home teams had won about 65% of Division I games this season, not far off last season’s pace of 68.4%.



BLACK HISTORY MATTERS





Mr. Reginald McGregor
Board of Education, President



Ms. Crystal Puckett
Board of Education, Secretary



Dr. Shawn A. Smith
Superintendent of Schools



Ms. Carla Johnson
Chief of Human Resources



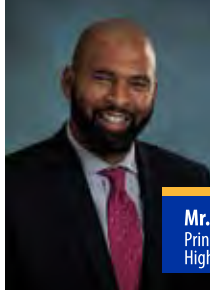
Ms. Shawn Bush
Director of Student Services



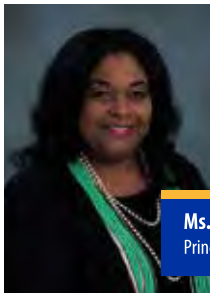
Ms. Tierney Anderson
Director of Elementary Education



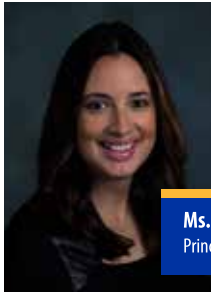
Mr. Carl Blythe
Principal of Mary Castle Elementary



Mr. Franklyn Bush
Principal of Lawrence Central High School



Ms. Conni Davis
Principal of ELC Winding Ridge



Ms. Edyza Deynes
Principal of ELC Brook Park



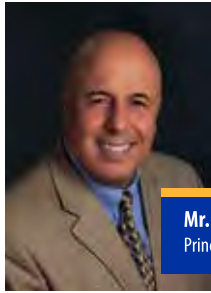
Ms. Alicia Gatewood
Principal of Brook Park Elementary



Ms. Alicia Harris
Principal of Winding Ridge Elementary



Dr. Justin Hunter
Principal of Skiles Test Elementary



Mr. Jerome Lahlou
Principal Forest Glen Elementary



Ms. Tracey Means
Principal of Lawrence Advance Academy



Ms. Mari Swayne
Director of McKenzie Center for Innovation & Technology

Lawrence Township Schools are Proud of Our
LEADERSHIP DIVERSITY



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LIVING BLACK HISTORY, EVERY WEEK

By STAFF

The Indianapolis Recorder Newspaper, the nation's fourth-oldest African American newspaper, is celebrating 126 years of being a voice for the community and serving the underserved while maintaining a high level of journalistic integrity.

Not many Black-owned businesses — or businesses in general — have existed for 126 years! This accomplishment is a testament to the Recorder's significance to the city of Indianapolis — not just the African American community.

What began in 1895 as a two-page church bulletin, created by co-founders George P. Stewart and William Porter, now hails as Indiana's Greatest Weekly by consistently providing the community with up-to-date local and national news grounded in journalistic excellence.

Stewart and Porter, a local attorney, operated a commercial printing company at 122 W. New York St., which was also the original location of the Recorder. Porter sold his shares of the paper to Stewart in 1899, and the newspaper remained in the Stewart family until 1988 when local journalist Eunice Trotter purchased the company.

After becoming sole owner, Stewart moved to 414 Indiana Ave. in 1900. He moved two more times, 236-40 W. Walnut St. and 518-20 Indiana Ave., before settling into the current location, 2901 N. Tacoma Ave., in 1975.

Despite the oftentimes overt systemic racism of the early years, intimidation via death threats directed at its journalists from the Ku Klux Klan, burglary of its offices, and the hard-hitting economic crisis, the Recorder has remained steadfast in upholding the mission encapsulated on its masthead, "preparing a conscious community today and beyond."

"I joined the Recorder because of its rich culture and unique legacy," said Recorder Media Group President and Chief Executive Officer Robert Shegog, who began leading the historic media organization in June 2018. "While I'm not a journalist by trade, I understand the power of the written word. Not only does the Recorder hold itself to the highest journalistic standards, but we're also a voice for the underrepresented — especially in today's media climate where only a few are heard above the cacophony. We are truly for us, by us."

Eunice Trotter: 1988-1990

William G. Mays: 1990-present



See LIVING, 4 ► George P. Stewart: 1895-1924

Marcus C. Stewart Sr.: 1925-1983

LIVING

► Continued from 3

PUBLISHERS

GEORGE P. STEWART: 1895-1924

In 1895, George P. Stewart and William H. Porter founded the Indianapolis Recorder Newspaper. Originally a two-page church bulletin with an emphasis on statewide news for African Americans, the Recorder expanded to a weekly publication to encourage the Black community to become more civically involved and stand up for equality.

MARCUS C. STEWART SR.: 1925-1983

As the Indianapolis Recorder continued to expand and include more pages and special sections, it remained a family business under the control of Marcus C. Stewart, the son of co-founder George P. Stewart. During the Marcus Stewart era, the publication covered a lot of issues related to crime and politics in Indianapolis and within the state of Indiana.

EUNICE TROTTER: 1988-1990

Longtime and respected journalist Eunice Trotter purchased the Indianapolis Recorder in 1988. With Trotter's journalism experience, the publication began to focus less on crime and more on the positive aspects of the community. Under the leadership of Trotter, the company updated much of the equipment needed to produce the weekly paper.

WILLIAM G. MAYS: 1990-PRESENT

In 1990, entrepreneur and civic leader William G. "Bill" Mays, the founder of Mays Chemical Company, purchased the Recorder, reviving it through financial contributions and connecting the publication to key city leaders and organizations. Due to Mays' reputation in the state of Indiana and throughout the country, he drew a great deal of attention to the Recorder, which helped establish major advertising deals for the newspaper. His focus was to ensure the Recorder remains one of the best newspapers in the country while sharing positive and useful Black news with the local community. Although Mays died in 2014, he is still recognized as publisher due to the lasting impact of his contributions and legacy.

PRESIDENTS

CHARLES BLAIR: 1991-1997

Charles Blair became vice president and general manager in 1991. He pushed the publication to become more directly involved in the community through initiatives such as circulation promotions, bike giveaways for children and more. Blair also welcomed youth into the company by increasing paper deliveries by children.

CAROLENE MAYS-MEDLEY: 1998-2010

In 1998, William "Bill" Mays asked his niece, Carolene Mays-Medley, to take charge of the Indianapolis Recorder as the new century approached. Mays-Medley made the business more profitable within one year and enhanced its editorial content. Under her tenure, the building's structure was significantly improved. In addition, full color and specific sections of the paper were introduced during this time. Mays-Medley, who also served in the state legislature during much of her time at the Recorder, also heightened the Recorder's presence in the community locally and nationally.

SHANNON WILLIAMS: 2010-2018

In 2010, Shannon Williams continued Medley-Mays' efforts to develop the Indianapolis Recorder into one of the best newspapers in the country. As a result of her extensive background in journalism and communications, Williams helped continue the solid company structure while assisting newsroom staff with crafting quality articles on positive and useful news in the African American community. In addition, the Recorder Advisory Council and Recorder Media Group were created under Williams' leadership. A major focus during this time was placed on electronic media, including expansion of the website and social media platforms. Williams also increased the Recorder's presence in the community and sought to attract younger readers. In 2011, the Indianapolis Recorder became the first African American newspaper to digitize its archive editions.

ROBERT SHEGOG: 2018-CURRENT

President and CEO Robert Shegog has been instrumental in building continuity across all of the company's products and amplifying community engagement strategies. He and his team continue to usher in a new era of leadership with the charge to extend the rich legacies of the Indianapolis Recorder and Indiana Minority Business Magazine for generations to come by better utilizing the online platforms for both publications.



Charles Blair: 1991-1997



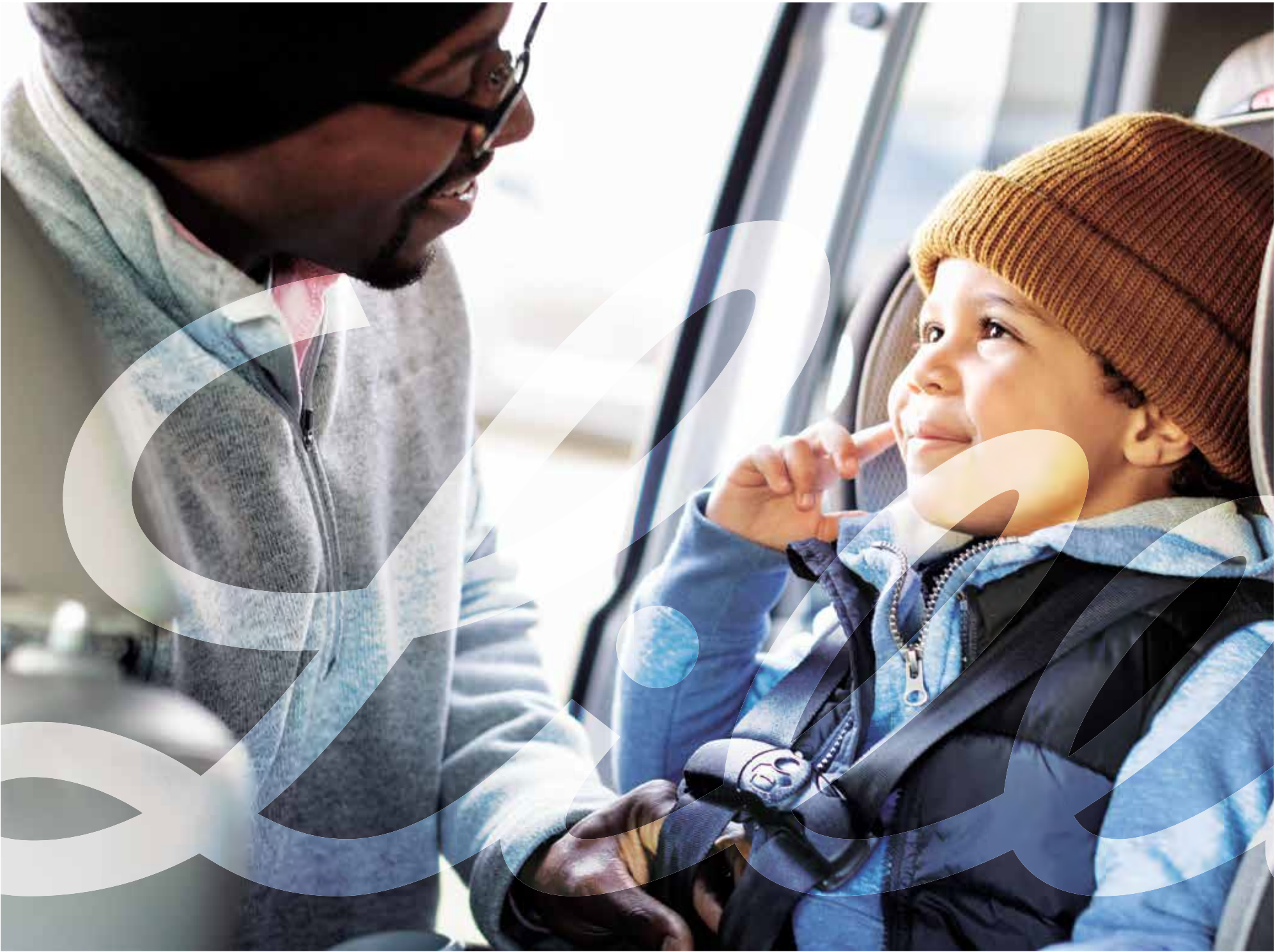
Carolene Mays-Medley: 1998-2010



Shannon Williams: 2010-2018



Robert Shegog: 2018-current



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BILL MAYS SOARED IN BUSINESS AND SAVED THE RECORDER

By TYLER FENWICK
tylerf@indyrecorder.com

Bill Mays, whose philanthropic and business footprints stretched all over Indianapolis, prioritized the advancement and preservation of the city's African American community. His two most celebrated

accomplishments: starting what became one of the nation's largest minority-owned businesses in Mays Chemical Company, and buying the Recorder. Mays died in 2014 at 69 years old.

Founded in 1980 as a one-man operation, Mays Chemical in 2018 was the 42nd-largest minority-owned business in the country, and the largest in Indiana, according to Black Enterprise. Mays Chemical provides chemicals to

manufacturers in the auto, pharmaceutical, food and beverage industries. Mays retired from executive leadership in 2011, after having invested his time and money into more than 100 companies and donating millions to philanthropic causes.

Bill West, who worked closely with Mays at the company, recalled the late legendary media personality Amos Brown asking sometime in the late 1980s how many organizations Mays Chemical supported. West guessed it was around 40 or 50, but he went back to the previous year's ledger and found out it was actually 160.

"That wasn't even a busy year," West said. "That was a normal year."

Mays required those at his company be involved in the community, whether

that was serving on boards of directors or volunteering a weekend afternoon for a community event. West said Mays would sometimes walk into people's offices to tell them he'd just gotten back from a meeting and volunteered them for something he didn't personally have time for.

That Mays turned himself into such a success wasn't surprising to those who knew him before the days of Mays Chemical, including college roommate and lifelong friend Edwin Marshall.

"One of the driving statements he made that I still follow today is that it's always about access," Marshall remembered. "You don't have to take advantage of everything that comes your way, but you want to be prepared for the opportunities that arise."

Mays and Marshall were in the same fraternity, Kappa Alpha Psi, at Indiana University in Bloomington, and lived in an apartment together their last couple years of college. They were opposites in some ways — Marshall said he hated to clean, while Bill seemed to love it — but went on to godfather each other's children.

When Mays bought the Recorder in 1990, the newspaper was in danger of going out of business. Mays was a well-established figure in the community by that point and was approached regularly with different opportunities. But as West remembered, the Recorder was special to Mays, and he wanted to see the paper get to its 100th anniversary in 1995.

"That was important for him," West said. "He wanted to see that. He wanted to make sure that happened."

The Recorder not only survived, but it grew. Readership went from about 10,000 when he purchased the newspaper to where it is today at around 100,000. When Mays died, former Recorder President Shannon Williams expressed the company's gratitude to its savior.

"I am grateful he had the insight and passion to purchase the Indianapolis Recorder Newspaper at a time when it was at its most vulnerable," Williams said at the time in a statement. "His efforts helped to preserve the history of African-Americans in Indiana."

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



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William G. Mays



William G. Mays
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Tasha Beckwith

Tasha Beckwith
*Entrepreneurs Awakening:
The Making of a Legacy*, (Detail), 2021
Digital design on vinyl



Indianapolis Airport Authority

MADAM WALKER
LEGACY CENTER



**Eunice Trotter**

By TYLER FENWICK
tylerf@indyrecorder.com

EUNICE TROTTER INCLUDED THE RECORDER IN A DECORATED CAREER

Her career took her all over the nation — California, Florida, New York — and across the state. Aside from the Indianapolis Star and the Recorder, Trotter worked at the Fort Wayne News-Sentinel from 1998 to 2002, where she oversaw three departments and managed extensive reporting on the rising Burmese population in the area.

It was a career that earned Trotter a place in the Indiana Journalism Hall of Fame in 2017. She was the only African American inducted that year.

"It made me feel really special," Trotter said. "It made me feel that a lot of the work I'd done did not go unnoticed. It's an honor, not one that goes to my head,

but it is an honor."

Trotter was also a pioneer, though she didn't know it right away. When the Indianapolis Star promoted her to city editor in the early 1980s, Trotter became the paper's first Black editor. She said she only learned that later when she discovered there was no one she could look up to.

"As you start looking back at mentors who had that same position, you found there was no one there who looked like you," Trotter said.

Trotter got her start in the business at the Recorder. She contributed to the heralded "Teen Talk" column, which rounded up all the local teen issues in

gossip style and drew in a younger readership. Trotter had a family connection to the Recorder, since her great uncle was once on the paper's staff and her family came from Vincennes, the same town as the founders of the paper, the Stewarts.

Trotter's first byline in the Recorder came in September 1986. Her last came in August 1991. Between then, Trotter wrote about the AIDS epidemic, Black legislative leaders, the elderly and much more. She went on to own the paper from 1987 to 1991.

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



Marion County Sheriff's Office

Commemorates

Black History Month





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Current Chief Deputy, fifty year veteran, and second in command of the Marion County Sheriff's Office.



Tanesha Crear
Proudly rising through the ranks for the past fifteen years, Deputy Chief Crear now commands the Jail Division of the MCSO.



Kelvis T. Williams
A law enforcement officer for over forty years, Deputy Chief Williams now commands the Communications and Homeland Security Division of the MCSO.



Eva Talley-Sanders
As Chief Deputy from 2011-2018, Talley-Sanders was the highest-ranking woman in the history of the MCSO. She also served as Assistant Chief of IMPD.



Frank Anderson
Former United States Marshal and the first African-American Sheriff of Marion County. Sheriff Anderson served from 2003-2010.

As we celebrate Black History Month, Marion County Sheriff Kerry Forestal thanks all of the women and men who have made the MCSO the diverse, inclusive agency it is today.

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PROTESTS CAME TO INDIANAPOLIS IN 2020

By BREANNA COOPER
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TYLER FENWICK
tyler@indyrecorder.com

A nearly hour-long standoff between demonstrators and Indiana State Police (ISP) June 1 ended peacefully after ISP officers momentarily removed their riot gear.

Late in the afternoon June 1, protesters began a march they hoped would take them to the governor's mansion. A group of roughly 50 people on foot marched, carrying signs reading messages such as "Black lives matter" and "Blue lives murder" and were trailed by a procession of roughly 80 cars as the protest made its way through downtown.

With car horns blaring and chants of "Hands up, don't shoot" echoing through the crowd, police were on high alert. While members of the Indiana National Guard Reactionary Force stood guard near Monument Circle, officers from ISP and the Indianapolis Metropolitan Police Department (IMPD) were attempting to follow the crowd. Protest organizers streamed much of the procession on Facebook Live, but never revealed their exact location.

As they walked toward the governor's mansion, protesters noticed a line of over a dozen ISP patrol cars blocking off 46th Street. One protester draped in a flag reading "Don't tread on me" stopped the group and informed them, "They don't want us to reach the governor's mansion!" and encouraged the group to continue to move forward and confront the police.

As the crowd advanced toward the group of well over 40 officers, all in riot gear, it was roughly 15

minutes after the 8 p.m. curfew imposed by Mayor Joe Hogsett. As they reached the line of officers, many demonstrators took a knee, raising their hands in the air screaming "Hands up, don't shoot!"

After that, amid the chanting of the crowd, conversations took place: Protesters speaking to fellow protesters, and protesters speaking with officers. At several points, tension arose as words were exchanged. Organizers of the demonstration, however, worked to deescalate the situation, telling members of the crowd to step back. About 30 minutes into the standoff, officers deployed a low-dose pepper ball into the crowd after a few demonstrators crossed a threshold that was established by officers earlier in the demonstration.

At one point, protester Anthony Brown stood between police and members of the demonstration, trying to bridge understanding between both groups.

"I was saying, you guys swore you were going to

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“We need laws ... we need justice,” four young activists said at a recent rally. (Photo/Breanna Cooper)

protect and serve,” Brown said. “And, a bunch of people were asking them to serve with us, hand in hand. They did that. I would love to see more cops come out and do that.”

Brown said he hopes this protest will create “listening ears and change,” and said protesters were giving officers examples of what laws they think should be changed and how to move forward.

Nearly an hour after the standoff began, ISP officers briefly removed their riot gear and lowered their batons and weapons, seemingly signaling to protesters they heard what they were saying. Loud cheers and applause erupted from the crowd, and several members of the demonstration approached police to shake hands and exchange hugs. Others in the crowd, however, viewed the removal of riot gear as an empty gesture and were upset with protesters for engaging with police.

Mat Davis, an organizer who read a list of demands to police and led chants, told demonstrators to not shake hands and hug police.

He led chants of “Stop hugging the police!” as people made their way back toward downtown on Meridian.

Police followed behind in squad cars most of the way, and they were posted at many intersections.

The original plan was to walk to 16th Street in order to avoid downtown, but many people were parked downtown.

They continued to Vermont Street, where Davis, who talked with police earlier, told the group that officers said people would be able to walk to their cars and go home.

“They’ve definitely given us the green light to be able to do that,” Davis said, stopping the group. “We don’t have anything else. I gotta make sure that none of y’all get maced, billy-clubbed, beat up, arrested or none of that. Once we’ve splitten up, we’ve been given the word that they won’t do anything.”

Then he harkened back to one of the most common chants of the night: “Can I ask you a question?” he repeated. “Have the police ever deescalated a m*****n’ thing!”

Everyone shouted no.

Shortly after, people split into smaller groups in order to stay together as they left, with most clearing the area by about 11 p.m.

Contact staff writers Breanna Cooper at 317-762-7848. Follow her on Twitter @BreannaNCooper. Contact staff writer Tyler Fenwick at 317-762-78523. Follow him on Twitter @Ty_Fenwick.

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'LIVING HISTORY MUSEUM' CELEBRATES MARTINDALE BRIGHTWOOD

By BREANNA COOPER
BreannaC@indyrecorder.com

The history of the Martindale Brightwood neighborhood came alive at the 37th Place Community Center in February 2020, thanks to collaborations from Indy Fringe, Harrison Center for the Arts and six "Great-tri-archs" -- people who have been in the community for decades.

"This is an area that has a very rich history as it relates to Indianapolis," said Gina Fears, assistant director of recovery and re-entry at Public Advocates in Community re-Entry (PACE) Inc. Fears facilitated the event, and said she enjoyed sharing the stories that made Martindale Brightwood what it is today.

"It's the heartbeat of the city," she said of the neighborhood. Fears worries valuable stories aren't being told because of social media.

"I had family members that told stories, and today we have Facebook and Snapchat, so we don't get those types of stories," Fears said. "We will have some 'Great-tri-archs' there ... and they will give their reflections."

The six "Great-tri-archs" had a panel discussion about the history of the Martindale Brightwood neighborhood and how it has grown over the years.

"If I don't know where I've come from," Fears said, "how can I decide where I'm going? I grew up in the city, I know the east side and what it used to look like, and I show my grandkids that growth. I show them where I used to live, where businesses used to be. ... We can't celebrate growth and changes if we don't know the history."

Portraits of the Great-tri-archs, created by Harrison Center artist Abi Ogle, lined the building. At 4 feet by 6 feet, the portraits hung from the ceiling and imitated the styles of several famous African

American artists.

Joanna Taft, executive director of the Harrison Center, said this is an appropriate homage to the people who shaped the city.

"All of them have been leaders in Martindale Brightwood," Taft said, "and have great stories about loving their neighborhood and wanting to grow new leaders to continue to tell that story."

Visitors to the living museum saw a play, "Wind Chimes and Promises," which details a family's escape from the Klu Klux Klan in the deep South, only to

move next door to Klan members in Indianapolis in 1919. The play was adapted by local playwright Rita Kohn from the novel of the same name by Phyllis J. Adair.

Kohn, who wrote the play in 2009 after being "totally engrossed" by the novel, said the play highlights the importance of knowing the history of who we are and where we came from.

"I think that without knowing our history and our heritage, we lose so much of our beauty," Kohn, 86, said. "Right now in the United States, there's a lot of historical amnesia. We forget that some

people did not choose to be immigrants; they were snatched from their homes. There are people living in Indianapolis who are descendants of the survivors of that middle passage. ... To not acknowledge ancestry, where we come from, is to disrespect what they went through."

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

Genesis Plaza to uplift Brightwood area

By STEPHEN B. JOHNSON
Staff Writer


People within communities throughout the nation have talked about what they feel their neighborhoods need and do not need, and normally their cries fall upon deaf ears.

Three local development organizations are joining forces to bring a \$2 million neighborhood office and retail center to Indianapolis' historic Martindale-Brightwood neighborhood.


Genesis Plaza, a two-story, 32,500-square-foot building, will be constructed on a two-acre site on the southeast corner of Keystone Avenue and 29th St.

Brightwood residents get a chance to offer suggestions regarding what stores and businesses they would like to see in the plaza with the developers of the project in a meeting on Thursday, September 8, at the Brightwood Community Center.

"The purpose of the meeting is to talk with the residents and get their input as to what they want



Architect Walter Blackburn's rendition of the "Genesis Plaza," which is a two-story, 32,500 square-foot building to be constructed on a two-acre site on the southeast corner of Keystone Ave. and 29th St.



Out with the old

A part of our Black community's history died last week when Pearl's Lounge and Foster's Motor Lodge, at McLean and Illinois Sts.



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Shannon Williams
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Director of Alignment &
School Investments



Porsche Chisley
Senior Director of
Special Projects



Paula Glover
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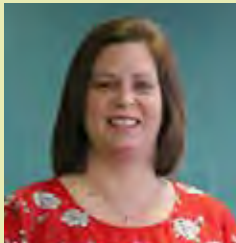
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YOUNG ACTIVISTS LED THE WAY IN A TURBULENT 2020

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

Following the police-action shooting death of Dreasjon Reed and the murder of George Floyd in Minneapolis, protesters led by Indy10 Black Lives Matter were out in full force in downtown Indianapolis. While the activist group received an influx of attention due to national conversations about race and policing, Indy10 has been at this for years.

Founded in 2014 following the killing of Michael Brown in Ferguson, Missouri, Indy10 members have taken an active role protesting injustices and advocating for the Black community. Beyond protests, Indy10 also offers a “no-questions asked” food pantry to help Hoosiers in need.

Jessica Louise, spokesperson for Indy10, said Indy10 members know what they’re up against.

“This is a long fight for us,” Louise said.

As Indy10 led large protests for weeks on end throughout summer 2020, another budding leader added her voice to the local activism scene.

Nisean Jones, 23, created Black Out for Black Lives after attending the first protest in Indianapolis following Floyd’s death, inspired by the people she saw fighting for Black lives. Throughout the summer, Jones hosted several demonstrations, including a Juneteenth event where she spoke about the plight of Black women.

“Black women have this stigma they can’t seem to shake,” Jones said. “It doesn’t matter what we do, we’re always classified as ghetto, and it has to do with societal norms. Black Lives Matter was initially started by Black women, and I want to start having conversations about how Black women are treated in this country, by both white people and Black men.”

Both Louise and Jones feel protests ultimately lead to more conversations.

“In order to illicit a change, you have to talk about it,” Jones said. “Protests do

that. You’re seeing protesters having a conversation. ... But it’s not all we have to do. You can’t change a system, you have to break a system.”

Other young people throughout Indianapolis also are finding their voice to spread the awareness of social justice issues.

Taylor Hall, 20, wanted to use her love of music to combat racism. During a protest at the Statehouse in June 2020, Hall shared her song, “I Can’t Breathe.”

Armed with just her acoustic guitar, Hall posed a haunting question to the thousands of Hoosiers gathered at the demonstration:

“Is this 2020 or 1969?”

Hall’s work wasn’t over after that protest, though. She helped organize a Youth Lives Matter rally in October 2020 at the Statehouse.

“If we can get the youth involved now in a safe environment, it could impact them and affect the future,” Hall said. “They are our future and next leaders. We need to make sure they feel empowered.”

Following the election of President Joe Biden, some activists worry complacency would undo some of the empowerment and progress the group made throughout 2020.

Indy10 is working to ensure that doesn’t happen.

“We are already starting to work on

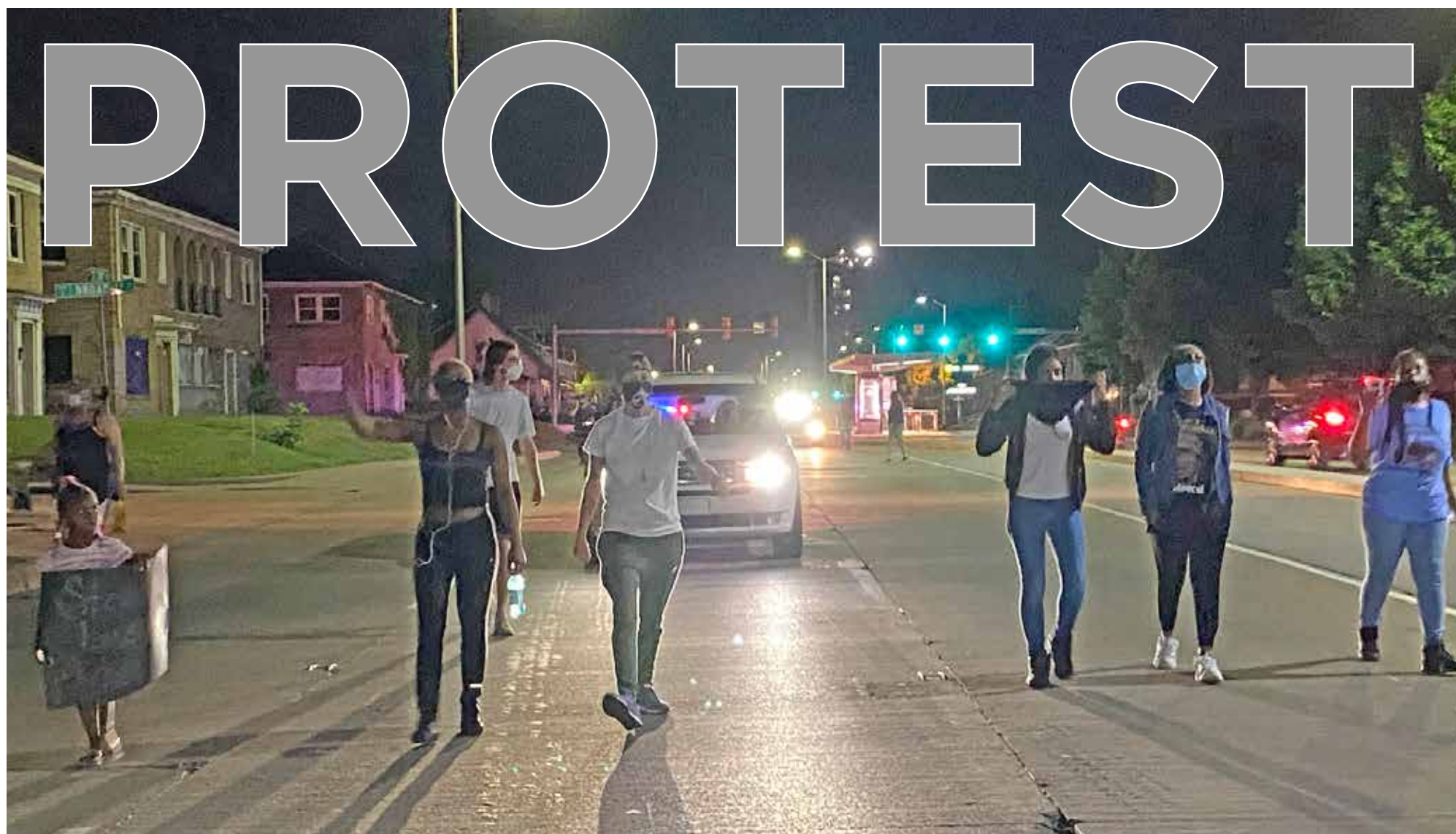
educating people on what a Democratic-backed federal or presidential administration looks like and how the movement can operate inside and outside of said administration,” Louise said. “One of our goals is to defund the police, and Kamala [Harris] was the former prosecuting attorney for California, so she’s used to working alongside law enforcement. ... I’m not of the mind that a Democratic president is going to do our work for us. By a long shot, our work isn’t done.”

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



Nisean Jones

THE BIRTH OF A



Demonstrators walk along 38th Street on May 29 to protest police shootings of Black people. (Photo/Tyler Fenwick)

By TYLER FENWICK
tylerf@indyrecorder.com

A group of roughly 10 people, led by Black Panther organizers, crisscrossed the city May 29 looking for a good place to shut it down.

They had a location in mind, but Kwame Shakur, deputy chairman of the New African Black Panther Party, feared police got ahead of him when someone who claimed to be part of the media approached him with a phone asking questions about what he was about to do.

He bailed and lost whoever that was.

Plan B: Shut down an intersection on the north side. It was one lane in each direction; wouldn't require many people.

Cars met in a parking lot nearby. It had to be secret until it was time to execute.

But then Shakur heard about the crowd that had gathered downtown, and the group agreed they could go in and channel that energy. It was 7 p.m. by now.

Plan C: Take over the crowd downtown.

A motorcade took I-465 to I-70 to make it downtown. Family of McHale Rose — the 19-year-old killed by police in the early morning hours of May 7 — was part of the group and passed out goggles before everyone left.

There wasn't a clear way into the downtown protest, though. They thought it looked too blocked off. It was time once again to think of something else.

Plan D: Shut down 38th Street.

They met at the combo McDonald's and BP gas station at 38th and Salem streets and started canvassing the area to find anyone willing to join. They needed numbers.

The first person to join the group was Timothy Parker Bay, who was on the gas station side of the parking lot.

It sounded like this was the moment 52-year-old Bay — a muscular, excitable man with red and black gloves — had been waiting for his whole life.

"I've been excited," he later said as he walked behind the group on Graceland Avenue. "I've been running from my destiny my whole life. God wants me to do something. My prayer's been answered."

The first house the group hit on Salem was a success. Andy and Jacinta Hodges were relaxing on the porch with friends and family when they decided to drop what they were doing and walk to get more people.

Andy and Jacinta are married and have a son in the military. They apologized to the Rose family for their loss.

"It could be our son," Jacinta said as she held her husband's hand. "I feel for them. I couldn't

imagine what they're going through."

Rose died just hours after 21-year-old Dreasion Reed was killed by police following a chase. Police said Rose made a false 911 call to lure police to an apartment complex on the city's north side and ambush them.

Police said they returned fire in both incidents.

But the Rose family say police are hiding what really happened, and they're still searching for answers.

One of the common pleas with neighbors throughout the night was that it could be one of their loved ones next, and that they can't wait until then to stand together.

It worked for some. Others got excited about the prospect of getting involved but said they might join later.

Patrick Saling, a white 21-year-old student at Indiana University in Bloomington, was with the group from the beginning.

He got four children on the sidewalk to chant "Boots on the ground!" as the group, now with about 20 people, made its way south on Capitol Avenue.

Myron Rose and Tomorrow Rose, McHale Rose's father and stepmother, walked with Tomi Rose, his aunt, and Darius McGaughey, his brother. They held signs and wore shirts with Rose's face on them and asked people to join their cause.

"We've always said, 'yours, mine, ours,'" Tomorrow said.

There were about 25 people by the time the group approached 38th and Meridian streets.

Willy Booze, a 71-year-old pastor in a Colts jersey, followed closely behind in his GMC Denali with his hazards on. He prayed with them earlier on a side street, thanking God for leading this group to him.

It was time.

"We're taking 38th and Meridian here," Shakur told the people. "We're gonna hold this for a minute."

They blocked traffic going south on Meridian and west on 38th before marching east and taking up all of the lanes.

Jacinta elected to stay behind. She has asthma, her husband explained, and had already walked a long way in sandals.

Two police cars blocked the road at Washington Boulevard and 38th Street, and the group cheered as people honked and waved.

Keanesha Stone, 33, was taking her 11-year-old son and some of his cousins to the canal for ice cream when she saw what was happening. She parked her car at 39th Street and Washington Boulevard to join the march.

Her son and nieces and nephews were only a few of the children who became part of the protest.

Jayla Keys, 23, was with her 5-year-old daughter when people came up to her house and asked her to join.

"It's a hot day," she said. "Everybody's been out."

There were about 60 people marching when the group turned at Guilford Avenue to go back.

Saling had posted up at the back of the crowd, walking backward with a fist in the air, hardly ever more than 15 feet away from the police cars that crept along behind the marchers.

It's important to put white bodies between the police and "our Black and brown brothers and sisters," Saling explained as he continued walking backward.

"If they want to hurt them, they have to hurt the white folks that they're not used to going through," he said.

One man, Massiah Harley, 38, joined early in the march on a rickety bike and spent the whole time looping around from front to back.

"Injustice is injustice," he said, "no matter what color or what creed. We gotta stand up against this stuff."

Anthony Smith, 47, said he lives on Pennsylvania Avenue and could hear what was going on outside. He decided to get involved, too.

"I was coming this way to check on my grandma anyway," he said.

Shakur stopped the crowd at Illinois and 38th streets and put the Rose family front and center while traffic was mostly blocked from going in any direction.

He held up his phone for a livestream as the Rose family talked.

"He was 19," Myron, the father, said. "He had a whole life ahead of him. ... I have no more strength, but I'll tell you what, I'll keep fighting for my son."

The group held that intersection for almost a half hour. Some cars managed to turn right from Illinois Street onto 38th Street, and others were directed to make a U-turn if they really wanted to get out of there, though it was basically a guarantee they would get berated in the process.

The crowd began to disperse around 11:40 p.m., and a smaller group moved south of the intersection to block just some of Illinois Street for their send-off.

They put on their "uniform" — a raised fist — and promised they would give a final rallying cry before going to bed that night.

"I —" they shouted, "am a revolutionary!"

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

IPS SUPERINTENDENT REMEMBERS THOSE WHO CAME BEFORE HER

By TYLER FENWICK
tylerf@indyrecorder.com

Aleesia Johnson is the first African American female to lead Indiana's largest school district, but she's quick to point out that she certainly wasn't the first to be qualified.

Plenty of Black women have come before her. She thinks of icons such as Patricia Payne, who joined Indianapolis Public Schools (IPS) in 1962 and now leads the district's Racial Equity Office. There's Sojourner Truth, who was bought and sold four times as a slave and delivered the famous "Ain't I Woman?" speech.

Locally, nationally, globally — Johnson sees the Black women who laid the groundwork for her and others.

Johnson, 42, took over as the head of IPS first in an interim role in December



Aleesia Johnson

2018 and then permanently when the school board tapped her for the position in June 2019.

She made it clear from the beginning — including when she participated in a public interview process with two other finalists for the job — that under her leadership, racial equity would go to the forefront for IPS.

During the public interview, Johnson showed a picture of dead fish floating

in a lake as she talked about how Black students are often overrepresented in negative outcomes from grades to suspensions.

"That's not a problem with the students. That's not a problem with the fish. That's a problem with the lake," she told the board.

IPS adopted a racial equity policy in June 2020 that includes an annual disaggregated report on academic performance, attendance and discipline, as well as increasing the diversity of candidates for job openings. The district partnered with the Racial Equity Institute, with the goal of getting all school staff into racial equity training by the 2021-22 school year.

Principals also have monthly conversations about race and racism to help them guide conversations in their

schools.

Johnson said she's still impatient with the district's progress on racial equity and feels a "deep sense of urgency" to move quicker.

"I have to remind myself that though we're not close to where we want to be, we're doing important work," she said.

Of course, the COVID-19 pandemic disrupted almost everything and, at the same time, reinforced what Johnson and other education officials already knew: Their Black students started at a disadvantage.

"If you were ignoring it before, COVID-19 certainly created a world where you can't do that," she said.

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

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YOUNG DEMOCRAT MAKING WAVES

By BREANNA COOPER
BreannaC@indyrecorder.com

When James Wells, 26, decided he wanted to make his mark on Indiana's political landscape, he went all in. Currently running for vice chair of the Indiana Democratic Party, Wells was inspired to run by his circle of friends, mentors and by seeing the opportunity he believes the party has to gain more control in the state.

Wells got his start in politics early. As a high school student in Gary, Wells said he advocated for himself and other students when a dangerous mold issue arose in the school building by bringing their concerns to school administration.

"I realized then that politics and government were all a way that I could help my peers get our issues resolved," Wells said.

This passion for politics led Wells to work in Mayor Joe Hogsett's administration as a neighborhood advocate and becoming the vice president of the Indiana Young Democrats (IYD). Wells said this work has helped him realize he's "capable and my voice can bring attention to issues and different ways of doing things within the Democratic Party."

Among the changes Wells wants to bring to the party is an increase in the use of technology and digital tools to promote party values and legislative concerns and making sure Democrats are reaching young voters who may feel disenfranchised from politics.

Unlike a regular political campaign, the public won't be casting a ballot for Wells. Instead, the State Central Committee – made up of Democrats from each county – will elect new party leadership at a reorganization meeting March 20. So far, Wells is the only person running for the position. If appointed to the position, Wells would certainly stick out among Democratic Party leadership.

The average age of Democratic elected officials in the state is roughly 58, 5.9% of whom are Black. Despite the difference in age and experience, Wells is confident he has what it takes to make a difference



James Wells

in the state of Indiana.

And IYD has his back.

"Over the last few years, we have seen Indiana Young Democrats step into leadership roles, run for office, manage campaigns and mobilize Hoosiers in ways that have not only helped flip key seats, but have led the Democratic Party in a direction of inclusivity," IYD President Arielle Brady said. "We need more young people in party leadership utilizing the skills they have to help share and demonstrate what it means to have bold, sustainable and transparent leadership."

State Sen. Eddie Melton believes Party leaders should make way for emerging young adults in the Party to gain experience.

"As our state party seeks to rebuild, we should give full consideration to the perspectives and experiences that our emerging leaders have to share with the Party as a whole," Melton said in a statement.

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

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PARENTS BRING CHILDREN TO PROTESTS TO ‘START THEM YOUNG’

By BREANNA COOPER
BreannaC@indyrecorder.com

As protests happened throughout Indianapolis in response to the death of George Floyd, a younger — much younger — generation also is marching.

HONORING
THE POWER OF
COMMUNITY



Over the summer in Indianapolis, children walked with their parents, participating in demonstrations by carrying signs and following along in chants.

Terry Clayton, 19, participated in a demonstration at Monument Circle on May 29. After event organizer Lamari Edwards, 20, handed him her megaphone, Clayton read a poem describing the Black experience in America. In it, he described police brutality and judgment, and ended the poem by lying face down on the bricks surrounding the Circle with his hands behind his back, as other demonstrators chanted “It’s not a crime to be Black.”

“It makes me feel scared when I come out of my house,” Clayton said in an interview. “I have to worry if I’m safe in my own car, in my own neighborhood ... I might not even be safe in my own home,” he added, seemingly referencing Breonna Taylor, 26, who was killed by police in her Louisville home.

Cornelia Anderson, along with her teenage children Mya and Darius, also attended the same demonstration.

“We’ve lost a lot of Black men,” Anderson said, “and we have to do something about it.”

As Anderson spoke, Mya, 15, nodded in agreement.

“I’m here to show my support and show I care, too,” Mya said. “I know it’s not right, and it’s not fair. You don’t see white people being shot like that.”

During one protest organizers urged demonstrators to remain peaceful to protect the children in the crowd after water was thrown on an officer and Indianapolis Metropolitan Police Department (IMPD) officers responded by using pepper spray.

“There’s a little boy here tonight,” Edwards said, gestur-



ing toward a boy of about 5 years old. The police wouldn’t hesitate to hurt him, she said.

Quan Addison, a father of five, said he and his wife are often afraid for their sons. He and one of his toddler sons arrived at Monument Circle about 15 minutes after pepper spray was deployed.

“You have to start them young,” one protester told Addison as he walked closer to the Soldiers and Sailors Monument, nodding toward the boy.

The children and young adults involved in the protests were scared. Not about being at the demonstrations, but about the all too common viral videos of Black men killed by police.

“It hurts my heart,” Edwards said. “They could be my brother or my friend. ... It makes me sick to my stomach.”

Darryl Lockett, executive director of the Kennedy King Memorial Initiative, said while viral videos are common today, he never wants to get desensitized.

“It is no question traumatic,” Lockett said. “But it’s something that I want to maintain a sense of shock and awe. I don’t want to become numb, because at that point, we become well adjusted to injustice, and we lose that spirit that’s needed to fight against the forces that exist in society ... and to resist that which is creating that pain and that frustration.”

A teacher in the crowd, who wanted to only be identified as Ms. Felix, said she teaches sixth grade and sees firsthand the effects police brutality have on her students.

“They’re scared,” she said. “We have conversations about police brutality, and things they hear in the news makes it hard for them to focus in school, because they’re afraid of what is going to happen to them when they leave the school.”

Felix said difficulties in academics creates a cyclical process that can lead to young Black men being victimized by police.

“We’re messing up the next generation, and we need to fix it,” Felix said.

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

LEGENDARY WRITER AND VOICE AMOS BROWN HELD LEADERS ACCOUNTABLE

By TYLER FENWICK
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Perhaps the most vibrant and passionate writer and radio host Indianapolis has ever known, Amos Brown, whose words, both those read in the Recorder and heard on his radio show, anchored the city's African American community for about four decades. Brown died in 2015 at 64 years old.

Brown was known to hold local leaders accountable and always welcomed a debate. His "Just Tellin' It" column at the Recorder commented on topics affecting

the African American community, including politics, media and community empowerment. One of many examples was a November 1994 column, in which he called out the "inept" local Democratic Party for what he believed was an ineffective campaign strategy that led to big Republican election wins.

"If Bayh, DeLaney, O'Brien or Modisett had read this Recorder column in October, they would have seen the danger in their white, suburban campaigns," he wrote. "Now that the GOP whupped 'em, maybe they'll read this space."

It was that no-punches-pulled approach that drew people to his work, whether they agreed with it or not. Deana Haworth, chief operating officer at Hirons,

a public relations firm, said Brown's column was "legendary" in government and communications circles. Hirons now has the Amos Brown Internship every summer for minority students interested in communications.

"The thing I loved most

about Amos was his true drive and passion to hold everyone — elected officials, government leaders, the faith community — accountable," Haworth said. "That drive had no match."

Though many remember Brown for his words in the Recorder's pages, he may be best recognized as the passionate host of his radio show, "Afternoons with Amos," on WTLC-AM 1310. The show ran 1-3 p.m. weekdays and was frequented by guests Brown would invite and debate. He was known for lively discussions with those who disagreed with him.

"At his core, he was that way because he felt passionately about people and being fair and truthful and honest and being held accountable," said Shannon Williams, former president of the Recorder.

Her time at the Recorder overlapped with Brown's, allowing for a deeper knowledge of the provocative writer and radio host. Williams said she misses the personal conversations they had over the years because he understood the city and its problems.

"I miss having someone like him around, who doesn't pull back and says exactly what's on their mind," Williams said. "We need that in Indianapolis, especially for the minority community."

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



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JULIA CARSON ADVANCED INDIANAPOLIS' INTEREST IN CONGRESS

By TYLER FENWICK
tylerf@indyrecorder.com

Julia Carson, the first African American and woman to represent Indianapolis in Congress, lived her political life fighting against racism and poverty and spent her career focused on working-class issues. Carson was a Democratic member of the U.S. House of Representatives from 1997 to 2007. Before then, Carson served in the Indiana House of Representatives and Indiana Senate. Carson died Dec. 15, 2007, after a battle with lung cancer.

During her time in Congress, Carson helped lead the way on a measure awarding Rosa Parks the Congressional Gold Medal and worked with Sen. Richard Lugar on removing bureaucratic obstacles for child health care. Carson, a Congressional Black Caucus member, also worked to advance women's rights and reduce homelessness.

Her grandson, Andre Carson, won his grandmother's vacated House seat in a special election in 2008 and continues to represent the district.

"My grandmother was a devoted mother, grandmother, daughter, cousin and friend to many," Carson said in a statement to the Recorder. "She taught me on a daily basis that true public service means standing up for those in need and fighting for what's right, even if it's not popular."

Carson did have a reputation for being somewhat unpredictable, but she also went against the grain of the nation in 2002 by voting against the authorization of



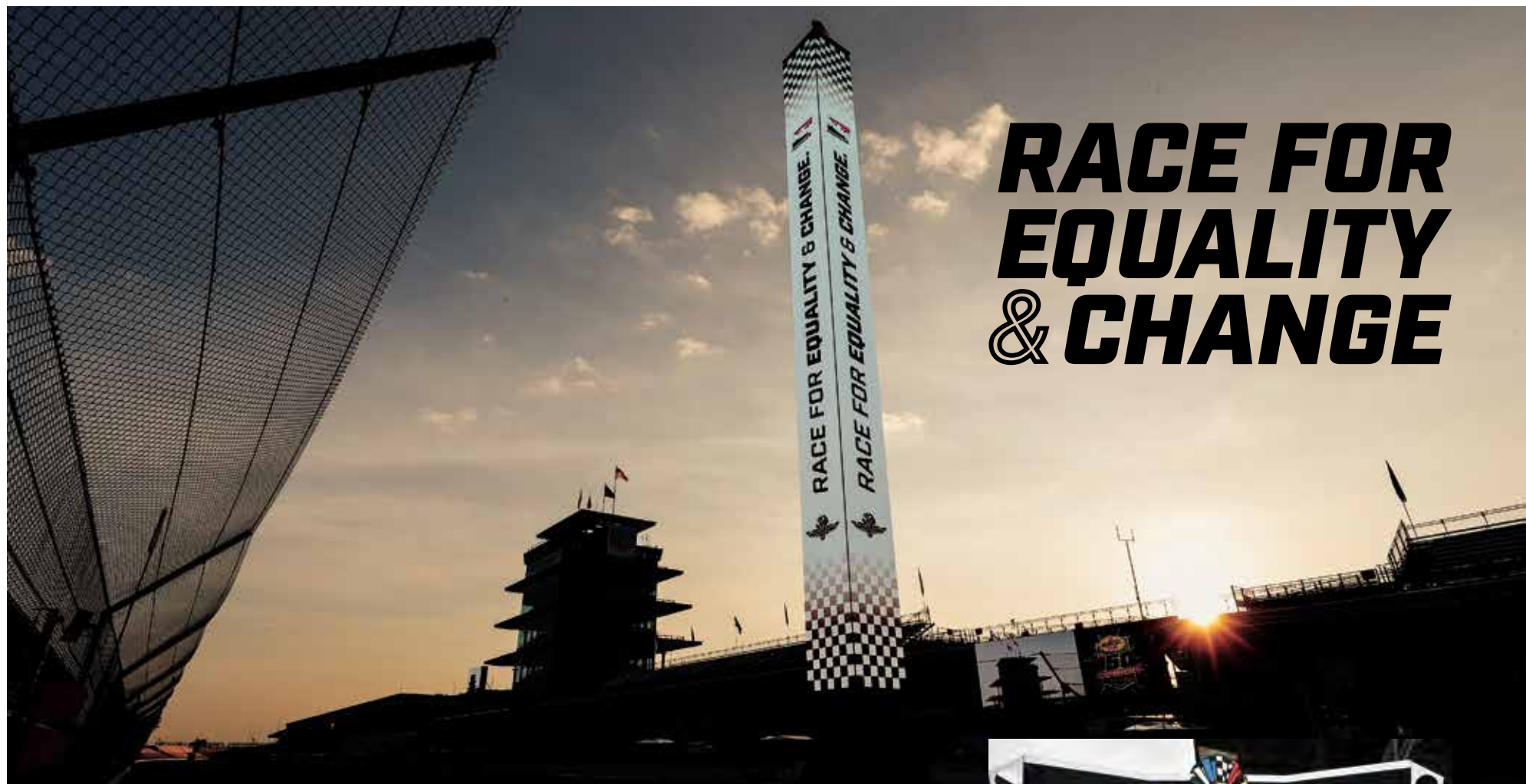
Julia Carson

the war in Iraq. In an Associated Press story following that decision, she said she felt "some in Washington have not shared my determination to focus on the home front by strengthening our weakening economy and helping all Americans get through these economically challenging times." This was at a time when Carson was facing a serious Republican challenge in the next election.

The last name Carson carries weight in Indianapolis today, and not just because her grandson almost immediately assumed her seat in Congress. The city and its leaders have a deep respect for the late Carson, who graduated from Crispus Attucks High School and raised two children as a single mother. She also spent some time at Martin University in Indianapolis, the state's only primarily Black institution of higher education. The Julia M. Carson Government Center and Julia M. Carson Transit Center stand as commemorations to the local leader.

"Whether fighting for affordable housing, supporting veterans or revitalizing our neighborhoods and infrastructure, her commitment made a lasting impact on countless Indianapolis residents," Carson said in his statement. "She set an example of elected service that continues to inspire leaders across our city, state and country."

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



RACE FOR EQUALITY & CHANGE

“As our country has grappled with systemic issues related to race, equality and access to opportunity, we’ve been doing a lot of listening, learning and reflecting. ‘Race for Equality & Change’ will create a more diverse and inclusive INDYCAR community that fundamentally transforms our sport.”

– Mark Miles

Penske Entertainment Corp.
President and CEO

INDYCAR and the Indianapolis Motor Speedway are moving full speed ahead in the “Race for Equality and Change.” The past few months have been filled with announcements that have built the engine that will drive fundamental change and support diversity and inclusivity across the INDYCAR industry. But we’ve just taken the green flag.

Force Indy (top), an African American-led team, announced its intentions to compete in the USF2000 series in 2021, while Paretta Autosport (bottom), a female-led team, announced its plans to enter the 105th Running of the Indianapolis 500 presented by Gainbridge.



DAVID HAMPTON FINDS WHERE HE CAN USE ALL OF HIS TALENTS



David Hampton

By TYLER FENWICK
tylerf@indyrecorder.com

David Hampton has a good problem. He has plenty of talents, and he knows it.

The issue for Hampton, a former pastor and deputy mayor, was finding somewhere he could roll them all into one.

The solution: Hampton Innovations.

Hampton started his consulting company in January. He's the president and CEO. Hampton helps people, corporations and nonprofits overcome obstacles to growth or revenue. His clients are individuals, churches, nonprofits, schools and government agencies — five areas

where Hampton has experience.

It's not that Hampton didn't enjoy the work he was doing before or that he didn't find it meaningful. He was a pastor from 1996 to 2019, including eight years on his last stop at Light of the World Christian Church. He was also deputy mayor of community engagement for Mayor Joe Hogsett from 2016 to January.

Hampton likes to think of the "Parable of the Talents" in Matthew 25, where a master entrusts large sums of money to three servants while he's away and returns to find only two have used their allotments wisely while the third didn't. The lesson: People should use

their God-given abilities.

"I finally realized that I had been operating as the one- or two-talent servant when God had actually given me five talents," Hampton said.

The nature of entrepreneurship, Hampton said, is to build your own table when you can't find a seat at other tables. And with a doctorate degree in ministry from Christian Theological Seminary and business certificate from Harvard Business School, it's not like he was out looking for scrap pieces of pallet boards to build this table.

His table, Hampton Innovations is a one-man show for now, though Hampton said he'd like to be able to hire staff

in the future.

Hampton said he's particularly interested in helping the Black community thrive, work he was already doing as a pastor and deputy mayor.

"I've dedicated my life to that," he said.

One of the best perks of Hampton Innovations, though, is he's the boss.

"It is liberating to be able to work for myself, on my terms, at my own pace, at the full capacity of who God has called me to be," he said.

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

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INDIANAPOLIS' FIRST BLACK FEMALE TV JOURNALIST

By STAFF

Although she studied broadcast journalism at Columbia University, Barbara Boyd did not start her career as a TV journalist until February 1969 at the age of 40 year when WFBM-TV, later WRTV Channel 6, contacted her school to get footage of a classroom. Boyd worked in the office at the time and answered the call. Boyd joked that she was available if the station ever needed a star. To Boyd's surprise, the station took her offer seriously, and she began a career in TV journalism.

Boyd was the first Black female TV journalist in Indianapolis and the city's second Black TV journalist overall. Over her 25 years in broadcast journalism, Boyd was known as a consumer journalist and anchor but covered a wide variety of subjects.

"She had to learn from whomever she could," Eunice Trotter, former Recorder owner, said. "She didn't have built-in Black mentors, so to speak. As she went about her day-to-day tasks covering her job, she also had a lot of social-political barriers to overcome."

Boyd's most famous piece was her award-winning breast cancer story, which she filmed from her hospital bed a week after having a mastectomy. In the piece, Boyd called for people to become informed about breast cancer and highlighted places that offered screenings and resources to cancer patients. Even during turbulent times, Boyd's passion for her work was palpable.

"I've got to tell you, it's the best job I've ever had, the job I've gotten the most appreciation and good feelings about," Boyd said. "I was there for 25 years. I felt as excited the last day I was there as the first day I was there. I could just hardly wait to get to work. That's how fulfilling my job was for me."

Boyd received accolades for her achievements more than once. She was one of the Indianapolis Star's top Ten Women of the Year for three consecutive years, was featured in Indianapolis Woman magazine and was inducted into



Barbara Boyd

the Indiana Broadcast Pioneers Richard M. Fairbanks Hall of Fame. Boyd is still involved in the community. She gives time to organizations such as the United Negro College Fund, The Links and National Council of Negro Women.

"A lot of journalists believe that if they are in the media, they cannot be part of their communities in terms of working in organizations, being in boards, that kind of thing in fear of having conflict of interests," Trotter said. "She ignored that and she worked in the community. Barbara was on boards. Barbara did things for groups and individuals. I think that today's journalists, particularly African-American journalists, need to use her model as an example for what they should be doing."

Eskenazi Health celebrates Black History Month.



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(Above) Erika Haskins, a member of Indy10 BLM, addresses protesters at Indianapolis Metropolitan Police Department's northwest precinct. (Photo/Tyler Fenwick)
(Below) Poet and performance artist Terry Clayton performs "I Can't Breathe" during a protest. (Photo/Breanna Cooper)

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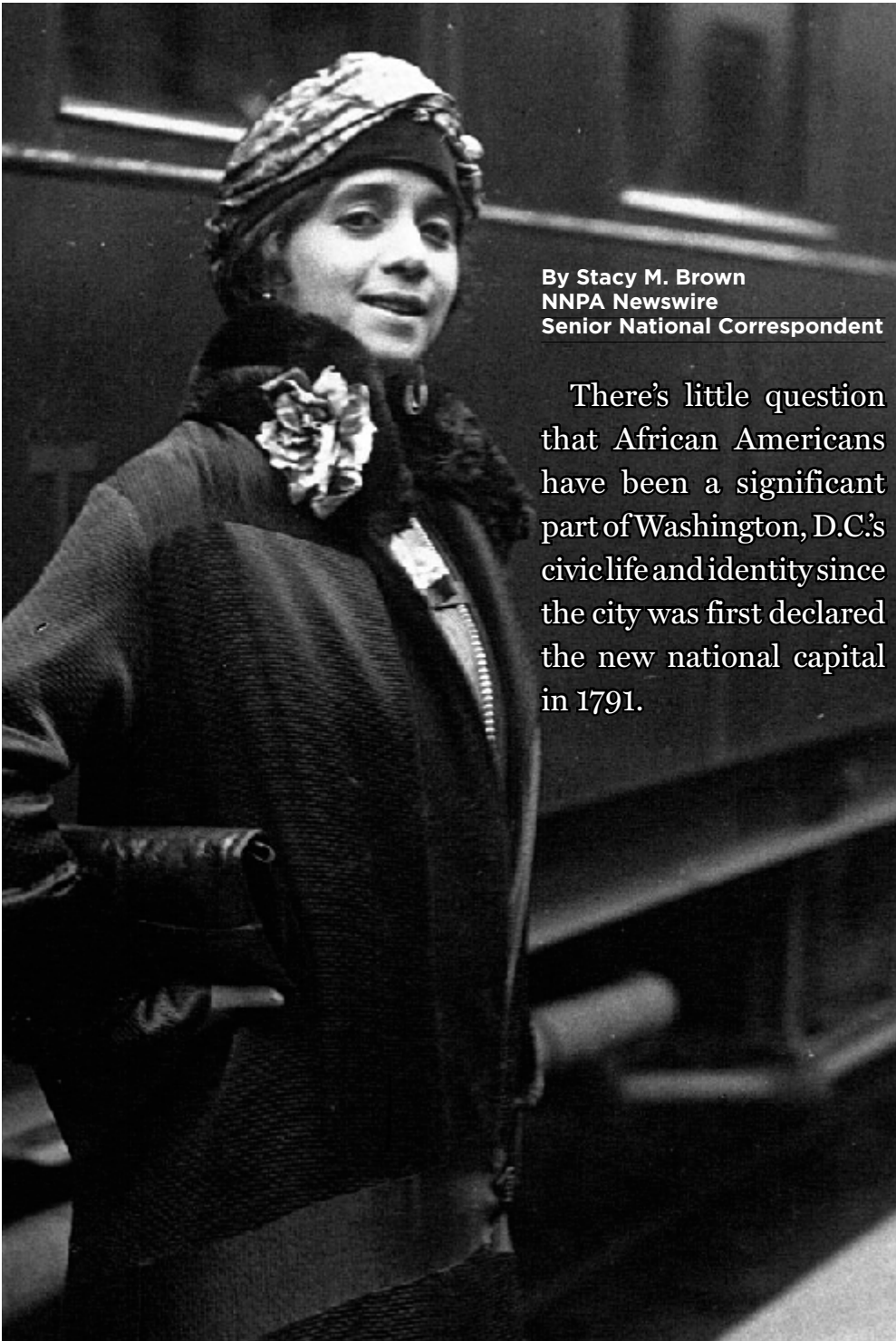
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BLACK BROADWAY



By Stacy M. Brown
NNPA Newswire
Senior National Correspondent

There's little question that African Americans have been a significant part of Washington, D.C.'s civic life and identity since the city was first declared the new national capital in 1791.

Madame Lillian Evanti in France in 1926 (Photo: Agence de presse Meurisse - Bibliothèque nationale de France / Wikimedia Commons)



MADAME LILLIAN EVANTI AND WASHINGTON, D.C.'S BLACK HISTORY

According to Cultural Tourism D.C., African Americans were 25% of the population in 1800, and most of them were enslaved.

While most were free by 1830, slavery was still in practice.

On April 16, 1862, nine months before President Abraham Lincoln issued the Emancipation Proclamation in January 1863, the U.S. Congress passed the District of Columbia Emancipation Act, making the District of Columbia's slaves the first freed in the nation.

African Americans flocked to the District, where the nightlife became famous, and U Street was the thriving center for Black culture and social exchange.

Reportedly, iconic figures like Zora Neale Hurston and Mary McLeod Bethune found refuge in what became known as Black Broadway. Performers like Louis Armstrong and Billie Holliday

were regulars.

And so was Madame Lillian Evanti.

Born Lillian Evans in D.C. in 1890, Evanti was the first African American to perform with a major European opera company.

A Howard University graduate, she made her professional debut in Nice, France, in 1924 and adopted the stage name Evanti.

According to whitehousehistory.org, Evanti returned periodically to the District and performed on Lafayette Square several times in the 1920s and 1930s.

At the Belasco Theater, a six-story building that had a soaring facade, Evanti performed before a desegregated audience.

During one 1926 appearance, Marian Anderson joined Evanti for a performance before a football game between Howard and Lincoln universities.

Later, Evanti performed for President Franklin D. Roosevelt and first lady Eleanor Roosevelt. "She made me feel right at home," Evanti reportedly said after chatting with the first lady.

"That was a time when colored people — as we were known — could feel good, could have some hope that the world wasn't all bad," Cleveland McFadden, a northern Virginia-based art collector and "sometimes historian" noted.

"We hadn't 'made it' by any means, but you could feel D.C. was more home than just about any place in the United States," McFadden offered. "Singers and performers like Madame Evanti helped to take us different places in our minds and spirits. And, because she was from here, from the area, her impact was probably felt deeper than the superstars who visited and performed on Black Broadway."

Whitehousehistory.org historians

wrote that, on Aug. 28, 1943, Evanti made her most acclaimed performance in the capital, portraying Violetta in the National Negro Opera Company's "La Traviata," which was staged on a barge floating in the Potomac River.

"Throughout the 1940s and 1950s, she traveled to Latin America as a good-will ambassador on cultural outreach journeys organized by the State Department and received decorations from the governments of the Dominican Republic, Haiti, Liberia, and Nigeria," the historians wrote.

"Beginning in the mid-1930s, Evanti was an advocate for the establishment of a national cultural center in Washington for classical and contemporary music, drama and dance — legislation establishing such a center was approved in 1958."

Evanti, a composer and a collector of works by African American artists, died in 1967 in Washington, D.C.

BLACK HISTORY MONTH

The National Association for the Advancement of Colored People (NAACP) awarded IndyGo operator Joyce Ledell a Labor Award. Joyce has worked with the NAACP for more than 8 years and has organized several labor union luncheons and fundraisers. "Joyce has spent the past several years volunteering her free time to play an instrumental role in taking the Indianapolis NAACP branch to next level in fighting for the labor movement," stated Greater Indianapolis NAACP Branch President Chrystal Ratcliffe.



IndyGo Spotlight
Joyce Ledell

COMBATING FOOD DESERTS ONE BODEGA AT A TIME



Sibeko Jywanza

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

Sibeko Jywanza is working to remedy the issue of food deserts in Indianapolis.

Roughly 208,000 Indianapolis residents live in a food desert, a low-income neighborhood more than a mile away from a grocery store. That's 23% of local residents who lack access to food compared to 10% of Americans.

Since 2016, the number of people residing in a food desert in Indianapolis has risen 21%, due largely to the closure of Marsh supermarkets that year. Black Hoosiers are more likely than any other demographic to live in a food desert.

Following the closure of the Double 8 grocery store a few years ago, Cleo's Bodega opened in June 2019 on Indianapolis' north-west side.

Jywanza, who manages the bodega named for the late Cleo Blackburn, former superintendent of the nonprofit Flanner House, said his shop is the only store with fresh produce within a two-mile radius.

Jywanza said Cleo's honors the memory of Blackburn, who "created a way for people to fend for themselves when it comes to food." The bodega is owned and operated by Flanner House, a nonprofit that promotes personal sustainability.

Cleo's offers local produce, including food grown at Flanner House and other Indianapolis gardens at a reduced price. The shop offers bags of apples and other fresh fruits and vegetables for less than \$6.

While eradicating poverty is the only surefire way, experts say, to end food deserts, having access to healthy foods — not just empty calories — is an important step in benefitting the community long-term.

A recent study from the American Heart Association found a link between food insecurity and cardiovascular death. Conducted by Perelman School of Medicine at the University of Pennsylvania, the study found for every 1% increase in food insecurity, there was a similar increase in cardiovascular deaths among people younger than 65. The study removed certain variables known to raise cardiovascular risk, such as employment, health insurance and poverty to look specifically at food insecurity's role on overall heart health.

While one small grocery store in the middle of a vast food desert can't solve the hunger problem in Indianapolis, Jywanza and Cleo's Bodega are part of the solution.

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



Cleo's Bodega Grocery and Café sells produce grown by Flanner House, Cleo's parent organization. Since Flanner House owns the farm and the store, Cleo's offers low prices on produce. (Recorder file photo)

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THE WILMINGTON TEN, 50 YEARS LATER

By Stacy M. Brown
NNPA Newswire Senior National Correspondent

Wilmington, North Carolina, is known today for its vibrant riverfront with three colorful island beaches and southern hospitality, major contributors to the port city's bustling tourism.

However, Wilmington's past paints a picture of a much different city.

While things may be different in today's Wilmington, it was not that long ago that Wilmington, like too many other Southern cities, still condoned the region's ugly, racist culture and practices.

More than a century after America's Civil War had ended, on Feb. 1, 1971, a young minister named Benjamin Franklin Chavis Jr. arrived in the city.

Chavis was sent to Wilmington by the United Church of Christ from their Commission on Racial Justice. A local pastor of a Black church, Rev. Eugene Templeton, requested help from the United Church of Christ.

Chavis, a disciple of Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King Jr., helped students organize a more effective boycott, targeted against white high school administrators who were resisting the desegregation of their schools and classrooms and who also refused demands to honor King, who was assassinated just three years earlier.

One year after King's murder, the city had just three high schools. Two of them, New Hanover and Hoggard, were all-white, and the third, Williston Industrial High School, was reserved for the city's Black high schoolers. Williston was a source of community pride and was ranked among the best high schools in North Carolina — Black or white.

Following federally mandated school desegregation in 1969, local administrators changed the status of Williston Industrial High School from a high school to a junior high school. Williston's Black students and teachers would be reassigned to New Hanover and Hoggard.

However, when they arrived at their new schools,

African Americans endured name-calling, racially motivated physical attacks and other threats. Incidents of rioting and arson, in protest of the decision to integrate, occurred almost daily.

In response to tensions, members of a Ku Klux Klan chapter and other white supremacist groups began patrolling the streets. They hung an effigy of the white superintendent of the schools and cut his phone lines. Street violence broke out between them and Black men who were Vietnam veterans. Students attempted to boycott the high schools in January 1971.

Chavis and a group that became known as the Wilmington Ten argued for Black history courses, respect for King and all Black people and equality.

Tensions continued to mount, with the Ku Klux Klan and other white supremacists firebombing buildings and shooting at Black students.

One incident in particular would become a defining event in this period of Wilmington's history: The firebombing of Mike's Grocery Store, a white-owned



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With sentences that ranged from 15 years to 34 years, Benjamin Chavis Jr., Marvin Patrick, and the eight others of the Wilmington Ten were ordered to serve a combined 282 years in prison. (PICTURED L to R): Top Row - Wayne Moore, age 19, 29 years; Ann Sheppard age 28, 15 years; James "Bun" McKoy, age 19, 29 years; Willie Earl Vareen, age 18, 29 years; Marvin "Chilly" Patrick, age 19, 29 years; Reginald Epps, age 18, 28 years; Benjamin Chavis Jr., age 24, 34 years; William "Joe" Wright, age 19; 29 years; Connie Tindal, age 21, 31 years; Jerry Jacobs, age 19, 29 years.

business in the heart of Wilmington's Black community.

On Feb. 6, during an uncharacteristically frigid night for a southern city like Wilmington, the popular neighborhood grocery was firebombed. As police and firefighters arrived on the scene, gun fire

could be heard above the siren squeals and activity.

Firefighters responding to the fire alleged that they were shot at from the roof of the nearby Gregory Congregational Church. Chavis and several students had been meeting at the church. Sniper fire,

which was intended for the Wilmington Ten's members, struck a police officer.

As the gun fire continued, one of the Wilmington Ten, Marvin "Chilly" Patrick, was shot as he placed himself between the source of the sniper's fire and Chavis, successfully preventing

Chavis from being shot.

According to the February 1971 edition of "This Month in North Carolina History — The Wilmington Ten," the North Carolina governor called up the North Carolina National Guard, whose forces entered the church on

See TEN, 38 ►



About MCBEO

Created in 2018 by concerned African American elected officials, Marion County Black Elected Officials (MCBEO) will:

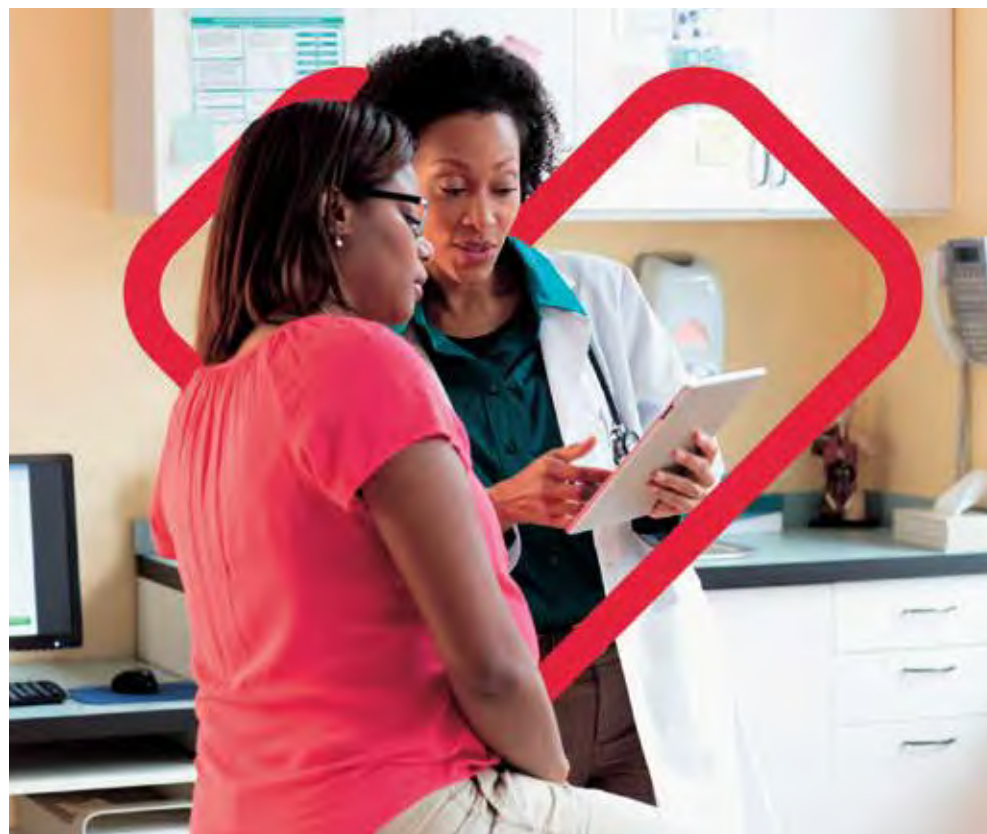
- Work diligently to ensure Blacks hold critical roles within the Marion County Democratic Party Leadership
- Advocate for equitable representation of Blacks in Elected and Appointed positions
- Advocate for Blacks to have equitable employment and business opportunities
- Recruit Black candidates to run for office
- Fight for Blacks to hold a meaningful place in all aspects of government

Pictured top row (left to right): Vernon Brown, Greg Porter, John Bartlett, Eugene Akers, Jean Breaux, Charles Staples, Claudette Peterson, Ella Hollis

Pictured bottom row (left to right): Robyn Shackelford, Myra Eldridge, Monroe Gray, La Keisha Jackson, Cherrish Pryor

Members not pictured: Vanessa Summers, Greg Taylor





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For more information about our company, our strategy and our commitments to our communities, visit www.CVSHealth.com.



TEN

► Continued from 37

Feb. 8 and found it empty. The violence resulted in two deaths, six injuries and more than \$500,000 (equivalent to \$3.2 million in 2019) in property damage.

Chavis and nine others, eight young Black males, who were high school students, and a white female anti-poverty worker, were arrested on charges of arson related to the grocery fire. Based on testimony of three young Black men (who later recanted their testimony), they were tried and convicted in state court of arson and conspiracy in connection with the firebombing of Mike's Grocery.

At trial, all 10 defendants were provided defense counsel by the United Church of Christ Commission for Racial Justice. However, it was later established that the prosecutors conspired against the defendants by paying witnesses to falsely identify Chavis and the other Wilmington Ten members — who were the actual targets of the white supremacists' sniper's fire — as arsonists, and for the subsequent assault on law enforcement officers.

Additionally, chief prosecutor Jay Stroud feigned sickness following jury selection when it became apparent that 10 African Americans would be seated on the jury, leading to a mistrial. A second trial, whose jury included only two African Americans, resulted in a guilty verdict for all 10 defendants.

With sentences that ranged from 15 years to 34 years, Chavis, Patrick and the eight others were ordered to serve a combined 282 years in prison.

In 1977, Amnesty International cited the Wilmington Ten case as the first official case of political prisoners in the United States. Within a year, the London-based human rights group declared that the Wilmington Ten were "prisoners of conscience who were not arrested for the crimes for which they were charged, but because of their political work."

The New York Times published an article noting that Amnesty International's declaration about the Wilmington Ten outraged some and embarrassed others — especially after Amnesty International was awarded the Nobel Peace Prize in 1977.

"Soon the charge was repeated and amplified by the American Ambassador to the United Nations, Andrew Young, who contended in an interview with a French newspaper that the United States harbored 'hundreds, perhaps thousands' of political prisoners," The Times reported. Young added, "The Wilmington Ten, for example, are innocent."

"Mr. Young later apologized for the remark about hundreds or thousands of political prisoners, but he still says, privately, that the charges against the Ten were 'trumped up,'" noted the Times.

The Wilmington Ten spent nearly a decade in prison before federal appellate courts overturned their convictions in December 1980, citing prosecutorial misconduct.

Timothy Tyson, a North Carolina historian and visiting professor at Duke University, told CNN he was given the Wilmington Ten prosecutor's handwritten notes before 2012 when the National Newspaper Publishers Association (NNPA), United Church of Christ and NAACP called again for pardons of innocence for the Wilmington Ten.

Prior to this, the publisher of the Wilmington Journal, Mary Alice Thatch, had petitioned the NNPA to launch a national campaign for a pardon of innocence for the Wilmington Ten.

"It was pretty shocking stuff," Tyson remarked.

He said the names of at least six potential jurors had "KKK Good!!" written next to them. Next to a woman's name, it said, "NO, she associates with Negroes."

On the back of the legal pad, the chief prosecutor, Jay Stroud, had written the advantages and disadvantages of a mistrial, Tyson said. One of the advantages was a fresh start with a new jury.

In 2012, 40 years after they were unjustly convicted, North Carolina Gov. Beverly Perdue officially pardoned the Wilmington Ten.

"These convictions were tainted by naked racism and represent an ugly stain on North Carolina's criminal justice system that cannot be allowed to stand any longer," Gov. Perdue said at the time. "Justice demands that this stain finally be removed."

“Our lives begin to end the day we become silent about things that matter.”

- Martin Luther King, Jr.

Thank you *Indianapolis Recorder* for 125 years of never staying silent.



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FATHER BONIFACE HARDIN ADVANCED EDUCATION AND FOUGHT FOR COMMUNITIES

Father Boniface Hardin

By TYLER FENWICK
tylerf@indyrecorder.com

The founder and president of Martin University, the state's only primarily Black institution of higher education, Father Boniface Hardin was an ordained Roman Catholic priest who dedicated his life to civil rights in Indianapolis by advocating for the less advantaged and creating channels for citizens to effect change. Hardin died in 2012.

Hardin's most prominent accomplishment was founding what was then Martin Center College, named after Dr. Martin Luther King Jr., and developing it from a small urban school to an accredited liberal arts university. Martin, now in the Martindale-Brightwood neighborhood, primarily serves low-income, minority and adult learners. Hardin also started the university as a resource for the community. Concerned with the prominence of sickle cell disease in African-Americans, Hardin made disease screenings available at Martin for residents.

When Martin held cultural events for the community, one of

the most popular forms of entertainment was when Hardin did his Frederick Douglass re-enactments. He was said to have a strong resemblance to the abolitionist, and Hardin even saw some of Douglass' characteristics — he called Douglass an “apologist for America” — in himself.

Born in 1933 in Bardstown, Kentucky, Hardin earned a master of divinity degree at Saint Meinrad School of Theology, St. Meinrad, Indiana, and was ordained to the priesthood in 1959. He completed his graduate study at the University of Notre Dame in 1963 and served as an assistant pastor at Holy Angels Parish from 1965 to 1969, when he founded Martin.

Eugene White, Martin University's current president, knew Hardin for about 15 years and called him a “catalyst of change in the community.”

“People looked at him and could believe in him,” White said. “People trusted his integrity and his commitment to the community.”

Hardin was also a leader in social activism. When the government was planning for Interstates 65 and

70 in the 1950s and '60s, Hardin organized whole communities to make sure the various department and their leaders knew their actions were going to have far-reaching consequences in Black neighborhoods. As founder and leader of the Northwest Action Council, Hardin collected over 3,000 signatures from the community supporting a highway system that would be depressed in the ground.

Hardin held numerous other titles, including co-founder of the Negro-Jewish Dialogue, editor of Afro-American Journal, member of the Indiana State Penal Reform Committee and co-chairperson of the Indianapolis Black Coalition Advocate of Reforms in Police Community Relations.

“Father Hardin was something of a renaissance kind of man,” White said. “He was extremely intelligent, had a superior educational training and just was an outstanding individual.”

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



Father Boniface Hardin

CELEBRATING BLACK HISTORY MONTH



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—Nichole C. Wilson, DPT, MBA, FACHE
Vice President of Integrated Primary Care



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—Diane McDaniel
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BLACK HISTORY MONTH 2021

Father Boniface Hardin, Founder

Through his fiery activism as associate pastor at Holy Angels, he [Father Boniface Hardin] brought to the forefront important issues such as racist police practices, school inequality, harmful highway disruption of neighborhoods, and lack of inclusion within the Catholic Church. During the Martin Center years, Father Hardin and Sister Jane educated civic leaders and their community members on matters of racial pride, identity, and history, creating important communication tools, such as the Afro American Journal and radio and television shows that helped African Americans and the white community alike to learn the truth about the illustrious accomplishments of Africans and African Americans.

Excerpt from: Pickin' Cotton on the Way to Church: The Life and Work of Father Boniface Hardin, Osb; By Nancy Van Note Chism; IHS Press

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CELEBRATING BLACK HISTORY MONTH



DR. RALPH BUNCHE:
A HERO OF U.S. DIPLOMACY

By Stacy M. Brown
NNPA Newswire Senior National Correspondent

Dr. Ralph J. Bunche earned the moniker “a hero of U.S. Diplomacy,” in part for efforts that led to his becoming the first African American to win the Noble Peace Prize.

The scientist and diplomat earned the award for his role as United Nations mediator in the 1949 peace settlement between Palestinians, Arabs and Jews. “The objective of any who sincerely believes in peace clearly must be to exhaust every honorable recourse in the effort to save the peace,” Bunche said after winning the prestigious honor on Dec. 10, 1950.

Born Aug. 7, 1904, in Detroit, Bunche’s father worked as a barber while his mother was a musician. Bunche spent parts of his childhood in New Mexico and in Los Angeles.

His aunt, Lucy Taylor Johnson, raised him.

With parents of different races, Bunche credited his grandmother with teaching him how to respond and deal with racism.

“I recall most vividly high school graduation exercises. After the exercises were completed, the principal of the school came up to me, thinking to be kind,” Bunche remarked in a 1955

address to the NAACP.

“He congratulated me on my graduation. Then he said to me in a most friendly way: ‘We’re sorry to lose you, Ralph. You know we have never thought of you as a Negro here.’ This struck me immediately, but I, at that time, did not know just what to reply,” Bunche continued.

“I would today, but one of the reasons I would know what to reply today was because I was reared by a grandmother who always knew what to reply in such situations. She happened to be standing beside me when Mr. Fulton, the principal, said this to me.

“She gave Mr. Fulton an education in racial pride and pride of origin, which I am sure he never forgot. She did it in the most polite but in a very firm and pointed way, and when it was over, we both got a very profound apology from him.”

A valedictorian at UCLA in 1927, Bunche earned a master’s in political science in 1928 and a Ph.D. in govern-



Ralph J. Bunche (far right) greets Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. (left) and Coretta Scott King (center). (Photo: ucla.edu)

ment and international relations in 1934 from Harvard University.

He founded and taught classes in the political science department at Howard University in northwest Washington, D.C.

Bunche became the first African American desk officer at the State Department during World War II.

He helped form the United Nations in 1945 and, in 1948, he mediated the hostile Arab-Israeli conflict that led to his Nobel Prize. Later, Bunche served as undersecretary-general for Special Political Affairs at the United Nations.

After winning the Nobel Prize, Bunche remained active stateside in the fight for civil rights.

He also reflected on the plight of Black people in America.

"Like every Negro in America, I've suffered many disillusioning experiences. Inevitably, I've become allergic to prejudice," Dr. Bunche said in 1950.

"On the other hand, from my earliest years, I was taught the virtue of tolerance; militancy in fighting for rights — but not bitterness. And as a social scientist, I've always cultivated a coolness of temper, an attitude of objectivity when dealing with human sensitivities and irrationalities ..."

President Lyndon B. Johnson awarded Dr. Bunche the Presidential Medal of Freedom in 1963.

Dr. Bunche died in 1971 at age 68.

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CHURCH CONTINUES FIGHT FOR CIVIL RIGHTS

By BREANNA COOPER
BreannaC@indyrecorder.com

Throughout the pandemic, Living Word Baptist Church pastor Reginald Fletcher had to find new ways to connect with his congregation.

While having virtual services isn't ideal, Fletcher said church members continue to financially support Living Word, and he wants to make sure the church is giving back to the community.

Living Word has participated in and held community conversations about race, age and religion.

In November 2020, Living Word Baptist Church hosted a virtual townhall to discuss the church's role in the ongoing conversations on systemic racism and discrimination. The panel, organized by member Sherry Williams, focused on how to balance scripture with political conversations and how predominately white churches can advocate for racial justice and increase diversity in their churches.

The panel, consisting of eight people, discussed the way religion has been used historically to fan the fires of racism as well as possible solutions to advocate for peace in their communities.

Along with attempts to reconcile racial tensions within churches, Williams and Fletcher also want to bridge the gap between young adults and the church.

In 2019, Williams started a mission to bring more young people to church after she received information on the Engaging Young Adults Project from the Center for Congregations.

Before the pandemic, Williams brought groups of young adults together with local pastors to discuss issues and concerns, including why some young

people stray from the church.

"The No. 1 thing I hear about is judgment," Williams said. "[Young adults] feel judged, and they don't feel that the older community understands them or their thoughts. If we have an older clergy who can't relate to what is going on in young people's lives, they can't relate the Bible to what these younger people are going through."

Williams said Living Word has taken what they've learned from these conversations and implemented changes to make younger congregants feel more welcome, including changes to the youth curriculum and a Bible study specifically for teenagers.

Both Williams and Fletcher believe these conversations are important to have within churches because a church is often a "safe space" in the community. Fletcher said making changes to how a church operates is key to making sure ministry can reach as many people as possible.

"We're not tied to tradition," Fletcher said. "We're tied to the word of God. We need to understand the difference. The word is the principle. The tradition is the practice. The principle never changes, but the mode and the method of how we practice is always changing."

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



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DO YOU KNOW YOUR LOCAL BLACK HISTORY?

By KESHIA MCENTIRE

African Americans have helped shape the city of Indianapolis from the start, and their contributions have paved the way for local leaders of today. Despite the hate and prejudice many of these citizens faced, they opened doors that previous generations thought were impossible for Black Americans to step through. Here is a look back at some local leaders of the past:

Dr. Samuel Elbert: First licensed Black doctor in Indiana

Dr. Samuel Elbert was born in 1832 and attended The Medical College of Indiana to become a doctor. After he paid tuition and attended classes, the school refused to grant him a degree. He won a case against the school and became the first licensed African American physician in Indiana. Elbert served one term as president of the Indianapolis Board of Health. In the late 1800s, he was asked by President Benjamin Harrison to serve as the local pension surgeon. He declined after being threatened by whites.



James T. V. Hill:
Prominent local Black attorney

James T. V. Hill graduated from Cen-

tral Law School and practiced law in Indiana from 1882 to 1928. During that time, injustices toward minorities were common, and Hill was enthusiastically engaging himself in civic affairs. Accounts of his life paint him as a valued member of the Indiana Bar. In 1890, he was appointed to a Marion County grand jury.



Robert Brokenburr:
First African American elected to Indiana Senate

Robert Brokenburr moved to Indianapolis in 1909 after receiving a law degree from Howard University. He is famous for his civil rights work as a lawyer and a legislator. He worked as a legal advisor for Madam C.J. Walker and was the first African-American admitted to the Indiana Bar Association. In 1940, he was elected to the Indiana Senate, where he supported many bills that protected the civil rights of Hoosiers.

Charles Wiggins: Famous Black racecar driver and mechanic

Charles Wiggins was born in 1897 in Evansville, Indiana. When white mechanics joined the Army, he was hired at an auto repair shop. He opened his own shop in 1922 and became one of the city's most sought-after mechanics. In his spare time, he designed cars from



was recruited because of how respected she was in the Black community. During WWI, female officers were not allowed to patrol the streets, and she was one of the first women allowed to work outside the station patrolling public places downtown and arresting shoplifters.

Jim Sears: First Black Indiana state trooper

In 1962, Jim Sears became the first African American Indiana state trooper. During his 30 years of service, troopers would often refuse to speak to him or offer backup. Despite the prejudice he faced, he remained a man of quiet strength and gentleness. In 1976, Sears and other Black troopers settled a racial discrimination lawsuit with the state police, causing them to agree to recruit and promote minorities. Sears retired in 1992 with the rank of captain.

parts he found at junk yards and gained an interest in racing. Though he was not allowed to take part in the Indianapolis 500 because of his ethnicity, he formed a racing league with African American drivers called The Gold and Glory Sweepstakes. He fought for African American participation in racing until his death in Indianapolis in 1979 at the age of 82.



Emma Christi Baker: First female police officer in Indianapolis

On June 15, 1918, 53-year-old Emma Baker became both the first woman and the first African American woman to be a police officer for the City of Indianapolis. Before her job as officer, she was well known through Indianapolis as the owner of a laundry business, and she



Z. Mae Jimison: First Black female judge in Marion County

Z. Mae Jimison was the first Black woman to serve as a judge in Marion County and the first African American nominated to run for mayor of Indianapolis. Though she did not win, her run for mayor in 1995 was the first time many Hoosiers contemplated the possibility of a Black person becoming mayor of our city, and she opened doors for future Black politicians.

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InnoPower, LLC and Recorder Media Group will host the 2021 InnoPower Minority Business Week June 14-18. The expanded format now features five days of in-person and virtual programming that aim to address the societal and economic gaps COVID-19 amplified. Join thousands of other business and community leaders as we discuss:

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ENTREPRENEURSHIP

Entrepreneurship is the key to economic growth for global and local economies. Yet, too many people still face significant, systemic barriers to entrepreneurial opportunity. In a time of changing demographics in the United States, it is important to include diverse communities in all economic development strategies. The local entrepreneurship ecosystem should mirror the diversity in the community that fosters it.

WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT

The nature of work is transforming rapidly, while decades of systemic racism and many structural challenges underscore the underlying economic fragility of underrepresented groups. In our ever-changing world. As community leaders and organizations choose the path forward, it is imperative they rethink deeply held orthodoxies in order to shape a more inclusive future of work.

GOING GLOBAL

The old narrative of an Africa disconnected from the global economy is fading. A wave of transformation driven by business and modernization is thrusting the continent from the world's margins to the global mainstream. In many ways, we should stop thinking about how Africa can be more like us. Rather, we should think about how we can be more like Africa.

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DR. ANDREW J. BROWN BROUGHT NATIONAL CIVIL RIGHTS TO INDIANAPOLIS



By TYLER FENWICK
tylerf@indyrecorder.com

Dr. Andrew J. Brown was a lauded figure and integral part of the civil rights movement in Indianapolis. Among his accomplishments was helping found Indiana Black Expo and starting a Saturday morning radio program on WTLC-AM 1310 to discuss community issues. Brown was also a champion of voting rights, organizing Black voters during the 1963 mayoral election in Indianapolis. Brown died in 1996 at the age of 75 following a battle with Alzheimer's disease.

A native of Mississippi, Brown found his call to justice and the church while serving in World War II as a chaplain, where he noticed how few Blacks served in that role. He served as pastor of St. John's Missionary Baptist Church from 1947 until his retirement in 1990.

Brown's work drew the attention of prominent national civil rights leaders, including Rev. Ralph Abernathy and Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Brown worked closely with King and his wife Coretta Scott King in the 1950s and '60s. When King was in Indianapolis and needed a place to stay, Brown opened his home. Brown also joined King in civil rights marches in Selma, Alabama. Brown recalled what it was like in Selma in an interview with the Indianapolis News in 1995.

"We could picket in Indianapolis and we weren't going to get beat up on," he said. "You picket in Alabama, Mississippi, Georgia, you're gonna get knocked down. I didn't realize that the police had so much authority to whip black and white folk whenever they wanted to."

Brown's son, Thomas Brown, came up in his teens with his father and King

working side by side in Indianapolis and across the country.

"It was like a family thing," Brown said. "... These were guys who were young, in their 20s and 30s. They were sociable."

Brown remembered his father as a leader who tried to broaden the reach of the civil rights movement at a time when whites and elites were toning down the rhetoric. For example, a month after King's assassination, Brown was in Washington, D.C., for the Poor People's March, which King helped organize before his death.

"His legacy was that of being a revolutionary for justice and equality," Brown said, drawing a parallel between his father's work and King's.

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



Inez Yeargen Kaiser
April 22, 1918 - July 31, 2016

Inez Kaiser founded Kaiser and Associates in 1957 becoming the first PR firm to be owned by a Black woman.

Her clients included 7-Up, Sears, and Sterling Drugs. She also provided PR counsel to President Nixon and President Ford.

Her vision opened the door for Black PR professionals throughout the country.

Because of her, we can.

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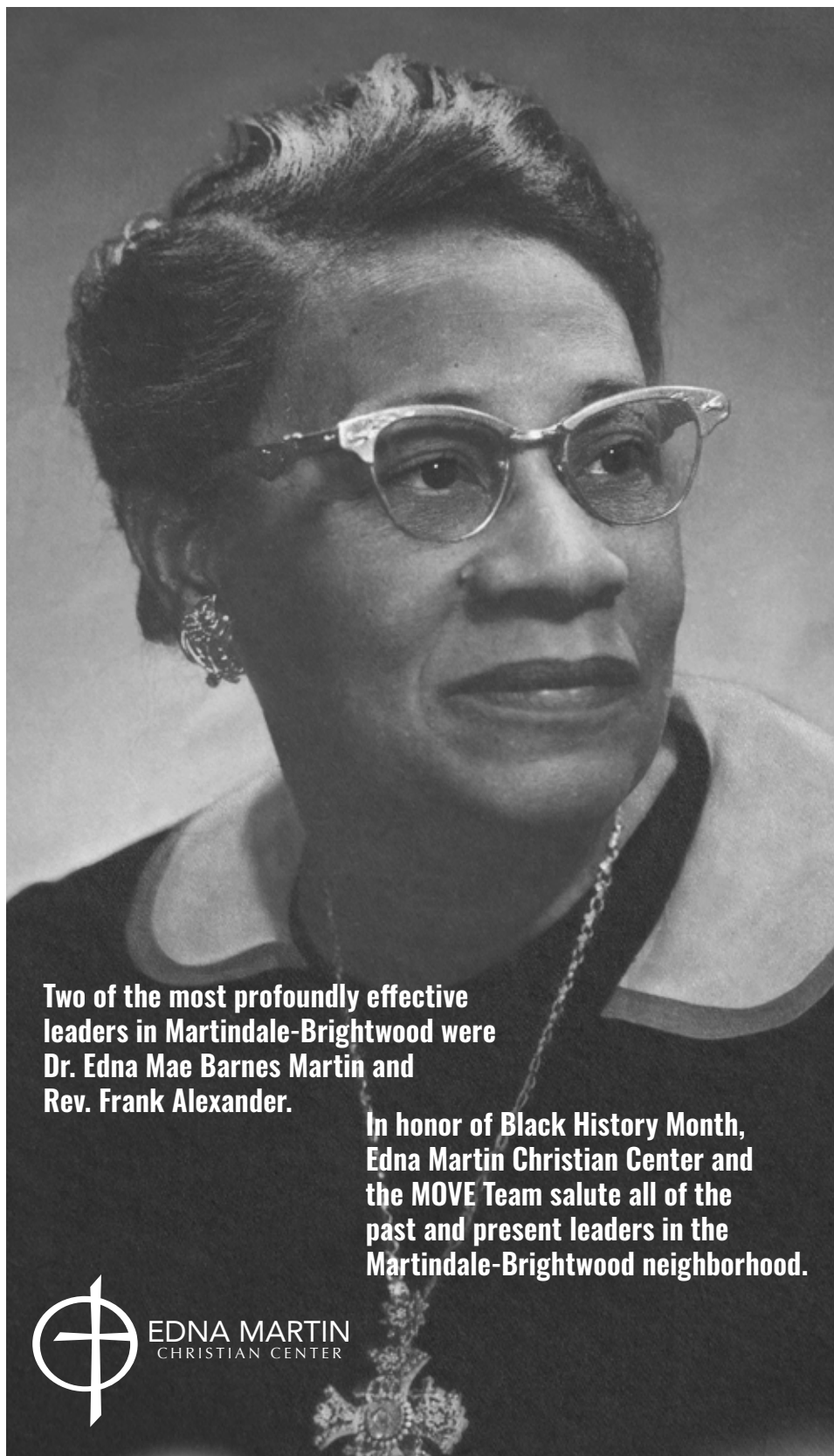


Throughout Black History Month and beyond, we celebrate **Black Joy**.

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Its ability to thrive despite everything.

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Celebrate a Joy Supreme with us at aarp.org/IN.



Two of the most profoundly effective leaders in Martindale-Brightwood were Dr. Edna Mae Barnes Martin and Rev. Frank Alexander.

In honor of Black History Month, Edna Martin Christian Center and the MOVE Team salute all of the past and present leaders in the Martindale-Brightwood neighborhood.



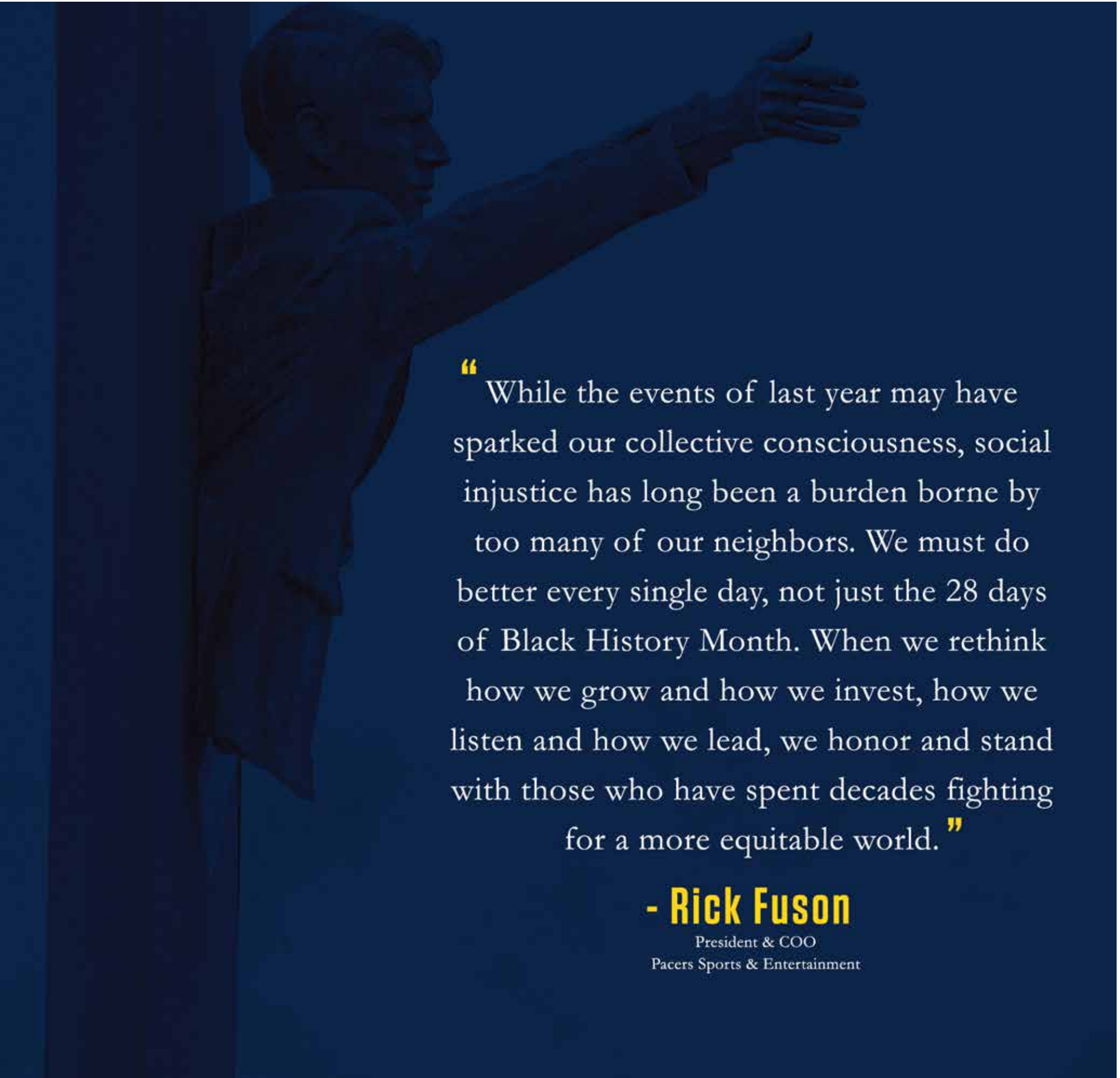
EDNA MARTIN
CHRISTIAN CENTER



The next round of Greatriarch portraits will commemorate the lives and stories of these two community giants. See all of the Greatriarchs at www.harrisoncenter.org/greatriarchs

Will you be one of the next leaders? Come to the One Voice community council to see how you can contribute! One Voice Martindale-Brightwood meets on the second Tuesday of the month at 6 PM. For more information or zoom link, contact charlestoneknight@yahoo.com





“While the events of last year may have sparked our collective consciousness, social injustice has long been a burden borne by too many of our neighbors. We must do better every single day, not just the 28 days of Black History Month. When we rethink how we grow and how we invest, how we listen and how we lead, we honor and stand with those who have spent decades fighting for a more equitable world.”

- Rick Fuson

President & COO
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CELEBRATING BLACK HISTORY MONTH



ALLEN PUSHED TO CREATE CHANGE FOR BLACK MALES

By TYLER FENWICK
tylerf@indyrecorder.com

Kenneth Allen deserves as much credit as anyone for Indianapolis reestablishing a local commission on African American males.

Allen spent four years as chairman of the Indiana Commission on the Social Status of Black Males and made it one of the organization's priorities to reactivate the Indianapolis commission, which was originally established shortly before the state-level commission.

Indiana has other local commissions in Gary, Fort Wayne and other cities. Some cities technically have a commission, but it isn't active.

Local commissions are the “boots on the ground,” Allen said, and he saw the importance of making sure Indianapolis has one.

Allen said state commissioners first reached out to Mayor Joe Hogsett in 2016 to ask him to reestablish the com-

mission by executive order. That didn't happen, even amid calls during the mayoral race in 2019 to do so.

Instead, the Indianapolis City-County Council passed an ordinance in August 2020 to reestablish the Indianapolis Commission on African American Males. The council also appointed Allen to serve on the commission.

In the end, going through the city-county council took longer, but it also was the route that offered the most security. The local commissions that go silent were often established through executive order, so future mayors could let it go to the wayside.

Allen, who is still a member of the state commission, also recently joined the Indianapolis Public Schools Board of Commissioners as an at-large member.

It was his first time running for office, Allen said, and he was inspired to do so because of his work with the state commission, which provides a report to the General Assembly and governor's office. The report includes education data.

“When I saw the data, particularly for our children of color, I just felt that I had too much experience serving youth to just sit there on the sidelines and do nothing,” he said.

Allen, 37, founded the Kenneth Allen Foundation for Entrepreneurship and taught entrepreneurship skills to youth around the country and around the world.

Allen grew up in Gary with a single mother. He often tells the story of his first business, a candy shop he opened when he was 12 to get some of his own money and help his mother.

Entrepreneurship, Allen said, is about changing the financial future for youth.

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



Kenneth Allen

THE NEXT GIANT LEAP IN OPPORTUNITY

Purdue University built its three Purdue Polytechnic High Schools on a foundation of big ideas like inclusion, accessibility and opportunity, and the strength of its leaders propels their success. With their help, PPHS is reimagining education for all students — and building a pipeline to Purdue.



SHATOYA WARD

Principal
Purdue Polytechnic High School
at Englewood

FORMER IUPUI RESEARCH ANALYST MOVES EQUITY PUSH TO STATE GOVERNMENT



Breanca Merritt

By TYLER FENWICK
tylerf@indyrecorder.com

After more than five years of establishing herself as one of the great local authorities on social policy and equity, Breanca Merritt followed her passion into government.

Merritt recently became the chief health equity and Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) officer at the Indiana Family and Social Services Administration (FSSA).

Merritt said she's always had a passion for how government works, which is part of the reason she pursued a career in research and community engagement. Part of her job was to inform policy decisions, and now she gets to do that

from the inside.

"To be on the side that actually makes a lot of decisions has always been a professional goal of mine," Merritt said.

Merritt's role involves understanding gaps in policy for the FSSA and where the administration can be more equitable. Some examples: Is Medicaid policy causing disparate outcomes? Are there any issues with the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP)?

Merritt is the first chief health equity and ADA officer for the FSSA.

"Dr. Merritt has a long history as an academic and practitioner with real-world experience working among marginalized populations to understand racial and ethnic disparities and encouraging policies that promote equity,"

FSSA Secretary Jennifer Sullivan said when the administration announced Merritt's arrival.

This is a natural extension of what Merritt, 33, did as one of the most prominent voices at the Public Policy Institute at IUPUI, where she was a senior research analyst and founding director of the Center for Research on Inclusion and Social Policy (CRISP).

Under Merritt's leadership, CRISP produced data and analysis on issues such as poverty, Black homeownership rates, homelessness and child care.

Career decisions like this are never 100% clear, Merritt said, but she saw an opportunity at FSSA and took it.

"When you build something from scratch, it's kind of your baby," she said of

CRISP, "and it's hard to leave something behind that you put a lot of passion into."

Merritt is still involved at IUPUI as a community scholar, meaning she has access to the university's resources to continue doing research. She can also be an adjunct professor as part of the position. When that happens, Merritt teaches a class called African-Americans, Power, and Public Policy, which teaches students about systemic racism through the perspective of Black Americans' experience with government decisions.

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

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At Katz, Sapper & Miller, we know our collective differences make us stronger. By tapping into the power of these differences, we're able to find creative solutions that inspire our employees, clients, and communities to reach their full potential. This Black History Month, we thank our Black colleagues, clients, and mentors, who help us to be better every day.

Learn more about our commitment to diversity, equity, and inclusion at: ksmcpa.com/DEI

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Diversity makes businesses and communities stronger

At the opening of her inaugural poem, poet Amanda Gorman asked, “Where can we find light in this never-ending shade?”

As we celebrate Black History Month, these are powerful words to reflect upon. The past year has heightened our nation’s awareness of social injustice and racial inequity. At KeyBank, it has also sparked a lot of conversation about how we, as an organization, can mindfully and effectively take action.

The truth is, today’s workforce spans generations and communities are more diverse than ever. People of all backgrounds and skills are working and living together unlike any other time in American history.

For organizations, this diversity represents opportunity. According to a 2018 McKinsey report, companies in the top quartile for diversity are 21 percent more likely to achieve above-average profitability than companies in the bottom quartile. For communities, diversity brings cultural vibrancy and the opportunity for sustainable economic growth.

Opportunity needs to be inclusive

In recent years, there has been a lot of talk about the power of placemaking. It is the idea that a region can plan, design and manage public and private spaces to support economy and culture and ultimately promote regional growth and community transformation.

The question is, how do we create a sense of place—a place where



Juan Gonzalez
KeyBank

people are proud to live, work and play? Where a community’s young and talented graduates want to stay and build a career? Where skilled trade professionals and businesses want to establish roots and integrate into the community?

These are not easy questions to answer. Differences in ideas and perspective can divide. But if we’re going to make progress, communities, businesses and the public sector must work together. And the answers need to penetrate all neighborhoods and advance opportunity for all—no matter how challenging the conversations.

Be a torch bearer

We’re all leaders. What determines our capacity to act on it is the strength of our commitment to be our best selves and willingness to help others do the same.

At KeyBank, we’re reaching out to the community and asking hard questions. We’re listening and learning. We’re making efforts to improve how we retain, promote and attract people of color to KeyBank so we can continue to effectively serve our minority communities. We’re working hard to identify the gaps in the communities where we can make an impact.

We’re ensuring our COVID relief efforts reach all businesses—with an emphasis on minority-owned small businesses.

However, what we do collectively as individuals across Central Indiana is equally important. Engagement is a powerful agent of change. Your voice can advance progress. Your actions can leverage your skills and talents for the benefit of the community. More important, engagement connects you with diverse people from your community—helping you build bridges that make a difference while bridging differences.

Desmond Tutu once said, “We can only be human together.” If we can work together to make our communities places that have a sense of character and shared values, where opportunity is inclusive to all, and where everyone has the resources and support needed to tap into that opportunity, all can win and step out of the shade. All can find light.

Juan Gonzalez is president of KeyBank in Central Indiana. He can be reached by phone, 317-464-8060, or email at juan_f_gonzalez@keybank.com.

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The strength of our community is its greatest asset.



When people work together, anything is possible. It's why we support organizations that bring people within our community closer. They reinforce the bonds we stand on and help us celebrate the traditions we hold dear. It's just one part of our investment in our neighbors and the community.

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Howard Dorsey, Jr. LaShauna Triplett Gloria Williams



CELEBRATING TODAY'S HISTORY MAKERS

Breaking Ground in The Boardroom

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IU HEALTH DOCTOR
CHOSE MEDICINE
TO HELP
PEOPLE

By TYLER FENWICK
tylerf@indyrecorder.com



Lauren Nephew

Lauren Nephew decided in third grade she wanted to become a physician. Not because it's what she grew up around — there were no doctors in the family — but because she knew she wanted to help people.

Prior to third grade, Nephew thought she might want to be a waitress. There's a lot of interaction in that job, right?

What probably nudged her in the direction of medicine, she realized later, was having a good pediatrician. So, medicine it was.

"I really had a desire to serve and help people," Nephew said, "and I thought it was the best way to do that."

It's Dr. Nephew now and has been for about 10 years. She earned her doctorate in medicine from Case Western Reserve University and has been at Indiana University Health since 2017. She's also an assistant professor of medicine at the IU School of Medicine.

Nephew is a hepatologist, so she works with people who have liver disease.

Getting to hepatology was a journey in itself. Nephew went to medical school thinking she wanted to do neuroscience. Then she spent her first two years of school thinking women's health — maybe reproductive medicine — was the right path.

True to her third-grade self, Nephew kept coming back to people. That's where her passion was. She wanted to help people who have a lot of medical problems, and liver disease can lead to

issues with the heart, kidneys and more.

"I actually like sick people," she said.

Nephew, 40, said she finds fulfillment in helping other Black people and those whose socioeconomic status creates even more obstacles.

"I like being able to help people navigate a complicated health care system and help them get through medicine despite all of the social issues," she said.

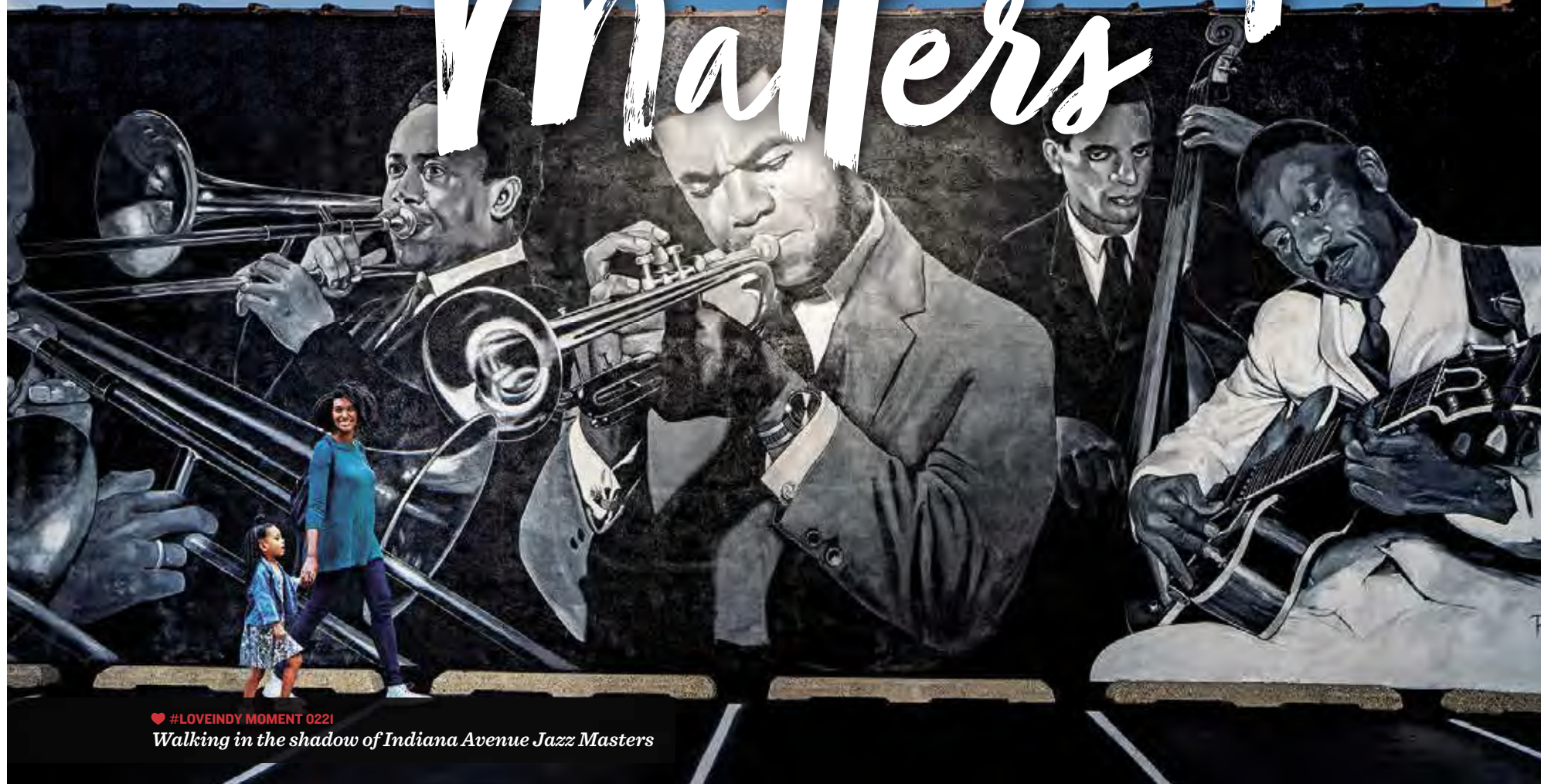
Nephew, who has a master's degree in ethics, is also part of the transplant committee, which includes a variety of other professionals who help patients through the transplant process.

Nephew doesn't work directly with COVID-19 patients but is nonetheless still at ground zero for the pandemic in a hospital. The world will always need doctors, she said, but right now the need is unlike ever before.

"It's an honor to be able to treat patients at a time when you're really needed," she said.

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

Black History Matters



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A RICH HISTORY OF EXCELLENCE

The Indianapolis Recorder Newspaper is the fourth oldest surviving African-American newspaper in the country. What began in 1895 as a two-page church bulletin created by co-founders George P. Stewart and Will Porter now hails as one of the top African-American publications in the United States. In 1897, the newspaper's co-founders expanded their successful news-sheet into a weekly newspaper. The earliest existing issues of the Recorder date back to 1899 – the same year that Porter sold his share of the paper to Stewart.

William G. Mays, an astute entrepreneur purchased the Indianapolis Recorder Newspaper in 1990. As

publisher, Mays entrusted his niece, Carolene Mays-Medley to serve as president and general manager of the newspaper. Mays-Medley gave the paper new direction and a blueprint for success for more than 13 years before returning to community service in local government.

Experienced journalist and longtime Recorder employee, Shannon Williams succeeded Mays-Medley as president and general manager in 2010. One of the initial things Williams did in her role as president was form the Recorder

Media Group which houses the Recorder, its sister publication the Indiana Minority Business

Magazine and serves as an in-house marketing/communications firm.

After 18 years at the Recorder, including the last eight at the helm, Williams left the historic paper to serve in non-profit leadership where she specifically advocates for education equity.

Robert Shegog is the current president and CEO of the Recorder Media Group. Shegog has been instrumental in building continuity across all of the company's products and amplifying community engagement strategies. He and his team continue to usher a new era of leadership with the charge to extend the rich legacies of the newspaper and magazine for generations to come.



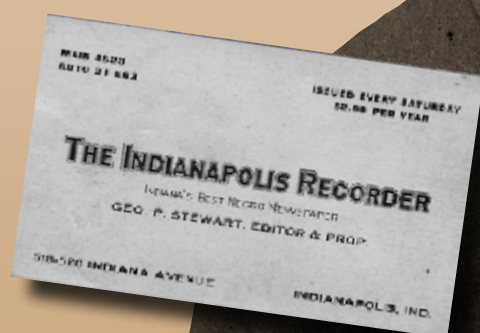
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RECORDER CELEBRATED 125 YEARS IN 2020, COMMITMENT TO COMMUNITY REMAINS THE SAME



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

When George P. Stewart and Will Porter started a two-page church bulletin in 1895, they set in motion what would eventually become one of the oldest African American newspapers in the country.

"It's so important for the community," Barbara Turner, great-great-granddaughter of George Stewart, said at the unveiling of a mural to celebrate the Recorder's 125th anniversary. "And it means a lot to me and the family that it's kept going this long."

Like the newspaper industry itself, the Recorder has undergone many changes throughout the years. However, the sense of family and community have stayed the same.

"I was a teenager when I started at the Recorder, when it was located at 518 Indiana Ave. in a raggedy old building," Eunice Trotter, a former reporter and publisher, said. "I always had an interest in writing, and I would hang around the Recorder to see if they would let me write, and eventually they let me do some things."

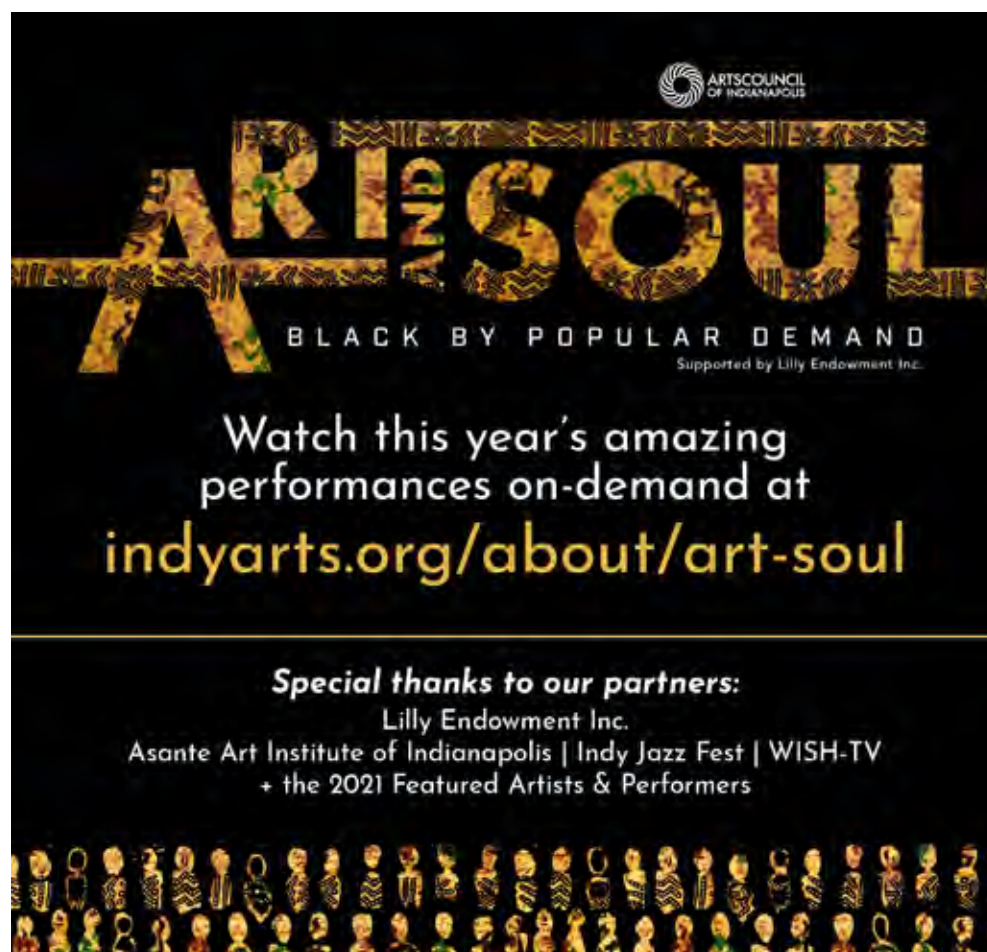
During her time as a high school student and student

at IUPUI, Trotter wrote for the "Teen Talk" column and eventually started an entertainment column called "Party People." When Trotter started writing for the paper, it was still under the ownership of the Stewart family.

"It's so important to have representation, to give the community a voice," Trotter said. "I'm still a regular reader of the Recorder, and it's nice to see real, important issues being discussed."

Trotter became the owner of the Recorder in 1988 after a stint at the Indianapolis Star. After she sold the

See 125, 62 ►



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BLACK HISTORY MONTH

MAKING HISTORY TOGETHER



JIMMIE L. MCMILLIAN JR.,
Chief Diversity Officer and Senior
Corporate Counsel, Indianapolis
Motor Speedway



MICHAEL E. TOLBERT,
Tolbert & Tolbert LLC

We celebrate the leadership of Indianapolis Bar Association President Jimmie McMillian and Indiana State Bar Association President Michael Tolbert as they work toward our shared purposes of justice for all and the elevation of the legal profession in the Hoosier state.

125

► Continued from 61

company to William “Bill” Mays, Trotter eventually became editor-in-chief of the paper.

Throughout its history, the Recorder frequently discussed issues — nationally and locally — important to the African American community. Late historian and friend of the Recorder, Wilma L. Gibbs Moore, wrote the newspaper “commented through news stories and editorials on the socio-economic and political climate that affected the daily lives of its community. ... It remains as a useful chronicle of national and local Black history.”

Current president and CEO Robert Shegog has continued to bring the important issues to a larger audience by expanding the digital presence of the outlet and forming several partnerships within the community.

“Since being at the Recorder, I have been intentional about engaging the Indianapolis community about the importance of the Indianapolis Recorder in Indianapolis,” Shegog said. “We have created strategic corporate and philanthropic partners to assist with relaying this message to the broader community.”

Shegog believes communities ought to have representation in local and national media, and that’s where the Recorder comes in. According to the Pew Research Center, the majority of American newsrooms are predominately white and male.

“The underrepresentation leads to an overdependence on white sources and a general prevalence of white perspectives in news reporting,” Shegog said. “... The messenger matters, especially in the Black community where they may lack trust in authority figures.”

Moore noted the paper covered the Civil Rights Movement of the 1960s diligently and brought opportunities for Black reporters and students in Indianapolis throughout the years.

One of those opportunities, the Journalism and Writing Seminars (JAWS), was created by Trotter to help young, aspiring journalists get experience in the field. Trotter balanced the program alongside her responsibilities as editor and called the program her proudest accomplishment while at the Recorder.

When Bill Mays bought the paper in 1990, he did so, Trotter said, to keep the paper going. Mays incorporated voices from the community, including a column from esteemed broadcaster Amos Brown, to raise readership and increase the Recorder’s presence in the community.

“Mr. Mays was a tremendous influence for the paper being around today,” Shannon Williams, former editor and president of the Recorder, said. “When he purchased it, it was in the red, and he put his own money into it and thought, ‘I might as well just buy the paper.’ He purchased it to save a legacy because he knew the African American community needed an independent newspaper.”

Williams, who began working at the newspaper in 2000, said there were many ups and downs during her 18-year tenure. However, she said she reflected on the sacrifices and courage of those who came before her, and that inspired her to keep going.

“We all stand on other people’s shoulders, and I never lose sight of that,” Williams said. “I had to remember how scared those early reporters must have been. They got death threats, the KKK [Ku Klux Klan] tried to intimidate reporters, but they kept going. Just to be able to build upon that legacy makes me so proud, and it fueled me when things got tough.”

Both Williams and Trotter agree being at the Recorder always felt like being with family. While many things have changed at newspapers across the country, Trotter hopes the paper’s presence in the Martindale-Brightwood neighborhood is the same as it was when she started working on Indiana Avenue.

“When I was at the Recorder, as a teen and adult, it was really a community place,” Trotter said. “People would come to the building and hang out, get the news of the day and just talk. That’s what a newspaper should be, and I hope it’s heading in that direction again. I’m excited to see what will happen in years to come.”

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



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INDIANA AVENUE: THE GRAND OL' STREET



Clarke F. “Deacon” Hampton organized his children into Deacon Hampton’s Family Band while they lived in Ohio. In 1938 the Hamptons settled back in Indianapolis. They later became the Duke Hampton Band and played swing-style music. They disbanded in the late 1940s and formed their own groups or did solo acts. Slide Hampton, playing the trombone, had a prolific career as a composer, arranger and performer. Sisters Virtue, Aletra and Carmalita formed a trio. (Information taken from the Encyclopedia of Indianapolis) Bicentennial Train image. (Digital image © 2005 Indiana Historical Society. All Rights Reserved.)

By TYLER FENWICK
tylerf@indyrecorder.com

In its heyday in the 1930s and ‘40s, Indiana Avenue was called by many names. There was The Yellow Brick Road, Funky Broadway, The Grand Ol’ Street. There was also a simpler name, one that has survived the years and is still recognized by many: The Avenue.

As Indianapolis’ hub for African Americans, Indiana Avenue was a city within a city. Shops, restaurants, clubs and theaters lined the street, giving African Americans and other minorities locked out of housing in the larger city a sense of home and belonging. Indiana

Avenue was also a haven for African American jazz musicians and fans.

Some of the era’s best jazz singers and musicians got their starts on Indiana Avenue. They included The Hamptons, Wes Montgomery, Leroy Vinegar, Jimmy Coe, J.J. Johnson and Earl Walker. In April, Resonance Records released “Back on Indiana Avenue: The Carroll DeCamp Recordings,” a collection of early unheard work from Montgomery. The collection features 22 songs.

Some of the great ones — Duke Ellington, Dinah Washington, Ella Fitzgerald and Count Basie, to name a few — also came to Indianapolis to perform. Indiana Avenue was known to have the best

jazz in the city. At one time there were more than 30 jazz clubs.

One of the most famous icons of Indiana Avenue, the Madam C.J. Walker Building on the corner of Indiana Avenue and Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Street, dedicated some of its space to jazz performances. The building is the only jazz venue from the era still standing. It’s also one of the only remaining monuments to what Indiana Avenue once was.

Few of the original buildings from Indiana Avenue’s glory days remain. Historic communities such as Ransom Place have been almost completely uprooted by commercial development, highway expansion and gentrification. The

Avenue began to change by the 1950s, when some neighborhoods started to fall to commercial development and the IUPUI campus began creeping in from the west.

But Indiana Avenue — the people and musicians who blessed the street’s culture in the early 20th century and continued to fight for its survival — cemented a legacy long ago that no amount of butchery or invasion can wipe away.

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

ART KEPT HER 'ABOVE WATER.' NOW IT'S HER FULL-TIME JOB

By TYLER FENWICK
tylerf@indyrecorder.com

Shaunt'e Lewis was the student in school who would rather doodle on everything than actually do the assigned work. She was always the creative and artistic type and took every art class she could in middle school and high school.

Lewis is now a visual artist and illustrator. She lives in Fishers, where she works out of a home studio.

Lewis, 36, started taking her art more seriously about five years ago. She presented at different venues and cafes to get her name out there.

Then the COVID-19 pandemic hit, and Lewis saw an opportunity to turn art into her full-time job. She was a hair stylist for 15 years, but the business she worked at had to shut down. It was a difficult time, but there

was more work available through art.

"Art really kept me above water," said Lewis, who went full time in January.

She joined other artists in helping the city promote its mask-up campaign in 2020.

Lewis mostly does portraits of African American women. She initially wasn't sure why she was drawn to those specific portraits but thinks it had to do with the influence of her mother and grandmother.

"Just trying to convey self-love and self-identify and acceptance of one's self," Lewis said of her work. "The strength of a woman. Just embracing all the things that make up a woman."

Lewis' portraits are vibrant with lots of reds and yellows. She also does murals and original paintings for private collectors and commercial clients.

Lewis has had her art featured at Meet the Artists, Mass Ave Wine, Haven Yoga Studio,

Fishers City Hall and many other places over the last few years.

Her first bit of success was back in fourth grade, when Lewis won an art contest at school and had her work displayed on a billboard. She told the Recorder in a Q&A in 2018 that was when she knew she was meant to be a creator.

"As far as I can remember, I've always been allowed to express myself through my art," Lewis said. "My mother would let me paint on my walls and even cut up and make new clothes out of my old ones. ... So, I would say that many adults in my life made sure that I was able to express my creativity and create art in all forms without limitation."

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



Shaunt'e Lewis



Michael Jefferson
Owner, URStreet LLC

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From the impact an alumnus federal judge is making to combat racial discrimination, the achievements our students are making in and out of the classroom, and the passion our faculty have in providing rich educational experiences, we're sharing stories of some of our Black/African-American community members at Rose-Hulman.

Learn more about them and how our Center for Diversity and Inclusion is promoting greater inclusion and equity on campus.

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ARMY'S 1ST BLACK RANGER INSTRUCTOR FOUGHT CRIME IN COLUMBUS

By **TIM CHITWOOD**
Ledger-Enquirer

COLUMBUS, Ga. (AP) — Columbus drug dealers couldn't scare an old Army Ranger who'd done two tours of combat duty in Vietnam, so they gave up.

That's how Milton "Davey" Lockett Jr. became a local hero at least twice in his life:

At Fort Benning, he became the Army's first Black Ranger instructor, in 1959.

In the Columbus neighborhood where he retired, he led a front-line attack on crime in the 1990s, helping start Carver Heights Against Drugs.

He was inducted into the Rangers' Hall of Fame in 2001. After he died at his Schaul Street home from prostate

cancer in 2018, the Columbus Police Department named its community room for him. It's where police sometimes coordinate strategy with Neighborhood Watch leaders.

Lockett may not be as well known to outsiders, but within the area he chose to defend, he is a legend.

"Even some of the new people who have moved in, they have heard of him, from Wynnton Road to Eighth Street, and all the streets between," said Lockett's only son, Milton Lockett III. "Everybody knew him. Everybody."

That's because they knew this: "If they had a problem, they knew he could help," the son said, recalling his father would not back down against what he knew was wrong. "He would stand up and proudly show that, 'I'm

here. We can make this better if we work together.'"

That approach worked because the retired master sergeant did not pull rank to enforce his moral code, the son said. He was open, direct and respectful with others.

"Dad taught me to be honest and upright. He was always very honest with everybody. He was just one of them. He talked to people like that. He was an everyday guy."

A HUMBLE START

Born Feb. 5, 1935, Milton Lockett Jr. was among seven children whose father worked as a concrete finisher, with a touch for smoothing and

See **RANGER, 70** ▶



Milton 'Davey' Lockett, Jr. enlisted in the Army when he was 17 years old. Lockett was selected to demonstrate his hand-to-hand combat skills to President John F. Kennedy during a Rangers-in-Action demonstration at Fort Bragg, North Carolina. Lockett was a member of the first, now famous, "Rangers-in-Action". PHOTO COURTESY OF THE NATIONAL INFANTRY MUSEUM.

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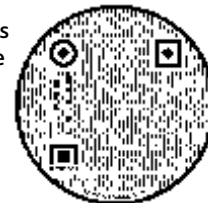
Help us preserve Indiana's Black History and heritage for future generations. Please help us grow our African American History archival collection by sharing information about records that could become a part of our extensive library collection. If you or someone you know has letters, diaries, and photographs from individuals, businesses or organizations related to Indiana history, contact Susan Hall Dotson, Coordinator of African American History at shall@indianahistory.org.

Supported by the Robin and Charlitta Winston Family Fund for African American History

Far left and top right images: Indianapolis Recorder Collection, Indiana Historical Society
bottom right image: Indiana Historical Society

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RANGER

▶ Continued from 69

leveling the mix after it's poured into a frame to harden.

Working at Atlanta's expanding airport, the father later rose to supervise crews doing that work and offered his son a job.

But Milton Lockett Jr. chose a different course, joining the Army at 17 in 1952, and finding the uniform fit his character. After two years, he came home and told the high school girlfriend he later would marry that he was going back, for six years.

For about a year he served in Korea, returning to marry Ida Clay in 1955, and moving to a post in Arkansas before the Army sent him to Fort Benning, where he signed up for Ranger School.

"He did so well in Ranger School, they offered him a job to become a Ranger instructor," recalled his son, who was born in 1956.

See RANGER, 72 ▶



Milton 'Davey' Lockett, Jr. enlisted in the Army when he was 17 years old. Lockett was selected to demonstrate his hand-to-hand combat skills to President John F. Kennedy during a Rangers-in-Action demonstration at Fort Bragg, North Carolina. Lockett was a member of the first, now famous, "Rangers-in-Action".
PHOTO COURTESY OF THE NATIONAL INFANTRY MUSEUM

Washington Township Schools....Equity Matters

While we celebrate Black History Month, we are committed to equity each day in our classrooms and in the Washington Township Schools community. That's why in every area—from the classroom to construction projects, we demand that everyone involved in our operations be committed to equity.

Equity in the Classroom:

- Committed to increasing administrator, teacher and staff diversity in our schools.
- Expanded and implemented strategies to support equitable achievement for all students in the classroom and in our school environments.
- Distributed Chromebooks for use by students to ensure continued access to the classroom and teaching during the Covid-19 pandemic.
- Added a Director of Equity and Inclusion to the Superintendent's Cabinet to lead equity policy implementation in our school community.
- Our Advancement Center is funding districtwide antiracism training for staff.
- Hosted community forums to watch the nationally acclaimed documentary, "Pushout", and collectively address racial equity efforts in schools.
- Established a Student Alliance for Equity Club to focus on social justice and creation of inclusive school environments.
- Community Coalition developed to support equity efforts for students and families.

Equity with Projects:

- Record amount of spending directed to diverse suppliers working on capital projects in the District.
- Expanded commitment to workforce development to assist our students with securing good-paying jobs upon graduation.
- Construction projects of 4 new schools and 10 renovated schools thanks to the support of voters in the District.

We welcome your input about how we can better serve our school community.
To learn more please visit <https://www.msdt.k12.in.us/equity/> and follow #WT4Equity



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Celebrate BLACK HISTORY MONTH

The Indianapolis Office of Minority & Women Business Development invites you to commemorate this special month as we continue to support certified minority-, women-, veteran-, and disability-owned business owners through free access to education, outreach and business supportive services in Central Indiana.

2021 Certification Workshops

Wednesday, April 21, 2021
10:00 a.m. - 11:00 a.m.

Tuesday, June 8, 2021
6:00 p.m. - 7:00 p.m.

Tuesday, August 24, 2021
2:00 p.m. - 3:00 p.m.

Info is at indy.gov/omwbd



Matthew Cooper
I Am Not My Hair

2021 Art & Soul
Featured Visual Artist



indyarts.org

RANGER

► Continued from 70

He was not only an instructor, but a “Ranger Demonstrator,” joining the team that promoted the specialty by exhibiting its skills around the country, with hand-to-hand combat, ziplining, rappelling and running headlong across timbers suspended high overhead.

He was among those who performed for President John F. Kennedy in 1963. Before that, the Army sent him to a demonstration at the segregated University of Alabama, where the white Rangers afterward were treated to a picnic, his son said. The Black Rangers ate on the bus that brought them there.

He got the nickname “Davey” because they did a skit in which he played Davey Crockett, traveling the wilderness with a backpack bearing his lunch — an assortment of live snakes. Rangers were taught to kill and eat, to live off the land.

Then came Vietnam.

TWO TOURS, AND HOME AGAIN

He did his first tour in 1965 and ‘66. He was in a LRRP, pronounced “lurp,” a long-range reconnaissance patrol, scouting behind enemy lines.

Asked for a combat story, his son recalls one his father did not find funny for years afterward: He and a buddy got cut off and pinned down on their way back from a mission. Under intense enemy fire, they huddled behind a fallen tree that had an upright tree beside it.

When the other Ranger unpinned a grenade and lobbed it, it hit the limbs overhead, and bounced right back at them. They braved enemy bullets to get up and run for their lives. Davey Lockett was wounded by the shrapnel.

He spent about a year back at Benning before the Army sent him back to Vietnam in 1968.

“The second tour of Vietnam, it really took something out of him,” his son said. After a few years’ more service with the Rangers here at Benning, he retired from the Army in 1972, and took a civilian job, from which he retired in 1999.

Meanwhile the house on Schaul Street became a gathering spot for

neighborhood kids. Some came to get Lockett to teach them Judo and other hand-to-hand fighting skills.

Around 1991, the kids told him about a neighbor in her 80s who couldn’t leave her home, because drug dealers outside were hiding their stash in her yard.

The former Ranger didn’t walk over and order them to leave. He went over and escorted the woman to the store, and anywhere else she needed to go. He did that again and again, until the dealers moved on.

Lockett didn’t have to threaten them, his son said: “If you watched his body language and his intensity, you would get the message, ‘I’m not the one to mess with.’”

THE LAST BATTLE

After he helped form Carver Heights Against Drugs, he kept up that pressure, staking out the places dealers set up and staring them down. “You couldn’t sell drugs if someone was out in the street watching you,” his son recalled.

They couldn’t intimidate a man who’d faced death so many times before.

He faced it again, when first he was diagnosed with cancer. He got treatment, and for 11 years the cancer went into remission.

But it bounced back, eventually, and left him in hospice care, for his final days.

Still he did not fear, as death came for him on June 27, 2018, when he was 86.

His son remembers some of his father’s last words:

“I know that me being placed in hospice means that I’ve come to the end of my life,” he told his family. “I know that this is going to kill me. But it doesn’t worry me, because I’ve faced death so many times before. Maybe this time, I won’t be able to beat it.”

He left behind his memory, his honors and his influence.

“He always tried to fight things he thought were wrong,” said his son, to whom Davey Lockett remains a hero.

“I’ve always wanted to be like my father.”

INDIANAPOLIS RECORDER
NEWSPAPER

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We have already seen that investing in our children makes a difference for minority children, but also for the broadcast and journalism industry as a whole. The journalism and broadcast media industry needs distinct and compelling voices, including voices who bring diversity and perspective to the profession.

SUPPORT FUTURE POWERFUL VOICES.

At Indianapolis Recorder, the last 125 years have been impactful to our whole community, and we want to ensure that we continue on that path of success by investing in youth. The JAWS program develops professional journalism industry skills for children in broadcast media, videography, graphic design, digital media and writing.

Indianapolis Recorder is asking you to join us. Because of mentors, visionaries and donors like you, our future is Powerful Voices.

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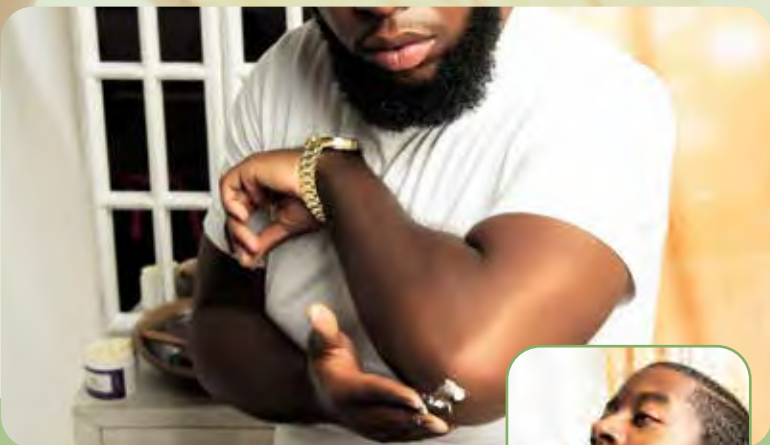
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KELLI JONES WANTS TECH TO WORK FOR BLACK PEOPLE, TOO

By TYLER FENWICK
tylerf@indyrecorder.com

Kelli Jones sees a two-sided problem when it comes to making sure Black business owners can take advantage of the opportunities in technology.

First, many Black business owners just don't have the necessary access to capital for technology, which Jones refers to as more like a business model than an industry.

"The way we've seen the technology field erupt, historically Black people have not had the same ability to access those fields," she said.

Then there's the perception of what a Black-owned business is: usually a small mom-and-pop that provides a service and relies mostly on word-of-mouth advertising.

"That's not all we are and all we do," Jones said, while adding there's still a tendency for new Black business owners to "shy away" from being a tech-based business. That has made life especially difficult during the COVID-19 pandemic, when there's much less traditional interaction than normal.

Jones wants to help solve these problems, and she's developed a few ways to do it.

Jones is co-founder of Be Nimble, which launched in 2016. The nonprofit trains people in technology and then helps place them in tech careers ranging from coding to sales. The organization also guides start-up entrepreneurs through business accelerators, workshops and pitch competitions.

Be Nimble's venture capital arm, Sixty8 Capital, focuses on investing in Black, brown, women, LGBTQ and disabled founders. (Numerous studies show most venture capital funds go to college-educated white male founders.)

There is also an annual fundraiser, Pardi Gras, which raises money for coding camps and other programs, and



Kelli Jones

founders working in the accelerator can pitch their business in a competition to win money.

Jones has been doing this work for a while. She was previously director of sales and marketing at HipHopDX and worked in business development and partnerships at Blavity.

Technology is exciting and useful, and Jones wants to make sure Black business owners can take full advantage of it. But training people and helping them find jobs in tech can also be a path to generational wealth, something Black people haven't even been allowed to accumulate for much of America's history.

"They are jobs that pay significantly more than a lot of the jobs that are currently out there," Jones said.

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

JENNIFER GREEN

Executive Director
Partners in Housing - Indianapolis
INHP BOARD MEMBER

“I find it a privilege to be appointed by the Mayor to serve on the INHP Board of Directors. Housing is one of the basic needs of all people. Having the ability to provide input into INHP's strategy to address the housing needs of our community is a great honor. The diversity of board members ensures that equity and inclusion are not overlooked in any housing strategy developed by INHP.”

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IN 2021

CELEBRATING BLACK HISTORY MONTH

DECADES LATER, LEWIS' WORDS STILL RING TRUE

STAFF REPORT

In this Feb. 3, 1979, article that was printed on the Recorder's Editorials and Opinions page, civil rights advocate John Lewis urged his fellow African Americans to volunteer their time and talents to help one another.

"In the war on hunger, poverty, and disease, there can be no conscientious objectors, no waiting for a better time to become involved," he writes.

Roughly seven years after penning this editorial, Lewis was elected to Congress; he served as U.S. Representative of Georgia's Fifth Congressional District until his death in 2020.

Though this piece was written through Lewis' perspective as director of federal volunteer agency ACTION (he was appointed to the post by President Jimmy Carter in 1977), its sentiment is as relevant as ever: "As black Americans, we are not home free in our own struggle, but we can afford to reach out and lend a helping hand to others."

BLACK HISTORY: A TRADITION OF CARING

By JOHN LEWIS

(Editors note: John Lewis, longtime civil rights advocate and former director of the Voter Education Project (VEP) now serves as Associate Director of ACTION, the federal volunteer agency whose programs include Volunteers in Service to America (VISTA) and the Peace Corps.)

February is Black History Month — a time to look at the past and plan for the future — an appropriate time for black people to consider committing a year or two of their lives in helping others, either through VISTA or the Peace Corps.

February is also Peace Corps/VISTA

Month, a time to salute over 132,000 men and women who have shared their skills, experience, and dedication as Peace Corps or VISTA volunteers over the years.

Black people have a tradition of struggle, a sense of caring for others, and history of involvement in the movement for human dignity. I see many parallels between serving as a Peace Corps or VISTA volunteer and participation in the civil rights movement which was so effective in the past two decades.

It takes a special kind of person, an unusual person, to be a Peace Corps or VISTA volunteer, just as it took the initiative of a special few to spark the civil

rights movement of the 1960s. Black history records that our revolutionary movements were sparked, not by the majority of students on any college campus or the general population of any neighborhood or town, but by the audacity of a courageous, committed, caring few.

Being a Peace Corps or VISTA volunteer requires the same kind of courage and commitment as the sit-ins or the Freedom Rides of the early 1960s. It takes an individual who believes change is possible — one who is willing to invest time, energy and love work which uplifts others.

VISTA and the Peace Corps comprise an army of volunteers in much the same sense as did the civil rights movement. This is a nonviolent army, a movement to help people help themselves, a movement to enhance the quality of life for people on a sugar cane plantation in the South, in the ghettos of our nation's urban areas, on Indian reservations, in the barrios of the Southwest, and in 63 nations around the world.

It is a movement to help those who are forgotten in a sea of poverty, those left out and left behind, the underclasses of the world.

No one can help a community organization deal with problems created by poverty like someone who has been there. VISTA volunteers work in rural and urban areas, in projects such as organizing nutrition and health programs, assisting farmer and consumer cooperatives, bringing together tenant and neighborhood groups to rehabilitate housing, or setting up centers for battered spouses, to name only a few.

More than half of the 4,000 VISTAs

today serve in their own communities. About 15 percent are low-income men and women who are building their own skills and leadership capacities through volunteer service. Twelve percent of all VISTAs are over 60.

The Peace Corps needs volunteers of all ages and backgrounds. Some of the 7,000 current volunteers are just out of college, while 15 percent are over the age of 55. Developing countries request volunteers with experience in farming, technical and blue collar skills and involvement in a variety of health fields.

The struggle in which black people are involved is a human struggle, a universal struggle. Whether you're in Mississippi, Maine, the Philippines, or Tanzania, the struggle is one of the men and women striving to realize their own potential. In the war on hunger, poverty, and disease, there can be no conscientious objectors, no waiting for a better time to become involved. As Martin Luther King, Jr. taught us: "The time is always right to do right."

As black Americans, we are not home free in our own struggle, but we can afford to reach out and lend a helping hand to others. We have riches to share — perhaps not financial resources, but we have abilities, skills, training, education, and, most of all, that tradition of caring which extends to the entire human family.

During Black History Month and Peace Corps VISTA Month, it is my hope that black Americans of all ages will make or renew a commitment to the struggle for human dignity by volunteering to serve. It is written, "As you give, so shall you receive."



John Lewis



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In 2020, the NAACP worked to improve voter turnout, voter education and voter protection. We worked to reform the criminal justice system. We investigated discrimination complaints. We worked for equity in education and sought to reduce childhood lead poisoning. We educated the African-American community about COVID-19. These are just some of our accomplishments.

Are you with us? Stand up for equality in 2021.

Learn more and become a member of the Greater Indianapolis NAACP at indynaacp.org.

WHITLEY YATES IS 'UNBOUGHT AND UNBOTHERED'

By TYLER FENWICK
tylerf@indyrecorder.com

Whitley Yates couldn't understand as a 12-year-old why her grandfather would send her to live at a children's home. It didn't make sense for years.

Yates' grandparents adopted her because her parents weren't ready to take care of a child. Living with her grandparents was "one of the biggest blessings," Yates said, but then her grandmother died, and her grandfather said he was getting too old to take care of her on his own.

"I felt abandoned," Yates said of going to the children's home in Knightstown, "like it was the worst thing that could ever happen to me."

What she didn't realize then was living in that home with 20 other girls laid the foundation for everything to come. It's where Yates learned how to hunt and fish. She joined the rifle team at Camp Atterbury in Edinburgh. Her views on the Second Amendment, the military — it all started at the children's home.

Yates is now director of diversity and engagement for the Indiana Republican Party. Her job is to develop relationships with diverse communities across Indiana and help the GOP become more diverse.

Yates, 31, has been back in Indiana since 2017 following stays in Memphis, Tennessee, and California. She has a 6-year-old daughter, Monroe, whom Yates said is already interested in politics.

Yates wanted to get involved in politics and joined Republican Jim Merritt's campaign for mayor of Indianapolis in 2019. She was one of the key players in Merritt's Black agenda.



Whitley Yates

It was a win-win for Black people, she said, because even if Merritt lost — he did — it's not like he could go back to the Statehouse, where he was a senator until he retired in November 2020, and shy away from what he'd been talking about as a candidate for mayor.

Yates prefers to work in the background of politics, in part because it's easier to say what she needs to say and not have to worry about getting people's votes.

"I'm able to be unbought and unbothered," she said.

Plus, Yates gets a firsthand look at how the public dissects political candidates' lives.

"Your life is on display and up for interpretation," she said. "It's rather time consuming, and sometimes it can be an energy drain."

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



MARSHAWN WOLLEY

President & CEO
Black Onyx Management
and Indianapolis
Recorder Columnist
INHP BOARD MEMBER

“I stand on the shoulders of Black leaders who advocated for a housing solution for qualified people with low and moderate incomes access in our community. Serving on the INHP board is both an opportunity to continue the work of dismantling impediments to our community's pursuit of the American dream and the tradition of action in the face of despair.”



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CELEBRATING BLACK HISTORY MONTH



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Come experience chiropractic care like you have never experienced it before! Naturally Complete Chiropractic Spa offers all chiropractic services in a spa-like setting. Striving to improve each patient's quality of life, Dr. Henry-Graves specializes in preventing, diagnosing, and treating conditions associated with the neuromuscular and skeletal systems. Conditions treated include sciatica, low back pain, mid back pain, neck pain, arthritic pain, and much more. Dr. Henry-Graves seeks to reduce pain and discomfort through manipulation and adjustment of the spine and joints.



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HISTORIC PLACES IN INDIANAPOLIS YOU CAN VISIT TODAY



Crispus Attucks High School

Listed on the National Register of Historic Places and named after the first man to die in the Boston Massacre, Attucks was built in 1927 as a segregated high school for Blacks. The high school was a leader in sports, music, debate and science. In 1970, the school integrated.

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(L-R) Madam C.J. Walker, Booker T. Washington and (back) Freeman Ransom

Ransom Place Historic District

This legendary district was named after Freeman Ransom, manager and attorney for Madam C.J. Walker. It was home to many prominent African Americans during the 1800s and early 1900s.

Madam Walker Theatre

The Walker was built in 1927 by the daughter of America’s first Black millionaire, Madam C.J. Walker. Walker, an entrepreneur and philanthropist, made her fortune selling beauty products designed for African Americans.



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**“You must never be fearful about what
you are doing when it is right.”**

– Rosa Parks (1955)

**“We can't change the world
unless we change ourselves.”**

– The Notorious B.I.G. (1996)

**“Quiet isn't always peace, and the norms and
the notation of what is just, isn't always justice.”**

– Amanda Gorman (2021)

#blackhistorymonth

United Way
of Central Indiana



uwci.org



WE ARE ONE

**“WE MIGHT BE *DIFFERENT*,
BUT THERE ARE THINGS
THAT BRING US
TOGETHER.”**

Community is at the core of Taylor Rhodes' work. Recognized for her high-flying commitment to civic engagement, Taylor found success at IUPUI by supporting others in Indianapolis including service with the United Way as a student. Today, she's working to help our youth soar through education initiatives that elevate our community. Read more at iupui.edu/taylor.



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