

Martindale-Brightwood to get \$3.5 million in investments from city

By TYLER FENWICK
tylerf@indyrecorder.com

The Martindale-Brightwood community will receive about \$3.5 million in investments over the next three years aimed at helping current homeowners and getting more families into homeownership.

See INVESTMENTS, A3 ►



Weeds grow from a crack in the sidewalk on Hillside Avenue in Martindale-Brightwood. (Photo/Tyler Fenwick)

Advocates see increasing rate of domestic violence against Black women since pandemic

BY FARAH YOUSRY

As the COVID-19 pandemic continues to disrupt the lives of millions of Americans, it's also triggering an alarming increase in violence against Black women, advocates say.

"We've seen a surge of need in housing and crisis calls. We've also seen a surge in past clients reaching out for additional emotional and financial support," said Jacqueline Willet, well-being services coordinator at Coburn Place.

The Indianapolis-based organization offers transitional housing as well as legal and emotional support services for domestic violence survivors. From March to December 2020, the organization served 50% more people than in all of 2019.

Now, the waitlist of families seeking housing is getting longer. There is over a year's wait before



Coburn Place is experiencing a surge of women in need of services due to domestic violence. (Below): Jacqueline Willet is the well-being services coordinator at Coburn Place. (Photo provided by Coburn Place)

some women and children can find a safe place to live, Willet said.

Other organizations involved in the issue are seeing similar changes.

According to an Indiana Coalition Against Domestic Violence newsletter, since the pandemic began, the state has seen a 45% increase in domestic violence-related 911 calls and a staggering 113% increase in domestic violence-related deaths.

And many women are using social media and crowdfunding websites such as GoFundMe to seek financial help so they can leave an abusive partner. Some share harrowing text exchanges where their intimate partners threaten to harm or kill them.

Black women are especially vulnerable. Even before the pandemic, they were 2.5 times more likely to experience

See DOMESTIC, A3 ►



Ronald Rice Jr. works to improve the quality of life for local residents. (Photo provided by Ronald Rice Jr.)

Black Americans face a widening life expectancy gap, biggest since 1998

BY FARAH YOUSRY

Driving around Indianapolis, Ronald Rice Jr. sometimes prefers to take a longer route just so he can pass through the wealthy neighborhoods. He says something about these places just lifts his spirit up.

"When I go into a wealthier neighborhood and I see everyone outside working out before they go to work, or they're out there with their kids, or they're out there with their dogs, and so on and so forth," he says.

He misses that in the predominantly Black neighborhood where he lives and works. Safety on the streets is not the main issue, he said. Instead, he describes the residents' struggle like this: "I'm so tired from working eight-plus hours every day, or having to do overtime, just to be able to have money to feel like my job is actually worth it."

See GAP, A9 ►

'Our racing grandma': Debra Houston finds her fit in a soap box car

By TYLER FENWICK
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Picture Debra Houston, all of 4-foot-9 and not quite 90 pounds, bringing her grandchildren to their Soap Box Derby racing practice. It's a sport for tiny people — children mostly — but there stood Houston, small enough and brave enough, to draw intrigue.

"I'm looking at Debra saying, 'You're small enough,'" said Larry Thienes, who runs the Indianapolis Inner City Youth Racing League. "I bet if you're interested, we have a car you can race."

Houston wasn't convinced. It was the summer of 2020, the middle of a pandemic. She was going through chemotherapy for her second bout with cervical cancer at the time (she's cancer-free now). Her boyfriend, grandchildren and their racing coaches finally convinced her to give it a shot.

"There's not too much I won't do that's not illegal," Houston said.

Houston is now the oldest Soap Box Derby racer in the country at 59 years old. She competed in the Soap Box Derby National Championships in September — there's one division with no age limit — and raced

four times before she was eliminated.

Nationals will be back in Indianapolis this year at Wilbur Shaw Memorial Hill, the longest designated soap box racing track in the country. Cars can reach about 30 mph.

Houston said riders basically lie down in the car, and all you can see of the drivers is their eyes. The rest is covered by the car and a helmet. Understandably, it took a couple of trips down the hill before she was comfortable with racing.

Houston said she leans more toward the fun rather than competitiveness of the sport but still keeps an edge. She blames her loss at nationals on faulty steering in the car.

Thienes credits Houston — he calls her "our racing grandma" — for helping promote the Indianapolis Inner City Youth Racing League, which is part of Indianapolis Soap Box Derby. It's a chance for youth from the inner city to participate in a sport they otherwise probably wouldn't come across.

The league had 41 students race at nationals last year, and four qualified for the finals, Thienes said.

Bob Getts, director of Indianapolis

See GRANDMA, A5 ►



Debra Houston is the oldest Soap Box Derby racer in the country at 59 years old. (Photos provided by Indianapolis Soap Box Derby)



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BOOK LAUNCH EVENT

Dear Black Girl: Letters from Your Sisters on Stepping Into Your Power by Tamara Winfrey-Harris

6:30 p.m., Monday, March 29

Facebook.com/IndyRecorder

Chess club teaches there’s more than skills to a board game

By TYLER FENWICK
tylerf@indyrecorder.com

Yuri Smith walked into a small cafe in Carmel on a recent Saturday morning, laid a large chess board mat across his table and flipped open his laptop.

It was 9:40 a.m., 20 minutes before he was set to welcome a class of about 25 students who are part of Indy’s Inner-City Chess Club. The class is on Zoom, but he goes live on Facebook or Instagram so others can see him at work in his Nike polo with the chess club’s brand displayed.

“Who can tell me, what’s the first step in drawing our chess board?” he asked the students. The answer: Draw a square.

Smith has been teaching chess since not long after his uncle taught him how to play as a child, and his services have been in high demand since.

While at Crispus Attucks Middle School, Smith, also a gifted basketball player, became the 1997 Super National Individual K-8 Under 1,000 Champion when he was 13. He went undefeated through seven rounds in Knoxville, Tennessee. (The 1,000 references the Elo rating system used in chess.)

That title led to other tournaments around the country — in Arizona, Ohio, Illinois — and Canada.

“Chess gave me that confidence to go into the room and say, ‘We might be the only Blacks in this chess tournament here; however, when we leave outta here, you’re gonna



Yuri Smith, founder of Indy’s Inner-City Chess Club, sits at Jacquie’s Cafe in Carmel on March 13 to teach his virtual class. (Photo/Tyler Fenwick)

know who we are,” said Smith, who graduated from Franklin College and now works at the Center for Leadership Development.

Chess makes you think. It makes you analyze your moves and those of your opponent, weighing the benefits and consequences each time.

Those are some of the lessons Smith wants students to learn through his chess club. He typically hosts two sessions per year — in

the spring and toward the end of summer. It’s a 10-week session that meets for an hour at a time. Smith teaches one session on Thursday and another on Saturday.

Packages to attend range from \$200 to \$500, though Smith said he’s trying to get more financial support so he can take the program to schools that have requested it. Learn more at innercitychess.com.

Smith calls chess the

game of life. He grew up at Harding and 21st streets, an area that “checked all the boxes” for poverty, crime and so on.

“The data says we are supposed to be in jail, dead or addicted to something right now,” Smith said, “or working a job that we can’t properly take care of our families.”

Embracing those lessons and confidence was a major part of what propelled Smith and a dozen of

his friends, all connected through chess as teenagers, to go on to earn at least bachelor’s degrees.

One of Smith’s chess friends, Thomas Reives, earned a master’s from Rose-Hulman Institute of Technology and works as an engineer at Eli Lilly. Reives was on the 1999 Attucks state championship team that Smith coached.

Chess ended up being more than a game for those students. It was a ticket.

“It was the first time we were allowed to almost escape our environment at a very young age,” Reives said, “to see there was more than playing basketball or football to get out of Indianapolis and see the world.”

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

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INVESTMENTS

► Continued from A1

The community was chosen as one of two Lift Indy neighborhoods this year. Lift Indy is a community development program that is part of the Department of Metropolitan Development and uses federal funds.

Barato Britt, president and CEO of Edna Martin Christian Center, said he sees an opportunity for “positive transformation” in Martindale-Brightwood, a community of about 11,500 people.

“That occurs best when the residents that are already here are able to take advantage of this new infusion of resources and amenities,” Britt said.

Most agree gentrification — whatever its specific definition — has been creeping into Martindale-Brightwood, and a few million dollars in investments could help prevent displacement.

“This community is deserving to be an attractive place where our kids can be educated well and you can feel just as safe as any other neighborhood,” Britt said.

The project area will be from 30th to 25th streets between Keystone and Ralston avenues.

- Renew Indianapolis will lead a mortgage refinance program to allow longtime residents to stay put.
- Renew Indianapolis will lead a mortgage program to make homeownership more attainable for up to 10 low- to moderate-income households.
- Renew Indianapolis will lead a construction program to create homeownership opportunities for another 10 low-income families.
- The Martindale Brightwood Community Development Corporation will lead a home repair program to help

longtime residents upgrade things such as roofing, siding, insulation and patios.

• The Edna Martin Christian Center will lead a housing village initiative to provide wraparound services such as employment and career coaching.

Amina Pierson, executive director of Martindale Brightwood CDC, said mixed-income neighborhoods are a good thing but that it’s important everyone can feel good about their home.

Pierson said the organization will have about \$500,000 of Lift Indy money and should be able to help with repairs at 20 homes over the course of the next three years.

“Our entire city has an interest in making sure that loyal residents of a neighborhood can and will prosper as their neighborhood flourishes,” Mayor Joe Hogsett said at a virtual press conference.

Other Lift Indy neighborhoods include Monon16 and East 10th Street. The Near North corridor is also a 2021 Lift Indy neighborhood. The city typically selects one neighborhood each year but added Martindale-Brightwood as a second one this year because of the COVID-19 pandemic.

The city uses data from the Reinvestment Fund and The Polis Center at IUPUI to identify areas for the program.

The \$3.5 million will come from the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) and Community Development Block Grant funds.

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

DOMESTIC

► Continued from A1

domestic violence than white women, according to data from the U.S. Department of Justice.

Danyette Smith, a Black woman who founded the nonprofit, Silent No More, understands this disparity all too well. She keeps an eye on social media posts calling for help, as well as reports local police receive. She gets in touch with the survivors and connects them to resources.

Sometimes, she delivers a sobering speech at a victim’s funeral to raise awareness about domestic violence. She says it’s needed in the Black community, where women are taught to stay tight-lipped about such matters.

Summarizing her speech, she said: “I can almost guarantee if it’s 100 of you in here, then you know, one of you three, have been a victim of domestic violence.” That leads the audience to “look around. It’s more of a wake-up call not necessarily just for the family, but for those who are sitting in there — the neighbor, the person sitting next to you who could be experiencing domestic violence, and they’re just quiet.”

I have been in your shoes

Smith, a 38-year-old mother of two, is a survivor of domestic violence. And she was quiet about it for 12 years. Her ex-husband pointed a gun to her head and struck her so hard that she currently has plates in her eyes to hold her cornea in place.

“When I went to the hospital because I had a fracture, I told [the doctors and my family] that I had been jumped by someone else,” she said.

Fear — and a little bit of hope — kept her silent. Domestic abuse is not clear cut, and it can sometimes be confusing and difficult for a victim to recognize, she said.

“Most of the things that we see on TV is, you know, a dad coming home from work, he’s drinking alcohol, and he beats his wife every day. But that wasn’t the case,” Smith said of her decade of abuse.

“It was like I get hit this week and then it can go for another six weeks and I never get hit again,” she recalled. “And then bam, the cycle starts again. And they may go for another four months with nothing. So in that time, you hope it’s not going to happen. And then it comes again.”

She describes a “honeymoon stage” when an abuser treats a partner so well that the victim might feel the abuse won’t happen again. “So it just tends to ignite that hope all over again, like, ‘Okay, this time, he’s going to change.’ So I just stay silent. I was embarrassed as well.”

But one time — when she was slow to reply to her husband’s text messages while busy at work — everything changed for her.

She received a text saying, “I am coming to blow your brains out.”

She saw his white sedan pull up by her office and he had a shotgun in his hand. She felt humiliated and terrified. She called the police — a move that changed her life. She filed a restraining order and never went back to him.

Bridging the gap

Indianapolis organizations like the Domestic Violence Network are putting more resources into better representation of Black women as well as the LGBTQ+ community in their training programs.

According to a report from that organization, Black women are less likely to seek support when faced with domestic violence.

Willet of Coburn Place said many Black women are afraid to complain to the police because of distrust and fear that they might not be believed. Or they worry the situation might escalate if officers are called to the scene.

Cicely Johnson, director of strategic initiatives at the Domestic Violence Network, said the group recognizes the contentious relationship Black women might have with local police. She said law enforcement is making progress, thanks in part to training provided by organizations like hers. She describes it this way: “Understanding the differences of interacting with certain communities, how can we help bridge any kind of gaps? How can we help with communication? How can we help make them more comfortable when they see law enforcement?”

Meanwhile, Smith of Silent No More wants other women to know that breaking the cycle of abuse is the first step.


She said, “There are resources out here that can not only break you free, and get you free from domestic violence, but also get you self-sufficient when you need to move into a new apartment, and you don’t have money for the deposit in the first month. So please, please contact somebody.”

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

“WE” art installation by Philip Campbell


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JAZZ KITCHEN CELEBRATES WOMEN

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

In honor of Women's History Month, the Jazz Kitchen is celebrating women's contributions to music through a series of concerts.

Jazz legend Nancy Wilson and folk singer Joni Mitchell will be celebrated through tribute concerts performed by the Ball State Faculty Ensemble and several Indiana musicians, respectively. Indianapolis-based musician AshLee Baskin will take the stage March 20 for two performances of her set "Black Thread," which encompasses spoken word, interpretive dance and original and cover songs.

Baskin got involved in the month-long event after Native Sun drummer Richard "Sleepy" Floyd mentioned her name to Jazz Kitchen staff. Baskin is looking forward to the opportunity to connect with a diverse audience to share stories of womanhood, Black excellence and the trials that come with being Black in America.



Baskin first performed "Black Thread," the title of a spoken word piece in the set, for a virtual audience for the 2021 Arts & Soul festival. The Jazz Kitchen performance will be her first time performing it for a full audience, with added songs and elements that had to be cut for time in the Arts & Soul performance.

"The audience can expect a completely immersive experience," Baskin said. "... It will be a multi-sensory experience. They'll be enjoying a good meal and will be engaged through audience participation. I try to stay in tune with the energy of the space, and I'm hoping they feel just as connected to me and the messages of the performance."

The set features several Nina Simone covers, as well as a tribute to lives lost from police brutality, both locally and nationally. For visual elements, she incorporates photos and videos taken during Indianapolis Black Lives Matter protests last summer. Baskin expects the audience to be fairly diverse in terms of race and gender, and said music provides an opportunity to bridge gaps between different demographics.

"Music is a universal language, and just by listening to the lyrics, watching how

Black women express themselves, a lot can be learned," Baskin said. "Me being a Black woman, I can speak to a lot of things, but just being a woman, there's a lot more commonalities in experiences and struggles. Once those bridges are crossed over, we can unite."

To further the conversation about women and the issues and experiences they face, Baskin added elements to celebrate the contributions of women to music and society, which she said are largely overlooked.

"I don't think women are given the visibility, especially Black women," Baskin said. "I have noticed recently more intentional highlighting of women creatives of color ... and as a woman performer, I want to bring more women into the conversations as I continue to celebrate womanhood and Blackness."

The Jazz Kitchen will continue to celebrate women — including Black women — well after Women's History Month is over. Local artists Yvonne Allu and Sandy Lomax will celebrate the life and work of Ella Fitzgerald on April 24 for the anniversary of the jazz singer's birth.

Contact staff writer
Breanna Cooper at 317-459-8747. Follow her on Twitter @BreannaNCooper.

Celebrate women!
To find tickets for Baskin's show and others,
visit thejazzkitchen.com.



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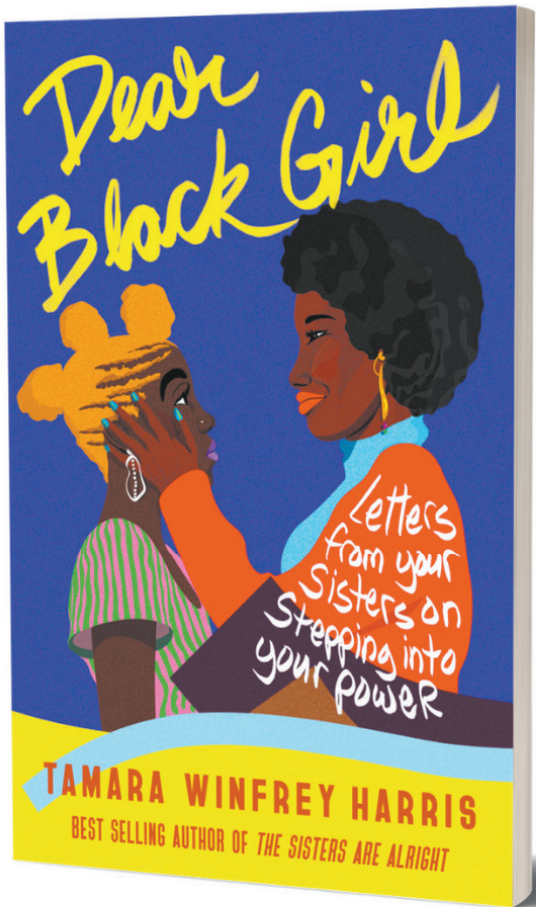


ESKENAZI HEALTH

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BOOK LAUNCH EVENT

6:30 p.m., Monday, March 29



Featuring live readings; discussions about the Black girl experience; and interviews with author Tamara Winfrey-Harris and letter writers, including, Tatjana Rebelle (VOCAB), Keesha Dixon (Assante Children’s Theatre), DeShong Perry-Smitherman (A Girl’s Gift) and Deesha Philyaw (author of the award-winning *Secret Lives of Church Ladies*)

Facebook.com/IndyRecorder

Eastern Star Church breaks ground on youth center



Eastern Star Church broke ground March 15 on a new youth center set to open in 2022. The ROCK Children and Youth Center, a 60,000-square-foot facility, will be open to students daily after school and on weekends. So far, the church has invested about \$9 million in the center, which represents the second phase of the ROCK Initiative. (Photos/Tyler Fenwick)



Jahbaury Buchannan, teen ambassador for Eastern Star Church, prayed at the ground-breaking ceremony.

Pastor Jeffrey A. Johnson Sr. said the youth center is the “social expression of our faith.”



Kimaya Randle, children’s ambassador at the church, read Bible verses from the book of Matthew.



Eastern Star Church Elder William Shrewsberry said the youth center will be a place where students can be “nurtured and educated and developed and renewed.”



Jeff Bennett, deputy mayor of community development, said the groundbreaking ceremony was a sign of more hopeful times to come.

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Why an Indianapolis district turned to bus drivers to keep students on track

By AARICKA WASHINGTON
Chalkbeat Indiana

On a recent morning, several Wayne Township high school students missing class received wake-up calls. But it wasn't a teacher calling, or a counselor. It was school bus driver Erica Woods, working double duty as a case manager to support students.

She's part college-prep guide, part mom, and part cheerleader, even reminding them to breathe and drink water. "I need you to come to school everyday," Woods told the students. "This is no joke."

To keep high school seniors engaged and on track to graduate amid the pandemic, Wayne Township officials turned to a previously untapped resource: hourly employees still on payroll, but with time on their hands because students had switched to learning virtually.

Woods is one of 17 classified employees, or hourly staff, who served as the primary liaison for about 900 of the Indianapolis district's seniors during eight weeks of virtual learning earlier this year. To safeguard against the pandemic, students learned remotely from Nov. 16 to Jan. 26.

District administrators said the experiment was so successful that it will continue with 10 employees, even though high schoolers have moved on campus two days a week.

Wendy Skibinski, Wayne Township's director of college and career readiness, said the district came up with the idea last summer after seeing the effects of high school students losing the in-person support they usually had.

"We had to think about how we were going to accelerate the class of 2021 and get them up to speed," Skibinski said. "All of the things that we typically would have done last spring, they missed out on all of that."

Wayne Township, like other districts, allowed younger students more in-person learning and social contact than older students got, because science points to COVID not spreading in elementary schools as much as it does elsewhere. Many high school students nationwide



Wayne Township bus driver Erica Woods works as a student case manager for the district during virtual learning. (Photo/Aaricka Washington/Chalkbeat)

have received very little in-person instruction since the onset of the pandemic a year ago and have been socially isolated during a pivotal time in their lives.

From April to October last year, mental-health related medical visits increased among 12- to 17-year-old children by 31% compared with previous years, according to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention.

Wayne Township recognized the stresses facing many high school students: jobs to support their families, parents who lost work, financial aid and college applications, resumes, mock interviews, and graduation — all without in-person help from overworked counselors.

Wayne's high school student-to-counselor ratio is 475 to 1. The American School Counselor Association recommends schools have a 250-to-1 ratio.

Skibinski said the district couldn't afford to add more counselors in the middle of a pandemic.

District officials worried students would fall even further behind after Marion County ordered campuses to close in November.

At the same time, Skibinski said the district wanted to retain employees who weren't able to work in a virtual environment.

The district previously found creative ways to mobilize those workers. Last March, it assigned its bus drivers to distribute meals to students at more than 1,000 bus stops.

So last fall, Skibinski solicited volunteers among paraprofessionals and transportation staff and trained them in college and career readiness support, interpersonal skills, technology tools, the college-guidance software Naviance, and resource tools on

Google Drive.

District officials wanted case managers to build relationships with students, address their basic needs, and make sure they had tools like technology, space, and an organized schedule. Case managers check on grades and make sure students complete their assignments. Sometimes they help them with classwork. Their responsibility has evolved.

"It really started to morph," Skibinski said. "Every day at 2:30, we would debrief. What are the kids asking for? What do they need? What do we need to provide more of?"

During the eight weeks of virtual learning, case managers earned their regular hourly wage. Now, as some of their previous duties have resumed with hybrid instruction, case management pays a \$15 hourly stipend. Wayne Township, which is expected to receive

nearly \$16 million in its second round of COVID relief funding, approved \$16,000 toward the program for the remainder of the school year.

Woods has resumed driving a bus, starting around 6 a.m. every day. In between picking up and dropping off students, she's checking her Galaxy 20 tablet for emails from students and calling students who may take evening classes. After work, she may spend a couple of hours checking and responding to student emails.

On a recent Saturday — when students were more reachable — she was online by 11:30 a.m., calling, emailing and updating her color-coded spreadsheet with information on the 41 students she is responsible for.

"There could be maybe 10 to 15 doing magnificent," Woods said. "My focus is to make sure that the rest of them are coming along, making sure that their needs are met. I will ask them, 'Hey, can you do an assignment a day? This needs to be done before March.'"

Skibinski said the pandemic has been terrible for everyone, but Wayne Township's experiment has worked well enough to continue.

"We can't let COVID be the reason why we're not successful," Skibinski said. For students, "We're going to walk alongside you because our ultimate goal is for you to graduate, but also for you to do whatever it is your post-secondary goal was."

Woods, a grandmother of seven and a bus driver for 24 years, feels she's come into her life's work. She hopes now to earn a teaching credential.

"There's a need that needs to be met," Woods said. "I enjoy being around people. Helping has always been my passion."

Chalkbeat is a nonprofit news site covering educational change in public schools.

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EDITORIAL

Don't limit Indiana students

By OSEYE BOYD



I'm disappointed in the Indiana General Assembly. In their effort to make things better for Indiana high school students, they may be doing the opposite.

This is a budget year in Indiana. That means the Indiana General Assembly is determining how our tax dollars will be spent. I don't envy them. I imagine it's not a fun job to figure out where to spend, where to cut, what's important and what's important but must wait. I'm guessing there are more than a few long, hard, headache-inducing choices — especially related to education.

Legislators are the ones who determine how much money to allocate to schools. School funding is always a tenuous and contentious issue. That hasn't changed this year.

Right now, House Republicans want to cut school funding for vocational classes such as cosmetology, culinary arts, radio and TV — some of the very

classes that keep children in school. Instead, they want to put that money toward careers that pay more such as biomedical science, nursing and welding. The intention of this effort sounds noble, but it's not reality.

Just because a teen is into culinary arts or TV doesn't mean he or she will be interested in biomedical science. It's not an equal trade. The idea of offering a variety of career training is you want to capture a wide swath of students — some of whom may not attend college — and give them an option that will allow them to start adulthood on a good foot. By removing some of these classes, you're effectively resigning some high schoolers to have nothing but a high school diploma or worse. Let's be honest, it's 2021 and students still drop out of high school. Cosmetology class or culinary arts class could be the only reason some students attend school. It's their motivation. Yes, they could get that training after high school, but at a much higher cost that will then be paid out of pocket.

A large number of Indiana high schools have dedicated career centers and they've put a lot of time, money

and effort into offering state-of-the-art facilities and quality instruction. According to an article published on in.Chalkbeat.org, 16,000 students are enrolled in these courses that are in jeopardy of losing funding. That's not an insignificant number of students. House budget leader Tim Brown, R-Crawfordsville, wants to make it clear: Schools can still offer the courses; there will just be less funding from the state. School leaders will have to figure out how to keep the same level of offerings for their students. I'm critical of schools when I think it's deserved, but we sure keep putting a lot on educators.

We keep asking more and more of them while providing less money and fewer incentives. Schools, more than likely, will move the cost to parents. Unfortunately, this means some students will be excluded because their families can't afford the additional cost. Not too long ago legislators cut transportation funding for schools, and that meant school districts passed the cost of extracurricular transportation on to families.

These cuts hit home. My daughter

wants to be a fashion designer when she grows up. She's always been artsy, crafty and creative, and she loves fashion. When she told me of her plans for the future, a fashion designer made perfect sense. With that goal in mind, she enrolled in the Family and Consumer Science program at her school. A junior now, she's been in a fashion class since ninth grade. She learned to sew and embroider. She has a sewing machine at home. She made her dress for her Sweet 16. It didn't turn out exactly how she wanted, but she did it. She's sewn Christmas gifts for her brother and grandparents.

She's a smart girl but sitting at a desk and listening to a teacher does little for her. Her favorite class is fashion. Her favorite teacher is her fashion teacher. I can't tell you how much time or money I've spent in JoAnn Fabrics and Crafts (a lot), but it's worth it because of her excitement. If she didn't have this outlet, school would be a very different experience for her.

If the idea is to make Indiana students successful, why would we want to limit the ways students find success?

OPINIONS

It's getting hot in here

By LARRY SMITH



"We will bury you!" Thus proclaimed then-Soviet leader Nikita Khrushchev — via his translator — at the Polish Embassy in Moscow in 1956. Twelve Western diplomats walked out in protest, as did the Israeli representative.

The allyship between the U.S. and the Soviet Union, forged of mutual self-interest during World War II, had quickly deteriorated into the Cold War — which not infrequently nearly turned "hot." (For example, the Cuban missile crisis, which nearly caused World War III, unfolded six years later.)

Immediately prior to making his "bury" comment, Khrushchev said: "About the capitalist states, it doesn't depend on you whether or not we exist. If you don't like us, don't accept our invitations, and don't invite us to come to see you. Whether

you like it or not, history is on our side." While Khrushchev failed at this prognostication, he understood the implications of winning the Cold War.

It is probably not a coincidence that there is ambiguity to his declaration. Alternative translations of "We will bury you" include "We shall outlive you" and "We shall be present at your funeral." Such language is less belligerent and perhaps merely suggests Khrushchev's confidence that communism would triumph over capitalism. The oft-bombastic Russian lent credence to this notion during a speech in Yugoslavia in 1963: "I once said, 'We will bury you,' and I got into trouble with it. Of course, we will not bury you with a shovel. Your own working class will bury you." (The staggering — and still growing — economic inequality in the U.S. may yet make that final sentence a reality.)

Irrespective of the most accurate translation of this infamous statement, the end to official hostilities (i.e., the fall of the Soviet Union) did

not prevent the two nations from remaining hostile toward each other. Of course, expelling ambassadors and lobbying sanctions is infinitely preferable to lobbying nuclear warheads. Still, we remain a hair trigger away from international peril.

Today, Russia is (mostly) content to play to role of provocateur, antagonist and bully rather than attempt to work with Western nations to reform its struggling economy. Also, as during the Cold War, that nation fights U.S. interests via proxies such as Iran and Syria. And, as should surprise absolutely no one, our intelligence agencies have concluded that Russia tried to interfere in the 2020 election — as it successfully did in 2016.

The picture gets bleaker. While Russia can merely aspire to continue to punch above its proverbial weight class, our other key adversary, China, has realistic designs on becoming the world's sole superpower. Its government is investing hundreds of billions of dollars in its economy, its military and its technical capabilities to achieve

that end. Both nations' aspirations are aided and abetted by America's crumbling domestic infrastructure — and I'm not referring to our dilapidated roads and bridges.

Russia is capitalizing on our deep racial and political divides, while China is focused on displacing our role as the world's leading economic, technical and military power. And both countries are religiously committed to exploiting holes in our technological security. Even if their efforts are not completely successful, our deepening factions put the U.S. at great risk. Great empires have fallen due to similar — and equally preventable — fissures.

To be clear, I'm not sympathetic to the argument that "the U.S. does it, too." Especially with regard to Russia, this fight is asymmetric. Assuming that we are equally adept at hacking Russian companies, government agencies and its military, the scope and scale of our economy and military are orders of magnitude larger, and our greater sophistication

means a greater impact on our government, our companies and our people.

I vividly recall watching reruns of the feel-good Cold War spoof "The Russians Are Coming, the Russians Are Coming!" as a child. (I'm certain that my children would be surprised to know that the movie was made before I was born.) The plot involves an ill-fated attempt by a Russian submarine crew to take over a fictional town in Massachusetts. Reportedly, the movie resonated among Russians nearly as much as it did among Americans.

In real life, today's Russia is headed by a homicidal, megalomaniacal former KGB agent who shakes down his fellow billionaires to continuously enrich himself. I seriously doubt that this drama will have a Hollywood ending, especially if we don't unite as one America.

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

Trying to rewrite the Jan. 6 coup attempt

By BILL FLETCHER Jr.
NNPA Newswire Contributor



There is something amazing going on in Republican Party circles. If I did not know better, I would assume that I was watching a television comedy. Segments of the Republican Party are attempting to tell us that the Jan. 6 coup attempt did not actually happen. Instead, they argue, what we saw on television was allegedly orchestrated by Antifa and the Black Lives

Matter movement.

There are certain noteworthy things about this argument, the most important being that it is not based on any facts. None. The second is that this line of argument started as soon as the coup attempt had ended. Right-wingers claimed that it was a so-called false flag operation that was conducted by the political left in order to delegitimize the political right. There are many problems with this line of thinking, not the least being that many of the alleged perpetrators of the Jan. 6 coup attempt were avowed right-wingers who conducted this operation in the full view of video.

So, what is going on? Simply put, the pro-fascist elements in the Republican Party are attempting to convince a critical mass of the public that what they saw ... they did not really see. This is not even equivalent to a magician's trick with the sleight of hand. They are going one step further and asserting that what all of us saw on television or the web, for which many people have been arrested and charged, did not happen or, if it did, it was really conducted by the political left.

It is important to note that both Antifa and the Black Lives Matter movement are networks, at best. There is no one organization called "Antifa," for instance, and there are many organizations that operate under the banner of Black Lives Matter. Therefore, the right-wing assertions of an Antifa and BLM

conspiracy would not make sense in the best of all possible worlds. But more importantly, there is no evidence to back up such assertions!

The pro-fascist element within the Republican Party is attempting several things at the same time. First, to lay the basis for further repression of anti-fascist and anti-racist forces. This is part of the motivation behind an increase in anti-terrorism legislation in various states when the government already has the authority to prosecute terrorists.

Second, the pro-fascist element in the Republican Party is trying to obscure both the reality of Jan. 6 but also the antics of Trump. They are simply trying to deny that there was a coup attempt where people were injured and/or lost their lives.

There is a famous term for what the pro-fascist element is doing. It comes from an iconic film. The term is "gas lighting," i.e., to lead people to believe that what they are actually experiencing or seeing is not really happening.

We cannot afford to ignore this. Precisely for these reasons, the fascists and their collaborators need to be prosecuted to the full extent of the law, thereby demonstrating the danger that they pose to any democratic political system. This is no comedy.

Bill Fletcher Jr. is a past president of TransAfrica Forum and a longtime trade unionist and writer.

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GAP
►Continued from A1

Rice is the community networker for the Northwest side of Indianapolis, handling projects to improve the quality of life. But doing things to improve long-term health is just not pertinent for people constantly in survival mode, like many residents are.

“Trying to live that American dream to the best that you can, but you only have so many options that are available to you,” he said. “And again, a lot of those options, they were taken away from us ... [by] systemic racism, so on and so forth.”

Not to mention health care access problems, racism in medicine, police brutality and more. He said it all leads to monstrous stress, day in and day out — and it shows in the health of Black Americans.

A recent report by the CDC shows that the life expectancy of Americans dropped by a year in the first half of 2020 due to the pandemic. But the drop did not affect everyone equally.

“In the report, it definitely shows us that life expectancy for Hispanics and for non-Hispanic Blacks went down more dramatically than in non-Hispanic white populations,” said Brian Dixon, director of public health informatics at the Regenstrief Institute.

The CDC report points out that Black Americans die almost eight years earlier than whites. That gap is the widest since 1998.

Dixon cautions that the CDC data is preliminary and only accounts for the first half of 2020, so it might change. Still, the disparities are likely to stay.

This comes as no surprise to Tess Weathers, research associate at the IU Richard M. Fairbanks School of Public Health.

Weathers has spent years studying life expectancy in Indianapolis. She worked on a 2015 SAVI report that showed a 14-year difference in life expectancy between some neighborhoods separated by a short drive.

Most Black Hoosiers live in the neighborhoods with low life expectancy rates. And she said even during other crises such as hurricanes, Black Americans usually bear the brunt.

“People have unequal, unfair differences in life expectancy because they are leading unfair different lives,” Weathers said. “And the ownership is

not solely on individuals, which is often the thing we do in America, we place the ownership on individuals. Society — we as an entire country or as a state need to take responsibility for our role in that.”

Black Americans face a wide range of health disparities — from cradle to grave. It starts with infant mortality and includes gun violence and chronic conditions such as cancer, diabetes and heart disease.

Joanna LeNoire, a retired nurse living on Columbia Avenue, has seen her neighborhood turn from a place bustling with friends and family to what she calls a ghost town.

“When I think about the people in the neighborhood that died with cancer, it was really kind of shocking,” LeNoire said. “The lady that lived across the street from us, she had twins who died with cancer. The lady that lived across the street from me died with brain cancer. My cousin died with throat cancer.”

While getting sick is not something unique to Black Americans, the extent to which this is happening is what’s alarming.

The disparity has been running deep for over 100 years, according to Elizabeth Wrigley-Fields, a University of Minnesota assistant professor of sociology who studies the history of infectious diseases.

“White mortality during the 1918 pandemic, which was such a big spike, it was almost off the charts,” she said. “But white mortality during that pandemic was less than Black mortality had been every single prior year.”

She adds that white mortality during the COVID-19 pandemic in 2020 “will probably be less in the final accounting than Black mortality has ever been in the United States. So that’s the pre-existing context. It is really extreme inequality.”

This leads LeNoire to wonder: “It makes me feel that Black people in this country have no rights. You know, it’s like, if you didn’t want us here, and if you didn’t want to share what you had, why did you come and get us in the first place?”

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

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ADVERTORIAL

Hoosier Women Veterans In Tech

by Kara Kavensky

According to the Pew Research Center, between the years 1973 to 2010, the number of active-duty enlisted women in the military grew from approximately 42,000 to 167,000. And currently, women make up ten percent of our current veteran population. Currently, over 35,000 female veterans reside in our state.

Transitioning to a meaningful career after serving in the military can be a challenge. With the demand for jobs in tech, many veterans are turning towards coding and technology bootcamps to skill up into their new career. The following are profiles of a couple of our amazing Hoosier veterans who have successfully skilled up into tech careers.

Summer Kerekes is an Army veteran who served three years active duty and another three in the reserves. She was a communications specialist in the Army and worked for a phone company with executive administration for 20 years. She also worked in IT, co-managing unified communications for over 19k users when that company was sold.

Kerekes was living in Cincinnati when she was laid off. She decided to sell her home and move back to Indianapolis. Originally from the Southport area, she returned to her roots and looked for ways to broaden her skill set. Kerekes registered for Eleven Fifty Academy’s software development program and jumped into their web development course immediately after. She



graduated from her second bootcamp in October and enrolled in the Salesforce and Deloitte Pathfinder program for becoming a developer on their platforms.

“I took advantage of the pandemic and committed myself to fully skilling up towards a career in tech,” says Kerekes, who is currently a learning assistant with Eleven Fifty Academy while looking for her ideal employment. “I prefer a larger company with an established structure.”

As a learning assistant, Kerekes is instructing web development to new students and is surprised that she is still learning things about the nuances of the course.

“I love education and enjoy instructing others, which I believe makes me feel more confident in my abilities,” says Kerekes. “My military training definitely prepared me for this.”

After graduating from Pike High School, Christi Wynter attended to Penn State for a few years and reached a point where she needed a break. She was less than two semesters away from graduating and felt that her courses in information sciences and technology were not adequately preparing her for a career. What she was really interested in was cybersecurity but needed a break from college. Her brother was in the Army that that time and encouraged her to enlist in either the Navy or Air Force. Wynter opted for the Navy.

“I was interested in cybersecurity and my classes at Penn State were theory-based and not at all practical in application,” says Wynter, who was



less than three semesters away from graduation. “While in the Navy, I earned a degree in business administration while stationed in Connecticut and my education in cybersecurity would happen maybe one day soon.”

While serving in the US Navy, Wynter was a Nuclear Electronics Technician for the almost thirteen years she served. She monitored and performed required maintenance on nuclear instruments on her Carrier. This job requires the highest degrees of accuracy and attention to detail. She supervised a team of 20 and processed sailors in and out of NNPTC.

“My job in the Navy was highly regulated. We had a procedure for everything. While the job description was intimidating, you didn’t think about the risks and only focused on the next step in the procedure,” shares Wynter.

In 2018, Wynter read an article describing cyber space as “the next battle zone” and it peaked her interest. She wanted to have a fulfilling career and the ability to spend more time with her family. She and her husband have three children. In order to accomplish this, Wynter chose to leave the Navy to pursue a career that offered a similar sense of purpose that she experienced in the Navy. The Wynter family returned to Indianapolis in March of 2020. While searching for opportunities, Wynter discovered the Cybersecurity program offered by Eleven Fifty Academy, a nonprofit coding bootcamp located in Indianapolis. Before enrolling, Wynter had attempted to complete a cyber certification on her own but found it to be difficult. Unsure of employment

possibilities during a pandemic, she also identified a window of opportunity with Eleven Fifty Academy.

Wynter started her bootcamp in June and graduated in September. She thought it would be difficult to find a position, but she was almost immediately hired by Sophos as a Threat

Analyst. At Sophos, Wynter battles “threat actors” who use a variety of stealthy techniques to infiltrate systems.

“I like my job. I need to be constantly updating my skill set to stay fresh,” says Wynter, who works twelve hour shifts. “Nothing is ever really the same day by day.”

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“The training that I received at Eleven Fifty catapulted me on an upwards trajectory to my future in tech. What had taken me a year to teach myself, we covered in the first few days of class.”

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Extent of COVID-19 vaccine waste remains largely unknown

By **KIMBERLEE KRUESI**
Associated Press

NASHVILLE, Tenn. (AP) — As millions continue to wait their turn for the COVID-19 vaccine, small but steady amounts of the precious doses have gone to waste across the country.

It's a heartbreaking reality that experts acknowledged was always likely to occur. Thousands of shots have been wasted in Tennessee, Florida, Ohio and many other states. The reasons vary from shoddy record-keeping to accidentally trashing hundreds of shots. However, pinning down just how many of the life-saving vials have been tossed remains largely unknown despite assurance from many local officials the number remains low.

To be sure, waste is common in global inoculation campaigns, with millions of doses of flu shots trashed each year. By one World Health Organization estimate, as many as half of vaccines in previous campaigns worldwide have been thrown away because they were mishandled, unclaimed or expired.

By comparison, waste of the COVID-19 vaccine appears to be quite small, though the U.S. government has yet to release numbers shedding insight on its extent. Officials have promised that may change soon as more data is collected from the states.

In the interim, state health agencies are much more inclined to tout how fast they've administered the shots while keeping mum on the number of doses that end up in the trash.

Ohio's Department of Health



resisted the use of the term “wasted” when asked by The Associated Press for a total number of tossed doses. Instead a spokesperson for the agency said that the state tracks “unusable” vaccines reported by state providers.

“With 3.2 million doses administered as of March 9, 2021, the 3,396 unusable doses reported by state providers make up about 0.1% of the doses administered — less than the CDC expectation of 5% of unusable doses,” Alicia Shoults, an Ohio Department of Health spokesperson, said in an email.

According to a log sheet provided by the department, Ohio providers reported almost 60 incidents where doses were unused. The largest incident occurred earlier this year, when a pharmacy responsible for distributing the vaccine to nursing homes failed to document storage temperatures for leftover shots, resulting in 890 doses being wasted.

In Tennessee, wasted, spoiled or unused doses aren't publicly disclosed on the state's online COVID-19 vaccine dashboard. However, after nearly 4,500 of Tennessee's doses were ruined in February, the state's Department of Health scrambled to find answers.

It started with nearly 1,000 doses reported missing in eastern Tennessee's Knox County, where emotional local leaders told reporters that a shipment was accidentally tossed by an employee who believed the box contained dry ice.

Shortly after, a little more than 2,500 doses were reported wasted in Shelby County — which encompasses Memphis. A state investigation concluded the eye-opening spoilage occurred over multiple incidents due to substandard pharmacy practices, a lack of standard operating procedures for storage and handling, disorganized record-keeping and deficient management of soon-to-expire vaccine doses.

Workers organize paperwork and medical supplies as people wait in their cars to get a COVID-19 vaccination on Friday, March 12, 2021, in Memphis, Tenn. As millions continue to wait their turn for the COVID-19 vaccine, small but steady amounts of the precious doses have gone to waste across the country. It's a heartbreaking reality that experts acknowledged was always likely to occur. (AP Photo/Adrian Sainz)

A separate 1,000 doses were then reported spoiled in middle Tennessee after a school district reported a storage error.

Despite the recent string of wasted vaccine incidents, the health agency stressed that the number represents just a sliver of the nearly 1.9 million doses the state has received since December.

“We don't believe there is a systemic issue statewide, but we're ramping up our efforts for compliance just to be sure,” state Health Commissioner Lisa Piercey told reporters earlier this month.

Piercey said Tennessee will soon conduct a review of the state's vaccine distribution efforts to prevent future waste, and eventually hire a separate company to conduct the quality checks.

Meanwhile, in Florida, Surgeon General Dr. Scott Rivkees recently called for an audit after more than 1,000 doses of vaccine were reported damaged last month in Palm Beach County. When asked for the review of that audit, the state said it would provide those documents through a request for public records — which it was still compiling.

Like other states, Florida doesn't regularly publish how many doses don't end up in arms, but a spokesperson for the state health department said 4,435 doses had been re-

ported wasted as of March 15.

In Louisiana, health officials give updated totals of wasted doses to reporters at the governor's weekly COVID-19 briefing. Out of 1.2 million vaccine doses administered thus far, fewer than 1,500 had been wasted as of March 16, said Dr. Joe Kanter, the governor's chief public health adviser.

Ohio's health department reported 2,349 doses wasted or spoiled as of February. Officials stress the wasted amount is extremely low compared to the total doses that ended up in arms. However, they note, that doesn't make the situation any less upsetting.

“Here's the bottom line: This stuff is gold,” said Julie Willems Van Dijk, deputy secretary of the Wisconsin Department of Health Services. “I think every vaccinator who touches a bottle of Pfizer, Moderna or J&J knows it. ... I've talked to people with these wasted vaccine and they are heartbroken.”

The federal government has also held off releasing numbers of spoiled or unusable doses, though it says states should report such waste in its vaccine tracker.

“We are working to figure out how to provide this data online in the future when the data is more complete,” Kristen Nordlund, a spokesperson for the Centers of Disease Control and Prevention, said in an email.

HOW DO I REGISTER FOR THE COVID-19 VACCINE?

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CDC's Tobacco Education Campaign Celebrates 10 Years

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention's (CDC) Tips from Former Smokers campaign, or “Tips”, enters its 10th year with new ads that encourage people who smoke to quit.

The Tips campaign is the nation's first federally funded tobacco education campaign and has helped more than one million U.S. adults to quit smoking and inspired millions more to try to quit. This year's campaign features ads that will air on national and cable television, online, and streaming radio.

Research shows that emotional, evidence-based campaigns, like Tips, are effective in raising awareness about the dangers of smoking and helping people who smoke to quit. These campaigns are even more effective when coupled with quitlines, which provide free, confidential support services to help people quit smoking.

Each year when the Tips campaign is aired, calls to the tobacco quitline 1-800-QUIT-NOW and visits to the campaign website CDC.gov/Tips goes up immediately.

“For nearly a decade the Tips campaign has shown us the impact of living with real-life consequences from smoking,” said CDC Director Rochelle P. Walensky, MD, MPH. “CDC's longstanding effort to end tobacco use continues to be a public health priority and we remain determined to reduce the number of deaths and prevent chronic diseases that result from tobacco use.”

Through the campaign, people share compelling stories about their smoking-related diseases and disabilities and the toll these conditions have taken on them and their loved ones.

In addition to the new ads, we will continue to run existing ads that highlight a variety of health conditions. This includes ads that feature participants who smoked and have COPD, emphasizing the fact that smoking can cause lung illnesses and make them worse.

“We are so thankful to all the brave Tips campaign participants who, through the years, have shared their powerful stories about the toll cigarette smoking has taken on them and their loved ones,” said Karen Hacker, MD, MPH, director of CDC's National Center for Chronic Disease Prevention and Health Promotion. “Their stories continue to save lives by inspiring people to quit smoking.”

Along with the harm it causes to peoples' lives, cigarette smoking also has a significant impact on the U.S. economy. Smoking costs more than \$300 billion a year, including nearly \$170 billion in direct medical care for adults and more than \$156 billion in lost productivity.

Wide-reaching health education campaigns, like Tips, help people quit smoking, improve their health, and reduce healthcare spending. A recently published study showed that during 2012–2018, the Tips campaign helped prevent an estimated 129,000 early deaths and helped save an estimated \$7.3 billion in smoking-related healthcare costs.

Cigarette smoking remains the single largest cause of preventable disease and death in the United States, killing more than 480,000 Americans each year. For every American who dies from a smoking-related disease, about 30 more suffer at least one serious illness from smoking.

The adverse effects of smoking are clear and well-documented. Smoking harms nearly every organ in the human body and increases the risk of more severe illness from COVID-19. Quitting smoking is beneficial at any age.

For more information on the Tips campaign, including profiles of former smokers, other campaign resources and links to the ads, visit CDC.gov/Tips.

#



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by Elie's Spiritual Treasures

1 Timothy 2:5-6

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

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BIBLE WORD SEARCH
Answers

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BIBLE TRIVIA
by Wilson Casey

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

2. From Genesis 8:4, where did Noah's ark rest after the great flood? Dead Sea bottom, Mountains of Ararat, Near Garden of Eden, Atop Mt. Sinai

3. What kind of physical problem did Timothy have of which Paul advised a little wine? Back, Stomach, Head, Legs

4. How many days was Jesus on earth after His resurrection? 3, 40, 100, 346

5. From Acts 8, who baptized the Ethiopian eunuch? Isaiah, James, Philip, Paul

6. How old was Abraham when he died? 70, 175, 202, 256


ANSWERS: 1) New; 2) Mountains of Ararat; 3) Stomach; 4) 40; 5) Philip; 6) 175 (Genesis 25:7)

Hardcore trivia fan? Visit Wilson Casey's subscriber site at www.patreon.com/triviaguy.

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Pastor

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Morning Worship
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Tuesday Bible Study
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Pastor Chas A. Sheppard
Lady Edna M. Sheppard


Schedule of Services:

Early Morning Sunday School Morning Worship Sunday Evening Service Wednesday Bible Study/Prayers Friday Bible Study	8:00am 10:00am 11:00am 6:30pm 7:00pm/8:00pm 11:00am
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9:30a-10:30a
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Sunday School
9:15 am
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Thurs. Family Living
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In Pennsylvania, Biden showcases aid to small businesses

By JOSH BOAK,
DARLENE SUPERVILLE
and AAMER MADHANI
Associated Press

CHESTER, Pa. (AP) — President Joe Biden turned up at a minority-owned flooring business in suburban Philadelphia to highlight how his \$1.9 trillion coronavirus relief package can help small businesses and to put a face on those who have struggled throughout the pandemic.

The visit on March 16 to Smith Flooring Inc. was Biden's first stop in a cross-country administration roadshow — also involving his vice president and his wife — designed to publicize, and take credit for, the virus relief package.

It “took some loud, strong voices to get this done,” Biden said, making a subtle dig at Republicans during his visit to the small union shop that will benefit from the relief. “And it’s not like it passed with 100 votes. It was close.”

While Biden was in Pennsylvania for his first stop on the “Help is Here” tour, Vice President Kamala Harris and husband Doug Emhoff were reinforcing the small business theme with stops in Colorado.

With Harris and Emhoff taking notes during a business roundtable in Denver, Lorena Cantarovici, who began making empanadas in her garage after

emigrating from Argentina, told of how her small shop grew over the years into three Maria Empanada locations but then was forced to lay off workers when the coronavirus struck.

She said 80% of her team came back through previous relief programs but it could take two years to get back to full capacity and “recover all this loss.” Harris and Emhoff did their part by departing with empanadas in tow.

Gabriela Salazar, whose Colorado Artisans represents more than 100 artisans in Denver, estimated more than 90% of those artisans are unemployed or collecting unemployment. Salazar, a small business owner for 30 years, told Harris that help from the Small Business Administration has “kept me afloat but more is needed.”

In Pennsylvania, meanwhile, Smith Flooring had 23 employees during peak times but currently is employing 12 workers. It is using the loan to help retain workers and upgrade technology. Borrowers are eligible for forgiveness if they meet certain requirements, including devoting at least 60% of the proceeds to payroll expenses.

In his chat with the owners of Smith Floors, Biden repeatedly asked “what else” they thought his administration should be doing to help businesses like theirs.

In Washington, the Senate confirmed

Isabel Guzman, Biden’s pick to lead the Small Business Administration, on March 16. She is expected to play a key role in implementing the relief bill.

Biden is trying to showcase how the aid package will bring transformational change to the nation by halving child poverty, fueling record levels of hiring and pumping money to parents, schools and state and local governments. It’s a sharp turn from the start of the Biden administration, when vaccination goals were relatively modest and Americans were warned the country might not return to normal until Christmas.

The Biden administration estimates that 400,000 small businesses have closed because of the pandemic and millions more are barely surviving. His aid package includes a \$28 billion grant program to support restaurants and drinking establishments. It also includes \$15 billion in flexible grants.

The visit to Smith Flooring was meant to drive home that point. The business saw revenue fall about 20% during the pandemic. It recently qualified for a federal Paycheck Protection Program loan during a two-week window in which the Biden administration focused the program exclusively on helping businesses with 20 or fewer employees.

Harris also held a virtual chat with

the operators of a Fort Lupton, Colorado, vaccine clinic.

The second day of the vice president’s tour to publicize the virus relief was disrupted because of a mechanical issue with the government plane that flew the vice president to Las Vegas and Los Angeles on March 15. A smaller backup plane was sent to fly her to Denver, relegating most of her staff, Secret Service and a small group of reporters to fly on a cavernous cargo plane.

Because of the plane issue, Harris scratched her plan for her visit to the vaccine clinic, Plan De Salud Del Valle Inc., and instead spoke with the clinic’s staff over Zoom. She praised their work, making particular note of the clinic’s focus on helping minority communities get vaccinated.

“The President and I from the beginning of this have made it one of our highest priorities to make sure that we are taking into account racial disparities, and that we supply folks on the ground with the resources you need so that we have equitable outcomes,” she said.

Superville reported from Denver and Madhani from Chicago.

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Environmental Reporter
Indianapolis, Indiana
Indianapolis Recorder Newspaper/Indiana Minority Business Magazine:

The Indianapolis Recorder Newspaper is the nation's fourth-oldest surviving African American newspaper in the country. Indiana Minority Business Magazine is the state's leading publication that focuses on business, lifestyle and diversity.

The Environmental Reporter must be energetic and have a passion for nature; must have a desire to educate readers on how environmental issues affect their daily lives while providing information that will empower readers to make improvements. Environmental Reporter must understand the difference between environment, nature and conservancy.

Responsibilities:

- Environmental Reporter is responsible for writing news and feature articles and news briefs focused on environmental issues. Environmental Reporter must understand the process of gathering news by conducting interviews with sources and thorough research; must be proficient in AP Style and understand the importance of digital platforms in media.
- Work with newsroom management to determine an article's angle, length and format.
- Arrange and conduct interviews with sources.
- Research and analyze background information prior to conducting interviews.
- Check reference materials, such as books, news files, or public records, to obtain relevant facts.
- Be able to cover breaking news and quickly turn around copy for digital publication as well as possible follow-up articles for print.
- Receive assignments and pitch article ideas based on leads or tips.
- Discuss issues with the editor to establish

Education and Qualifications:

- BA or BS in journalism, mass communication, or related field.
- Minimum of 3 plus years of experience as a journalist or Reporter
- Ability to meet deadlines and accurately fact-check information.
- Excellent observation and judgment skills.
- Capable of maintaining an ethical and objective standard in reporting.
- Excellent communication and research

Please submit resume via
Fax at 317-921-6653 or Resume@IndyRecorder.com

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priorities.

- Proofread copy and correct grammar and punctuation errors in content, following prescribed editorial style and formatting guidelines.
- Understand the editorial process and be prepared to revise work to meet editorial standards.
- Coordinate with production staff on locating art for stories.
- Work with additional newsroom staff to maintain social media accounts and websites.
- Keep up to date on the latest news developments by attending events, studying different papers, opinion pieces, and social media.
- Other duties as assigned.

skills.

- Ability to be proactive and assertive in efforts to secure interviews and information for content, experience writing news briefs, short- and long-form news stories and features.
- Ability to handle multiple tasks, prioritize, work well under pressure, meet deadlines and follow projects through to completion in a fast-paced environment.

Job Description

Title: Business Office Coordinator

Department: Business & Circulation

Reports to: President and General Manager

Job summary

The Business Office Coordinator is responsible for coordinating all the front office activities. Responsible for working and managing the reception area, answering phone calls, sorting, and distributing mail, maintaining office supplies and equipment. In addition, manage the overall accounting responsibilities.

Summary of essential job functions

- Performs all general accounting task including reconciliation, accounts receivables, accounts payable etc.
- Process credit card payments, receive incoming cash and checks payments from legal ads and advertisements and post in QuickBooks.
- Monthly bank and credit card accounts reconciliations.
- Contact customers to collect past due amounts.
- Balance out petty cash sheet and report it to the president.
- Collects ads, write-up legal and post in computer system.
- Responsible for billing and mailing out invoices with tear sheets to customers.
- Manage the reception area to ensure effective telephone and mail communication both internally and externally to maintain a professional image.
- Contact person for maintenance issues with office equipment, including copier, fax machine, etc.
- Responsible for coordinating the day to day operations of the business office.
- Proof publications for all legal ads that run in the paper.
- Verify that all ads have been processed by following production procedures.
- Assist with various departmental projects.
- Give reports to sales rep to verify ads are billed correctly.
- Other duties as assigned

Minimum requirements

- Associates or Bachelor's Degree in Accounting, Business or related field preferred
- Minimum of two (2) + year's office management and supervisory experience
- Possess excellent interpersonal, verbal and written skills
- Strong computer skills in Microsoft Office
- Proficient with QuickBooks
- Excellent customer service skills
- Able to manage multiple duties and detail oriented

Please submit resume via
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PUBLIC NOTICE				
AutoReturn will be having an abandoned vehicle auction 03/25/21 at 10:00 AM. The auction will be held online due to COVID-19. Register on the Joyride website (https://joyrideautos.com) to receive updates and browse vehicle auction inventory. All vehicle release prices as of 03/09/21. The following vehicles will be sold:				
2002 AUDI	Model	VIN	Body	Amount
2001 AUDI	RS	WBAUD7F8E67A108665	4 DOOR	\$1,055.00
2004 BMW	XS	5UXFA1354AL123476	SPORTS UTILITY	\$780.00
2001 BUICK	LESABRE	1G4HR54K31U263400	4 DOOR	\$735.00
2009 BUICK	LUCCERNE	1G4HD57M29U135253	4 DOOR	\$805.00
1998 BUICK	CENTURY	2G4W552M2W1514734	4 DOOR	\$755.00
1992 BUICK	RIVIERA	1G4E213L3N4U03314	2 DOOR	\$815.00
1982 BUICK	LESABRE	1G4AP2Y8C1H60375	2 DOOR	\$705.00
2003 BUICK	LESABRE	1G4HP54K493U217093	4 DOOR	\$705.00
2015 BUICK	REGAL	2G4GP5E2F9141031	4 DOOR	\$1,485.00
2003 BUICK	REGAL	2G4W552K931258716	4 DOOR	
2003 BUICK	LESABRE	1G4HR54K03U123145	4 DOOR	\$890.00
2006 CADILLAC	SRX	1GYEE63A06U134900	SPORTS UTILITY	\$780.00
1997 CADILLAC	DEVILLE	1GK052Y5VJ203529	4 DOOR	\$805.00
2000 CADILLAC	ESCALADE	1GYEK63R5YR225772	SPORTS UTILITY	\$840.00
1997 CADILLAC	DEVILLE	1G6K54Y6VJ295831	4 DOOR	\$730.00
2004 CADILLAC	SRX	1YDE63A940129543	SPORTS UTILITY	\$805.00
2005 CADILLAC	OTHER	3GYFK66N5G185553	SPORTS UTILITY	\$785.00
2007 CHEVROLET	COBLAT	1G1AK15F97J146912	2 DOOR	\$730.00
2009 CHEVROLET	AVEO	1GK052Y5VJ203529	4 DOOR	\$805.00
2000 CHEVROLET	MONTTE CARLO	2G1WX12K1Y9292665	2 DOOR	\$705.00
1987 CHEVROLET	CAVALIER	1G1JE1112HJ138513	2 DOOR	\$705.00
2004 CHEVROLET	MALIBU	1G1ZT52804F226694	4 DOOR	\$805.00
2012 CHEVROLET	MALIBU	1G1ZAEU7CF388965	4 DOOR	\$760.00
2006 CHEVROLET	MALIBU	1G1ZT51F06F115954	4 DOOR	\$805.00
2009 CHEVROLET	COBALT	1G1AK15F97J146912	2 DOOR	\$730.00
2015 CHEVROLET	TRAVESE	1GNKVGMKDFJ214442	SPORTS UTILITY	\$1,265.00
1996 CHEVROLET	BLAZER	1GNCT18W0T8J114241	SPORTS UTILITY	\$710.00
2005 CHEVROLET	IMPALA	2G1WF52E459150584	4 DOOR	\$780.00
2008 CHEVROLET	IMPALA	2G1WB58K889217054	4 DOOR	\$790.00
2006 CHEVROLET	MONTTE CARLO	2G1WK151468266074	2 DOOR	\$765.00
2008 CHEVROLET	HHR	2G1W552K931258716	SPORTS UTILITY	\$780.00
2006 CHEVROLET	HHR	3GNDNA23D8X554000	SPORTS UTILITY	\$780.00
2000 CHEVROLET	C-3500	1GCHC33J9YF416914	PICK UP	\$780.00
2010 CHEVROLET	MALIBU	1G1ZC5E09X1806412	4 DOOR	\$780.00
2003 CHEVROLET	IMPALA	2G1W552K931258716	4 DOOR	\$780.00
2005 CHEVROLET	SILVERADO	2GCEK19B651357396	PICK UP	\$1,730.00
2002 CHEVROLET	SILVERADO	2GCEK19B651357396	PICK UP	\$755.00
2002 CHEVROLET	SILVERADO	2GCEC19T921343139	PICK UP	\$815.00
2001 CHEVROLET	SILVERADO	2GCEC19T121263964	PICK UP	\$705.00
1995 CHEVROLET	C-1500	2GCEC19K1S1275200	PICK UP	\$705.00
2017 CHEVROLET	CRUZE	1G1BES5M1H7138250	4 DOOR	\$1,580.00
2010 CHEVROLET	IMPALA	2G1WDS5EM5A1163658	4 DOOR	\$815.00
2009 CHEVROLET	TAHOE	1GNK13R0X1K150174	SPORTS UTILITY	\$790.00
2011 CHEVROLET	IMPALA	2G1WGS5K1B1155693	4 DOOR	\$1,730.00
2010 CHEVROLET	TRAVESE	1GNLRFDEEBA5142756	SPORTS UTILITY	\$1,730.00
2009 CHEVROLET	MALIBU	1G1ZG57K094237724	4 DOOR	\$2,005.00
2000 CHEVROLET	ASTRO VAN	1GNDM19W3YB136522	VAN	\$1,810.00
1992 CHEVROLET	STEVAN	1GBFKP37NKN3300548	MOTOR HOME	\$2,275.00
2006 CHEVROLET	MALIBU	1G1ZT51F06F115954	4 DOOR	\$730.00
1987 CHEVROLET	CAMARO	1G1FF21H5N169217	2 DOOR	\$705.00
2002 CHEVROLET	MONTTE CARLO	2G1W552K931258716	2 DOOR	\$885.00
2000 CHEVROLET	BLAZER	1GNCS13W0Y2174221	SPORTS UTILITY	\$805.00
2006 CHEVROLET	AVEO	KL1TD6666B527782	4 DOOR	\$710.00
1999 CHRYSLER	300M	2C3HE66G3X1F732208	4 DOOR	\$810.00
2006 CHRYSLER	300	2C3A53G16H1538945	4 DOOR	\$780.00
2001 CHRYSLER	300M	2C3AF66G1H592101	4 DOOR	\$780.00
2005 CHRYSLER	TOWN-COUNTY	2C4GP54L65R802233	VAN	\$790.00
1999 CHRYSLER	LHS	2G3HC56G0X1806412	4 DOOR	\$705.00
2014 CHRYSLER	200	1C3C0CBA81N207110	4 DOOR	\$755.00
2005 CHRYSLER	PLVIFICA	2GCEK19B651357396	SPORTS UTILITY	\$730.00
2002 CHRYSLER	CHARGER	2B3CA3CV6A1910260	4 DOOR	\$730.00
2003 DODGE	DAKOTA	1D7HG38X335239020	UT	\$805.00
2010 DODGE	JOURNEY	3D4PG5FV4AT197580	SPORTS UTILITY	\$755.00
2004 DODGE	INTREPID	2B3HD56G54H672065	4 DOOR	\$790.00
2002 DODGE	RAM	3D7HU18N52M176754	PICK UP	\$765.00
1997 DODGE	RAM	1B7HC16Y8V5J11744	PICK UP	\$765.00
2005 DODGE	NEON	1B3ES6C25D1815074	2 DOOR	\$730.00
2016 DODGE	CHALLENGER	3CP3DZAG4GH201041	PICK UP	\$1,355.00
2007 DODGE	NITRO	1D8GU58K17W58697	SPORTS UTILITY	\$780.00
2001 DODGE	DURANGO	1B4H528N1J1F588107	SPORTS UTILITY	\$705.00
1998 DODGE	NEON	1B3E347C3W0D745999	4 DOOR	\$730.00
2000 DODGE	DURANGO	1B4H528N1YF209003	SPORTS UTILITY	\$810.00
2006 DODGE	FLEETSTAR	2FMZA5167E17619231	VAN	\$730.00
2008 DODGE	ESCAPE	1FMCU93298K130038	SPORTS UTILITY	\$855.00
1999 DODGE	WINDSTAR	2FMZA5244XB851445	VAN	\$730.00
2007 DODGE	EDGE	2FMDK36C58B40A5551	SPORTS UTILITY	\$765.00
2008 DODGE	FUSION	3FAHP08167R192729	4 DOOR	\$730.00
2007 DODGE	FUSION	1FAHF25W88B1557668	4 DOOR	\$730.00
2008 DODGE	TAURUS	1FAHR24W08B528868	4 DOOR	\$730.00
2002 DODGE	WINDSTAR	2FMZA51472B852843	VAN	\$805.00
2008 DODGE	FUSION	3FAHP07ZX8R270518	4 DOOR	\$805.00
2012 DODGE	FOCUS	1FAHP3H428CL365993	4 DOOR	\$855.00
2004 DODGE	TAURUS	1FAFP53J84G130581	4 DOOR	\$780.00
2007 DODGE	TAURUS	1FAFP53J20AG172435	4 DOOR	\$815.00
2005 DODGE	TAURUS	1FAFP53J45A1103771	4 DOOR	\$780.00
2012 DODGE	FUSION	3FAHP0H40C8R381189	4 DOOR	\$785.00
2001 FORD	F150	1FTRW07W51KD73556	PICK UP	\$780.00
1999 FORD	F150	1FTZF1728XN894423	PICK UP	\$940.00
1993 FORD	RANGER	1FTCR14U2P2PA25747	PICK UP	\$780.00
2002 FORD	CROWN VICT	2FOWH71V08H142718	PICK UP	\$2,270.00
2013 FORD	TAURUS	1FAHP2E85DG138886	4 DOOR	\$1,555.00
2009 FORD	ESCAPE	1FMCU9279KXC25197	SPORTS UTILITY	\$730.00
2007 GMC	ACADIA	1GKEV33737J138433	SPORTS UTILITY	\$900.00
1999 GMC	JIMMY	1GKCT18W0XK521242	SPORTS UTILITY	\$780.00
2004 GMC	SIERRA	1GTHK29G14E399776	PICK UP	\$780.00
1998 GMC	YUKON	1GML13W5V58125668	SPORTS UTILITY	\$730.00
2002 HONDA	ACCORD	1HGC320A20A025106	4 DOOR	\$730.00
1999 HONDA	ACCORD	1HGC320A20A025106	4 DOOR	\$705.00
2006 HONDA	ACCORD	5FNRL38706M027999	VAN	\$680.00
2002 HONDA	ACCORD	1HGC320A20A025106	4 DOOR	\$730.00
2016 HONDA	CIVIC	1H9FC256G6E058048	4 DOOR	\$1,240.00
2002 HONDA	ACCORD	1H9FC256G6E058048	4 DOOR	\$730.00
2003 HONDA	CRV	5SHRD7887J3139667	SPORTS UTILITY	\$1,710.00
2008 HONDA	CIVIC	2HGFA165X8H337185	4 DOOR	\$730.00
2004 HONDA	CIVIC	1HGE2M17X2L087362	2 DOOR	\$730.00
2002 HONDA	CIVIC	1HGE26824L004677	4 DOOR	\$830.00
2002 HONDA	CIVIC	1HGE2M2972L060362	2 DOOR	\$835.00
2012 HYUNDAI	ELANTRA	1KMLH4J6D21L245822	4 DOOR	\$830.00
2005 INFINITI	G35	JNKCV54E25M405577	2 DOOR	\$835.00
2007 JEEP	COMPASS	1J8FT57W67D215535	SPORTS UTILITY	\$1,405.00
2004 JEEP	GRAND CHER	1J8H56B44C293184	SPORTS UTILITY	\$805.00
2003 JEEP	GRAND CHER	1J4GV48S6G3C607138	SPORTS UTILITY	\$805.00
2000 JEEP	GRAND CHER	1J4GV48S6G3C607138	SPORTS UTILITY	\$730.00
2006 JEEP	LIBERTY	1J4G148K93W123580	4 DOOR	\$730.00
2006 JEEP	GRAND CHER	1J8HR48N06C268143	SPORTS UTILITY	\$805.00
2008 KIA	SPECTRA	KNAFE12168556095	4 DOOR	\$810.00
2004 LEXUS	ES 330	JTHBA30G345012591	4 DOOR	\$805.00
2012 LINCOLN	OTHER	2LMJH5J4TACBL52667	SPORTS UTILITY	\$1,805.00
2004 MAZDA	6	1YVFP84C45N53104	4 DOOR	\$730.00
2004 MAZDA	6	1YVFP84C45N53104	4 DOOR	\$730.00
1998 MAZDA	626	1YVGF22C2W5718493	4 DOOR	\$730.00
2005 MAZDA	6	1YVHP84C955M28753	4 DOOR	\$1,605.00
1999 MAZDA	PROTEGE	JM1BJ220X0193180	4 DOOR	\$1,605.00
2002 MERCURY	GRAND MARQ	2MEFM755W72642982	4 DOOR	\$890.00
2005 MERCURY	MONTGO	1MEFM421356G611469	4 DOOR	\$805.00
2001 MERCURY	GRAND MARQ	1MEFM421356G611469	4 DOOR	\$805.00
2003 MERCURY	MOUNTAINEER	4MZU2J8W6J3UJ08954	SPORTS UTILITY	\$835.00
2005 MITSUBISHI	GALLANT	4A3AB46FXE5060151	4 DOOR	\$780.00
2010 NISSAN	ROGUE	JN8AS5MVB8W137756	SPORTS UTILITY	\$680.00
2015 NISSAN	SENTRA	3N1AB7AP0FL661397	4 DOOR	\$1,330.00
2004 NISSAN	SENTRA	3N1CB51D44L876765	4 DOOR	\$705.00
2003 NISSAN	ALTIMA	1JN4BL1D29B324518	4 DOOR	\$805.00
2003 NISSAN	MAXIMA	JN1DA31A03T432388	4 DOOR	\$705.00
2010 NISSAN	ROGUE	JN8AS5MT44W500892	SPORTS UTILITY	\$830.00
2011 NISSAN	VERSA	3N1BC1AP4BL14330	4 DOOR	\$805.00
1997 NISSAN	PICK-UP	1N6SD1133VC314439	PICK UP	\$805.00
2010 NISSAN	ALTIMA	1N4AL24F5AN481112	4 DOOR	\$810.00
2009 NISSAN	ALTIMA	1N4AL24E39C172358	4 DOOR	\$730.00
1972 OLDSMOBILE	OTHER	3N6TJ2M412335	4 DOOR	\$780.00
2001 PONTIAC	GRAND PRIX	1G2WP52K5F1573595	4 DOOR	\$730.00
2003 PONTIAC	GRAND PRIX	1G2WK52J33F133557	4 DOOR	\$705.00
2006 PONTIAC	TORRENT	2CKDL63FG66151431	SPORTS UTILITY	\$710.00
2006 PONTIAC	GRAND PRIX	2G2WV522541366438	4 DOOR	\$760.00
2006 PONTIAC	GRAND PRIX	1G2ZM5514212138	4 DOOR	\$1,455.00
2001 PONTIAC	GRAND PRIX	1G2WP52K5F1573577	4 DOOR	\$755.00
2005 PONTIAC	G6	1G2H528154167536	4 DOOR	\$780.00
2006 PONTIAC	G6	1G2ZH558X64103668	4 DOOR	\$885.00
2004 PONTIAC	BONNEVILLE	1G2H5Y2K64U258310	4 DOOR	\$1,085.00
2008 PONTIAC	GRAND PRIX	2G2WV522541366438	4 DOOR	\$765.00
2003 PONTIAC	SATURN	1G8Z351B59J128340	4 DOOR	\$730.00
2013 SCION	TC	JTKJF5C77D3051050	SPORTS UTILITY	\$920.00
2014 SUBARU	IMPREZA	JF1GPAU61E2829624	SPORTS UTILITY	\$1,230.00
2006 SUZUKI	AERIO	J52RC62H5665351493	4 DOOR	\$705.00
1985 TOYOTA	PICK-UP	1J4RNM6D2F0166136	PICK UP	\$755.00
2007 TOYOTA	4NMR	4T4B646G7R476142	4 DOOR	\$785.00
1998 TOYOTA	4 RUNNER	3J7HN86F1W0160242	SPORTS UTILITY	\$680.00
1999 TOYOTA	OTHER	4T1AW72N4X4244139	2 DOOR	\$840.00
2005 TOYOTA	COROLLA	2T1BR32E45C481079	4 DOOR	\$1,630.00
2006 TOYOTA	COROLLA	JTDBR32E960062899	4 DOOR	\$1,775.00
2000 TOYOTA	CAMRY	4T1B622K2YU003240	4 DOOR	\$730.00
2017 TRAILER-GENERIC		16X5012117246485	TRAILER	\$1,535.00
1996 TRAILER-GENERIC		16X5002407011935	TRAILER	\$2,550.00
- TRAILER-GENERIC		2SWUW11A26G292665	TRAILER	\$1,655.00
2009 VOLVO	S60	VY1R5S2892733430	4 DOOR	\$810.00
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PUBLIC NOTICE

DES. #: 1702149
NOTICE OF AVAILABILITY
OF ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT (EA).
PUBLIC HEARING AND PUBLIC COMMENT PERIOD
Indiana Department of Transportation (INDOT) and the Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) have published the Environmental Assessment (EA) for the Interchange Project at U.S. 31 and 236th Street in Hamilton County, Indiana.
ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT (EA)
Federal and state funds are proposed to be used for construction of this project. An Environmental Assessment (EA) document has been prepared for the project. INDOT and FHWA published the EA for the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) clearance for the Interchange Project at U.S. 31 and 236th Street on Monday, March 8, 2021. It is available online at <https://www.in.gov/mdo/3831.htm>. Those who want to review a printed copy may do so on or after March 12, 2021, at:
Sheridan Public Library – 103 W 1st Street, Sheridan, IN 46069
Hamilton North Public Library – 209 W. Brinton Street, Cicero, IN 46034
Crawford, Murphy & Tilly's (CMT) office – 8790 Purdue Road, Indianapolis, IN 46268
INDOT Greenfield District – 32 S. Broadway Street, Greenfield, IN 46140
Masks must be worn at the repositories. Used equipment at ramp terminals will be single-lane roundabouts with single lane exits. The proposed project will provide free flow operations for U.S. 31 through the corridor and will maintain corridor consistency with most other interchanges on U.S. 31 in Hamilton County, providing driver familiarity. Additional project information is available at <https://www.in.gov/indot/3831.htm>.
The project has minimized other impacts to the extent practicable, including right of way, wetlands, streams, floodplains, Section 4(f) and cultural resources.
The EA documents project impacts – including public and agency involvement – and documents any mitigation commitments for the project.
PUBLIC HEARING AND VIRTUAL PUBLIC MEETING
In response to the current COVID-19 pandemic, INDOT will host two events: one virtual public meeting and one in-person public hearing. The formal presentations will be identical, and both provide an opportunity for the public to provide testimony about the EA.
The virtual public meeting will be hosted on Microsoft Teams on Thursday, March 25, 2021 from 5:30 to 7 p.m. with a formal presentation at 6 p.m. For the virtual meeting information, including a call-in number, residents should email US31Interchange@cntengr.com or call (317) 983-3242. Anyone who would like the presentation and/or handouts mailed to them may also email US31Interchange@cntengr.com or call (317) 983-3242.
An in-person public hearing will be hosted on Tuesday, March 30, 2021, from 4:30 to 7 p.m. at the Sheridan Community Center, 300 E. 6th Street, Sheridan, IN 46069. The presentation at 6 p.m. will be followed by a formal public comment session. There will be displays and representatives available to answer residents' questions throughout the hearing.
The public hearing will follow Indiana State Department of Health (ISDH) guidance for health and safety protocols. Project team members will wear face masks and/or coverings and attendees are encouraged to do so. Face masks, hand sanitizer and access to hand washing facilities will be provided. Social distancing guidelines will be adhered to, including monitoring the number of attendees participating to comply with local regulations.
Attendees may make a public comment at the hearing, provide verbal comments to a court reporter, or may return or mail a comment form available at the public hearings and online. In accordance with the Americans with Disability Act (ADA) and with advance notice, INDOT can provide accommodation for persons with disabilities requiring auxiliary aids or services such as sign language interpretation, large print materials and/or other related services. If you are an individual with a disability or represent an ADA stakeholder group and require accommodation related to participating at the public open house, you are encouraged to contact Erin Pipkin at erin@compassconsulting.com or (317) 986-7301.
PUBLIC COMMENTS
In addition to providing written or verbal comments at the public hearings, the public may submit comments on the EA through April 15, 2021 via:
Email to US31Interchange@cntengr.com
Mail to CMT's office at 8790 Purdue Road, Indianapolis, IN 46268
A telephone line with voice mailbox at (317) 983-3242
The public comment period for the EA began on March 8, 2021, and will end on April 15, 2021.
INDOT respectfully requests comments be submitted utilizing the options noted above by April 15, 2021.
Please direct any questions or comments concerning this project to Adam Burns, CMT, 8790 Purdue Road, Indianapolis, IN 46268. Comments on the proposed project will be accepted for two (2) weeks following the public hearing. This notice is published in compliance with Code of Federal Regulations, Title 23, Section 771 (23 CFR 771.11(h)(1) states: "Each State must have procedures approved by the FHWA to carry out a public involvement/public hearing program." 23 CFR 450.212(a)(7) states: "Public involvement procedures shall provide for periodic review of the effectiveness of the public involvement process to ensure that the process provides full and open access to all and revision of the process as necessary," approved by the Federal Highway Administration, U.S. Department of Transportation.
The Hypersonics and Apollos Research Facility Project guidance, in response to COVID-19, can be found at <https://www.in.gov/indot/4039.htm>.
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PUBLIC NOTICE

NOTIFICATION OF REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS
The Trustees of Purdue University will solicit and interview prospective CMC firms for the Hypersonics and Apollos Research Facility Project. The RFP process will consist of two stages. The first stage (RFP-AWA) will be a qualifications based review. From these responses, firms will be shortlisted to proceed to the next stage. The second stage (RFP-C) will consist of interviews, which will be conducted via WebEx. Purdue University intends to evaluate potential CMC's qualifications for the performance of all phases of the Hypersonics and Apollos Research Facility Project and reserves the right to award future phases based on the CMC's performance. The Trustees of Purdue University will receive RFP-A responses until 11:00 a.m. Eastern Daylight Time (EDT) on the 24th day of March, 2021, at: Capital Program Management, 2550 Northwestern Ave., Ste. 1100 West Lafayette, IN 47906. To obtain Request for Proposal documents, please email: Don Petersen, Project Executive dpetersen@purdue.edu. THE TRUSTEES OF PURDUE UNIVERSITY James K. Keefe Senior Director of Capital Program Management Date: 3/4/2021
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03/19/21

SUMMONS	SUMMONS
SUMMONS – SERVICE BY PUBLICATION STATE OF INDIANA IN THE MARION SUPERIOR COURT COUNTY OF MARION CAUSE NO. 49D04-2102-MF-004823 NLCSTRAN MORTGAGE LLC D/B/A MR. COOPER Plaintiff, vs. UNKNOWN HEIRS, DEVISEES OF JAMES HAYDEN Defendants.	NOTICE OF SUMMONS BY PUBLICATION STATE OF INDIANA COUNTY OF MARION SS: IN THE MARION SUPERIOR COURT CAUSE NO. 49C01-2012-MF-004566 LAURA A. BARTH, Plaintiff, vs. TERRANCE L. SAYLOR, and JOHN A. SAYLOR, Plaintiffs, vs. Persons Claiming Under or Through CARLOS STEVENS, DECEASED, Defendants.



LN takes regional title

Lawrence North's D.J. Hughes celebrates as he drops from the rim after a dunk in the Wildcats' 43-39 regional championship win over Plainfield on March 13. It was Lawrence North's first regional title since 2006. Hughes, a Butler commit, had almost half of the Wildcats' points with 21 on 10 made field goals. The next stop for Lawrence North is against Seymour at semistate. (Photos/David Dixon)



Maryland wins women's conference title

Maryland's Diamond Miller scored 29 points to lead the Terrapins to their second consecutive Big Ten Tournament title. Maryland beat Iowa, 104-84, and is a No. 2 seed in the upcoming NCAA Tournament. (Photo/David Dixon)



IU athletic administration needs an overhaul

By DANNY BRIDGES

Basketball at Indiana University has always been more important than academics to many of the so-called people in charge in Bloomington, but it's that way at most colleges where the program is viewed as a revenue center as opposed to being part of the athletic department.

While that's a column for another day, if you don't see it that way, then evidently you've been asleep at the wheel for the last 25 years or so.

If that statement in itself is enough to trigger more hate emails to yours truly, then stop and take a good look at the alleged philanthropic money that jettisoned Archie Miller from his job as men's basketball coach.

While his winning percentage was more than enough reason in today's cutthroat business of major college basketball for his dismissal, the real question is why he was ever hired to begin with.

If IU is such a hoops Shangri-La, how did a good man who was basically unproven by today's ridiculous coaching standards get the keys handed to him, told to ignore the ghost of Bob Knight swirling in the rafters and to get out there and win a championship for old IU?

It's really quite simple if you look at the history of it all. The athletic administration at IU hasn't had the type of pedigree it takes to recognize and secure big time coaching for over three decades now. Sound harsh?

Not really, especially when you look at the revolving

door the athletic director's office has been. There's been so many at the helm I had to stop and think about it to remember them all.

From Bill Orwig (who hired Bob Knight) and Ralph Floyd (who babysat him), there once was some competency in the department. Clarence Donniger (who now looks like the best of the bunch in retrospect) served faithfully and with dignity, but we must not forget the ill-fated terms of Michael McNeely, Terry Clapacs, Rick Greenspan and Fred Glass. All of these individuals were adequate administrators (less McNeely), but none of them could select a coach to save themselves. Glass did pluck Kevin Wilson away from Oklahoma to coach football but then wilted when the same gruff guy he interviewed allegedly went off the rails. Wilson landed at Ohio State as its offensive coordinator under Urban Meyer, so just maybe Glass was wrong on that one too. Let the guy coach like he has historically or don't hire him. Sounds logical to me, but apparently not to the Bloomington brass.

Greenspan backpedaled on Kelvin Sampson then used a search firm to lasso Tom Crean, who was fired by university President Michael McRobbie after big donors got in his ear. Sure, Glass wanted to give Crean one more year, but when it came down to his job or Crean's, he toed the company line and executed McRobbie's decision as if it were his own.

Enter the current sheriff in town, Scott Dolson. Af-

ter serving as Glass' deputy, he has now been on the job long enough to overpay head football coach Tom Allen and clean up the mess that Glass created with the Archie Miller hiring. If I sound critical of it all, you're right. However, it's not the coaches they've overpaid and then fired who are at fault.

It's the athletic directors who hired them. With a profound lack of core competency in the building, their beloved basketball program has been relegated to simply another second-tier program trying to climb out of mediocrity and find some sense of relevance.

Now they're banking on an inexperienced Dolson to recruit the next big name in college hoops. He's a good person by all accounts and like those before him has been instrumental in fundraising and developing new facilities. Can he lure the talented basketball coach his boosters covet? No, and he too will be designated to follow his predecessors out the door.

One thing is for certain: IU will overpay its new basketball coach, and I suggest he rents a home instead of buying one. They'll run another bad hire right out of town with a handsome buyout, and maybe then they'll realize it's time to invest in a great athletic director instead.

Danny Bridges, who thinks the ADs he's skewered in this piece are all good men but lousy at recruiting coaches, can be reached at 317-370-8447 or at bridgeshd@aol.com.

Boxing great Marvelous Marvin Hagler dies at 66

By TIM DAHLBERG

Marvelous Marvin Hagler stopped Thomas Hearns in a fight that lasted less than eight minutes yet was so epic that it still lives in boxing lore. Two years later he was so disgusted after losing a decision to Sugar Ray Leonard — stolen, he claimed, by the judges — that he never fought again.

One of the great middleweights in boxing history, Hagler died March 13 at the age of 66. His wife, Kay, announced his death on the Facebook page for Hagler's fans.

"I am sorry to make a very sad announcement," she wrote. "Today unfortunately my beloved husband Marvelous Marvin passed away unexpectedly at his home here in New Hampshire. Our family requests that you respect our privacy during this difficult time."

Hagler fought on boxing's biggest stages against its biggest names, as he, Leonard, Hearns and Roberto Duran dominated the middleweight classes during a golden time for boxing in the 1980s. Quiet with a brooding public persona, Hagler fought 67 times over 14 years as a pro out of Brockton, Massachusetts, finishing 62-3-2 with 52 knockouts.

"If they cut my bald head open, they will find one big boxing glove," Hagler once said. "That's all I am. I live it."

Hagler was unmistakable in the ring, fighting out of a southpaw stance with his bald head glistening in the lights. He was relentless and he was vicious, stopping opponent after opponent during an eight year run that began with a disputed draw against Vito Antuofermo in 1979 that he later avenged.

He fought with a proverbial chip on his shoulder, convinced that boxing fans and promoters alike didn't give him his proper due. He was so upset that he wasn't introduced before a 1982 fight by his nickname of Marvelous that he went to court to legally change his name.

"He was certainly one of the greatest middleweights ever but one of the greatest people that I've ever been around and promoted," promoter Bob Arum said. "He was a real man, loyal and just fantastic person."

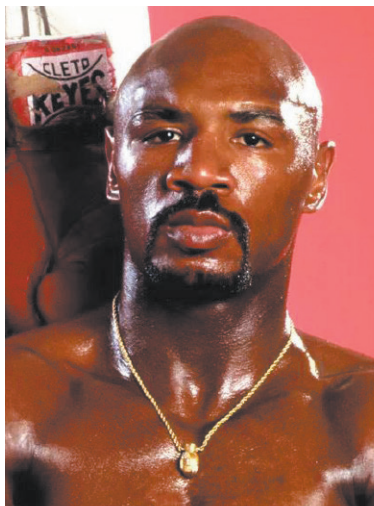
Any doubts Hagler wasn't indeed Marvelous were erased on a spring night in 1985. He and Hearns met in one of the era's big middleweight clashes outdoors at Caesars Palace in Las Vegas and when the opening bell rang they traded punches for three minutes in an opening round many consider the best in boxing history.

Hagler would go on to stop Hearns in the third round, crumpling him to the canvas with a barrage of punches even as blood poured out of a large gash on his forehead that nearly caused the referee to stop the fight earlier in the round.

"When they stopped the fight to look at the cut, I realized they might be playing games and I wasn't going to let them take the title away," Hagler said later. "It was a scary feeling. I thought, 'Why are they stopping this fight?' I didn't realize I was bleeding. It wasn't in my eyes. Then I knew I had to destroy this guy."

Arum said Hagler simply willed himself to victory over Hearns, whose big right hand was feared in the division but couldn't keep Hagler at bay.

"That was an unbelievable fight," Arum said. "Probably the greatest fight ever."



Hearns said March 13 he was thinking about Hagler and their historic fight. Hagler wore a baseball cap with the word "War" while promoting it while on a 23-city tour with Hearns that Arum said made the fighters despise each other before they even entered the ring.

"I can't take anything away from him," Hearns told The Associated Press. "His awkwardness messed me up, but I can't take anything away from him. He fought his heart out and we put on a great show for all time."

Hagler would fight only two more times, stopping John Mugabi a year later and then meeting Leonard, who was coming off a three-year layoff from a detached retina, in his final fight in 1987. Hagler was favored going into the fight and many thought he would destroy Leonard — but Leonard had other plans.

While Hagler pursued him around the ring, Leonard fought backing up, flicking out his left jab and throwing combinations that didn't hurt Hagler but won him points on the ringside scorecards. Still, when the bell rang at the end of the 12th round, many thought Hagler had pulled out the fight — only to lose a controversial split decision.

Hagler, who was paid \$19 million, left the ring in disgust and never fought again. He moved to Italy to act, and never really looked back.

"I feel fortunate to get out of the ring with my faculties and my health," he said a year later.

Hagler took the long route to greatness, fighting mostly in the Boston area before finally getting his chance at the 160-pound title in 1979 against Antuofermo as a co-main event with Leonard fighting Wilfredo Benitez on the same card. Hagler bloodied Antuofermo and seemed to win the fight, but when the scorecards were tallied he was denied the belt with a draw.

Hagler would travel to London the next year to stop Alan Minter to win the title, and he held it for the next seven years before his disputed loss to Leonard.

Arum remembered being at a black tie event honoring top fighters a year later that was attended by both Hagler and Leonard, among others. He said Leonard came up to him and pointed to Hagler across the room and suggested he go talk to him about a rematch that would have earned both fighters unbelievable purses.

"I went over to Marvin and said Ray is talking about a rematch," Arum said. "He glared at me as only Marvin could and said, 'Tell Ray to get a life.'"

Hagler was born in Newark, New Jersey, and moved with his family to Brockton in the late 1960s. He was discovered as an amateur by the Petronelli brothers, Goody and Pat, who ran a gym in Brockton.

He was inducted into the International Boxing Hall of Fame in 1993.