

CELEBRATING OUR HISTORY TODAY AND EVERY DAY – BLACK HISTORY MATTERS



Charles Venable

Newfields CEO resigns amid scandal

By BREANNA COOPER
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Charles Venable, CEO of Newfields, resigned Feb. 17 following a job posting for the art museum which noted the desire to “maintain the museum’s traditional, core, white art audience.”

The Newfields board of trustees released a statement announcing Venable’s departure.

“We thank him for his service and agree that his resignation is necessary for Newfields to become the cultural institution our community needs and deserves,” the statement said. “Chief Financial Officer Jerry Wise will serve as the Interim President of Newfields.”

After the job posting went viral after being shared by Sarah Bahr, a local New York Times reporter, several local artists dropped out of upcoming exhibits at the museum.

Alan Bacon and Malina Simone Jeffers, who were guest curators for the upcoming exhibit, “Drip: Indy’s #BlackLivesMatter Street Mural,” said they would no longer be working with Newfields and asked the museum to issue an apology.

A group of 85 Newfields employees released a letter Feb. 16 calling for Venable to step down.

“At the present time, we do not see a way forward if Dr. Charles Venable remains at the helm of our institution,” the letter reads.

Ess McKee, one of the 18 artists who created the Black Lives Matter mural downtown, said in an Instagram post that she and the other artists stand in solidarity with the employees and their work will not be shown in the museum unless the demand is met.

“We want it known that we will continue previous plans to showcase the message of our cause at Newfields only after the aforementioned demands have been met,” McKee wrote. “... Once Newfields is under new leadership, and had redirected intentional and tangible efforts to make our city’s art museum accessible, enjoyable and representative of our community as a whole.”

Venable could not be reached for an interview.

In an article published by the IndyStar on Feb. 13, Venable said the wording in the job description was a misunderstanding.

“I think the fact you can read that one sentence and now reading it as a single sentence or a clause, I certainly can understand and regret that it could be taken that way,” Venable said. “It certainly was not the intent at all.”

Josiah McCruiston, a local musician, said many Black artists in Indianapolis were not surprised by Newfields’ rhetoric.

“This is not a one-time accident,” McCruiston said. “Places like [Newfields] only leeches the Black community, they don’t care about Black art, and they

See NEWFIELDS, A2 ►

Local residents search for help making utility payments

By TYLER FENWICK
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Ruth Johnson has been able to keep the lights on at the apartment she shares with her daughter on the north side of Indianapolis, but she’s had some close calls.

Johnson got behind on the bills and received shut-off notices. She pays \$185 each month for the electric bill, but the balance on her account got up to \$231 in January.

“The electric bill is something else,” she said. “I’ll say it like that.”

Johnson, 91, was able to get help from Women in Touch Ministries and avoided the shut-off, but she’s still in the process of working out a payment plan with Indianapolis Power & Light Company (IPL).

IPL disconnected residential service 6,360 times from the beginning of the year to Feb. 15, according to data provided by the utility company. There were about 11,000 residential disconnections in January and February 2020. IPL has about 450,000 residential customers.

IPL offers two types of payment extensions: short-term and long-term.

The short-term extension is for customers who only need a few extra days to pay a bill. Approval is based on account status and payment history. The long-term extension divides payments over three to six months.

Citizens Energy Group has disconnected 2,686 water services and 2,641 natural gas services since Sept. 11, 2020, according to the company.

Citizens offers a payment plan for up to 12 months. It also has natural gas bill discounts through its Universal Service Program, and customers can get credits for wastewater through the Low Income Customer Assistance Program.

Olga Daniels also needed help from Women in Touch Ministries for a couple of her utility bills in late 2020. She and her husband are on disability, but the pandemic brought higher bills than normal.

Daniels, 67, helped some family members through their financial struggles, and she said the pandemic



See UTILITY, A2 ►

First diversity czar takes office

By BREANNA COOPER
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When Karrah Herring was named Indiana’s first equity, inclusion and opportunity officer by Gov. Eric Holcomb in November 2020, she was planning ways to balance her work and her family. At the time, she was eight months pregnant and planning a move from her hometown of South Bend to Carmel to be closer to the new job.

Like many working mothers, Herring is up at 5 a.m. to care for her newborn son and pump milk every day. To center herself ahead of her workday, Herring said she prays for her family, the majority of whom are still in South Bend for the time being.

Since her move earlier this year, Herring has traveled back and forth to visit her support system — her husband and two teenage children, as well as her parents.

“I have to take those moments to see them,” Herring said. “It’s been a rough transition, but this is a bigger purpose that will not only benefit me, but the entire state.”

As diversity czar, Herring, 38,



Karrah Herring

works with government agencies to improve operations and ensure there are opportunities for minorities to climb up the ladder within the agencies.

The position was a campaign promise for Holcomb, who announced his

intentions in an address in August 2020. In the wake of civil unrest following the death of George Floyd, Holcomb emphasized the need for more inclusion and equity throughout the state.

“My goal is to better build diversity and foster an inclusive environment within state government and the services we provide so every Hoosier can take full advantage of their gifts and potential,” Holcomb said in a statement following Herring’s appointment. “Karrah will guide every state agency with her impressive experiences at one of our state’s world-renowned universities.”

While Herring is Indiana’s first diversity czar, her years at Notre Dame University prepared her for her current responsibilities. Since 2011, Herring served as director of public affairs for the university and was on the school’s human resources leadership team for four years, where she oversaw implementation of Title IX laws. She also created affirmative action plans and supervised workplace investigations.

Herring said she learned important skills from her time at Notre

See HERRING, A7►

Report: Indianapolis, IMPD need to improve gun violence prevention

By STAFF

A report from a criminal justice reform nonprofit criticized Indianapolis Metropolitan Police Department and the city’s gun violence prevention work.

The National Institute for Criminal Justice Reform, based in California, assessed the city’s approach to reducing violence from November 2019 to March 2020. The assessment included interviews and data review.

The organization released a report to the city in May 2020, but the city did not share it publicly. IndyStar obtained the report and published it Feb. 15.

The report said the city’s investments in crime prevention through grants and partnerships are “commendable” but noted smaller cities such as Oakland and Washington spend more.

The report said quarterly call-ins, which include people on adult proba-



An Indianapolis Metropolitan Police Department car. (Recorder file photo)

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By MATTIE JONES



When presented with the question — what is the biggest challenge you are facing due to the COVID-19 pandemic? — one provider shared:

"In the past, the nation believed that children

Fortunately, providers do not have to face financial challenges of the pandemic alone. There are resources and tools available to support them. In her “The State of Early Learning” presentation from Jan. 26, available on YouTube, Maureen Weber, president and CEO of Early Learning Indiana, provided valuable Indiana data and resources. For instance,

The destabilization of programs due to fears and health concerns regarding the pandemic's impact on workers, families and children has not gone unnoticed. Other organizations that support the importance of early learning have addressed these fears. One such organization doing so is the National Association for the Education of Young Children (NAEYC). It has assembled online health and educational organizations' information, "Coping with COVID-19," as a valuable resource for providers to help reduce challenges and stabilize programs that support child care and early learning.

Mattie L. Jones, Ph.D., is associate provost and Dean of Education at Martin University, Indiana Child Advocate educational liaison and child outcomes consultant. Contact her at mattielee-jones@mtu.net.

By DYLAN PEERS MCCOY
Chalkbeat Indiana

In most cases, teaching assistants provide that care. But in classrooms

If Indiana teachers do not qualify under one of these categories or based on age, it could be a long wait before they are able to get vaccinated.

Many Indiana teachers have become increasingly frustrated in recent weeks that the state is not prioritizing educators in its vaccine distribution. Most Indiana districts have reopened for in-person instruction, and while other states have begun vaccinating teachers, Indiana has yet to announce when they will be eligible.

Chalkbeat Indiana is a nonprofit news website that reports on educational change in Indiana. Find more from Chalkbeat Indiana at chalkbeat.org/in.

Mid-States Minority Supplier Development Council

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Elanco
Eli Lilly and Company
Eskenazi Hospital
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These corporations have gone above and beyond statements in support of the Black community and have spent more than \$650 Million spent with Black Owned Businesses in Central Indiana, contributing to the tax base, creating jobs and the overall economic development and empowerment of communities of color.

more than
\$650 Million
spent with BLACK BUSINESSES

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Health & Hospital Corporation - Marion County
Indiana State University
Indianapolis Housing Agency
Indianapolis International Airport
Indianapolis Motor Speedway
Indianapolis Power & Light
Indianapolis Public Library
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WHAT'S IN A NAME, INDY? RANSOM PLACE



By **RICHARD MCDONOUGH**

“Ransom Place Historic District is the most intact 19th century neighborhood associated with African Americans in Indianapolis,” according to the National Park Service. “The district was home to many Black business leaders over its long history.”

As noted in the historical marker welcoming people to this neighborhood, Ransom Place includes subdivisions platted between 1865 and 1871. These subdivisions included the Meikel and Wiley additions to the city of Indianapolis. The National Park Service described the Ransom Place Historic District, created in 1992, as being roughly bounded by 10th Street, Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Street, the alley between and parallel to Camp Street and Paca Street and St. Clair Street. Others place the boundary for the neighborhood one full block west of Camp Street — at Paca

Street. Ransom Place is located to the north of Indiana Avenue.

Black people, among others, lived in this section of Marion County as early as the 1830s, noted the National Park Service. “The neighborhood changed from a racially integrated one to one that was solidly Black by 1930, a core of the historic Black west side of Indianapolis,” according to the Historic American Buildings Survey produced by the Great Lakes Support Office of the National Park Service. “[Ransom Place] ... is located in Ward 5 which was 16% Black in 1910 and 16.9% in 1920. [The neighborhood] ... was 97% Black in 1930, reflecting the demographic change brought about by the great migration of Blacks from the rural South to the cities of the North. By 1940 the tract’s population was 99.2% Black.”

This neighborhood got its current name in 1991. “Ransom Place” was named in recognition of Freeman Ransom,

a prominent attorney in Indianapolis and a previous resident of California Street in the neighborhood in the early 20th century. Notably, he worked as the general manager and corporate counsel for the Madam C. J. Walker Company.

California Street is one of a number of roadways in Indianapolis named after the states of our nation. As with most states west of the Mississippi River, California Street was placed west of the Meridian Street.

Ninth and 10th streets got their names as being the ninth and 10th roadways, respectively, north of Washington Street. Both of these roadways, though, had previous names according to the Sanborn Map of Indianapolis in 1898.

“Pratt Street” was the name formerly used for this section of Ninth Street. This name was in use as the name for a roadway in Indianapolis since the city’s founding, according to The Indianapolis Star in a news article dated Dec. 22, 1931. This news article ex-

plained that “the street originally was named after Julius Pratt, prominent Indianapolis citizen in early days of the community.”

“First Street” was the previous name for today’s 10th Street. Both 9th and 10th streets got their current names in 1931.

The origin of the names for St. Clair Street, Camp Street and Paca Street are uncertain. News articles indicated that “St. Clair Street” was in use in Indianapolis as early as 1862, while “Camp Street” was in use in the city as early as 1871. The name of “Paca Street” was in use as early as 1873. An advertisement in The Indianapolis News on Nov. 18, 1873, indicated that a house with four rooms was for rent on Paca Street. The rental included a “cellar, woodshed, and large stable,” noted the advertisement.

Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Street was named after the religious leader who fought for human rights in the United

States. Dr. King was the recipient of the Nobel Peace Prize awarded in 1964. During his years of fighting for equal rights for Black people, he survived a number of attacks on his life. In 1968, Dr. King was assassinated in Tennessee. A national holiday in his name is celebrated annually on the third Monday of each January.

Prior to 1985, this roadway was known as “West Street.” That name came from the fact that this was a major street west of Monument Circle. In downtown Indianapolis, the roadway that became “West Street” was included as the western border of the original town site for the Mile Square.

The alley located between and parallel to California and Camp streets formerly used “Utica Street” as its name. The origin of the name for that street is uncertain. The alley had this name as early as 1898, according to a Sanborn Map of Indianapolis.



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ESKENAZI HEALTH

‘We have a housing crisis’: Panels dissect housing in Indianapolis

By **TYLER FENWICK**
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Leadership Indianapolis hosted a series of virtual panels throughout February to discuss the housing situation in Indianapolis and try to find solutions.

Housing can be an intimidating subject because of its complexity, but policy experts, housing professionals and organizers attempted to lift the veil for viewers over the course of three sessions, each dedicated to a different aspect of housing.



A group of protesters at the Indiana Statehouse on Feb. 8 held diapers, kids' toys, clothes and other items to show what families can lose during an eviction. (Photo/Tyler Fenwick)

WHAT IS THE HOUSING SITUATION IN INDY?

The first questions to answer for the series Feb. 2 were simple but could lead to complicated answers: Does Indianapolis have a housing crisis, and why? Joe Hanson, executive vice president of strategic initiatives at Indianapolis Neighborhood Housing Partnership, said there's no need to make the issue too complex.

“We have a housing crisis,” he said, “because housing costs more than people can pay.”

At the time of the panel, Hanson said there were only 333 homes on the market in Marion County that fall between \$75,000 and \$140,000, whereas six years ago there were about 2,500 houses in that range.

Laurenzo Giple, from Rott-

mann Collier Architects, said it all goes back to redlining. “Everything we have now is a trickling down of sorts,” he said. “It's connected to everything we do.”

Indianapolis is now seeing “reverse flight,” Giple said, which represents the opposite of white flight in the 1950s and '60s. White people want back in, and that creates an unbalance, especially in neighborhoods that have been dealing with disinvestment for decades.

EVICCTIONS

In the second installment Feb. 9, the group discussed the eviction crisis in Indianapolis. This conversation came after the Indiana Senate voted to override Gov. Eric Holcomb's veto of a bill, Senate Enrolled Act 148, that would negate renter protections the Indianapolis City-County Council passed in

2020.

Natalie James, coalition builder at Prosperity Indiana, explained that the current housing crisis in the city is the result of the historic shortage of housing. James said the shortage has always disproportionately affected Black Hoosiers and Hoosiers of color.

“There's never been a great effort to push for fair housing in the state,” James said. “The issue with [SEA] 148 is that it would expand eviction powers significantly for landlords.”

The House of Representatives also voted to override the veto. When she talked about that possibility, James said landlords could evict for essentially any reason, including tenants requesting construction in their property.

The eviction process, according to Breanca Merritt of the Indiana Family and Social Services Administration,

is not only traumatic, but mostly targeted toward Black families.

Stereotypes about Black people being the only demographic to benefit from public housing lead to public housing being underfunded, which paves the way for more families to face eviction. However, Indiana evictions aren't easy to find data on.

Merritt said there haven't been many updates in Indiana's eviction database since 2016, making it difficult to track evictions and how Indiana compares to other states.

FINDING SOLUTIONS

The last panel for the series included policy experts to discuss solutions to Indianapolis' housing crisis.

Amy Nelson, executive director of the Fair Housing Center of Central Indiana,

said the General Assembly has made it difficult for local governments to mandate developers include a certain number of affordable houses or units in new projects. The only tool left, she said, is to provide incentives such as tax breaks.

“Legislators represent tenants, too,” Nelson said, “not just landlords and the housing industry.”

Kyle Arbuckle, housing advocacy organizer for the National Low Income Housing Coalition, said there needs to be more protections and funding to help renters during the pandemic.

He said he's optimistic, though, because there seems to be a growing awareness of the issues in housing, in part because recent Democratic presidential hopefuls Bernie Sanders and Elizabeth Warren talked about it a lot during the primaries.

“I believe there's a renewed sense of housing justice that is hopeful,” Arbuckle said.

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Tackling infant and maternal mortality in the Indiana Legislature

By **BREANNA COOPER**
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Roughly 53 out of 100,000 Black Hoosier women die giving birth every year. Fourteen Black babies out of every 100,000 births died in 2019.

While these numbers are better than they have been for years, Indiana still ranks as the third worst state for infant and maternal mortality in the nation.

State Sen. Jean Breaux and Rep. Vanessa Summers want to change that.

The two legislators, both Democrats, have authored and co-authored bills for the 2021 session drawing attention to the struggles many Indiana women and families face.

Breaux is a co-author on Senate Bill 10, which calls for the creation of a maternal mortality review board. If created, the board would collect data on women who died during or shortly after giving birth to determine if their deaths could have been prevented, as well as to see if substance abuse was a factor in their death. According to Breaux, substance abuse plays a large role in Indiana's maternal mortality rate.

Mental health is brought up several times throughout the bill, an issue both women say factors into whether a woman will seek help.

“There's a huge stigma around mental health issues as it is,” Summers said. “If we can change that stigma and help women who need it get the help they need, I think that would definitely reduce our maternal mortality rate.”



Find a doula

To learn more about doulas and find the right doula for your needs, contact the Indiana Minority Health Coalition at imhc.org/programs, or visit littletimmy.org.

Right now, only doulas who work with a physician can be covered by Medicaid. Breaux wants to change that to ensure doulas can work independently with their own Medicaid billing number, giving more Hoosier women access to alternative birthing routes.

If the issue of infant and maternal mortality wasn't already a big enough challenge, Summers and Breaux — both members of the Indiana Black Legislative Caucus — feel there isn't enough bipartisan support to bring about swift change.

“Republicans understand the issue, but it's not a priority for them,” Breaux said. Both women feel because it is an issue that disproportionately affects Black women, there isn't the same sense of urgency there would be if more white women were dying.

However, both say this is an issue that affects everyone, not just Black women and children. Just a few years ago, the CIA Factbook estimated Indiana's infant and maternal mortality rate was worse than Iran's and the Gaza Strip. Indiana's Department of Health reported 41.4 white women out of every 100,000 and 53.4 Black women out of every 100,000 women died as a result of childbirth in 2017.

“We definitely have our work cut out for us,” Breaux said.

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

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EDITORIAL

Tune in for good information

By OSEYE BOYD



I knew when the first case of COVID-19 occurred in the U.S., it wouldn't be long before conspiracy theories about the disease and the vaccine began. Like clockwork, I saw Facebook posts from people proclaiming they wouldn't get the non-existent vaccine, so-called doctors describing what the still non-existent vaccine would do, and people, who through their "research," found all manner of nefarious intentions and activities for the vaccine. I understood and understand where these beliefs come from. Our community has a long history of distrust of those in the medical profession. It's not as if we just don't trust because we don't care about our health. We care about our health. Many of us often don't believe medical professionals care about our health. I can't tell you how many times I've heard stories of someone who seemed perfectly healthy going into the hospital and never coming out. Or someone being just fine until he or she was diagnosed with a disease, and then the "next thing you know ..."

Now that the vaccines are here, I'm not surprised about the distrust of the vaccine or hesitancy to take it. Again, I understand. However, since the day the Recorder began reporting on this pandemic, I made

it a point to report accurate information because I understand our community's distrust. Sometimes that information changed from day to day, but we reported what we knew to be true at the time. I wanted and still want this newspaper to be a place where our community can get accurate information while we remain sensitive to our unique needs. Telling our readers to go get the vaccine and shaming those who don't because they are fearful of it does a disservice. In an article in this week's edition, American Red Cross Indiana CEO Chad Priest warned about the desire to educate too quickly without understanding the needs of those you're trying to educate. He also said people will get vaccinated, but there is an issue of trust that needs to be overcome. Priest gets it. In order to educate, there has to be trust. I need to know you have my best interest at heart. Too many times African Americans have trusted and been misled. So, we proceed with caution. I can't tell you whether or not you should take the vaccine as that's a personal decision. What I can do is provide you with enough information to help you make the decision that is right for you and your loved ones. I want to help eliminate as much of that fear as possible by separating fact from fiction. Myths often spring from the desire to find answers to our questions. One of our best resources is Marion County Public Health Department Director Dr. Virginia Caine. Not only is Caine top-notch in her field, she's an infec-

tious disease expert. This is Caine's wheelhouse. And, if you've spent any time listening to her, you know Dr. Caine knows her stuff! In addition to her impeccable credentials, representation matters. Yes, it makes a difference that Caine is a Black woman talking to Black people. Studies have shown when someone looks like you, there's a better chance trust can develop. I didn't say trust is automatic, but the door is cracked instead of shut and locked with a deadbolt. In keeping with our mission of providing accurate information, the Recorder, in partnership with New America, will have a panel discussion at 1:30 p.m. Feb. 23 on our Facebook page. Other guests include Paul Babcock, CEO of Health and Hospital Corp. of Marion County; Carl Ellison, president and CEO of Indiana Minority Health Coalition; Dr. Curtis Wright, president and CEO of Eskenazi Medical Group; and Dr. Eric A. Yancy, pediatrician at Riley Children's Health. We will discuss the latest with COVID-19 as we've lived with this pandemic for a year now. Of course, the vaccine will be discussed as well. We want you to tune in. We want you to ask questions. We want you to have good information straight from those in the know. We don't want you passing along information you've heard third or fourth hand or heaven-forbid from Facebook or YouTube from an "expert" or someone who's "done their research." The Recorder is doing everything possible to help you become informed, but it is up to you to actually listen.

OPINIONS

Will we adopt a new form of government?

By LARRY SMITH



The Democratic and Republican parties have dominated U.S. politics since the mid-1800s. In fact, since its founding, our nation has generally been divided by two major political parties. Third parties have occasionally fared well in state or local elections but always fall well short of success at the presidential level. (Think Teddy Roosevelt's Progressive Party or Ross Perot's Reform Party.) Interestingly, George Washington, James Madison and Alexander Hamilton were among the founders who were skeptical of political parties, which they viewed as potentially destructive to the nation. History has proven their concerns to have been well-founded. However, the antecedent forces that underlie our political divisions (especially race and economics) would deter unity even in the absence of parties. Indeed, one could argue that strong political parties (occasionally) have acted as a check on extreme behaviors. In any case, divisions in the two par-

ties have reached a boiling point. What was once a lunatic fringe has taken the Republican Party hostage — though the party left the proverbial door unlocked. Meanwhile, an understandably impatient faction of progressives is demanding that the Biden administration vigorously attack structural racism. (There are, of course, factions that represent myriad other interests. They are vocally pushing for change, too.) I should note that there are differences between what is transpiring in each party. For example, the far left is much less influential among Democrats than the far right is among Republicans. That is the reason that Joe Biden, a centrist, became the Democrats' nominee over Bernie Sanders. Conversely, the Republican Party is beholden to a man who lost the popular vote twice, was impeached twice and likely cost them control of the Senate. Further, that party embraces racist, conspiratorial secessionists who openly flout democracy. In short, Democrats are at odds based on principled calls for racial and other forms of equity; Republicans are splintering because white nationalism is being challenged as never before. But what if the disintegration of the two parties is just the beginning? The U.S. could be heading toward the

rise of a parliamentary government. In the not-too-distant past, Republicans pretended to lament "balkanization" in America — even as they stoked the fires of division. Today, the intensity that attends various political perspectives might lead people to conclude that a two-party system just doesn't work for them. Large swaths of disaffected Democrats and Republicans could start organizing around highly focused interests. That is, in a nutshell, how parliamentary forms of government work. A creation of the British, a parliament is a form of democracy in which a political party (or a group of parties) that has the most support forms a government. In this form of government, the legislature is called a "parliament." (For the record, this has nothing to do with George Clinton.) The head of that party or coalition is called the prime minister or chancellor. The prime minister appoints people to a cabinet, just as the president does in the U.S. Opposition parties continue to fight for their interests even though they're not in power. Prime ministers can be removed from power whenever they lose the confidence of a majority of the ruling party or of the parliament. Coalitions, then, are a constant threat to the stability of government in parliamentary systems.

Interestingly, the U.S., which was a colony under a British king, has a constitutional republic with a powerful executive (i.e., president). The president is, generally, less susceptible to the will of Congress than the British prime minister is to his or her party or the parliament at large. Thus, our government is closer to a monarchy than is Britain's parliament. To be clear, I doubt that we'll choose to make the most fundamental change to our form of government in the nation's history. However, the challenge of factionalism is very real. If I were to offer a prediction, it would be that the Republican Party is going to formally split in the next two years. As it stands, the 2024 Republican nominee will be Donald Trump or one of his loyal supporters. That is anathema to 10-15% of Republicans, which will lead to a split. Unfortunately, Democrats have a history of snatching defeat from the jaws of victory. We'll see if they manage to maintain their sanity by staying together.

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

Black history is happening now

By ANDRE CARSON



I hope that this year's observance of Black History Month has been particularly meaningful for you and your loved ones. While Black history should be studied, shared and valued all year long, it's always nice to pay special tribute to our proud legacy during the month of February. History isn't just something you read about in a book, or research from centuries past. The events that will come to define our culture, our progress and our struggle are being made every day. When times are tough, Black people always rise to the occasion and help create lasting change. In the last year, that's exactly what we did. As I look back on one of the most turbulent and memorable years of our lives, I find gratitude in knowing that a new, dynamic chapter of Black history was written.

The COVID-19 pandemic has hit Black communities hard. Because of long-standing inequities, we have suffered some of the highest rates of infection, hospitalizations and deaths. In addition, we have been especially vulnerable to the economic fallout from the pandemic. However, we can also take pride in Black people's history-making role in combating this virus. Here in Indianapolis, Dr. Virginia Caine, director of the Marion County Public Health Department, is working tirelessly to protect Hoosiers from COVID-19. It was a Black woman named Dr. Kizzmekia Corbett who played an instrumental role in developing the life-saving COVID-19 vaccine. Dr. Fauci himself made a point to direct the credit toward this remarkable, brilliant scientist. Another Black woman, health care worker Sandra Lindsay, was the first person in America to receive the vaccine. She sent a bold message to countless Americans that getting this vaccine is safe, effective and the most important step you can take to protect yourself and others from COVID-19. We also took bold action to protect Black people from police brutality and violence. Americans like George Floyd, Breonna Taylor, Dreasjon Reed, Ahmaud Arbery and Rayshard Brooks — just to name a few — lost their lives in 2020, but we will never forget their names. Across America and around the world, countless people stood up against injustice and demanded action. It was Black activists who worked to ensure our pain was not ignored or forgotten. In Indiana, a group called Black Women in Charge organized one of the largest protests against racism in our city's history. I was honored to speak at that rally and attend several other protests. I'm also honored that one of the group's cofounders and history-makers, Taylor Hall, is currently serving as an intern for my congressional office. We also proudly recognize other groups like Indy10 Black Lives Matter for their important efforts in this ongoing struggle.

This activism helped encourage the House of Representatives to pass one of the largest and most comprehensive police reform bills in our nation's history — the George Floyd Justice in Policing Act. I believe we have a great chance to make it law in this new session of Congress. This history-making year culminated in a historic presidential election, where Black people played a major role in defeating Donald Trump. Our votes made the difference in the key swing states, and this didn't happen by accident. Organizers like Stacey Abrams helped register thousands of voters who tipped the balance of power. This new electorate also helped power the Democratic victories in the Georgia Senate races, making Rev. Raphael Warnock Georgia's first Black senator. These big wins in Georgia give me hope that Black voters can help spark groundbreaking change in other red states, including Indiana. I'm also pleased to give a shout out to our first Black vice president, Kamala Harris, who has assumed this powerful role with a strong sense of duty, courage, honor and grace. Because of her, Black women and girls like my daughter can feel even more confident in achieving their dreams. Black history is happening every day, which is why we should give thanks every day for the Black people who are breaking barriers and making their mark. We all have a role to play in making our world a better place for Black people, and for all.

Rep. Carson represents the 7th District of Indiana. He is a Member of the Congressional Black Caucus and one of three Muslims in Congress. Rep. Carson sits on the House Transportation and Infrastructure Committee and the House Intelligence Committee, where he is chairman of the Subcommittee on Counterterrorism, Counterintelligence and Counterproliferation. Contact Rep. Carson at carson.house.gov/contact.

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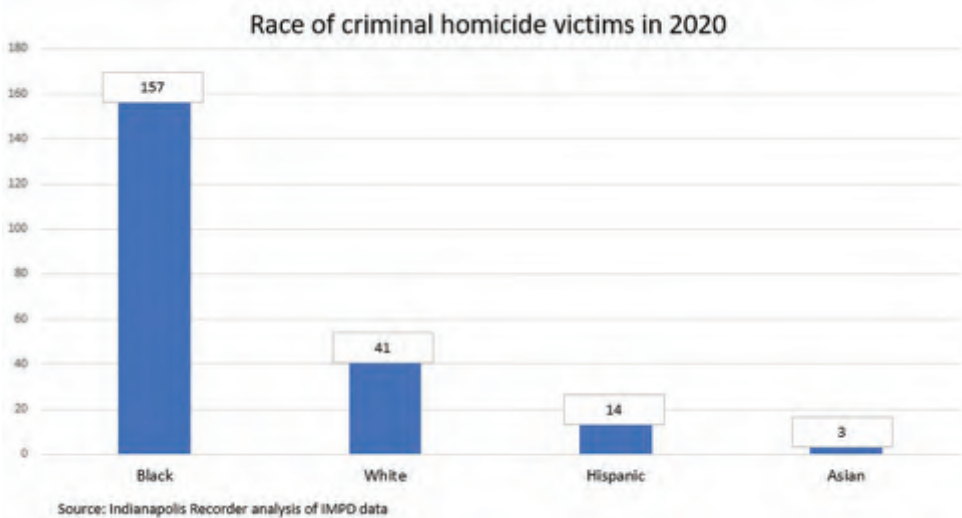
Minister groups want ‘courageous conversation’ with IMPD

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

Members of local minister groups want Indianapolis Metropolitan Police Department to be more transparent and strengthen its homicide unit.

Stephen Clay, president of the National Action Network of Indiana, said there are questions the city and IMPD need to consider: Would it be helpful to publish a homicide dashboard that includes whether charges have been brought for each case? Should IMPD incentivize working in the homicide unit?

The current city budget includes \$261 million for IMPD, which represents almost 30% of the city budget. More than half of the budget is reserved for public safety and crimi-



nal justice in general.

Clay, who is also senior pastor at Messiah Baptist Church, spoke after a presentation of recent crime trends, including a record 215 criminal homicides in 2020. Three-quarters of everyone killed in 2020 was Black, according to an Indianapolis Recorder review of IMPD data.

“Change often begins

with a critical critique and a courageous conversation,” Clay said. “If the numbers we saw today does not warrant that, then what should the threshold be?”

Clay added the minister groups — which also included the Baptist Minister’s Alliance and Concerned Clergy of Indianapolis — are in

the beginning stages of talking to IMPD about changes.

The ministers said their critiques are not about defunding the police. Instead, Clay said, it’s clear the city prioritizes IMPD and public safety in its budget, so the issue is figuring out how to put those dollars and resources to use to reduce the

The vast majority of criminal homicide victims in 2020 were Black, according to an Indianapolis Recorder analysis of IMPD data. (Recorder graph)

number of homicides.

David Greene, president of Concerned Clergy of Indianapolis, said the groups want to give the new civilian-majority General Orders Board time to make a difference. The board, created last year through the city-county council, is responsible for IMPD policy.

Greene also pointed to legislation at the Statehouse that could help reduce homicides and other crimes by addressing underlying issues such as food insecurity and housing.

“If we fail to do some of these core issues, it’s very unlikely we can say we’ll be able to cut the homicide rate,” he said.

The ministers spoke about transparency and resources at a virtual press conference Feb. 12, a few days before the IndyStar published a report from the National Institute for Criminal Justice Reform that neither IMPD nor the city shared with the public.

The report includes critiques that IMPD’s crime analysis units weren’t sharing data and that the department doesn’t collect enough information on “gangs, cliques, or groups” that are most responsible for gun violence.

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

IMPD

► Continued from A1

tion in the neighborhood with the highest number of shootings, have “a number of promising aspects” but need improvements.

Based on interviews, the report said one of the most common critiques of the call-ins is they don’t include the people who are at the highest risk of being involved in gun violence. Another critique is the speakers — from various organizations, including IMPD and community groups — “speak down” to the clients.

The report also said nearly everyone who was interviewed said Indianapolis doesn’t have a gang problem and that gun violence in the city isn’t because of gang feuds. Instead of structured, hierarchical gangs, the report concluded, there are smaller groups of people who sometimes commit crime together, and investigators said most people who commit gun violence are in

one of those groups.

The institute released its report near the middle of a year that saw a record number of criminal homicides in Indianapolis. At the time the nonprofit was examining the city’s violence prevention strategies, the number of criminal homicides had gone down for the first time in years.

Recommendations from the report:

— IMPD should do a better job of sharing data between its different agencies. “It is currently possible that three separate IMPD units could be investigating the same person for three different crimes and be unaware of it,” the report said.

— The city should conduct a comprehensive analysis of the true nature of gun violence. After interviews with community members, service providers, IMPD and

others, the institute concluded there isn’t a consensus on why gun violence is high in Indianapolis. “Without a shared understanding on what is driving gun violence in the City, there cannot be a shared strategy, clearly defined roles for partners, or measurable objectives,” the report said.

— IMPD needs to change the structure of its bi-weekly meetings with other law enforcement agencies or create a method to review every homicide and injury to determine the likelihood of retaliation.

— The city should fund outreach workers and life coaches to focus on the people who are at the highest risk of being involved in gun violence. “A City the size of Indianapolis with its level of gun violence should have at the bare minimum 16 Life Coaches,” the report said.

HERRING

► Continued from A1

Dame, including the importance of relying on your resources.

“Probably the most critical thing I learned being on a senior leadership team is you really have to lean into the subject matter experts,” Herring said. “I don’t know the specifics of a subject matter, and they’re the experts in the field, so I’ll listen to what they need and figure out ways I can support that.”

Herring said listening to the needs of an organization and meeting people where they are will help her achieve her goals for her first year, which include examining workplace culture and engagement and coming up with ways for organizations to

recruit, train and retain employees.

While being away from her family has been difficult, Herring said the culture in the governor’s office feels like a family, which is partly why she accepted the job.

“This environment that I have come into ... has been so welcoming and so helpful, and people are rooting for this to be successful,” Herring said. “They’ve surrounded me with warmth and support, and it’s a great team to work for. I’m excited to get to work.”

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

Changing To a Career in Tech: Severa Cox

by **Kara Kavensky**

Severa Cox is “1001%” enjoying her new career as a software engineer.

Before Severa Cox began her software development course at Eleven Fifty Academy, she worked as a general manager for a national food chain while also taking college courses. The impact of the pandemic to the hospitality industry was devastating and Cox realized how vulnerable her job was. She was faced with the reality of needing to quickly skill up into a different career.

With funds provided by the CARES Act, Cox left college and enrolled at Eleven Fifty Academy where she was inspired by her instructors and felt welcomed by her diverse cohort. Only two weeks after her bootcamp graduation, Eleven Fifty Academy helped her land her first software engineering job with Second Sight, a tech company headquartered in Bloomington but with the flexibility of working remotely. Fortunately, her software development bootcamp was a virtual learning environment where she worked on real-life projects and within a team, which prepared her for her new career.

“One of the biggest issues building a tech company is access to talent,” states Terrence Kunstek, co-founder of Second Sight. “What we get from Eleven Fifty are talented software engineers.”

“During the pandemic, I learned how quickly life changes, and it made me want a secure job that I was passionate about,” shares Cox. “I could spend twelve weeks in a bootcamp or continue to work and take classes part time to earn a similar degree without real world experience and be done in four years.”

The decision to attend Eleven Fifty Academy was an easy one for

Cox to make. She had a few friends who had gotten into the tech industry by enrolling in a coding bootcamp, and they raved to her about how their work/life balance was better plus they felt challenged every day and had more opportunities for growth.

After taking a free Intro to Code class, Severa learned basic web development skills and realized that she had a more logical brain than a creative brain. Not only did she find that was learning to code challenging, interesting, and fun, but it was something that she was passionate about and she fell in love with coding.

“I completely support the project-based learning at Eleven Fifty Academy. It’s like studying a new language while abroad: you learn better because you are immersed in the culture and hear it every day,” says Cox. “That’s exactly what Eleven Fifty does. Not only do they teach the fundamentals through projects, but you get to build your portfolio with the projects you create.”

In the beginning, Cox was nervous that she wouldn’t be offered the same opportunities as everyone else because she is a woman, but was pleasantly surprised at the diversity within her Eleven Fifty cohort. Not only were there other women in her cohort, the instructor was a woman, which Cox found to be super encouraging. She also appreciated the Eleven Fifty Academy culture of giving back.

“It was amazing to learn from someone I could relate to! I honestly forgot that the tech industry was a male-dominated field because Eleven Fifty Academy gave me natural confidence and reassurance within tech,” states Cox.

Her passion for coding has not only resulted in a full time position with Second Sight, she is also a part-time instructor trainee, assisting her former instructor.



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MICHAEL CRENSHAW,
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“One of the best decisions of my life was attending Eleven Fifty. I went from no coding experience to my first job as a Junior Software Engineer in less than six months making almost double than I was previously.”



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Education must happen before vaccination

By **DARIAN BENSON**
Side Effects Public Media

With COVID-19 limiting gatherings, the Westside Community Development Corp. had to get creative for a recent wellness event.

So, it hosted a Health and Wealth virtual broadcast to provide information on public health topics, including the vaccines. There were discussions with representatives from organizations such as local health departments, as well as live music performances.

“So, it was truly an event,” said Brittany Crone, a community health worker with Westside CDC. “Whereas we would love to do this in person, we can’t right now. And so we tried to make it as entertaining and informative, and relevant as possible as we can.”

She said the event also had a broader purpose. “We really wanted to emphasize the ways that we believe can empower our community, specifically, our residents in the near westside — and our Black community in the near westside as well.”

Crone says her job is to build relationships with community members and connect them with health resources. That’s especially important when addressing the pandemic.

A December study from the Kaiser Family Foundation found that 35% of Black adults in America were reluctant to get a COVID vaccine. In Indianapolis, only 19% of Black residents age 70 and older have received the vaccine, officials said on Feb. 11; that’s compared to 32% of whites in that age group.

Marion County Public Health Department Director Dr. Virginia Caine acknowledges the challenge of reaching minority communities where many are hesitant to get a vaccine.

“So I think you have to tell people, give them a history, you have to educate them,” she said. “But you have to take their concerns very seriously. And you have to address it.”

“And you have to provide as much education as you can. And we need trusted community leaders out there, doing that outreach, talking about the importance and benefit of this vaccine.”

Understanding the vaccines

Two COVID-19 vaccines have been approved for emergency use in the United States, the Pfizer-BioNTech vaccine and the Moderna vaccine. Both use messenger RNA to deliver genetic code to cells. The code activates the body’s immune system, teaches it to see the spike on the SARS-2 virus as foreign and helps develop antibodies to fight back.

The Pfizer vaccine requires two doses, spaced 21 days apart. It has a 95% efficacy after the second dose takes effect. It must be stored at -94 degrees Fahrenheit and after thawing must be used within five days.

The Moderna vaccine requires two doses, spaced 28 days apart. It has a 94.1% efficacy after the second dose takes effect. It is stable at refrigerator temperature for 30 days and at room temperature for 12 hours. Other vaccines are in the process of seeking federal approval.

Caine adds sometimes it just takes patience. “People like to observe, they want to see someone get the vaccine and know, someone they know, close up and personal did all right with it.”

Ross Silverman, a health law and policy professor at Indiana University, said some members of the Black community have a mistrust of the medical system.

“You know, there’s a long distance between some people in trust, based on experience, personal experiences, as well as history,” he says. “And so we have to respect that.”

Silverman, who sits on a committee that advises officials on the vaccine rollout plan, said some of that mistrust comes from systemic racism in the medical field. That includes the infamous Tuskegee experiment, which denied penicillin treatments to syphilis patients.

He added, “We can tell you, ‘When the vaccine becomes available, I’m gonna get it, my family’s gonna get it.’ And we need to make sure that folks hear from people that they similarly trust, that are going to come to the same conclusion.”

In Indiana, the Red Cross has created a coalition aimed at combating vaccine hesitancy in minority communities.

“I think in the minority community, especially in Black and Latinx communities, the hesitancy stems from hundreds of years of oppression from the medical system and from the government,” says Chad Priest, CEO of the American Red Cross Indiana. “And that hesitancy is passed down from generation to generation and reinforced in lots of ways.”

Priest said to overcome vaccine hesitancy, trust needs to be regained. And that is “a much more difficult propo-



sition that requires a very different approach than simply telling someone, ‘Hey, you should take the vaccine.’”

The American Red Cross is working with organizations, including religious groups and nonprofits, that are already grounded in communities. Priest said they can engage in community conversations that “allow people to get through the vaccine decision-making process in a way that respects their autonomy and encourages them to access the best and most factual information available.”

By partnering with these community organizations, the coalition aims to

create a safe space for people to come with questions and concerns. They’re hosting forums, events and listening sessions to connect with residents.

“I think sometimes we rush to educate,” Priest says. “And I think that is problematic for a lot of reasons, including that it denies the history and lived experience of our neighbors.”

“The reality is most people are going to get vaccinated. The question is when and how do we accelerate the trust and comfort of our Black and Latinx neighbors who are shouldering a disproportionate burden of the disease?”

Key Things to Know About COVID-19 Vaccines

According to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), studies show that COVID-19 vaccines are effective at preventing infection of the virus. Experts also think that getting a COVID-19 vaccine reduces the likelihood of getting seriously ill for those who do become infected.

These vaccines teach the immune systems how to recognize and fight COVID-19. It typically takes a few weeks after vaccination for the body to build protection (immunity) against the virus, so it’s possible a person could still get COVID-19 just after vaccination. The vaccine cannot give a person COVID-19.

Everyone should take the recommended steps to protect their health until receiving a vaccine. Even after getting vaccinated, it’s important to continue using all the tools available to help stop this pandemic as we learn more about how COVID-19 vaccines work in real-world conditions.

These prevention steps include: Wearing a mask over the nose and mouth, staying at least 6 feet away from others, avoiding crowds, avoiding poorly ventilated spaces, and washing hands often.

Although COVID-19 vaccines are effective at preventing infection, scientists are still learning how well vaccines prevent the spread of the virus others, even for those who do not get sick.

Millions of people in the United States have received the vaccines, which have undergone the most intensive safety monitoring in U.S. history. This monitoring includes using both established and new safety monitoring systems to make sure that COVID-19 vaccines are safe.

The COVID-19 vaccine may have some side effects. These are normal signs that the body is building protection. The side effects from COVID-19 vaccination, such as chills or tiredness,

may affect the ability to do daily activities, but should go away in a few days.

Although the vaccine supply is currently limited, the federal government is working toward making vaccines widely available for everyone at no cost. To find out who is eligible in Indiana to receive the vaccine, and to make an appointment, please visit OurShot.IN.gov.

The vaccine is available free of charge, but a vaccination provider may bill a patient’s insurance company, Medicaid, or Medicare for an administration fee. Vaccination providers can be reimbursed for this by the patient’s public or private insurance company or, for uninsured patients, by the Health Resources and Services Administration’s Provider Relief Fund.

No one can be denied a vaccine if they are unable to pay the vaccine administration fee.

Herd immunity means that enough people in a community are protected from getting a disease because they’ve already had the disease or because they’ve been vaccinated. Herd immunity makes it hard for the disease to spread from person to person, and it even protects those who cannot be vaccinated, like newborns or people who are allergic to the vaccine.

The percentage of people who need to have protection to achieve herd immunity varies by disease. Experts do not yet know what percentage of people would need to get vaccinated to achieve herd immunity to COVID-19.

CDC is continuing to investigate the effectiveness of COVID-19 vaccines. Scientists also are working to learn about new variants of the virus. More studies are needed to understand how new variants may affect the effectiveness of existing COVID-19 vaccines. For the most current information, please visit CDC.gov.

HOW DO I REGISTER FOR THE COVID-19 VACCINE?

Seniors are most at risk of getting severely ill from COVID-19. The COVID-19 vaccine is safe and helps protect you from the virus.

You must get two doses for full protection.

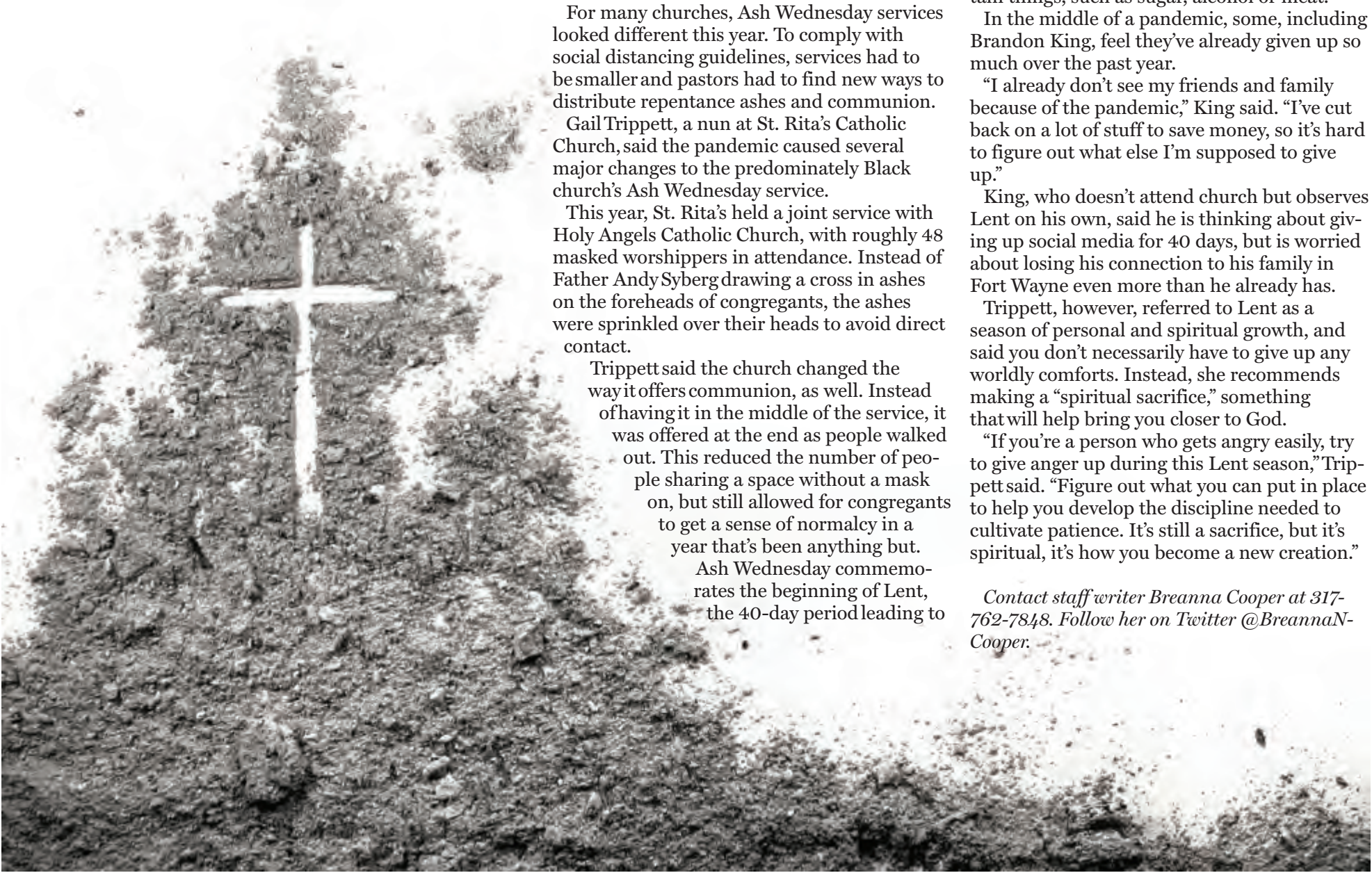
Visit *ourshot.in.gov* or CALL 211 to register for your first vaccine at a site near you.

To find out if you are eligible check:
www.coronavirus.in.gov



Lent during a pandemic: what to give up?

By BREANNA COOPER
BreannaC@indyrecorder.com



For many churches, Ash Wednesday services looked different this year. To comply with social distancing guidelines, services had to be smaller and pastors had to find new ways to distribute repentance ashes and communion.

Gail Trippett, a nun at St. Rita's Catholic Church, said the pandemic caused several major changes to the predominately Black church's Ash Wednesday service.

This year, St. Rita's held a joint service with Holy Angels Catholic Church, with roughly 48 masked worshippers in attendance. Instead of Father Andy Syberg drawing a cross in ashes on the foreheads of congregants, the ashes were sprinkled over their heads to avoid direct contact.

Trippett said the church changed the way it offers communion, as well. Instead of having it in the middle of the service, it was offered at the end as people walked out. This reduced the number of people sharing a space without a mask on, but still allowed for congregants to get a sense of normalcy in a year that's been anything but.

Ash Wednesday commemorates the beginning of Lent, the 40-day period leading to

Easter Sunday when Christians "replicate" Jesus Christ's sacrifices, often by giving up certain things, such as sugar, alcohol or meat.

In the middle of a pandemic, some, including Brandon King, feel they've already given up so much over the past year.

"I already don't see my friends and family because of the pandemic," King said. "I've cut back on a lot of stuff to save money, so it's hard to figure out what else I'm supposed to give up."

King, who doesn't attend church but observes Lent on his own, said he is thinking about giving up social media for 40 days, but is worried about losing his connection to his family in Fort Wayne even more than he already has.

Trippett, however, referred to Lent as a season of personal and spiritual growth, and said you don't necessarily have to give up any worldly comforts. Instead, she recommends making a "spiritual sacrifice," something that will help bring you closer to God.

"If you're a person who gets angry easily, try to give anger up during this Lent season," Trippett said. "Figure out what you can put in place to help you develop the discipline needed to cultivate patience. It's still a sacrifice, but it's spiritual, it's how you become a new creation."

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

In-depth survey assesses religious life of Black Americans

By DAVID CRARY
AP National Writer

NEW YORK (AP) — Black Americans attend church more regularly than Americans overall, and pray more often. Most attend churches that are predominantly Black, yet many would like those congregations to become racially diverse. There is broad respect for Black churches' historical role in seeking racial equality, coupled with a widespread perception they have lost influence in recent decades.

Those are among the key findings in a comprehensive report released Feb. 16 by the Pew Research Center, which surveyed 8,660 Black adults across the United States about their religious experiences. It is Pew's first large-scale survey on the topic.

Among Black adults who go to religious services, 60% attend churches where the senior clergy and most or all of the congregation are Black, Pew found. It said 25% are part of multiracial congregations, and 13% are part of congregations that are predominantly white or another ethnicity.

Pew said patterns of worship are shifting across generations: Younger Black adults, born since 1980, attend church less often than their elders, and those who attend are less likely to do so in a predominantly Black congregation.

Among 30 Black pastors and religious leaders interviewed by Pew, some predicted further shrinkage of predominantly Black churches and an increase in multiracial congregations.

"I don't think there should be a Black Church," said Dr. Clyde Posley Jr. of Antioch Baptist Church in Indianapolis. "There isn't a Black heaven and a white heaven. ... A proper church will one day eschew the label of Black Church and be a universal church."

The survey found that 66% of Black Americans are Protestant, 6% are Catholic and 3% identify with other Christian faiths — mostly Jehovah's Witnesses. Another 3% belong to Islam or other non-Christian

faiths.

Some 21% are not affiliated with any religion and instead identify as atheist, agnostic or "nothing in particular." Black Americans born since 1980 are far more likely to be among the unaffiliated.

Survey responses were collected from November 2019 through June 2020, but most respondents completed the survey by Feb. 10, 2020, before the coronavirus outbreak and the racial-injustice protests that spread after the death of George Floyd in May at the hands of Minneapolis police.

Among the respondents, 77% said predominantly Black churches had played a role in helping Black people move toward racial equality. Yet just one third said historically Black congregations should preserve their traditional character; 61% said these congregations should become more racially diverse.

Nearly half of respondents said Black churches are less influential today than 50 years ago.

Among the clergy interviewed by Pew, some said too few Black pastors have been on the front lines of recent struggles against racism.

"When you look at Black Lives Matter, this is the first time that there has been any political uprising and the church isn't spearheading it," said the Rev. Harvey L. Vaughn III, senior pastor of Bethel AME Church in San Diego.

"We're not as bold and courageous as we used to be," said the Rev. Sandra Reed of St. Mark AME Zion Church in Newtown, Pennsylvania. "I have to say, I'm somewhat ashamed of that, because the AME Zion Church is known as the Freedom Church that was at the forefront of addressing all the ills of America, and we sort of lost that."

The survey indicates that congregants at Black Protestant churches are more likely to hear preaching about race relations and criminal justice reform than those attending multiracial or white churches. Black Protestants, mean-

while, are less likely than U.S. Protestants overall to hear sermons on abortion. Pew found 68% of Black adults said abortion should be allowed in most or all cases — compared with 59% of all U.S. adults.

Pew also posed some survey questions to 4,574 Americans who do not identify as Black, to provide comparisons.

Asked whether religion is very important in their lives, 59% of Black respondents said yes, next to 40% of all U.S. adults. Asked if they prayed daily, 63% of Black respondents said yes, compared with 44% overall.

According to a recent national study cited by Pew, women make up only 16% of religious leaders at Black Protestant churches. Pew's survey found that 85% of respondents favored allowing women to serve as senior leaders of congregations, however.

Pew said the survey's margin of error, for the full number of respondents, was plus or minus 1.5 percentage points.

Black pastors and worshippers in predominantly white or multiracial denominations, face a number of contemporary race-related issues.

Some Black pastors have left the predominantly white

Southern Baptist Convention in dismay over decisions by white leaders that they view as downplaying the problem of systemic racism.

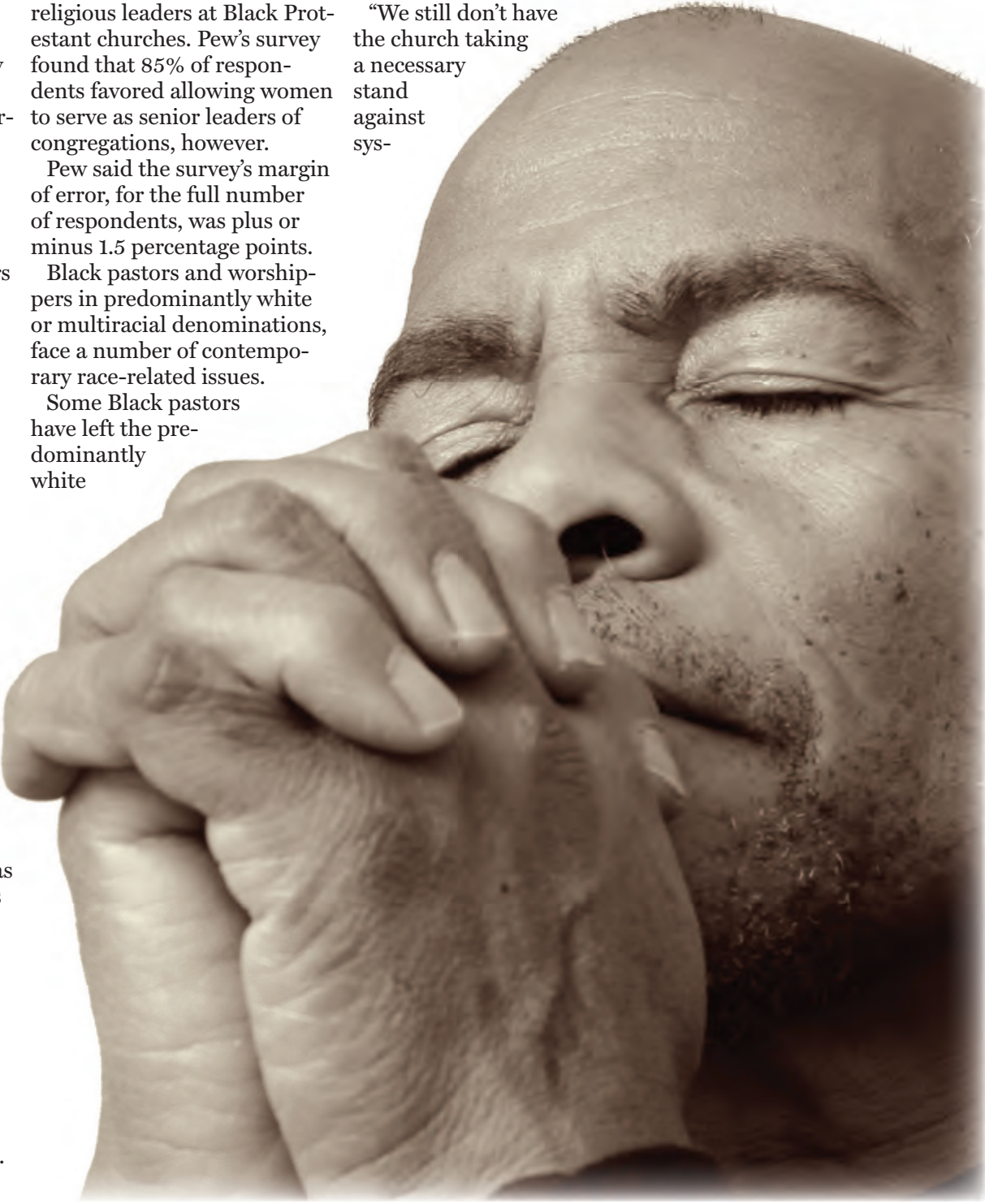
In the Episcopal Church and some other mainline Protestant denominations, there are reparations initiatives aimed at making amends for past involvement in slavery and the mistreatment of Black and Indigenous people.

And many Black Catholics have urged leaders of their church to be more forceful in combating racism. Some have asked the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops to consider reparations and promote the teaching of Black Catholic history in Catholic schools.

"We still don't have the church taking a necessary stand against sys-

temic racism," Tia Noelle Pratt, a sociologist who has studied racism in the U.S. Catholic church and an adviser on Pew's survey, told The Associated Press via email. "This means acknowledging the white supremacy that exists in the church and ways white church leaders and white members of the faithful benefit from it."

The Rev. Mario Powell, a Black priest who heads a Jesuit middle school in Brooklyn, said Catholic clergy need to preach more often against racism and speak out against some of their colleagues "who brazenly post white nationalist ideology online."



SPIRITUAL OUTLOOK

Who’s loving you?

By RAE KARIM



If the title of this article sounds familiar, that’s because it is also the name of a famous song by the Jackson 5. I considered Michael’s unforgettable voice coupled with this unforgettable appeal in Matthew 19:19 — “love your neighbors as yourself.” This text has not only been memorable for me, it’s also held intense meaning in knowing we cannot love our neighbors as ourselves if we don’t love ourselves. In other words, if I don’t love me, I can’t love you. I’m not just referring to the kind of love that results in tangible offerings to ourselves. I’m not just referring to the kind of love that results in our closets, palates or pockets being filled. I’m talking about the kind of love that results in putting mirrors to our faces, to see who we

really are. I’m talking about the kind of love that requires us to look deep within for introspection; the kind of love that will cause us to ask forgiveness of ourselves, for the times we: didn’t believe in ourselves, didn’t trust ourselves and didn’t live into the reality that we are enough. Though the list could go on. There is still hope for us because there will always be hope for us. That hope lies in knowing with God all things are possible. That hope lies in knowing within that possibility is a choice to do better and be better by loving ourselves. Cue “I Love Myself” by Compton, California, rapper Kendrick Lamar who used instrumentation from the Isley Brothers as the backdrop of this catchy tune. Regardless of the lyrics surrounding it, the phrase is a statement of audacity and vulnerability. It takes courage to love ourselves so beautifully that we’re willing to say no

now, so we can say yes later. It takes a certain level of openness to admit we haven’t always done it well, but we are willing to improve. The irony: Self-love isn’t as much about us as we think. It’s about our neighbor. Who is our neighbor? Glad you asked. It’s not just the people who lives across the hall or up the street. Though true, we can go a bit further. The word neighbor means “near.” Near isn’t limited to proximity of living. The person in the next car over is your neighbor and so is the person you walk by at the office. Though at least six feet away, the person in front of you at the store is your neighbor and so is the person virtually worshipping with you. Now that we know who’s who, I ask: How can you love your neighbor if you don’t love yourself? How can you fulfill the charge if you don’t love yourself? Understand, this wasn’t just a simple statement Jesus made. It is

a clarion call repeated throughout the New Testament that we see five times in the gospels: Matthew 19:19, 22:39, Mark 12:31, 33, Luke 10:27; twice in the Pauline epistles Romans 13:9 and Galatians 5:14; as well as in James 2:8. Might I add we see it first in Leviticus 19:18. It’s apparent the Lord is serious about the love you have for yourself, so that you can love your neighbor. The self-love and neighbor are not the same. I can’t love you the way I love me. But I can love you because I love me. So, instead of asking who’s loving you, I ask: Are you loving you?

Rae Karim, formerly chapel director at Christian Theological Seminary, is now pastor at First Christian Church of Honolulu. She can be reached at rae.karim@gmail.com.



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Biden faces questions about commitment to minimum wage hike

By **WILL WEISSERT** and **ALEXANDRA JAFFE**
Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — Union activist Terrence Wise recalls being laughed at when he began pushing for a national \$15 per hour minimum wage almost a decade ago. Nearly a year into the pandemic, the idea isn't so funny.

The coronavirus has renewed focus on challenges facing hourly employees who have continued working in grocery stores, gas stations and other in-person locations even as much of the workforce has shifted to virtual environments. President Joe Biden has responded by including a provision in the massive pandemic relief bill that would more than double the minimum wage from the current \$7.25 to \$15 per hour.

But the effort is facing an unexpected roadblock: Biden himself. The president has seemingly undermined the push to raise the minimum wage by acknowledging its dim prospects in Congress, where it faces political opposition and procedural hurdles.

That's frustrating to activists like Wise, who worry their victory is being snatched away at the last minute despite an administration that's otherwise an outspoken ally.

"To have it this close on the doorstep, they need to get it done," said Wise, a 41-year-old department manager at a McDonald's in Kansas City and a national leader of Fight for 15, an organized labor movement. "They need to feel the pressure."

The minimum wage debate highlights one of the central tensions emerging in the early days of Biden's presidency. He won the White House with pledges to respond to the pandemic with a barrage of liberal policy proposals. But as a 36-year veteran of the Senate, Biden is particularly attuned to the political dynamics on Capitol Hill and can be blunt in his assessments.

"I don't think it's going to survive," Biden recently told CBS News, referring to the minimum wage hike.

There's a certain political realism in Biden's remark.

With the Senate evenly divided, the proposal doesn't have the 60 votes needed to make it to the floor on its own. Democrats could use an arcane budgetary procedure that would attach the minimum wage to the pandemic response bill and allow it to pass with a simple majority vote.

But even that's not easy. Some moderate Democratic senators, including Joe Manchin of West Virginia and Kyrsten Sinema of Arizona, have expressed either outright opposition to the hike or said it shouldn't be included in the pandemic legislation.

The Senate's parliamentarian may further complicate things with a ruling that the minimum wage measure can't be included in the pandemic bill.

For now, the measure's most progressive Senate backers aren't openly pres-



President Biden signs a series of executive orders in the Oval Office on Jan. 28.(Evan Vucci / Associated Press)

suring Biden to step up his campaign for a higher minimum wage.

Bernie Sanders, the chair of the Senate Budget Committee, has said he's largely focused on winning approval from the parliamentarian to tack the provision onto the pandemic bill. Sen. Elizabeth Warren, who like Sanders challenged Biden from the left for the Democratic nomination, has only tweeted that Democrats should "right this wrong."

Some activists, however, are encouraging Biden to be more aggressive.

The Rev. Dr. William J. Barber II, the co-chair of the Poor People's Campaign, said Biden has a "mandate" to ensure the minimum wage increases, noting that minority Americans were "the first to go back to jobs, first to get infected, first to get sick, first to die" during the pandemic.

"We cannot be the last to get relief and the last to get treated and paid properly," Barber said.

The federal minimum wage hasn't been raised since 2009, the longest stretch without an increase since its creation in 1938. When adjusted for inflation, the purchasing power of the current \$7.25 wage has declined more than a dollar in the last 11-plus years.

Democrats have long promised an increase — support for a \$15 minimum wage was included in the party's 2016 political platform — but haven't delivered.

Supporters say the coronavirus has made a higher minimum wage all the more urgent since workers earning it are disproportionately people of color. The liberal Economic Policy Institute found that more than 19% of Hispanic workers and more than 14% of Black workers earned hourly wages that kept them below federal poverty guidelines in 2017.

Blacks, Hispanics and Native Americans in the U.S. also have rates of hospitalization and death from COVID-19 that are two to four times higher than for whites, according to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention.

People of color are a vital part Biden's constituency, constituting 38% of his support in November's election, according to AP VoteCast, a nationwide survey of the electorate.

Adrianne Shropshire, executive

director of BlackPAC, noted that Biden has promised to address racial inequalities and create a more fair economy. That means he now has a chance to ensure that hourly wage earners "come out of this pandemic in better shape than they went into it."

"The recovery around COVID shouldn't just be about how to stabilize and get people back to zero," Shropshire said. "It should be about how do we create opportunities to move people beyond where they were."

The White House says Biden isn't giving up on the issue. His comments to CBS, according to an aide, reflected his own evaluation of where the parliamentarian would rule based on his decades of experience in the Senate dealing with similar negotiations.

Biden suggested in the same interview that he's prepared to engage in a "separate negotiation" on raising the minimum wage, but White House press secretary Jen Psaki offered no further details on the future of the proposal if it is in fact cut from the final coronavirus aid bill.

One option could be forcing passage by having Vice President Kamala Har-

ris, as the Senate's presiding officer, overrule the parliamentarian. But Psaki was clear in opposing that: "Our view is that the parliamentarian is who is chosen, typically, to make a decision in a nonpartisan manner."

Navin Nayak, executive director of the Center for American Progress Action Fund, the political arm of the progressive think tank, said he wasn't surprised at Biden's assessment, but still feels the White House is making good faith efforts.

"They're not putting this in there to lose it — they put it in there to win it," Nayak said.

Nayak also noted Biden's comments came before a Congressional Budget Office projection that found the proposal would help lift millions of Americans out of poverty but increase the federal deficit and cost 1.4 million jobs as employers scale back costlier workforces.

Sanders and other supporters argue that the CBO's finding that raising the minimum wage will increase the deficit means it impacts the budget — and should therefore be allowed as part of the COVID-19 relief bill. But that will ultimately be up to the Senate parliamentarian.

For Wise, potential congressional hurdles pale in comparison to real world realities.

He makes \$14 an hour and his fiance works as a home health care professional. But when she went into quarantine because of possible exposure to the coronavirus and he missed work to care for their three daughters, it wasn't long before the family was served with an eviction notice.

People "figure it's something we're doing wrong. We're going to work. We're productive. We're law-abiding citizens," Wise said. "It shouldn't have to be that way."

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The Nature Conservancy

Land Protection Specialist – Indiana Chapter

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The Nature Conservancy is a global conservation organization dedicated to conserving the lands and waters on which all life depends. Guided by science, we create innovative, on-the-ground solutions to our world's toughest challenges so that nature and people can thrive together. We use a collaborative approach that engages local communities, governments, the private sector, and other partners to make a positive impact around the world in more than 70 countries, all 50 United States, and your backyard.

The Nature Conservancy in Indiana has a long history of protecting some of Indiana's best natural habitats. From the shore of Lake Michigan to the rugged hills overlooking the Ohio River, we need to secure the protection of many more great places to reach our goals. This will require the protection of several thousand acres of land over the next five years.

The Indiana Chapter is seeking a Land Protection Specialist to carry out strategies to acquire or otherwise secure land for the protection of ecologically significant areas, primarily in southern Indiana. We need someone with great interpersonal communication skills and the ability to inspire trust with landowners. They must learn, understand, and communicate the value of habitat conservation in a clear and compelling way. As part of a committed team of Nature Conservancy staff, you will work together to find willing sellers, negotiate fair and equitable outcomes for all involved, and experience the deep satisfaction of seeing your work make a long-lasting difference for nature.

The Land Protection Specialist carries out conservation strategies by acquiring various legal interests in land and secures public and private support for TNC conservation priorities. This person works closely with private landowners; local, state, and federal governmental agencies; conservation partners; corporations and others using land acquisition, conservation easements, leases, and management agreements. They are responsible for managing projects from start to finish, including initiating contact with new landowners, negotiating real estate transactions, managing many simultaneous projects, coordinating their work with the larger land protection team, and communicating in a timely and professional manner.

This full-time, permanent position will be based out of our Indianapolis office or our Brown County Hills Office near Nashville, Indiana. Most of the work will target the forests of Southern Indiana, though efforts elsewhere in the state may be required.

The ideal candidate will have a background and track record of success that includes:

Minimum Qualifications	Preferred Qualifications
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Bachelor's degree and 3 years' experience in communications, real estate, sales, or similar field; or equivalent combination of education and experience.• Experience building relationships with a variety of partners (clients, landowners, attorneys, etc).• Experience completing tasks independently with respect to timelines.• Experience with communication via written, spoken, and graphical means in English and other relevant languages.• Experience using common software applications such as Word, Excel, web browsers, etc.• Must have a valid driver's license.	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Multi-lingual skills and multi-cultural or cross-cultural experience appreciated.• 3-5 years' experience in communications, real estate, sales, or similar field; or equivalent combination of education and experience.• Experience managing and training staff or volunteers.• Ability and willingness to apply science to decision-making and guide activities.• Familiarity with principles of land acquisition or similar asset acquisition.• Knowledge of ecological land management principles.

We offer a competitive salary with great benefits. For a complete position description and to apply, visit <http://www.nature.org/careers> and search for Job ID# 49330. Deadline to apply is 11:59 PM EDT, February 24, 2021.

The Nature Conservancy is an Equal Opportunity Employer. Our commitment to diversity includes the recognition that our conservation mission is best advanced by the leadership and contributions of people of all genders, diverse backgrounds, beliefs and culture. Recruiting and mentoring staff to create an inclusive organization that reflects our global character is a priority, and we encourage applicants from all cultures, races, colors, religions, sexes, national or regional origins, ages, disability status, sexual orientation, gender identity, military, protected veteran status or other status protected by law.



Southern Lake Michigan Rim Project Director – Indiana Chapter

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The Nature Conservancy is the leading conservation organization working to make a positive impact around the world in more than 70 countries, all 50 United States, and your backyard.

The beautiful southern rim of Lake Michigan contains some fantastic natural areas including the Indiana Dunes National and State Parks, as well as incredibly diverse state- and privately-owned remnants of dune and swale habitat. The oak savanna and wetlands located here harbor the greatest per acre species diversity anywhere in the state of Indiana. Situated within an urban industrial area at the outskirts of Chicago, there are great opportunities here to partner with the existing conservation community including state and federal government agencies, local land trusts and advocacy groups, large corporations, municipal governments, and community organizations. It is important that we reach a diverse audience with the message of conservation and the key role that remaining or restored natural areas can play in the quality of life for the local community. Developing innovative urban conservation strategies that link benefits for people and for nature is an exciting opportunity that exists here, more than anywhere else in Indiana.

The Indiana Chapter is seeking a Southern Lake Michigan Rim Project Director to build on the Conservancy's strong reputation as a major conservation partner within northwest Indiana. They will define and implement an innovative set of conservation strategies designed to benefit people and nature as outlined in a pillar of our Chapter's strategic plan called Inspiring People for Nature. They will also pursue funding for and oversee an experienced and dedicated team of land managers who steward a network of extremely high-quality nature preserves. The Project Director will develop and maintain key partnerships with corporations, state and federal partners, donors, local government officials, and other land trusts to ensure a unified vision of conservation success for the region. This full-time, permanent position will be based out of our Merrillville, Indiana office.

The ideal candidate will have a background and track record of success that includes:

Minimum Qualifications	Preferred Qualifications
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• BA/BS degree and 5 years' experience in conservation practice; or equivalent combination of education and experience.• Experience managing complex or multiple projects, including staffing, workloads, and finances under deadlines.• Supervisory experience, including motivating, leading, setting objectives, and managing performance.• Experience in partnership development with non-profit partners, community groups, and/or government agencies.• Experience negotiating and fundraising.• Must have a valid driver's license.	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Multi-lingual and multi-cultural or cross-cultural experience appreciated.• 5-7 years' experience in conservation practice or related field; or equivalent combination of education and experience.• Demonstrated experience influencing, developing, and implementing conservation policy and plans.• Knowledge of current trends and practices in relevant disciplines and regions.• Knowledge of methods of general land management practices and especially dune and swale system biology.• Communicating clearly via written, spoken, and graphical means in English, and other relevant languages.• Familiarity with the principles of land acquisition or similar asset acquisition.• Politically savvy.

We offer a competitive salary with great benefits. For a complete position description and to apply, visit <http://www.nature.org/careers> and search for Job ID# 49344. Deadline to apply is 11:59 PM EDT, February 24, 2021.

Internal candidates should apply through the Careers page in their PeopleSoft account.

The Nature Conservancy is an Equal Opportunity Employer. Our commitment to diversity includes the recognition that our conservation mission is best advanced by the leadership and contributions of people of all genders, diverse backgrounds, beliefs and culture. Recruiting and mentoring staff to create an inclusive organization that reflects our global character is a priority, and we encourage applicants from all cultures, races, colors, religions, sexes, national or regional origins, ages, disability status, sexual orientation, gender identity, military, protected veteran status or other status protected by law.

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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.

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ADOPTION

STATE OF INDIANA
COUNTY OF VIGO SS:
IN THE VIGO CIRCUIT COURT
PROBATE DIVISION
ADOPTION DOCKET
#4C01-2009-AD-004718
IN THE MATTER OF THE
ADOPTION OF
XIAIYAR JORDAN
MINOR

NOTICE TO UNNAMED FATHER

The unnamed putative father of the child born to Danielle Dominique Jordan on the 23rd day of March, 2012, or the person who claims to be the father of the child born to Danielle Dominique Jordan, is notified that a petition for adoption of the children was filed in the Office of the Clerk of Vi go County, Indiana, 33 South 3rd Street, Courthouse 1st floor, Terre Haute, IN 47807

If the putative father seeks to contest the adoption the unnamed putative father must file a motion to contest the adoption in accordance with I. C. 31-19-10-1 in the above named court, or a paternity action under I.C. 31-14 within thirty (30) days after the service of this notice

A hearing is not yet scheduled. If the unnamed father does not file:

(A) A motion to contest the adoption

(B) A Paternity action under I.C. 31-14;

within thirty (30) days after service of this notice and

(2) after filing a paternity action under I.C. 31-14 fails to establish paternity.

The above named court shall hear and determine the Petition for Adoption.

The unnamed putative father's consent shall be irrevocably implied and the unnamed putative father loses the right to contest the adoption or the validity of the unnamed putative father's implied consent to the adoption. The unnamed putative father loses the right to establish paternity of the child under IC 31-14.

Under Indiana law, A putative father is a person who is named and or claims that he may be a father of a child born out of wedlock but who has not been legally proved to be the father.

This notice complies with I.e. 31-19-4-4 but does not exhaustively set forth the unnamed putative father's legal obligation under the Indiana adoption statute. A person being served with this notice should consult the Indiana adoption statute.

02/05/21
02/12/21
02/19/21

ADOPTION

STATE OF INDIANA
COUNTY OF MARION SS:
IN THE MARION SUPERIOR COURT
PROBATE DIVISION
CAUSE NO.
49D08-2012-AD-034247
IN THE MATTER OF THE
ADOPTION OF:
AVERY RAE GALUVY,
MINOR CHILD
NOTICE TO UNNAMED FATHER

The unnamed putative father of the child born to ESTAMELIE GALUVY on December 4, 2020, is notified that a petition for adoption of the child was filed in the office of the clerk of the Marion County Superior Court, Probate Division, 200 East Washington Street, Suite #1221, Indianapolis, Indiana 46204.

If the unnamed putative father seeks to contest the adoption of the child, the unnamed putative father must file a motion to contest the adoption in accordance with IC 31-19-10-1 in the above named court within thirty (30) days after the date of service of this notice. This notice may be served by publication.

If the unnamed putative father does not file a motion to contest the adoption within thirty (30) days after service of this notice, the above named court shall hear and determine the petition for adoption. The unnamed putative father's consent is irrevocably implied and the unnamed putative father loses the right to contest the adoption or the validity of the unnamed putative father's implied consent to the adoption. The unnamed putative father loses the right to establish paternity of the child, by affidavit or otherwise, in Indiana or any other jurisdiction.

Nothing, or anyone else ESTAMELIE GALUVY, must answer the Complaint in writing, by you or your attorney, on or before the 14th day of June, 2020.

Guardianship by publication is specifically directed to the following named respondent whose address is:

Deaunta Taylor

In addition to the above respondent being served by this summons there may be other parties who have an interest in this lawsuit. If you have a claim for relief against the petitioner arising from the same transaction or occurrence, you must assert it in your written answer. You must answer the Complaint in writing, by you or your attorney, on or before the 14th day of June, 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, by 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.

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), file written objections to the petition, on or before, the bearing date.

02/12/21
02/19/21
02/26/21

GUARDIANSHIP

STATE OF INDIANA
COUNTY OF MARION SS:
IN THE MARION COUNTY SUPERIOR COURT
CAUSE NO.
49D08-2102-GU-003715
IN THE MATTER OF THE
GUARDIANSHIP OF:
DENILAH TAYLOR, A Minor Child,
ZSA ZSA COOPER, Petitioner

SUMMONS BY PUBLICATION

The State of Indiana to the Respondent above named, and any other person who may be concerned.

You are notified that you have been sued in the Court above named.

The nature of the suit against you is:

Guardianship

This summons by publication is specifically directed to the following named respondent whose address is:

Deaunta Taylor

In addition to the above respondent being served by this summons there may be other parties who have an interest in this lawsuit. If you have a claim for relief against the petitioner arising from the same transaction or occurrence, you must assert it in your written answer. You must answer the Complaint in writing, by you or your attorney, on or before the 14th day of June, 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, by 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.

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), file written objections to the petition, on or before, the bearing date.

02/12/21
02/19/21
02/26/21

DISSOLUTION

STATE OF INDIANA
COUNTY OF MARION COURT OF CIVIL DIVISION
JANIE C. ST-JUSTE Plaintiff
VS
JOKIM THERMIDOR Defendant
CAUSE NO.
49D10-2012-DC-045413
NOTICE OF SUIT

The State of Indiana to the defendants above named, and any other person who may be concerned. You are notified that you have been sued in the Court above named. The nature of the suit against you is Petition for Dissolution of Marriage. And to the following named defendant, whose whereabouts are unknown: Jokim Thermidor. In addition to the above named defendant being served by this summons there may be other parties who have an interest in this lawsuit. If you have a claim for relief against the Petitioner arising from the same transaction or occurrence, you must assert it in your written answer. You must answer the Complaint in writing, by you or your attorney, on or before the 14th day of June, 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, by 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.

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), file written objections to the petition, on or before, the bearing date.

02/12/21
02/19/21
02/26/21

NAME CHANGE

STATE OF INDIANA
COUNTY OF MARION SS:
IN THE MARION CIRCUIT COURT
CAUSE NO.
49C01-2102-MI-003585
IN RE THE NAME CHANGE OF:
Debra Chloe Durbin

NOTICE OF PETITION FOR CHANGE OF NAME

Debra Chloe Durbin, whose mailing address is 8331 Southern Springs Dr., Indianapolis, IN 46234, Indiana, hereby gives notice that she has filed a petition in the Circuit Court requesting that her name be changed from Debra Chloe Durbin to Myla A. Eldridge.

02/12/21
02/19/21
02/26/21

DISSOLUTION

SUMMONS - SERVICE BY PUBLICATION
STATE OF INDIANA
COUNTY OF MARION
IN THE MATTER OF:
ABDULRAHMAN BADRI
CAUSE NUMBER:
49D13-2002-DN-008966
RACHAEL DEREK
CREASEY,
Petitioner,

NOTICE OF SUIT

The State of Indiana to the Respondent above named, and any other person who may be concerned.

You are notified that you have been sued in the Court above named.

The nature of the suit against you is a Dissolution of Marriage action.

This Summons by Publication is specifically directed to the following named Respondent whose whereabouts are unknown:

Corey Audrice Marks, Respondent.

In addition to the above respondent being served by this summons there may be other parties who have an interest in this lawsuit. If you have a claim for relief against the petitioner arising from the same transaction or occurrence, you must assert it in your written answer. You must answer the Complaint in writing, by you or your attorney, on or before thirty (30) days after the Third Notice of Suit. If you fail to do so a Judgment/Decree will be entered against you or what the Petitioner has demanded.

02/12/21
02/19/21
02/26/21

DISSOLUTION

STATE OF INDIANA
COUNTY OF MARION
SUPERIOR COURT # -
CASE NO.
49D14-2102-DN-000876
IN RE THE MARRIAGE OF:
PETITIONER: 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 lawsuit.

Darrell J. Dolan represents the person seeking service by publication, and can be located at 6525 E. 82nd Street, Suite #102, 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 action is published. If you fail to do so a judgment will be entered against you for what the Plaintiff / Petitioner has demanded.

02/19/21
02/26/21
03/05/21

DISSOLUTION

STATE OF INDIANA
COUNTY OF MARION
SUPERIOR COURT # -
CASE NO.
49D14-2102-DN-000876
IN RE THE MARRIAGE OF:
PETITIONER: 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 lawsuit.

Darrell J. Dolan represents the person seeking service by publication, and can be located at 6525 E. 82nd Street, Suite #102, 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 action is published. If you fail to do so a judgment will be entered against you for what the Plaintiff / Petitioner has demanded.

02/19/21
02/26/21
03/05/21

NAME CHANGE

STATE OF INDIANA
COUNTY OF MARION
CIRCUIT COURT
CASE NO.
49C01-2009-MI-032463
IN RE THE CHANGE OF NAME OF:
SHAUNIE MARIE MCGRAW
PETITIONER

ALIAS NOTICE OF HEARING FOR PUBLICATION IN NEWSPAPER

Notice is hereby given that Petitioner, SHAUNIE MARIE MCGRAW, as a self represented litigant, filed a Verified Petition for Change of Name to change name from Shaunie Marie McGraw to Shaunie Marie Sterling. The Petition is scheduled for hearing in the Marion Circuit Court on March 23, 2021 at 9:00 a.m. Which is more than thirty (30) days after the third notice of publication.

Any person has the right to appear at the hearing and to file written objections on or before the hearing date. The Marion Circuit Court is located at 200 E. Washington Street, City County Building, Room W606, Indianapolis, IN 46204. This hearing will be held remotely by WebEx/Zoom, and the Court will send a separate WebEx invitation will be sent with instructions to join the hearing.

Date December 10, 2020

Myla A. Eldridge, Clerk

02/12/21
02/19/21
02/26/21

GUARDIANSHIP

STATE OF INDIANA
COUNTY OF MARION SS:
IN THE MARION COUNTY SUPERIOR COURT
CAUSE NO.
49D08-2102-GU-003715
IN THE MATTER OF THE
GUARDIANSHIP OF:
DENILAH TAYLOR, A Minor Child,
ZSA ZSA COOPER, Petitioner

SUMMONS BY PUBLICATION

The State of Indiana to the Respondent above named, and any other person who may be concerned.

You are notified that you have been sued in the Court above named.

The nature of the suit against you is:

Guardianship

This summons by publication is specifically directed to the following named respondent whose address is:

Deaunta Taylor

In addition to the above respondent being served by this summons there may be other parties who have an interest in this lawsuit. If you have a claim for relief against the petitioner arising from the same transaction or occurrence, you must assert it in your written answer. You must answer the Complaint in writing, by you or your attorney, on or before the 14th day of June, 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, by 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.

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), file written objections to the petition, on or before, the bearing date.

02/12/21
02/19/21
02/26/21

NAME CHANGE

STATE OF INDIANA
COUNTY OF MARION
IN THE MARION CIRCUIT COURT
CASE NO.
49C01-2010-MI-037625
IN THE MATTER OF THE CORRECTION OF THE BIRTH RECORD OF:
JASMINE ISABELLA PEREZ-ALDUCI
MAGUIADALUPE ALDUCI-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, by 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.

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), file written objections to the petition, on or before, the bearing date.

02/12/21
02/19/21
02/26/21

NAME CHANGE

STATE OF INDIANA
COUNTY OF MARION
IN RE THE CHANGE OF NAME OF MINORS:
ABDULRAHMAN BADRI
MARYAM BADRI TAHIR
SOPHIA BADRI TAHIR
BADRI MOHAMED BAKAR, Petitioner.

NOTICE OF SUIT

This notice 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 lawsuit.

Darrell J. Dolan represents the person seeking service by publication, and can be located at 6525 E. 82nd Street, Suite #102, 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 action is published. If you fail to do so a judgment will be entered against you for what the Plaintiff / Petitioner has demanded.

02/19/21
02/26/21
03/05/21

DISSOLUTION

STATE OF INDIANA
COUNTY OF MARION
SUPERIOR COURT # -
CASE NO.
49D14-2102-DN-000876
IN RE THE MARRIAGE OF:
PETITIONER: 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 lawsuit.

Darrell J. Dolan represents the person seeking service by publication, and can be located at 6525 E. 82nd Street, Suite #102, 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 action is published. If you fail to do so a judgment will be entered against you for what the Plaintiff / Petitioner has demanded.

02/19/21
02/26/21
03/05/21

NAME CHANGE

STATE OF INDIANA
COUNTY OF MARION
IN THE MARION CIRCUIT COURT
CASE NO.
49C01-2010-MI-036624
IN RE THE CHANGE OF NAME OF MINOR:
MALAKHI JANEAE WILLOUGHBY
TORRE JANEAE WILLOUGHBY, Petitioner

ALIAS NOTICE OF HEARING FOR PUBLICATION IN NEWSPAPER

Notice is hereby given that Petitioner, TORRE JANEAE WILLOUGHBY, as a self represented litigant, on behalf of the Minor, filed a Verified Petition For Change of Name of Minor to change the Minor's name from MALAKHI JANEAE WILLOUGHBY to MALAKHI RASHAAD WILLOUGHBY.

The Petition is scheduled for hearing in the Marion Circuit Court on April 13, 2021 at 9:00 a.m. which is more than thirty (30) days after the third notice of publication.

Any person has the right to appear at the hearing and to file written objections on or before the hearing date.

This hearing may be held remotely, by WebEx/Zoom, and the Court will send a separate WebEx invitation with instructions, to join the hearing.

Date December 8, 2020

Myla A. Eldridge, Clerk

02/05/21
02/12/21
02/19/21

NAME CHANGE

STATE OF INDIANA
COUNTY OF MARION SS:
IN RE THE NAME CHANGE OF:
ABIGAIL MATHERS
NOTICE OF SUIT
IN THE MARION CIRCUIT COURT
CASE NO:
49C01-2102-MI-004455
NOTICE OF PETITION FOR CHANGE OF NAME

Abigail Mathers Wodcock, 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 Griffith 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.

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:
SHERRY M. CATHEY, An Adult,
For Change of Name
IN THE MARION COUNTY CIRCUIT COURT
CASE NO.
49C01-2101-MI-003362
NOTICE OF PETITION FOR CHANGE OF NAME

Notice is hereby given that I have filed 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 of 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



Sekou Smith

By **DANNY BRIDGES**

Many of us by now have experienced the excruciating pain that comes with the loss of someone we care about succumbing to COVID-19.

As we attempt the impossible task of reconciling the suddenness and cruelty of pandemic-related deaths throughout our country, it is especially difficult when you learn of someone you haven't seen recently losing their battle against this heinous virus.

On Jan. 26, I experienced firsthand the sorrow and angst that accompanies such a loss when Sekou Smith left this world all too soon at just 48 years young.

The talented and affable sports journalist from Grand Rapids, Michigan, who kept me in stitches when he was the Indiana Pacers beat writer for the Indianapolis Star from 2001 to 2005, always had time to zing you with a one-liner and never failed to take me to task if he felt I was wrong about something that occurred in the world of professional hoops.

We debated everything from Reggie Miller's deficiency on the defensive end of the floor to then-NBA Commissioner David Stern's conservative neckties, always ending the conversation with laughter and telling each other the dialog was "to be continued."

Smith would move on to the Atlanta

Journal Constitution and from there to Turner Sports and NBA TV, where his analysis of the game was both accurate and unfiltered. While he was both well-liked and respected by his peers, that admiration transferred to the locker room as well with the players he chronicled in his brilliant career. He never sugarcoated anything and wasn't afraid to write about how poorly an individual had performed, especially if he had witnessed a lack of effort on their part.

I once witnessed a conversation he had with a particular Pacers center who had grabbed only two rebounds in nearly three quarters of action in a game Indiana won. Without flinching, Sekou asked him if he was saving his energy on the boards for the next game and didn't blink as the player in question gave him the evil eye. Upon recognizing his reluctance to converse about it, he complimented him on his improved free throw shooting and calmly walked away.

He would later file copy that masterfully described the player's performance in his column as just a bit below lackluster, and with a touch of humor when referencing his newly found prowess from the charity stripe. That type of writing alone made him a must read for NBA junkies, and as he rose to the television ranks for a well-deserved opportunity, he delivered the goods in a similar fashion with his razor-sharp wit, and with a knowledge that was second to none in terms of analyzing teams and players.

What I enjoyed most about this

wonderful man was his willingness to mentor others, including this Jimmy Olsen wannabe who would constantly impose his opinions upon him. Smith never tired of my self-proclaimed title of NBA handicapping czar, and took great pleasure when a friendly gentleman's wager led to my having to ship gourmet popcorn to his residence to square up the matter.

Simply put, he was a mountain of a man and left a wonderful family behind way too soon.

I will always remember the last time we spoke, he dressed razor sharp for a television gig and yours truly had on jeans and a sports jacket. We pointed out the vast differences of our fashion choices with a laugh and a hand-shake, and regretfully I never saw him again. He loved to laugh and he was quick on the draw to bust you verbally when necessary, and what I'd give to hear him tell me one more time that while he appreciated my knowledge of legendary retired players, I needed to retire the shoes I was wearing.

So long to a guy who was both prime time and down to earth.

I'm a better man for knowing him, and the world is definitely a lot less funny without him.

Rest easy, Sekou, and thanks for the conversations, and most importantly the direction.

Danny Bridges, who thinks Sekou Smith was actually jealous of his 1970s suede overcoat, can be reached at 317-370-8447 or at bridgeshd@aol.com.

New sports collaboration will provide professional training for aspiring journalists

By **STAFF**

The Indianapolis Recorder and The Next Generation Initiative announced a partnership to cover local sports and publish a weekly digital sports page.

The collaboration will provide an opportunity for aspiring writers, photographers and digital content creators to receive the training necessary to develop their skills in the field of sports media communications. The weekly feature will appear on the Recorder's digital platform, with selected content to be published in the print edition.

NextGen will also produce features, interviews, athlete showcases and subscriber engagement events.

"Our staff will be focusing on the story behind the scores and presenting features on the people and programs that make Indianapolis one of the best professional and amateur sport cities in the country," said Dennis Jarrett, Next Generation Initiative program coordinator. "Our objective is to present unique content from the fresh perspective of young, talented sports enthusiasts."

The collaboration will serve as a tool for the next generation of sports media professionals, as well as a platform to local sports fans.

"As a high school student, I can't think of a better way to get real world, professional insight into what it takes to be successful in the area that I will be studying and pursuing a career in," said senior Collin Echols, a member of the NextGen sports team.

The platform is expected to launch the week of Feb. 25. Young people interested in sports coverage or digital media communications — including photography, videography and writing — should contact Dennis Jarrett at info@thenxgen.org.

"Since its founding well over a century ago, the Recorder has dedicated itself to informing the community on a variety of topics that are of significant importance and interest to readers," said Robert Shegog, president and CEO of the Indianapolis Recorder Newspaper. "We are proud to partner with NextGen to enhance sports coverage while also providing up-and-coming media professionals with the necessary training to be successful in the industry."



Crispus Attucks head coach Chris Hawkins celebrates with his team after securing his 100th win with the Tigers after defeating Tindley, 85-44, on Feb. 11. (Photos/David Dixon)

Chris Hawkins gets 100th win with Attucks



Sophomore Jalen Hooks finished with a game-high 19 points, including two on this dunk.



Hawkins now has a record of 100-28 in his fifth year at Attucks. He led the Tigers to a state title in his first season in 2016-17.