



The Bulge, a 16-acre lot, is one of four sites the Department of Metropolitan Development is readying for development in Martindale-Brightwood. (Photo/Tyler Fenwick)

Housing, parks and connectivity: DMD releases vision plan for Monon and 25th

By TYLER FENWICK
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Daryl Coleman stands on his front porch near the Monon Trail and blinks like he's flipping through the pages of a history book.

Houses used to line these streets, he says of his section of Martindale-Brightwood near the corner of McPherson Avenue and 28th Street. He points to empty lots that used to have homes and then gazes to his left across the Bulge, a 16-acre lot that's empty now but in the past served as a railyard, roundhouse and site for homes.

Things have started to change, 64-year-old Coleman says, referencing

some of the newer houses that have popped up near him. He's lived in Martindale-Brightwood his whole life and stays in the home his mother left him.

The next chunk of investment for Martindale-Brightwood will come in a wave. The Department of Metropolitan Development (DMD) recently released a vision plan for four sites, including the Bulge, that shows a possible future of housing, parks and retail space.

The other three locations are the former Burnett-Binford site (1.5 acres), Nickel Plate Roundhouse site (3.4 acres) and Colonial Bakery site (0.9 acres), all of which are close to the Monon Trail between 24th and 29th streets.

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Longtime Recorder designer Jeffery Sellers retires

By TYLER FENWICK
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Jeffery Sellers, the Recorder's production manager, will retire from the newspaper after 32 years.

Sellers joined the Recorder in 1989 as an entry-level graphic designer.

"I often say I love the Recorder," Sellers said, "but what I really mean is I love the people at the Recorder."

The Recorder, the people, love him back.

Former Recorder publisher and owner Eunice Trotter, who hired Sellers, remembered him as a "pleasant, hardworking young man" who cared about the paper's quality.

Sellers' friend and longtime colleague, John Hurst, was hired around the same time.

"That was my partner in crime," said Hurst, who retired in 2019.

Production workers are usually the last to leave on Wednesdays, the day the paper goes to the printer, and Hurst remembers being in the office as late as 2 or 3 in the morning to get the paper out.

"We would get to clownin' and acting crazy to shake off the sleepiness," he said with a laugh.

Recorder President and CEO Robert Shegog said he's thankful for Sellers' leadership.

"Jeffery is incredibly talented, passionate, and loyal," he said. "Having someone with such qualities serve the newspaper and the community for such an extensive period of time is extremely rare. Jeff is an unsung hero who has contributed greatly to the success and legacy of this 126-year-old institution."

Sellers met his wife of 25 years, Tysha, at the Recorder. She described him as a caring and fun-loving husband and father of three who enjoys cooking, listening to podcasts and watching movies.

"He's been an extremely hard worker, so I'm looking forward to him being able to relax and enjoy his hobbies (and find new ones) while we watch our daughters and son develop their paths,"



Jeffery Sellers

she said.

Sellers said he has "a billion" books to read.

Former Recorder editor and president Shannon Williams worked with Sellers for about 18 years and remembers walking into the production area to see Sellers and Hurst blaring music.

"Seeing him caught up in the moment singing and rapping along to the music always brought a smile to my face," she said.

Sellers also earned a reputation as a source of knowledge on everything from Recorder history to what to do if the printer won't work.

His production colleague, Jeana Ouattara, compared it to the traditional telling of African American history through stories.

"I feel that about Jeff," she said. "He has worked with so many people. He has witnessed so many milestones and through all of these experiences has an abundance of history in him."

Former Recorder editor Ebony Chappel said Sellers knew the most hilarious, albeit sometimes inappropriate, Recorder history.

"His irreverent sense of humor was much needed on some of our harder workdays," she said.

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Getty Images

Gun control conversations divide Indianapolis

By BREANNA COOPER
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As Indianapolis residents mourned the loss of eight people in the FedEx shooting April 16, it was difficult to escape calls for gun control legislation. During a vigil at Monument Circle on April 18, Maninder Singh Walia, a board member of the Sikh Association, called for immediate action to be taken on gun control.

"Who else has to lose a grandmother, a sister, a family member?" he asked the crowd. Rep. Andre Carson also called for gun control legislation in the wake of the FedEx shooting.

"Like all Hoosiers, I am heartbroken by the recent shooting at the FedEx facility, and every mass shooting in our community," Carson said in a statement to the Recorder. "This is part of a nationwide epidemic of gun violence that I've been working to stop for many years now. ... At the state level, I strongly urge our leaders to enact more gun violence prevention measures. The shooting at the FedEx facility further proves that red flag laws, like the one we have in Indiana, aren't enough by themselves to prevent

See GUN, A7 ►

Indianapolis Public Library focuses on equity

By BREANNA COOPER
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Indianapolis Public Library plans to give every Indianapolis Public Schools (IPS) students library cards and build two new branches as part of its updated equity plan to increase accessibility for local residents.

Approved in February, the plan emphasizes the need for more robust and diverse collections and programming. During a press conference at the Martindale-Brightwood Branch on April 27, Jackie Nytes, CEO of Indianapolis Public Library, said this plan maximizes the library's potential to serve Indianapolis residents.

"We wanted to really take action," Nytes said. "[During the summer 2020 protests] we were saying to each

other, 'how many other times in our country's history have we had a moment where we talk about change, and it never comes?' We wanted this to be an opportunity to do something, not just create a book display."

Last year, Indianapolis Public Library worked with IPS officials to ensure students had internet access for home learning.

"This partnership is so valuable," Nathalie Henderson, IPS chief schools officer, said. "It was instrumental to home-learning last spring."

Currently, six IPS schools have full access to the library system, meaning they can check books and other media from any branch. Henderson said IPS shares library events and programs with families, as well.

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Mayor Joe Hogsett speaks at a press conference unveiling Indianapolis Public Library's updated strategic plan April 27. (Photo/Breanna Cooper)



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Installation view of *Orchids*, 2019 in the IMA Galleries.

‘The Son of Mr. Suleman’ by Eric Jerome Dickey

By TERRI SCHLICHENMEYER

The sins of the father shall be visited upon the son.

That’s what’s said, that a son pay for his father’s misdeeds, but maybe the old man didn’t intend to leave a negative legacy. Maybe he tried his best, but something went wrong. Maybe, as in the new novel “The Son of Mr. Suleman” by Eric Jerome Dickey, Pops meant well.

Adjunct professor Pi Suleman didn’t want to be at his employer’s event. He had better things to do, better places to be than a room at UAN, but his boss, the white woman who hired him, the wife of a powerful judge, demanded that he be there or else.

Like a fool, he’d taken gifts from her, things given in what he understood was an effort to make his job easier. She was helpful to him but it came with a price: whenever she wanted to sexually assault him, she did, and when she threatened to say that he was to blame, there was little a Black Man from Memphis could do.

Meeting Gemma Buckingham was the only good thing to happen at that UAN event.

She was one of the most beautiful women Pi had ever seen, this child of London and Africa, and he wanted to know her better. Even when she mentioned that she was a fan of his father, a man who impregnated Pi’s mother and then disappeared, a famous man, a writer Pi had never met but hated, Pi still wanted to know Gemma Buckingham.

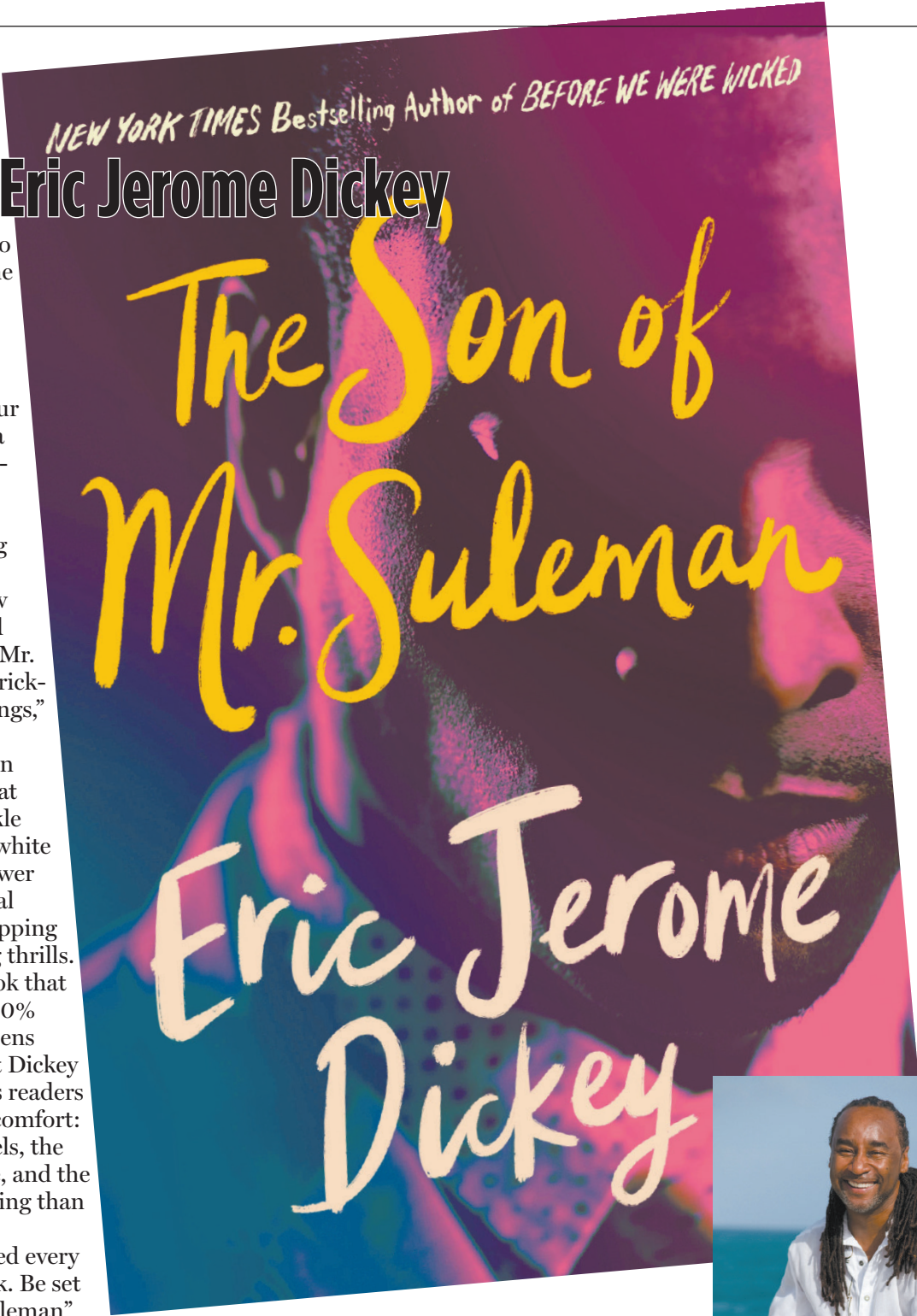
She was coy with him, teasing him with information and curves. She was apparently well-off, and she didn’t care that Pi wasn’t yet tenured, didn’t have the salary he needed, drove an old car. Yes, she had secrets — but then, so did

he and the white one who was blowing up his phone with demands and traps and tricks was the secret who was going to pay ...

There is an old rule for writers that says, “kill your darlings,” meaning that a good writer should eliminate unneeded passages and overused phrases. If you’ve ever read anything by the late author Eric Jerome Dickey, you know that he generally ignored that advice; “The Son of Mr. Suleman,” filled as this brick-sized novel is with “darlings,” is no exception.

And yet, it’s hard to even slightly dislike a story that makes its characters tackle DWB, racism, classism, white supremacy, ill-placed power and a dozen other societal issues between bodice-ripping erotica and page-ripping thrills. It’s hard to let go of a book that makes you absolutely, 100% need to know what happens next. The surprise is that Dickey does all this as he pushes readers to accept a degree of discomfort: unlike with his past novels, the sex isn’t always sexy here, and the thrills are more threatening than thrilling.

Be prepared to be turned every which way with this book. Be set to let “The Son of Mr. Suleman” eat up your weekend. Just be ready, because missing it would be a sin.



“The Son of Mr. Suleman” by the late Eric Jerome Dickey is available now.

“The Son of Mr. Suleman”
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Report recommends Indy gets more aggressive to ensure equitable development, prevent displacement

By TYLER FENWICK
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A report released by the Department of Metropolitan Development and a national nonprofit recommends the city enact policies such as making the new rent assistance program permanent and supporting the development of community land trusts to prevent displacement. The report — An Anti-Displacement & Inclusive Growth Policy Agenda for Indianapolis — was developed as part of a partnership with Grounded Solutions Network, a national nonprofit member organization. The partnership includes three phases: a needs assessment, policy agenda and policy implementation. This report is the result of the first and second phases.

What are the policy recommendations?

The report comes with 11 policy recommendations to deal with four issues: evictions, affordable housing, housing conditions and displacement.

Evictions

Indianapolis consistently has one of the highest eviction rates in the country. Even before the pandemic, the report notes, almost half of renters in Indianapolis paid 30% or more of their income in rent. The recommendations:

1. Make the city's new Rental Assistance Program permanent, rather than just a pandemic crutch.
2. Develop an eviction prevention plan for Indianapolis landlords to define steps a landlord can take to make eviction a last resort.
3. Establish a "Landlord Academy" to train landlords in best practices.
4. Provide support for tenant organizing.
5. Establish a specialized housing court that would bring all housing-related cases to a single court, which the report says would make the process fairer and more efficient.

Affordable housing

The report says the affordable housing that exists in Indianapolis is under threat in two ways: Either the mandate for affordability will end and rents can



A public hearing sign posted in a lot next to the Madam Walker Legacy Center on Indiana Avenue. (Photo/Tyler Fenwick)

then rise, or an area could go through disinvestment. This is one of many areas where the Indiana Legislature represents an obstacle. Lawmakers in 2017 preemptively banned inclusionary zoning, which requires developers to include affordable units in their building plans. The recommendation:

1. Establish a Housing Prevention Network to advocate and provide assistance for preserving subsidized and unsubsidized affordable rental housing.

Housing conditions

It's difficult to quantify the scope of housing condition issues, the report says, because there isn't enough data, but one measure is plumbing. According to census data, 935 owner-occupied units and 2,575 renter-occupied units didn't have complete plumbing or kitchen facilities in 2017. The recommendations:

1. Conduct a citywide housing condition assessment to get a better idea of what the issues are.
2. Seek a change in state law to allow the city to start a performance-based landlord licensing program, which would build on the current landlord registry by combining it with an inspection system.

Displacement

A 2020 study from the National Community Reinvestment Coalition found Indianapolis was No. 12 on a list of the most intensely gentrifying cities from 2013 to 2017. The study identified 20 census tracts in Marion County that had "gentrified" in that time. The recommendations:

1. Require displacement impact assessments for "significant" public and private projects that receive a certain amount of public subsidies.
2. Require leasing terms of affordabil-

ity for a portion of units in any housing project that receives subsidies in areas where displacement pressures are growing.

3. Support the establishment of a community land trust, which can keep housing permanently affordable by buying land and maintaining control of it while selling or leasing homes.

What else is in the report?

The 27-page report starts with a history lesson. "The racial divide in Indianapolis is not hard to see; a highway runs through it," the report reads, noting neighborhoods around and to the north of interstates 65 and 70 are mostly African American and Hispanic, while the neighborhoods to the south are predominantly white. The divide is a consequence of redlining, restrictive covenants and other racist practices that have an impact on more than where people live. Using census data, the report shows median household income for Black and African American families is about \$22,000 less than that of white families. There is a much larger difference when it comes to wealth. Median household net worth in Marion County for Black households in 2017: \$9,567. That number was \$171,700 for white families. "This spatial separation matters because place matters — the neighborhoods that we live in shape our experiences, our opportunities and our collective future," the report reads.

What do people think?

Mark Bode, a spokesperson for the mayor's office, said the city agrees with the policy recommendations.

Asked specifically about making the rent assistance fund permanent, he said the city is assessing the viability of a "more permanent" framework, though it would probably differ when it comes to aspects such as funding sources and program partners. Indianapolis City-County Council President Vop Osili said he supports a permanent program because of the multiple disruptions families experience in employment, education and other areas when they lose housing. "The idea of a permanent rental assistance program offers the possibility of providing short-term support that creates long-term stabilization for families and communities," he said in a statement. Jordan Ryan, an independent architectural history scholar, was most excited about seeing community land trusts mentioned in a city-sponsored document. "Just mentioning community land trusts is a huge deal," Ryan said. "This report represents this really significant moment." Community land trusts, or CLTs, are meant to allow people who have been priced out of the traditional housing market to buy into affordable homeownership, which is one of the biggest tools in America for building wealth. Much of the current "affordable" housing stock tends to be for people who make between 80% and 120% of the area median income, Ryan said, which leaves out people in lower income brackets. Amy Nelson, executive director of the Fair Housing Center of Central Indiana, said she's pleased to see these types of policy recommendations even though the Indiana Legislature has made it difficult for local governments to take control of their own housing issues. One of the legislature's major moves in the 2021 session was to override Gov. Eric Holcomb's veto of a bill that prohibits local governments from governing landlord-tenant relations. "Cities have to keep trying," she said. "They have to keep pushing."

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



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Education

‘Deceived’:

Indianapolis charter school pitch left out lawsuits, touted questionable college degrees

By **STEPHANIE WANG**
Chalkbeat Indiana

To launch a “transformational” middle school in an overlooked east side neighborhood, Indianapolis charter advocates turned to a man students call Coach T.

For two decades, Tariq Al-Nasir ran his Stemnasium enrichment programs with a mission of helping Black and brown students realize their “super-powers” in science, technology, engineering and math. With a resume boasting advanced degrees from MIT and Stanford, Al-Nasir put forward a vision of education in which hands-on lessons in coding, flying drones and tinkering with robots could change children’s lives.

Calling him “brilliant” at working with students, the influential charter incubator The Mind Trust gave Al-Nasir a two-year, \$800,000 fellowship last summer to develop Stemnasium Science Math Engineering Middle School.

But a Chalkbeat investigation found that the rosy charter pitch painted over troubling details — lawsuits, financial troubles, questionable academic credentials — that escaped notice by city charter officials and The Mind Trust.

A bankruptcy filed six months before Al-Nasir won the prestigious fellowship showed that he had accumulated hundreds of thousands of dollars in debts while running the programs that inspired his charter proposal — including a nearly \$500,000 judgment in a lawsuit that alleged Al-Nasir wrote bad checks to cover outstanding Stemnasium bills.

His resume lists a bachelor’s degree from New York University, a master’s from Massachusetts Institute of Technology and a doctorate from Stanford University — each earned at times when the employment section of his resume placed him at jobs in other cities. All three of those institutions told Chalkbeat they had no records of Al-Nasir’s attendance.

After questions from Chalkbeat, Al-Nasir disclosed his financial challenges to city officials tasked with evaluating charter school applications for approval. Al-Nasir withdrew his proposal to start a new school.

The Mind Trust had known about the financial mismanagement and still supported Al-Nasir’s charter school bid, saying that he deserved a second chance — until Al-Nasir, when asked about his academic credentials, provided information that “raised even more questions about the validity of the degrees,” The Mind Trust CEO Brandon Brown said.

The Mind Trust ended Al-Nasir’s fellowship April 19. “We as an organization felt like we had been deceived, and at the same time we were heartbroken that there was a clear integrity breach,” Brown said.

Brown pledged to improve the school incubator’s vetting processes, saying, “If we knew what we know now, we would have never made this investment.”

Attorney Harley Means said Al-Nasir had no comment in response to emailed questions about his college degrees and charter application withdrawal. Means previously said that questions over the financial issues led to Al-Nasir withdrawing the application. Al-Nasir also declined to comment on his financial problems, citing pending litigation associated with the bankruptcy case.

The case raises questions of transparency and accountability in the chartering process in Indianapolis, where a robust charter school scene has reshaped education over the past two decades.

Without the inquiries from Chalkbeat, it’s unclear whether Al-Nasir’s money troubles or unsubstantiated educational claims would have come to light. The Indianapolis mayor’s office, which oversees more than 40 charter schools in the city, is often named among the strongest charter authorizers in the nation. But its director acknowledged that officials don’t vet new applicants’ financial histories or even run a simple free search on a public database of court records that would reveal lawsuits.

It’s also unclear how the obvious discrepancies on Al-Nasir’s resume went undetected by so many for so long.



In 2016, Tariq Al-Nasir, left, pitched a winning idea for a new charter school at a Mind Trust competition. (Photo/Scott Elliott/Chalkbeat)

One expert questioned why a charter authorizer wouldn’t take basic steps to catch critical issues when evaluating whether to approve a school for public funding and responsibility for children’s education.

The recent scandal at Indiana Virtual School and Indiana Virtual Pathways Academy, where a state investigation found leaders misspent more than \$85 million in public funds by allegedly inflating enrollment and funneling money to a web of related companies, shows the risks of lax charter oversight, said Brendan Maxcy, an associate dean at the Indiana University School of Education at IUPUI.

Charter school authorizers “need to have their feet held to the fire to make sure they hold applicants to a high standard,” Maxcy said. “The stakes — for families, for students, for the public — are just too high.”

If you ask the people Al-Nasir allegedly shortchanged, some think he genuinely wants to help students succeed. When contacted by Chalkbeat, six people to whom Al-Nasir has owed debts agreed on this: For better or for worse, he has a magnetic personality and big dreams.

Greg Gage was drawn in by Al-Nasir’s compelling backstory of how his troubled teenage years led him to want to connect students from low-income communities with STEM opportunities starting at an early age.

“He wanted to bring his experiences back to other kids,” said Gage, CEO and co-founder of Backyard Brains, a company that sold science experiment kits to Al-Nasir. “We wanted to help him out with that.”

Al-Nasir made a splash with Stemnasium when he won a \$50,000 prize from The Mind Trust in a 2016 contest to design a new school concept. At the time, Stemnasium was an after-school program in Philadelphia. With the vote of confidence from The Mind Trust, Al-Nasir moved to Indiana.

He left behind a hint of financial instability in Philadelphia: In 2014, a former Stemnasium chief operating officer won a nearly \$10,000 claim against Al-Nasir, court records show, for not paying her salary. Al-Nasir did not pay the claim, according to court records.

Court records and bankruptcy documents show that Al-Nasir’s debts soon began to stack up in Indianapolis. Al-Nasir faced two lawsuits over unpaid bills, according to Marion County court records, and after he didn’t formally respond to the complaints, judges issued default judgments against him.

In one case filed in 2018, an instructor said she never received her final paycheck. A court judgment showed the \$1,000 in unpaid wages ballooned into a \$7,000 judgment.

In another case filed in 2019, a tech company said Al-Nasir failed to settle \$83,000 in invoices for cash advances and supplies such as computers and software. On top of the amount owed, a judge ordered Al-Nasir to pay an additional penalty of nearly \$500,000 because of allegations that he wrote four bad checks to cover his outstand-

ing bills, court records show.

Reached by phone briefly, Al-Nasir said his financial problems stemmed from losing a contract, then referred other questions to his attorney. They did not respond to additional questions.

Filing for bankruptcy last year discharged most of Al-Nasir’s debts, though Tech Innovation still sought to have its judgments paid. Its case intervening in the bankruptcy is ongoing, and Al-Nasir has disputed the allegations of check deception.

Al-Nasir’s bankruptcy documents describe how nearly \$13,000 from Stemnasium’s bank account was seized to pay for the Tech Innovation lawsuit and how he lost \$150,000 worth of laptops, robots, and drones when his

storage unit was liquidated due to unpaid rent.

The bankruptcy wiped clean debts including \$10,000 owed to Kewa Forde, a human resources consultant who said she hired instructors to work for Stemnasium. Al-Nasir kept promising to pay for her work, she said — until he stopped answering her calls.

“He’s playing hide-and-seek with people, and it’s going to come to an end sooner or later,” Forde said.

The bankruptcy also purged the more than \$30,000 bill Al-Nasir owed to Backyard Brains. Gage, the company’s leader, said Al-Nasir had ordered more than 200 neuroscience kits. The Backyard Brains team had flown to

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DMD

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“We need a grocery store,” Coleman said, “some kind of variety store.” That’s one of the most common wishes in Martindale-Brightwood, most of which is considered a food desert.

Elizabeth Gore has lived in her home by Frederick Douglass Park for more than 50 years and hopes developers “think outside the box.” A full-scale grocery store may not be necessary, she said, but the community needs healthy food options.

“We want to think that we can get those kinds of services in the community,” said Gore, who is with the Martindale-Brightwood Environmental Justice Collaborative, one of the organizations on the stakeholder committee for the DMD’s plan.

The department went through a months-long engagement process with the community, which included surveys, town halls and mailers.

When it comes to housing, 80% of people said single-family housing would look most appropriate in the area, followed by townhomes (58%) and small apartments (48%). Large apartments came in last at 20%.

More than 50% of people identified three areas most important for future

development: having places to eat, parks and greenspace, and making it easy to walk and bike.

“You can make a plan for just about anything, and then it very rarely goes exactly to that plan,” said Jeff Hasser, the department’s administrator for real estate and economic development. “That said, this gives us a good idea of where we want to go.”

The vision plan calls for improved connectivity within the neighborhood. All four sites are close to Frederick Douglass Park, which stretches from 30th Street to 25th Street, but there isn’t a way to cross the Monon Trail in that stretch.

The plan includes a range of housing from single-family homes to four-unit apartment buildings.

A portion of the Bulge, by far the largest of the sites, will likely become park space, the plan says, along with higher-density housing and space for offices and retail. Directly across from the Bulge is the Nickel Plate Roundhouse site, which could also include higher-density housing.

The vision plan calls for lower-density housing at the Colonial Bakery and Burnett-Binford sites.

The department’s vision plan rep-

resents some of the ideal uses for the spaces based on feedback from the community and an analysis of what the market might support.

It’s that last part, where the market comes into play, that has some paying extra close attention to what happens.

Darryl Lockett, executive director of the Kennedy King Memorial Initiative (KKMI), said he wants to make sure there are ways to measure the quality of life for individual people, especially longtime residents, as opposed to whole ZIP codes.

KKMI was also part of the stakeholder committee.

Change is unavoidable. Someone will have to move into the new homes and apartments. The key, Lockett said, is valuing the people who have lived there for generations.

“It’s really gonna take a commitment to including everyone’s voices and seeing every member of the community as an equally valued contributor,” he said.

Amina Pierson, executive director of the Martindale Brightwood Community Development Corporation, another committee member, said she would like to see the community somehow take advantage of a por-

tion of new revenue to create a fund for seniors to subsidize the rise in property taxes.

The city is limited in what it can do when it comes to affordable housing. The Indiana Legislature passed a law in 2017 that banned inclusionary zoning, which requires developers to include affordable units in their building plans.

Hasser said the department’s goal is to make sure at least some current residents aren’t priced out of any new housing development and mentioned mortgage refinancing programs to help people ward off the effects development can have on the cost of living.

The next step for the department is to find development partners to buy the lots, all of which were converted from brownfields, and finalize plans.

The Colonial Bakery site will likely be the first to move forward, Hasser said. Construction could start this year but isn’t likely.

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

DECEIVED

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Indianapolis on their own dime, Gage added, to demonstrate the products.

“We were super excited because it was, at that point, our largest sale ever,” Gage said. “It stung having to write that off and take the loss for that.”

Those financial problems, however, didn’t stand in the way of Al-Nasir winning the charter school fellowship with The Mind Trust last summer.

The fellowship was something of a golden ticket. Founded by former Indianapolis Mayor Bart Peterson and his charter school director David Harris, The Mind Trust has been at the center of Indianapolis’ education scene for 15 years. The influential nonprofit has backed the creation of more than three dozen city charter schools and played an instrumental role in remaking Indianapolis Public Schools through charter partnerships.

Out of 16 new charter schools approved by the mayor’s charter school office in the past five years, all but one had ties to The Mind Trust.

Brown, The Mind Trust’s top executive, knew about Al-Nasir’s financial issues but believed the incubator could help Al-Nasir develop budgeting skills. He said he trusted Al-Nasir after having known him for several years and felt the financial concerns were outweighed by Stemnasium’s positive impact on families like Denisha Cole’s.

Cole, an Indianapolis parent, signed up her 7-year-old daughter last fall for Stemnasium’s free virtual Saturday classes. The home-schooled second grader built a drink dispenser out of a cardboard box and a jump rope pulley to ferry a doll down from the closet.

“She walks around saying she’s an engineer,” Cole said. “My daughter has always been creative, building and putting things together, but the word ‘engineering’ wasn’t played in our household a lot. That’s exactly what my daughter is doing.”

Cole leads a parent group that supports Stemnasium. She also took Al-Nasir’s place as president of his new company Stemnasium Learning Labs; the Stemnasium organizations associated with the lawsuits and debts have been disbanded.

It was also important to The Mind Trust’s commitment to racial equity, Brown said, to invest in Black entrepreneurs, who he feels are held to higher standards but given fewer supports and opportunities.

“We’re not going to hold it against leaders that are mission-aligned, have strong skill sets, [and] share our values, just because they’ve made mistakes or they’ve had challenges in their past,” Brown said.

In his charter application, Al-Nasir sketched out a potential \$1 million in state funding in the first-year budget of his proposed middle school, with room to more than triple in size to eventually serve up to 400 students. The Mind Trust had also pledged \$300,000 for startup costs.

Despite the public funding at stake, officials at the Indianapolis mayor’s charter school office said they don’t vet whether applicants have a history of financial mismanagement.

In its six-month application cycle, the charter authorizer instead focuses largely on a prospective school leader’s plans, intentions and goals.

Patrick McAlister, director of the city charter school office, said “it’s hard to say” whether the authorizer would have found out about Al-Nasir’s lawsuits and debts had he not disclosed them in the face of questions from Chalkbeat.

“We ask a lot of questions that could help us get to that information,” McAlister said. “We do a lot of independent research, we follow up with partner organizations, and get a general sense of what’s going on with any of our applicants.”

He added: “We’re always open to improvement, and we’ll look at all the different ways that we can investigate those who are applying.”

Al-Nasir withdrew before finishing the application process, which would have included an interview with charter officials and two public hearings before a panel voted on whether to approve the new school.

While publishing applications for the press and public to scrutinize and holding open meetings contribute to the review process, experts say authorizers should also use as many tools as they can to evaluate a prospective charter school.

Authorizers “shouldn’t and can’t rely upon an interested third party to do that,” said Maxcy, the associate dean at IUPUI. “It seems like the role that [Chalkbeat] played is the role that should be built into the authorizer’s responsibility.”

The Mind Trust still planned to continue supporting Al-Nasir after he withdrew his charter application.

Brown said that the withdrawal was due to concerns that a middle school with only two grades wouldn’t be sustainable. Only enrolling seventh and eighth graders would limit the amount of per-student funding a school could draw from the state, and a new charter school would have to support its own set of administrative costs on top of educational expenses.

The Mind Trust continues to seek a middle school option for Arlington Woods, but officials will likely look to expand an existing school to minimize the additional administrative overhead.

But The Mind Trust cut ties with Al-Nasir after Chalkbeat raised questions over the educational claims on Al-Nasir’s resume.

Al-Nasir listed earning his Stanford doctorate, for example, from 2015 to 2018 — years when his resume says his work was based in Philadelphia and Indianapolis, not California.

When The Mind Trust pressed Al-Nasir for proof of his college degrees, officials could not verify the information he provided, Brown said, and Al-Nasir stopped responding to the organization’s questions.

“We felt like that crossed the line, relative to the integrity of the relationship, and could no longer support an association with Tariq,” Brown said.

Brown couldn’t say why the overlapping dates on Al-Nasir’s resume didn’t raise red flags, though he noted that academic credentials tend to carry less weight once an educator has decades of experience.

Over less than a year of the fellowship, The Mind Trust paid Stemnasium about \$130,000 for Al-Nasir’s salary and expenses, in addition to spending some \$88,000 to support him through coaching and other services.

Brown pledged to look for ways to vet the biographical information that prospective fellows provide, “so that we’re not just completely taking the word of the candidate.”

For Brown, the breach of trust potentially puts Al-Nasir’s financial challenges in a different light. Integrity, he said, is the most important trait of a leader: “It’s a black-and-white, non-negotiable piece of what we do.”

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



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INDIANAPOLIS RECORDER
NEWSPAPER

GUN

► Continued from A1

senseless gun violence.”

The state’s red flag law — which allows police to seize a person’s firearms if they are deemed a danger to themselves or others — was called into question by Marion County Prosecutor Ryan Mears following the shooting. Mears said failures in the law allowed shooter Brandon Hole to carry out the attack. Authorities investigated Hole, 19, in 2020 after his mother reported she worried he would attempt “suicide by cop.” As Hole was questioned, the Indianapolis Metropolitan Police Department (IMPD) reported a shotgun was taken from Hole’s house.

However, a provision in the law allows prosecutors to seek hearings to bar an individual from obtaining future weapons. Mears opted not to seek such a hearing in 2020, saying he was satisfied after Hole’s family didn’t attempt to get the seized shotgun back although Mears previously criticized the provision, calling it a “loophole” that allows a person to buy firearms. In a press conference April 19, Mears said the 14-day window allotted to prosecutors to make their case was not enough time to “have access to meaningful medical history” that could help his office prove Hole was a danger to himself and others.

On April 22, Indianapolis Fraternal Order of Police President Rick Snyder criticized Mears for not seeking a hearing and for his criticism of the law.

“The police took all steps available to them to ensure lawful intervention measures were completed for the safety of the individual at large and the community at large,” Snyder said. “Subsequently, we have learned that the Marion County prosecutor failed to do his part by filing the necessary paperwork with the courts that would have triggered the hearing required under the statute. Instead, the Marion County prosecutor highlighted that his perceived shortcomings of the red flag law as the basis for his decision to not initiate court proceedings. ... As a result of this missed opportunity, we now know the suspect was able to legally purchase firearms months later ... that we believe were used in the attack.”

Mears did not respond to requests for comment.

Because there is no database currently available to track red flag law interventions, it is unclear how effective it is at preventing future acts of violence.

One thing being left out of the gun control debate, Indianapolis resident Quincy Murphy said, is poverty. “Middle-class Black people don’t kill each other,” Murphy said. “In terms of violence within those groups economically, Black people rank towards the bottom compared to people who are in poverty, there’s a direct link to it. Chicago always comes up, and people bring up gun violence, but we don’t talk about poverty and lack of access and the history of violence towards Black people.”

Murphy, 30, is a registered gun owner. As a Black man, he said he’s in one of two groups — African Americans and women — who need firearms.

“When people are talking about gun control, they forget how dangerous it is to be Black in America,” Murphy said. “We’re the ones who need guns, and it’s kind of weird to bring up gun control with Black people, because, really, we’re not the ones committing mass shootings.”

Murphy doesn’t believe there are any gun control measures that will effectively reduce violence if poverty isn’t addressed. Instead, he said redistributing funding toward mental health care could prevent future mass shootings.

“We could have the strictest gun control laws, but if these people still don’t have access to mental health resources, the same stuff is still going to happen,” Murphy said. “The things that made them do it still exist.”

A study published in the American Journal of Psychiatry found that only 3-5% of violent crimes are committed by someone with a mental illness. It is unclear at this time whether Hole suffered from a mental disturbance.

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

LIBRARY

► Continued from A1

The plan calls for the creation of two new branches in the districts of West Perry in Perry Township and Fort Benjamin Harrison in Lawrence. The new branches will provide more technology access to residents and cultivate collections that represent the neighborhoods the libraries serve.

In West Perry, which has a large Burmese population, Nytes said there will be children’s books sharing stories of Burmese people and culture. Thirty percent of the collections’ budget will go toward African American materials, and the library will increase annual spending on Latinx and LGBTQ materials as well. The library also will offer at least 600 technology and computer training classes to help bridge the technological divide.

Throughout the year, the library will have racial equity training for its staff and will acquire the Digital Encyclopedia of Indianapolis by the end of 2021, an online resource that will benefit both students and researchers.

“It will take multiple organizations working together to build an equitable and inclusive city,” Mayor Joe Hogsett said at the press conference. “The Indianapolis Library serves as a key anchor institution for this work. Through new partnerships and initiatives, digital tools, programming, and new locations, this plan positions. The library as an instrumental community asset in providing access to several important resources for Indy residents.”

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

Child Advocates backs out of contract talks for court services

By TYLER FENWICK
tylerf@indyrecorder.com

Child Advocates rejected an offer to become a subcontractor with Kids’ Voice of Indiana, which will soon take over as the city’s provider for court-appointed special advocates for children in Marion County courts.

That means Child Advocates won’t represent children as a court-appointed special advocate, or CASA, for the first time since 1982. Kids’ Voice officially becomes the city’s CASA provider May 1.

Paul Jefferson, Child Advocates’ attorney, said the organization’s main issue with the offer from Kids’ Voice is that it would have left Child Advocates as the county’s only certified CASA provider while limiting its control as a subcontractor.

“We just didn’t feel like we could both have the certification and give up control,” he said.

Kids’ Voice President and CEO Lindsay Scott said the organization is in the process of getting its certification from the state and that certification status doesn’t affect it taking over the county’s CASA provider contract and providing those services.

The state’s Office of GAL/CASA awards funding for local services, but the funds go to the courts, not



Getty Images

the specific nonprofit that provides the services. (GAL stands for guardian ad litem.)

Jefferson said Child Advocates also took issue with how quickly Kids’ Voice wanted to transition services, similar to what the organization said when the city announced it wouldn’t renew the contract in early April.

The board voted unanimously to reject the offer, Jefferson said, and Child Advocates will now try to figure out what its role is moving forward. This should be considered the end of contract negotiations, he said.

Scott said Kids’ Voice presented what it considered to be good for the transition period and is now working on bringing staff and volunteers from Child Advocates to limit any disruptions in service.

“Kids’ Voice was ready to go on May 1. That was always the plan,” Scott said of not having Child Advocates as a contractor. “It doesn’t really change anything.”

Child Advocates had a contract with the city to provide CASA services since 1982. The city decided to not renew the contract after an external review found examples of the organization not complying with the agreement.

Child Advocates disputed those findings.

The Office of Public Health and Safety, which has managed the CASA contract since 2019, said the contract also became too expensive.

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



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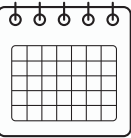
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EDITORIAL

There’s no justification for Ma’Khia’s death

By OSEYE BOYD



We have failed Ma’Khia Bryant. I’m not just talking about the foster care system, or the city of Columbus, or the state of Ohio. I’m talking about us as Black people. We failed her when we justified her killing. We failed her when we didn’t defend the senseless death of a 16-year-old teenager. We should be ashamed.

I find it ironic that not long after Black people were applauding the Derek Chauvin verdict as justice for George Floyd, some of these same people were saying the only right way to handle the situation was to kill her.

Really? Kill her? Breaking up the fight wasn’t an option? Countless teachers and school employees can tell you it is possible to break up a fight between three girls without killing one of them. They can tell you they’ve even broken up fights where a knife or knives were involved, and everyone lived. So, I’m just not buying this idea that the only way to save one Black girl was to kill another.

What we didn’t know at the time (and most people didn’t wait for this information to come out before they began vilifying Ma’Khia) but now know is the other two “girls” weren’t actually girls. They are 20 and 22. Not one time in the justification of Ma’Khia’s death did I hear one person question why two “girls” were fighting her. How is that a fair fight, and why wouldn’t she grab a weapon to protect herself? Ma’Khia was in her home, so again, why didn’t she have the right to protect herself?

Instead of being a victim or at the very least a participant in a bad decision, she’s painted as some knife-wielding maniac dead set on killing the other two "girls." Again, there was two of them against one girl. They are considered adults since they are over 18, and they were in a physical altercation with a 16-year-old. These young women came to Ma’Khia’s home; she didn’t go to theirs looking for a fight. She still can’t get an ounce of sympathy from some of us.

As hard as it for some to believe, Ma’Khia wasn’t an adult. Her size has been used to make her seem older than she is. That’s not unusual for Black girls to be seen as older, especially Black girls in bigger bodies. Anyone who has ever dealt with a teenager knows they’re not adults — no matter how much they like to think they are — and they don’t think like adults. Research has shown our brains continue to mature and develop into the mid- to late-20s. According to the American Academy of Child and Adolescent Pediatrics, teens are more likely to be impulsive, misread or misinterpret social cues and emotions, get into accidents, get into fights and do dangerous or risky things. They’re less likely to think before acting, consider the consequences of their actions or change the dangerous or risky behavior. So, knowing what we know about teenagers, it’s easy to see why Ma’Khia would grab a knife in this situation, and I’m getting really tired of adults acting like they’ve never heard of a teenager with a knife before. I’m also getting really tired of adults acting like the only way we can defend this child’s life was if she lived a perfect one. It’s as if all of us made all the right decisions throughout our entire lives. Why aren’t we holding the 20-year-old and 22-year-old to the same standard as Ma’Khia? Why do they deserve to live and she doesn’t? In addition,

I’d like to know why the adult male in this situation didn’t break up the fight. It looks like he kicks one of the women.

Why aren’t we as Black people defending her the same way conservatives defend Kyle Rittenhouse? This boy actually walked past police with an AR-15 rifle and killed people! Conservatives screamed “self-defense” from the rooftops. The then 17-year-old traveled from his hometown of Antioch, Illinois, to Kenosha, Wisconsin, to “protect” businesses from protesters. Rittenhouse isn’t dead. Conservatives have raised thousands of dollars for his legal fees. Why don’t Black people have that same energy for Ma’Khia? Instead of justifying her death, we should be standing up for her just as fiercely as conservatives and white people stood up for Rittenhouse and we stood up for George Floyd and the countless other Black men killed by police. We ought to be ashamed of ourselves. I am.

Everyone has jumped to the conclusion that if the cop didn’t kill Ma’Khia she would’ve killed the other “girl.” We don’t know this. We do know Ma’Khia is dead. She can’t defend herself. She can’t tell us her side of the story.

Anyone who has ever been in a fight knows it’s chaotic. Did Ma’Khia even hear the police officer? If she did, did she even have time to react? And again, why is she fighting two people at once? Yet, people like Rep. Val Demings, a former police chief in Orlando, said the officer was justified because he did what he was trained to do. That is the problem! If you know the history of policing Black people in this country, you recognize what’s wrong with Demings’ statement.

Ma’Khia didn’t deserve to die.

OPINIONS

Biden’s political balancing act

By LARRY SMITH



President Joe Biden’s high-wire act would give the Flying Walendas pause. Though his approval rating is high, he has potential trouble spots — and not just with a pre-dictably intransigent Republican Party. Some members of Biden’s base are wary. For example, African Americans expect substantial policy initiatives that specifically benefit us. Failing to meet those expectations have implications for him, as well as for Vice President Kamala Harris.

Dr. Umar Johnson, who is known as a “Pan-Afrikanist” scholar, has accused Biden of failing to act aggressively on behalf of African Americans. As evidence he cites the executive order regarding transgender Americans that Biden signed on his first day in office. Johnson also references Biden’s executive order denouncing discrimination and violence against Americans who hail from Asia or the Pacific Islands (AAPI). Johnson and others want definitive action regarding African Americans, who Biden himself acknowledges as the group that is most responsible for

his being elected.

The problem with Dr. Johnson’s example regarding transgender Americans is that the order simply reinforces the Supreme Court’s decision in *Bostock v. Clayton County*. (The Court held that Title VII of the 1964 Civil Rights Act protects gay and transgender employees from discrimination.) Similarly, the other executive order merely extends to the AAPI community the same legal protections for which African Americans have successfully fought. Importantly, while these are bold actions, their ultimate efficacy is not clear. (For the record, Dr. Johnson says that he doesn’t oppose either order.)

While I disagree with Johnson’s reasoning, he has a point. Bill Clinton was often referred to as “the first Black president,” despite the fact that some of his actions affirmatively harmed African Americans. The most prominent example is the 1994 crime law (of which then-Sen. Biden was the primary author). Further, in the wake of stubborn racial inequality and ongoing police brutality, many African Americans feel that the actual first Black president, Barack Obama, did not “do more” for us. The point is that Biden, fairly or otherwise, will be judged in the context of his predecessors’ records (especially those of

Democrats). And, if the overwhelming majority of African Americans conclude that he isn’t sufficiently in our corner, Vice President Harris will have a more difficult time becoming his successor than she otherwise would.

By the time this column is published, Democratic Rep. Jamaal Bowman will have offered a formal response to President Biden’s first address to a joint session of Congress. Bowman is decidedly on Biden’s left flank. As a centrist Democrat, I normally would be uncomfortable with this highly unusual situation. But this is an urgent political moment.

Frankly, Democrats have been too timid in recent decades. Republicans have no compunction about pushing legislation, even when it is unpopular. They are much more willing to lose on “principle” than to play things safely. That is how, for example, the Tea Party rose to power. That is how conspiracy-spewing, QAnon-embracing extremists have taken hold. Further, Donald Trump proved that a message that is laser-focused on appealing to people who are disaffected, in combination with rank-and-file members of one’s political party, drives up turn out.

To be clear, I am not comparing Bowman to the likes of Marjorie Taylor

Green or Donald Trump; there is no Democratic analog to QAnon. Rather, my point is that, when it comes to advocating for their beliefs, there is no shame in Republicans’ game. And they have demonstrated an unbelievable ability to stick together. Democrats could learn something from them. Democrats start with a numerical advantage nationally. They need to exploit it. In our favor.

Candidate Joe Biden’s pitch was largely based on his genuine desire to unite the nation. Since his election, he has attempted to reach across the aisle. Yet, Biden isn’t as willing to try to convert those on the far right who are not going to side with him under any circumstance. This is an important departure from Bill Clinton and Barack Obama. (Who can forget Clinton going after Sister Soujah or Obama comparing himself to Ronald Reagan?)

Generally speaking, Biden seems to be willing to push forward with an ambitious agenda — political consequences be damned. (He likely is unfettered due to the knowledge that he’s only going to be a one-term president.) That is precisely what African Americans have been waiting for regarding our interests.

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

Close the loopholes, pass gun-safety bills

By ANDRE CARSON



Hoosiers, and Americans across the country, have been senselessly killed. The twin epidemics of gun violence and police brutality have taken many of our loved ones, particularly in the Black community. This massive loss of life is tragic, but also preventable. As Indiana and our entire nation grapple with these ongoing crises, I want to let you know what I’m doing

to help save lives.

Indianapolis is still grieving from the deadly shooting at the local FedEx facility that took eight innocent lives and injured others. My deepest sympathies are with the loved ones of the victims and the injured; my office stands ready to help however we can. There’s a lot we are still learning about this terrible act of violence, but what I do know is that the suspect should never have had access to a deadly weapon. I also know that this is not the first time Hoosiers have felt the sadness and pain due to gun violence. Unfortunately,

it happens frequently in our community, and in towns and cities across America. Things must change.

That’s why I’m working hard in Congress to pass common-sense gun safety reforms. This year, I co-sponsored and voted for the Bipartisan Background Checks Act, which requires a background check on all private gun sales.

I also voted for the Enhanced Background Checks Act, which extends the FBI’s window to conduct a background check on a gun sale from three business days to a minimum of 10 business days. Currently, if the background check is not completed in three business days, the sale can go through. This “Charleston loophole,” as some call it, is how a man was able to purchase the gun he used to kill nine people at the Emanuel African Methodist Episcopal Church in Charleston, South Carolina. We must save lives by closing this loophole, and other lax policies that allow dangerous people to obtain firearms.

I urge the Senate to swiftly pass these gun-safety bills so President Joe Biden can sign them into law as soon as possible. We must also reinstate the assault weapons ban. There is no reason for military-style weapons or ammunition to be in the hands of civilians.

On the state level, it is unfortunate to me that a bill was considered to remove gun permit requirements in Indiana. We wisely require a permit to operate a vehicle and should maintain such requirements to handle deadly weapons. Fortunately, this effort failed, for now, but we must continue opposing these measures. No single policy will end gun violence, but there’s a lot we can do to save lives. We must act boldly. We owe it to everyone we have lost to this epidemic.

Black Hoosiers are also constantly burdened and traumatized by the epidemic of police brutality. The recent conviction of Derek Chauvin, the officer who murdered George Floyd, grabbed the attention of those who have ignored this problem in the past. However, for Black people, we have never been able to ignore this constant threat. That’s why we suffer through having “the talk” with our sons and daugh-

ters, to try and keep them alive if they have encounters with police. We also know that the rightful conviction of Derek Chauvin wasn’t justice — as many have said. It was accountability. Justice would have been served had George Floyd never been killed.

We must continue fighting for justice by ensuring police officers can no longer use their power and authority inappropriately to harm Black people with impunity. Carrying a badge should not mean immunity to accountability.

To help achieve this, I co-sponsored and voted for the George Floyd Justice in Policing Act, which passed the House this March. Our landmark bill will hold police more accountable, ban chokeholds and no-knock warrants, require officer-worn body cameras, change the culture of law enforcement, improve training, empower communities to reimagine public safety in an equitable way, and more.

The George Floyd Justice in Policing Act is a strong bill that will help police officers build a better and more trusting relationship with the communities they serve. As a former law enforcement officer and someone who has been subject to police misconduct, I strongly support this bill and urge the Senate to vote on it as soon as possible.

Our communities should not live in constant fear of violence — either from dangerous criminals wielding weapons of war, or from police officers who harm the very people they swore an oath to serve and protect. We will never forget the friends, family and neighbors we’ve lost. Let’s keep striving to enact life-saving changes in their honor.

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

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Eight IMPD officers discussed police-community relations with moderator Marc Lamont Hill. The discussion, however, stirred controversy for not including voices from community members, especially those who are critical of IMPD. (Screenshot from Facebook)

Critics questioned lack of community members on IMPD panel discussion

By STAFF

Community members shared criticism of a moderated discussion between author Marc Lamont Hill and several Indianapolis Metropolitan Police Department (IMPD) officers on social media.

Former IMPD officer and Steward Speakers Series founder Matt Steward hoped “Bridging Conversations” on April 24 would help the community relate to the police department. However, with eight IMPD officers on the panel and no representation from Indianapolis residents, criticism came quickly.

“Obviously, the best way to build trust with the community when you can’t understand why they don’t blindly respect you is to continue completely cutting them out of anywhere they can express their very serious concerns,” one Twitter user wrote.

Local activist Mmoja Ajabu took issue with the intent of the panel. “In our community the police are still on slave patrol, so anything goes,” Ajabu wrote on Facebook, where the panel was streamed live. “Their history is our present-day nightmare. ... All this sounds good onstage, but this humanity is not the reality of their behavior on the streets. Let’s keep it 100!”

The panel, which came just four days after former Minneapolis police officer Derek Chauvin was found guilty of the murder of George Floyd, started with a question about the of-

ficers’ reaction to the verdict. “[Floyd’s murder] felt like a punch in the gut, I felt horrified like everybody else,” said Madeline Green, community resources officer for the northwest district. “When the verdict came through, I felt like, OK, it’s been decided, and he will get his punishment. Now it’s time to do our work and engage with the community.”

Both Green and Kimberly Evans, community relations officer for IMPD’s downtown district, said IMPD has been taking steps, including internal conversations and policy changes, to prevent a similar incident from happening in Indianapolis.

In an interview with the Recorder before the panel, Steward said the public knows very little about the efforts being made within police departments around the country to minimize instances of police brutality.

NiSean Jones, activist and founder of Black Out For Black Lives, however, said the community doesn’t know about changes because of a lack of transparency from police departments and the IMPD-only panel didn’t help to answer many questions.

“We haven’t seen any changes from the summer when they were tear-gassing protesters,” Jones said. “To show us that they’re really changing, they can actually start holding not only themselves but their counterparts accountable. When they start being more vocal about the things they do that are wrong, like we would as civilians, that’s the first step.”



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Tech Company Qualifi is Streamlining Hiring Practices

by Kara Kavensky

Diving into tech entrepreneurship takes grit and guts, with a heavy dose of optimism. The team at Qualifi certainly fits this description. Co-founders Darrian and Devyn Mikell, both Avon High School grads, had an ideal blend of experience when they created Qualifi, a tool for high volume recruiters. Their first hire was friend and coder DeSean Prentice, who taught himself how to code in his downtime during college. DeSean serves as Qualifi’s Vice President of Engineering.

Qualifi increases efficiency for first phone interviews via their on-demand experience, taking less than a day for these initial interviews instead of the industry standard of a week. Qualifi enables these fast initial phone interviews for the job market, eliminating this delay.

DeSean, originally from South Bend, and Devyn, were both athletes at Indiana State University. DeSean played football and ran track, where he met Devyn, who was also on the track & field team. As a side hustle during college, DeSean and Devyn co-founded a food truck business, named Twisted Fry. During the winter down time from the food truck, DeSean taught himself JavaScript, a coding language. After graduating from undergrad and after earning his MBA, DeSean’s first job helped him hone his coding skills as he learned voice technology.

After college, Darrian was the first employee at Viral Launch, a platform that helps launch products on Amazon marketplace. He met Viral Launch founder Casey Gauss at Indiana Wesleyan University. During his time at Viral Launch, Darrian focused on finance, operations, HR, and recruiting. During a wave of growth, he was amazed at how time consuming and inefficient the recruitment process was for him. The phone interviews were repetitive and this first step in the interview protocols was supposed to be quick, however, it up took a lot time. This inspired Darrian to wanting to automate it.

“If I could pre-record questions, then candidates wouldn’t have to sit around and wait,” says Darrian. “And I could free up more time in my schedule.”

Darrian’s brother, Devyn, was simultaneously experiencing the same recruiting fatigue. After graduating from ISU, Devyn was working as a community manager with an in-home health care provider and one of his responsibilities



was recruiting new hires. His company experienced a high rate of turnover due to the long hours and shift opportunities. Devyn felt like he was constantly hiring, spending far too much of his time on the phone.

The founders independently, and then together, identified a massive level of inefficiencies within the jobs funnel and together, created a solution. Armed with the idea for Qualifi, they circled in DeSean to build their platform. All three men possess an entrepreneurial spirit and each has experience with startup businesses.

Qualifi is based locally in Indianapolis. Not long after launch, Qualifi was accepted into the gBETA accelerator for tech startups and they are now part of the NEXT Studios portfolio of companies. Qualifi is also part of Techstars Anywhere ’21, which connects them with mentors all over the world and offers twelve weeks of mentor-driven value for their growing company. The Techstars network is expansive, helping their portfolio members focus on growth, their customer base, and building out stronger marketing, sales, and partnerships. The twelve week intensive culminates in Demo Day.

With an offering of increased hiring efficiencies, Qualifi is positioned for growth and they recently hired Jessica Bushong, a graduate of Eleven Fifty Academy, to lead their UX (user experience). Jessica was a teacher during her first career iteration and realigned her professional trajectory towards tech. Her UX roll with Qualifi includes the auditing of their app and she has streamlined their online process.

“Jessica has been a big value add to our team,” says Darrian, CEO and Co-founder of Qualifi. “We appreciate her intuitive



and methodical approach to her work with Qualifi.”

Qualifi has large enterprise clients in addition to smaller employers. One of Qualifi’s customers hires more than one hundred new employees each month. Before Qualifi, this company had one assistant scheduler who worked full time on scheduling the time-consuming initial job interviews and after deploying Qualifi,



she was able to cut that portion of her job down to one hour a week and focus on her other priorities.

“The data we collect from our clients clearly identifies that we are on to something huge for companies that can really make a difference,” says Devyn, Co-founder of Qualifi. “We feel this [Qualifi] is the right product at the right time.”



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Black patients less likely to receive diagnostic imaging at emergency departments

By FARAH YOUSRY

Black patients are less likely to receive diagnostic medical imaging during a hospital visit, studies show — and that might lead to a range of health disparities, experts say.

X-rays, MRI exams and other imaging are among the first lines of defense in a hospital. If patients are not offered these services in a timely manner, some conditions can go undiagnosed and may result in complications and worse outcomes.

“We know, for example, that minorities have increased mortality from cancers of a variety of types. They often present at later stages of cancer diagnosis,” said Dr. Andrew Ross, assistant professor of radiology at the University of Wisconsin School of Medicine and Public Health.

And, he said, some of the disparity could be due to the way imaging is used for Black and Latinx patients.

Studies have reviewed millions of emergency department visits and the findings always seem to point to a glaring disparity.

Ross co-authored one of these studies, which was published in the journal BMC Health Services Research. It looked at a large national survey of emergency department visits by adults over an 11-year period.

The results showed that patients in non-white groups were less likely to receive imaging during an emergency department visit. Black patients were 21% less likely to receive imaging — the widest disparity among all groups.

The disparities shrank when certain factors were taken into consideration, Ross said, adding, “but they didn’t disappear entirely.” So that suggests race itself was a factor.

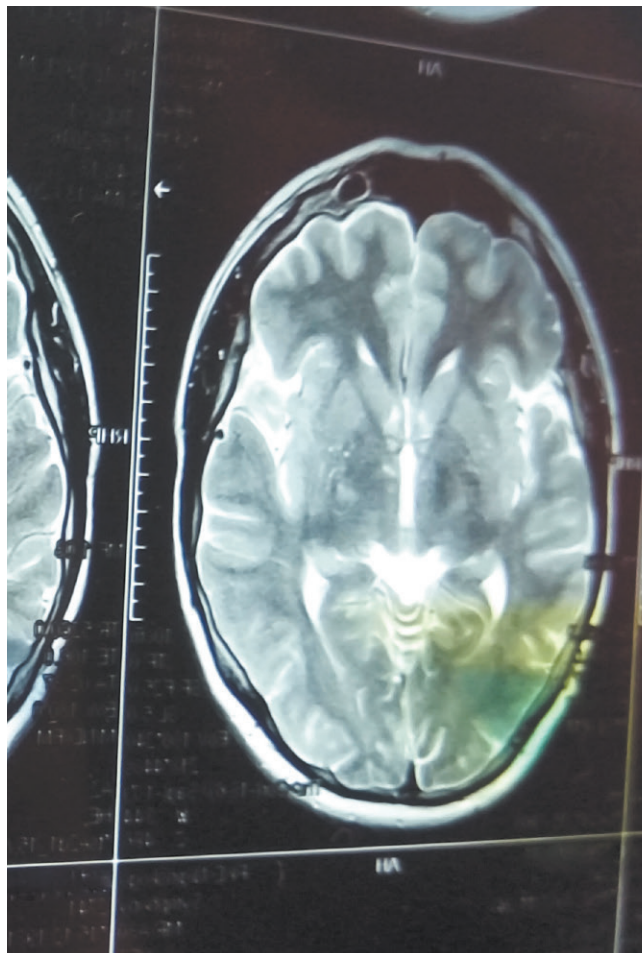
Other studies highlight this disparity in pediatric patients, too.

Dr. Jennifer Marin co-authored a study that looked at imaging in 3.7 million visits at pediatric emergency departments across the country.

The study adjusted for clinical and demographic factors among other things for children’s visits.

“And once we did that, we could then take a step back and say, ‘Well, the imaging rates across the races and ethnicities really should be about the same,’” said Marin, pediatric emergency medicine doctor and radiology medical director at the Children’s Hospital of Pittsburgh.

But she says the study showed that Black children are 18% less likely to receive clinical imaging than white children. Latinx children are 13% less likely



Getty Images

than white children to receive the services, according to the study, published in the journal JAMA Network.

The studies by Ross and Marin were not designed to answer why this disparity exists. Both said it’s a complex problem that needs further exploration.

The places Black patients seek medical care could be a reason for the disparity, Ross said.

“We know that, for example, patients and minority groups are likely to get a lot of their care at lower resource hospitals, which may be understaffed and may not have access to certain types of advanced imaging technology,” he said.

Cultural factors, trust in the medical system, communication and language barriers all play some role too, he said. But he cautions that “more imaging is not necessarily a good thing” and is not the goal.

Marin agrees. “It’s possible that there’s over-utilization and that white patients are getting imaging that’s not providing a net benefit, and we would consider that to be low value care.”

She adds, “On the other hand, it could be that

non-white patients are not getting the imaging that they should be getting. And that would then indicate worse care. And it may be that both things are at play.”

This underscores the need for updated guidelines to help frontline medical providers make better decisions on imaging needs — something Ross is working on as part of the American College of Radiology appropriate use committee.

High quality health insurance and access to high quality primary care can help shrink these disparities, Ross said.

The ability of a patient and their family to advocate for medical care also can be at play, and self-advocacy can sometimes curb unconscious biases that providers might have.

Research shows that when patients obtain health information about their condition, they can better advocate for themselves. A study published in the journal Medical Care shows that when Hispanic women self-advocate, they are more likely to receive better care, and get prescriptions and tests done, than white women. The study also shows that Black women are the least likely group to self-advocate.

Health experts encourage racial minority patients to file a formal complaint if they suspect they are being discriminated against. Health care providers usually have a patient relations department that can address these issues, and many have diversity officers who focus on improving the experience of underrepresented patients.

Experts also advise patients to seek a different provider if they are feeling uncomfortable or vulnerable.

Implicit bias in health care can affect the type of care Black Americans receive at the hospital. Marin says it is a hard pill to swallow for many physicians, but it is a real problem — especially in a high-stress emergency department setting.

“As emergency department physicians, these biases are actually exacerbated in times of stress,” she said. “You know, there’s structural factors that are just part of the health care system that certainly influence what we do.”

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.

Advertorial

Babies and Children Need Vaccines to Prevent Illness

National Infant Immunization Week (NIIW), April 24–May 1, 2021, focuses on the positive impact vaccinations have on the lives of infants and children. This year, a priority is to ensure that families stay on track for routine checkups and vaccinations, especially during COVID-19.

The Marion County Public Health Department joins the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention and the American Academy of Pediatrics in recommending children continue attending well-child appointments and receive recommended vaccinations during the pandemic.

As in-person learning and play become more common, following the recommended childhood immunization schedule vaccination is even more urgent to help provide immunity against 14 potentially life-threatening childhood illnesses, such as measles and whooping cough, before the age of 2.

“COVID-19 has caused many disruptions in families’ lives – and in some cases, it has meant that children have missed or delayed their wellness checkups and vaccinations,” said Virginia A. Caine, M.D., director and chief medical officer of the Marion County Public Health Department. “Doctors can safely see children during the pandemic so that our young ones receive the necessary vaccines critical to protecting themselves and others.”

NIIW is also a good time for women who are pregnant to find a doctor for their baby and schedule a visit to discuss any questions about vaccines.

Low-cost immunizations are available for children through the Marion County Public Health Department at its district health offices and the ACTION Health Center. To learn more, including locations and cost, please call the health department’s Immunization Program at 317-221-2122 or visit MarionHealth.org/immunize.

COVID-19 vaccine is now avail-

able for all Hoosiers age 16 and older. To make an appointment anywhere in Indiana, please visit OurShot.IN.gov or call 211.

Pause Lifted for Johnson & Johnson COVID-19 Vaccine

Following a thorough safety review, the U.S. Food and Drug Administration and the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention have determined that the recommended pause for using the Janssen (Johnson & Johnson) COVID-19 vaccine in the U.S. should be lifted and use of the vaccine should resume.

The pause was recommended after reports of six cases of a rare and severe type of blood clot in individuals following administration of the Janssen COVID-19 Vaccine. During this time, medical and scientific teams examined available data to assess the risk of this medical condition. These teams also conducted extensive outreach to providers and clinicians to ensure they were made aware of the potential for these adverse events.

The FDA has determined that the available data show that the vaccine’s known and potential benefits outweigh its known and potential risks in individuals 18 years of age and older.

“Safety is our top priority. This pause was an example of our extensive safety monitoring working as they were designed to work—identifying even these small number of cases,” said Janet Woodcock, M.D., Acting FDA Commissioner. “We are confident that this vaccine continues to meet our standards for safety, effectiveness and quality. We recommend people with questions about which vaccine is right for them have those discussions with their health care provider.”

CDC Director Dr. Rochelle P. Walensky said, “I continue to be encouraged by the growing body of real-world evidence that the authorized COVID-19 vaccines are safe and effective, and they protect people from disease, hospitalization, and death.”



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Faith leaders across US join in decrying voting restrictions

By DAVID CRARY, JONATHAN J. COOPER and EMILY LESHNER
Associated Press

In Georgia, faith leaders are asking corporate executives to condemn laws restricting voting access — or face a boycott. In Arizona and Texas, clergy have assembled outside the state capitols to decry what they view as voter-suppression measures targeting Black and Hispanic people.

Similar initiatives have been undertaken in Florida, Michigan, Missouri, Ohio and elsewhere as many faith leaders perceive a threat to voting rights that warrants their intervention in a volatile political issue.

“It is very much in a part of our tradition, as Christians, to be engaged in the public square,” said the Rev. Dr. Eric Ledermann, pastor at University Presbyterian Church in Tempe, Arizona, after the event outside the Statehouse.

“When people say, ‘Let’s not get political in the church’ — Jesus was very political,” Ledermann said. “He was engaged in how his culture, his community was being shaped, and who was being left out of the decision-making process.”

Georgia already has enacted legislation with various restrictive voting provisions. More than 350 voting bills are now under consideration in dozens of other states, according to the Brennan Center for Justice, a public policy think tank. Among the proposals: tightening requirements for voter IDs, reducing the number of ballot drop boxes and curtailing early voting.

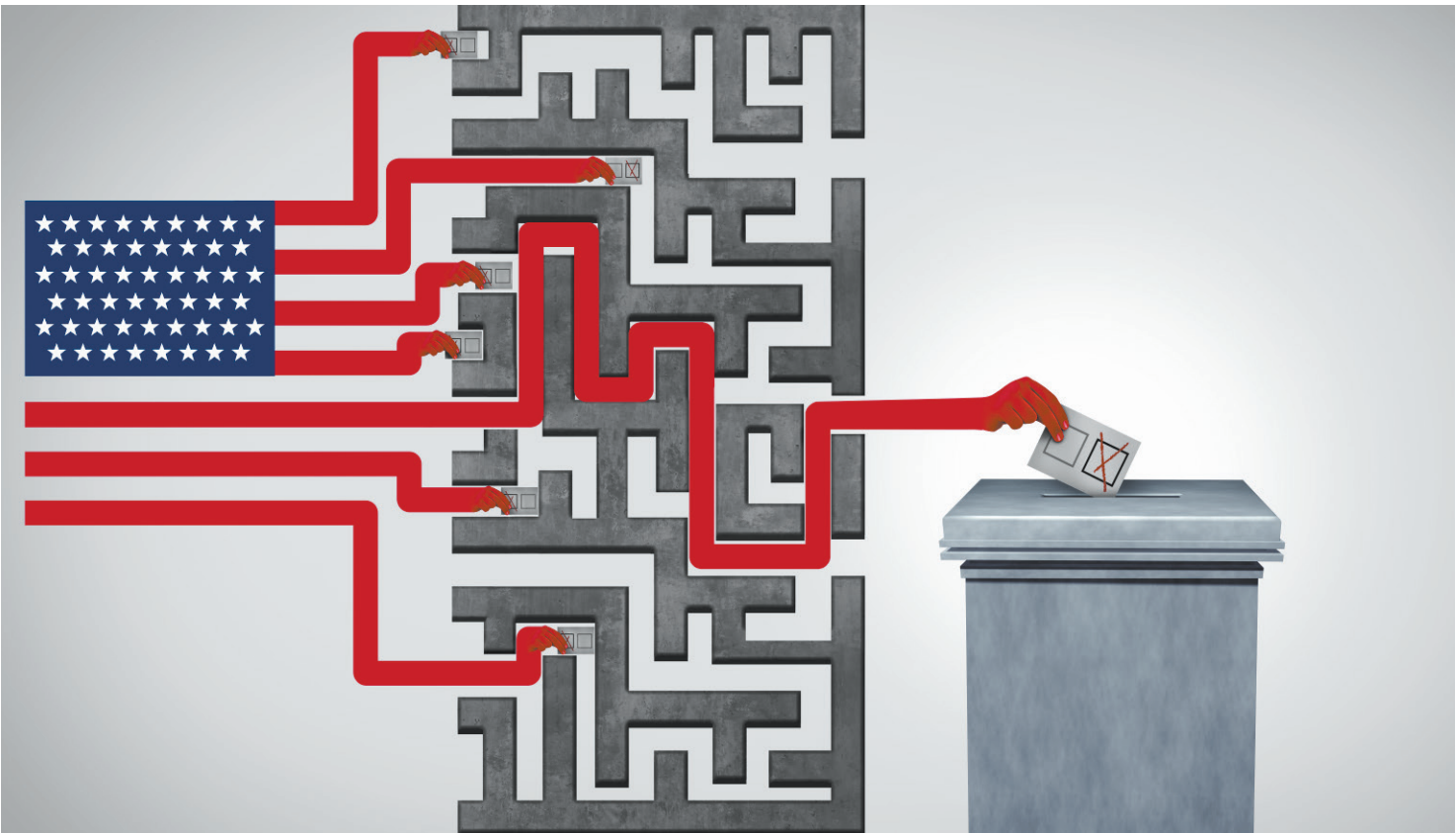
African Methodist Episcopal Bishop Reginald Jackson, who oversees AME churches in Georgia, has been urging corporate leaders to do more to fight voting restrictions. So far, he’s dissatisfied with the response, and says he may call for boycotts of some companies.

In numerous states, voting rights activism is being led by multifaith coalitions that include Christian, Jewish and Muslim groups. Here is what some of the faith leaders are saying:

The Rev. Dr. Cassandra Gould, executive director of Missouri Faith Voices, for whom the issue is “very personal”:

“I’m from Alabama, a little town called Demopolis. It’s 47 miles west of Selma, where my mother fought for rights, went to jail on Bloody Sunday (in 1965). ... So those are the stories that I grew up with. I never imagined that I would still be fighting the same fight.”

“There is a playbook to suppress



Getty Images

votes, to shrink the electorate. And we believe fundamentally, as a tenet of faith, that it should be expanded so that people are included, not excluded.”

The Rev. Dr. Warren H. Stewart, Sr., senior pastor at First Institutional Baptist Church in Phoenix and chairman of Arizona’s African American Christian Clergy Coalition:

“If you read the Bible, from Genesis to Revelation, it talks about justice, talks about being on the side of the oppressed, the downtrodden, the orphan, the poor. And this whole voter-suppression issue is about fighting against those who would oppress people of color, the poor, people who are struggling to make it in life. So it is a faith issue as much as a justice issue. They’re not disconnected.”

“The reaction of the Republican Party, to the most people ever voting in the history of the United States, is that ‘we’re gonna lose in the future.’ So it’s very obvious that this is not about accountability or about ethics, it’s about politics. And that’s unjust, and so that’s why we’re out here.”

The Rev. Frederick Haynes III, pastor of Friendship-West Baptist Church in Dallas:

“We have those in leadership — in Texas government — who have in their ideological DNA the same mindset of those slave masters who denied the humanity of Black people. The same

mindset of those individuals who upheld Jim and Jane Crow segregation. ... Gov. (Greg) Abbot and his Republican cronies have decided to dress up Jim and Jane Crow in a tuxedo of what they call voter integrity, but it’s still Jim and Jane Crow. ... You are simply trying to create a problem for voters you don’t want to vote.”

The Rev. Edwin Robinson, organizer of Dallas Black Clergy:

“No matter what side of the political aisle you find yourself, any attempt to hinder voting is an attempt to take away our greatest freedom and liberty. ... We should be doing everything to protect our greatest freedoms — and make ways for our citizens to enthusiastically vote and do so free from fear and intimidation.”

The Rev. Anne Ellsworth, priest at St. Augustine’s Episcopal Parish in Tempe:

“I am a pastor in a white congregation. I am a priest in a church, the Episcopal Church, that is famous for our white, Christian, moderate stance. ... My interest is in awakening knowledge in other white, moderate, Christian women who have remained silent or who have felt powerless or think that it doesn’t matter to them. My guiding light is a quote from Martin Luther King: ‘There are not enough white people who value or who cherish democratic principles more than white privilege.’”

“White Christian women know what

it is to have our voices silenced. And we cannot stand by while other people’s voices are also being silenced. We need to recognize our privilege and use it as leverage to fight voter suppression aimed at Black Americans.”

Rabbi Lydia Medwin of The Temple in Atlanta:

“The Jewish community has responded to the call of our African American brothers and sisters since the since the Civil Rights era began. When our partners and people that we care deeply about say to us, ‘We’re hurting, we’re being treated unfairly,’ we have no other response but to step up.”

Rabbi David Segal, Texas organizer for the Religious Action Center for Judaism Reform:

“The backlash against Georgia passing legislation is actually helping us in Texas, because we’re able to point to that and organize the anger around those laws to try and stop it here. ... People of faith stand for inclusion and stand for respect and stand for acceptance and a different kind of justice.”

Associated Press writer Jeff Amy in Atlanta contributed to this report. Associated Press religion coverage receives support from the Lilly Endowment through The Conversation U.S. The AP is solely responsible for this content.

SPIRITUAL OUTLOOK

Spiritually Speaking: Walking is so much more than just exercise

By James A. Washington Jr.
Co-publisher of the Dallas Weekly News,
NNPA Newswire Contributor



If I haven’t before, let me ask you now. Can somebody explain a “faith walk” to me? I frequently refer to my own spiritual transformation that way and I’ve had others describe this “thing” that I’m on ... “as you go down this road” ... “as you complete this walk.” I’ve even used the faith walk phrase when trying to explain a new and different view of the world as now seen by someone who believes being saved is more than just some trite saying.

This, whatever it is, is serious and I have to admit, very tangible. I really can feel it.

I was just curious about the walk reference. I suppose when you think about it, many in the Bible had truth revealed to them on a walk, on a journey, while going from one place to another at God’s direction and even during the subconscious traveling in a dream. It’s a simple analogy and if you think about it, what is more meaningful than a walk with someone you respect, admire, love and can learn from?

One of the most memorable experiences I’ve ever had was to walk with my children when they were toddlers. There was something about them exploring and discovering the world around them without fear, because they knew daddy was right there.

Have you ever witnessed this? Have you ever been a part of the experience of walking and talking with someone you were totally in sync with? That must be one of the reasons people refer to discovering God as faith walking.

The effort to get closer to God requires movement. I believe the walk reference is probably an attempt (an excellent one) to describe the experience of following, or trying to follow, the path laid down by



Getty Images

Jesus Christ.

The best example we have is Enoch. “Enoch walked with God: then he was no more, because God took him away.” Genesis 5:24. The Bible talks

about walking humbly, walking in the light, walking with the wise, walking together and, yes, walking on water. The point seems to be that life is a journey and if the truth be told, the journey is infinitely better if God goes along for the ride.

We want and at times need to talk to God along the way. Maybe, if we’re truly blessed, He’ll talk back. Searching for Him here on Earth is fundamentally a spiritual experience. To walk with the Lord can only be described as “stepping out on faith.” Once taken, life changes. You change. You have to. I know I did.

So, I guess I’ve kind of cleared up my own dilemma. This faith walk is merely an acknowledgement that you are letting God order your steps, lead you through, guide you in this world. When you do this, God will direct you straight to Him.

When Jesus spoke again to the people, He said, “I am the light of the world. Whoever follows me will never walk in darkness; but will have the light of life.” John 8:12. So this walk thing suggests by doing so, you can directly connect with God. You can do what Enoch did. You can hope and pray like Enoch that God will take you to Him also. That’s the point, isn’t it?

So, when you get up tomorrow, think about this and let God order your steps consciously for one day. Make a concerted effort to listen and hopefully hear what He is telling you on that day. The Bible says faith comes by hearing. What better way to hear than by taking a deliberate stroll with the Lord? Try it. You might find God showing up in the strangest places and in the strangest faces. But you’ve got to look.

I guarantee, if you go deliberately looking for God just one day, you won’t be alone for long. You see He has this marvelous way of showing up right on time when He knows somebody is indeed seeking Him out. Remember, however, the first step is up to you.

BIBLE TRIVIA

by Wilson Casey

BIBLE TRIVIA
by Wilson Casey

- 1. Is the book of Hosea in the Old or New Testament or neither?
- 2. Emboldened by God's declaration, which Old Testament king went into battle with singers leading the army? Ahaz, Hezekiah, Manasseh, Jehoshaphat
- 3. From 1 Chronicles 29, how many years did David reign over Israel? 7, 33, 40, 57
- 4. The prophecy of Obadiah is basically about what nation? Shem, Edom, Tabor, Nebo

- 5. What was Aquila's profession in Corinth? Tentmaker, Harp player, Mapmaker, Servant
- 6. David was what relation to Boaz? Brother, Son, Grandson, Great-grandson

ANSWERS: 1) Old; 2) Jehoshaphat; 3) 40; 4) Edom; 5) Tentmaker; 6) Great-grandson

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

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THE ILLUSTRATED BIBLE

...Now ask the beasts, and they will teach you; and the birds of the air, and they will tell you; or speak to the earth, and it will teach you; and the fish of the sea will explain to you. Who among all these does not know that the hand of the Lord has done this, in whose hand is the life of every living thing, and the breath of all mankind?

Job 12: 7-10

BIBLE WORD SEARCH

Answers

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

BIBLE WORD SEARCH

by Elie's Spiritual Treasures

Psalm 4:6B-7A, 8

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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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Biden plan for cleaner power system faces daunting obstacles

By CATHY BUSSEWITZ
AP Business Writer

NEW YORK (AP) — If the nation is to meet President Joe Biden’s goal of cutting America’s greenhouse gas emissions in half by the end of the decade, it will have to undertake a vast transformation toward renewable energy.

And to achieve that, the near-impossible will be required: A broad network of transmission lines will have to be built to carry solar and wind power across the continent to deliver electricity to homes and businesses — something the administration envisions accomplishing by 2035.

The financial and technological tasks of linking cleaner power sources to an aging electric grid pummeled by climate change are daunting enough. Add to them the legal fights that states and localities will likely mount to fight the build-outs of transmission lines in their areas, and the challenges become extraordinary.

It normally takes years to win authorization to build new transmission lines. Because many such decisions are made at the local level, critics across the country who oppose having wires strung through their landscapes could further prolong the battles.

“I’m very worried,” said Larry Gasteiger, executive director of the transmission industry trade group WIRES. “Given the timeframes we’re looking at, it’s almost hard to see how we meet them.”

The idea behind the Biden plan for cleaner power transmission is to transform the fuel for America’s power grid from mostly coal and natural gas to wind, solar and hydroelectric power. The U.S. electricity system relies on about 600,000 miles of transmission lines that carry electricity from power plants or dams to communities and 5.5 million miles of local distribution lines, according to the American Society of Civil Engineers.

Some of the consequences of climate change — more frequent storms, wildfires and other extreme weather — include damage to the nation’s electric grid. Severe weather was determined to be the predominant cause of more than 300 transmission outage events from 2014 to 2018, according to the American Society of Civil Engineers.



The Biden administration wants to cut America’s greenhouse gas emissions in half by the end of the decade. (Photo/Marcin Jozwiak)

Most of the nation’s transmission lines were strung in the mid-20th century with just a 50-year life expectancy, the group said.

To reach the president’s goal of a 50% reduction in overall greenhouse gas emissions by 2030, the nation would have to stop using coal entirely by then and let consumption of oil and gas decline by 2% every year, according to Philip Verleger, a long-time energy analyst. Yet to meet the nation’s energy demand, he said, the United States would have to double the amount of energy that’s produced annually by wind and solar.

“I doubt that’s practical,” Verleger said. “You just can’t put up that many windmills that fast. And there may not be that many places to put windmills.”

It can take years to get high-voltage transmission lines approved, let alone built. Many plans will face resistance from landowners or communities in the path.

Many steps and players are involved in building inter-regional transmis-

sion lines. The transmission system, which includes high-voltage lines that bring electricity from power sources to communities, is regulated by the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission.

But permitting and siting for transmission is typically approved at the state and local level, Gasteiger said.

The cost of decarbonizing the power sector is yet another hurdle. Using the technology available then, Wood Mackenzie estimated in 2019 that to fully decarbonize the U.S. power grid, including eliminating all fossil fuels and building the new generation and transmission sources, would cost \$4.5 trillion. That would cost every U.S. household about \$35,000, or \$2,000 a year for 20 years.

The expense of building or repairing transmission lines is often borne by utilities, which, in turn, generally pass the costs on to customers. Thousands of utilities dot the country. Building transmission lines requires coordination among those companies and the cities, states and private properties

where the lines must cross.

Analysts have been running scenarios to estimate whether Biden’s goal of slashing greenhouse gas emissions by roughly half over the next nine years is realistic. In S&P Global Platts Analytics’ most-likely-case scenario, which envisions a widespread adoption of electric vehicles, increased penetration of renewables and declines in coal generation, the United States would reduce its carbon dioxide emissions by about 27% by 2030 compared with 2005 levels.

The White House has also signaled that it may institute a carbon tax. That would make it harder for emitters to continue at their current rate, further speeding the transition.

“It’s achievable,” Verleger said. “Probably it’s going to take couple technological breakthroughs, like the cellphone and the personal computer. I’m not going to say it’s not going to happen.”

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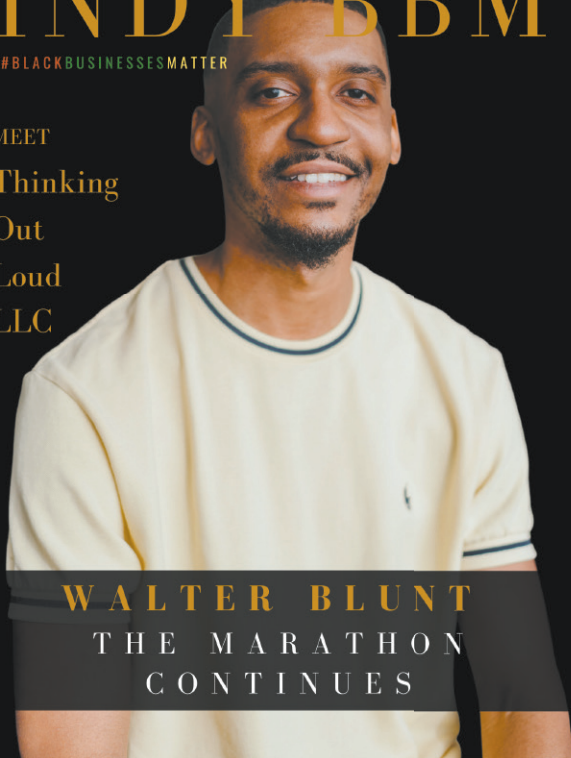
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Over the past few years there have been undeniable increases in the cost of the paper, yet our company has absorbed the costs without increasing rates. Unfortunately, that is no longer feasible as costs continue to skyrocket. While our rates will increase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

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

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ADOPTION
STATE OF INDIANA)
IN THE ELKHART SUPERIOR COURT NO. 3
)
COUNTS OF ELKHART)
CAUSE NO.)
20D03-2012-AD-000092)
IN THE MATTER OF THE)
PETITION OF ZANE)
DISSOLUTION OF)

DONALD PARSON, born to Krysten L. Parson on August 18, 2007, was filed in the office of the Clerk of the Elkhart Superior Court No. 3, 101 North Main Street, Goshen, Indiana 46526. The petition for adoption alleges that the consent to adoption of Krysten L. Parson is not required because she has failed, for over one year, without justifiable cause, to communicate significantly with the child when able to do so and because she has not made any other meaningful effort to support or communicate with the child. The petition further alleges that she is otherwise unfit to be a parent and that the adoption is in the best interest of the child.

If Krysten L. Parson seeks to contest the adoption of the child, Zane William Donald Parson, she must file a motion to contest the adoption in accordance with IC 31-19-10-1 in the above named Court not later than thirty (30) days after the date of service of this notice. If Krysten L. Parson does not file a motion to contest the adoption within thirty (30) days after service of this notice the above named Court will hear and determine the petition for adoption. The consent to adoption of Krysten L. Parson will be irrevocably implied and Krysten L. Parson will lose the right to contest either the adoption or the validity of Krysten L. Parson's implied consent to the adoption.

No statement made to Krysten L. Parson relieves Krysten L. Parson of Krysten L. Parson's obligations under this notice.

This notice complies with IC 31-19-4-5-3 but does not exhaustively set forth a person's legal obligations under the Indiana adoption statutes. A person being serviced with this notice should consult the Indiana adoption statutes. Clerk, Elkhart Superior Court, No. 3, Yoder, Ainsley Ulmer & Buckingham, LLP, Attorneys 130 North Main Street P.O. Box 575 Goshen, IN 46527-0575 5320-919869

DISSOLUTION

STATE OF INDIANA)
IN THE MARION SUPERIOR COURT)
CIRCUIT COURT)
COUNTY OF MARION)
CAUSE NO.)
49D10-2011-DN-042124)
IN RE: THE MARRIAGE OF:)
ADEWUMI LOUIS AJAGUNNA)
PETITIONER,)
vs.)
CHARMAINE RENE SHAUNTEE)
RESPONDENT.)
SUMMONS)
[FOR Dissolution of)
Marriage Cases Only])
The State of Indiana to)
Respondent: Charmaine)
Rene Shauntee)
1180 Coppermill Lane Apt.)
2D)
Indianapolis, IN 46234)
(317) 652-2846)
You have been sued by your)
spouse for dissolution of)
marriage. The case is)
pending in the Court named)
above.)
If this Summons is)
accompanied by an Order)
Setting Hearing, you must)
appear in Court on the date)
and time stated on the)
Order Setting Hearing. IF)
YOU DO NOT APPEAR,)
JUDGMENT MAY BE)
ENTERED AGAINST YOU)
AND A DECISION MAY BE)
MADE BY THE COURT. If)
a Temporary Restraining)
Order is issued, it is)
effective immediately upon)
your receipt or knowledge)
of the Order.)
If you wish to retain an)
attorney to represent you)
in the matter, it is advisable)
to do so before the date)
stated on the Notice of)
Provisional Hearing.)
If you take no action in)
this case after receipt of)
this Summons, the Court)
can grant a Dissolution)
of Marriage and/or make)
determinations that may)
include but not limited to)
any of the following:)
paternity, child custody,)
child support, maintenance,)
parenting time, property)
(real or personal), and)
other distribution of assets)
and debts, attorney fees)
and costs.)
Dated: November 30, 2020)
/s/ Myla A. Eldridge, Clerk)
Marion County)
5320-920124)

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Respondents. NOTICE OF SUIT The State of Indiana to the Respondent named above, and any other person who may be concerned. You are notified that you have been sued in the Court above named. The nature of the suit against you is: PETITION FOR DISSOLUTION OF MARRIAGE.

This summons by publication is specifically directed to the following Respondent whose whereabouts are unknown: Corey S. Burts In addition to the above-named Respondent being served by this summons there may be other Respondents who have an interest in this lawsuit. ATTEST: Clerk of the Marion County Court, Justin D. Shah Attorney for Petitioner, 8520 Allison Pointe Blvd. Suite 220 Indianapolis, IN 46250 (317) 713-2928 5320-919620

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Clerk, Marion County (The following manner of Service of Summons is hereby designated.) Christopher J. Martindale, Attorney for Petitioner P.O. Box 22693 Indianapolis, IN 46222 (765) 716-6213 Martindale Superior Court 200 E. Washington St. Indianapolis, IN 46204 T: (317) 327-4740 5320-919794

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NAME CHANGE
STATE OF INDIANA)
IN THE MARION CIRCUIT COURT)
COUNTY OF MARION)
CAUSE NO.)
49C01-2103-MI-007695)
IN RE THE CHANGE OF)
NAME OF MINOR CHILD)
BEYONCE SAN JUAN)
ARAUS)
BY PETITIONER, ARIADNA)
DE JESUS ARAUS-PEREZ)
ALIAS NOTICE OF HEARING)
FOR PUBLICATION IN)
NEWSPAPER)
NOTICE is hereby given that)
Petitioner, ARIADNA DE)
JESUS ARAUS-PEREZ, a)
self-represented litigant,)
has filed a Petition to)
Change Name of her)
Minor Child, BEYONCE SAN)
JUAN ARAUS, to BEYONCE)
ARAUS. The Petition is)
scheduled for hearing in)
the Marion Circuit Court)
on July 30, 2021, at 9:00)
a.m. which is more than)
thirty (30) days after the)
third notice of publication.)
Any person has the right to)
appear at the hearing and)
to file written objections on)
or before the hearing date.)
This hearing will be in the)
Marion County Circuit Court,)
200 E. Washington Street,)
City County Building, Room)
West 10, Indianapolis, Indiana)
46204. This hearing may be)
held remotely by WebEx or)
in person in the Court room.)
All interested parties are)
ordered to check mycase,)
http://www.mycase.in.gov,)
in which the hearing will be)
held. A separate WebEx)
invitation will be sent with)
instructions to join the)
hearing, if the hearing will)
be held remotely.)
Date Clerk of Marion Circuit)
Court)
So Ordered: April 23,)
2021 /s/ Amber Collins-)
Gebrehewit, Magistrate)
Marion Circuit Court)
Distribution:)
Petitioner)
5320-920125)

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McNevin & McNines, LLP
5224 S. East Street,
Building C, Suite 14
Indianapolis, IN 46227
Dillon@advocate.com
317-939-3000
Attorney for Petitioner
5320-919933

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Telephone No.: (317) 492-9569
lisa@appegate-dillman.com
rachae@appegate-dillman.com
317-939-3000
Attorney for Petitioner
5320-919970

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STATE OF INDIANA)
IN THE MARION SUPERIOR COURT)
COUNTY OF MARION)
CAUSE NO.)
49D08-2103-EU-009632)
IN RE: THE UNSUPERVISED)
ESTATE OF)
ERMALENE RODRIGUES,)
DECEASED)
Attorney: Kathryn Kuehn,)
215066-49)
Kuehn Law, LLC)
15 West Clinton Street)
Indianapolis, Indiana 46122)
Publisher: The Indianapolis)
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2901 North Tacoma)
Indianapolis, Indiana 46218)
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SUMMONS

STATE OF INDIANA) IN THE MARION CIRCUIT COURT COUNTY OF MARION) CAUSE NO: 49C01-2104-PL-011259 317 REALTY GROUP LLC Plaintiffs, Vs. JIF INVESTMENTS LLC DELTON HINDERLITER UNKNOWN OCCUPANTS And The unknown husbands, wives, widows, widowers, surviving spouses, heirs, legatees, devisees, grantees, children, descendants, mortgages, creditors, administrators, executors, trustees, receivers, guardians, successors, assigns, if deceased, of all persons above named, all persons, associations, partnerships, partners, trustees, assigns, representatives, successors, corporations, or claimants, who assert any title to claim upon or interest in the real estate herein described, all women once known by any of the names or designations above stated, whose names may have been changed and the names of all the spouses of persons above named; described and designated as defendants to this action who are married and whose names are unknown to Plaintiffs, Defendants. NOTICE OF SUIT The State of Indiana to the defendants above named, and any other person who may be concerned. You are notified that you have been sued in the Court above named. The nature of the suit against you is: Complaint to Quiet Title to the following Real Estate in Marion County, Indiana, to-wit: LOT NUMBERED 706 IN EAGLEDALE, TENTH SECTION, PARK FIVE, AN ADDITION TO THE CITY OF INDIANAPOLIS, INDIANA, AS PER PLAT THEREOF RECORDED IN PLAT BOOK 31, PAGE 139, IN THE OFFICE OF THE RECORDER OF MARION COUNTY, INDIANA. Commonly known as: 5320 Ruskin Pl, Indianapolis, IN 46224 To the following Defendants whose whereabouts are known: NONE. To the following Defendants whose whereabouts are not known: JIF INVESTMENTS LLC, DELTON HINDERLITER, UNKNOWN OCCUPANTS and the unknown husbands, wives, widows, widowers, surviving spouses, heirs, legatees, devisees, grantees, children, descendants, mortgages, creditors, administrators, executors, trustees, receivers, guardians, successors, assigns, if deceased, of all persons above named, all persons, associations, partnerships, partners, trustees, assigns, representatives, successors, corporations, or claimants, who assert any title to claim upon or interest in the real estate herein described, all women once known by any of the names or designations above stated, whose names may have been changed and the names of all the spouses of persons above named; described and designated as defendants to this action who are married and whose names are unknown to Plaintiff, in addition to the above named defendants being served by this summons there may be other defendants who have an interest in this law suit. If you have a claim for relief against the plaintiff arising from the same transaction or occurrence, you must assert it in your written answer. You must answer the Complaint in writing, by you or your attorney, on or before thirty (30) days after the Third Published Notice of Suit, and if you fail to do so a judgment will be entered against you for what the plaintiff has demanded. The Name and Address of the Attorney Representing the Plaintiff is: Kathleen S. Crebo HOCKER & ASSOCIATES, LLC Attorney for Plaintiff 6626 E. 75th St., Suite 410 Indianapolis, IN 46250 T: (317) 578-1630 F: (317) 849-1892 E: Kathleen.Crebo@hockerlaw.com hockerlaw.com 4/6/2021 /s/ Myla A. Eldridge Marion County Clerk SEAL: Prepared By: Kathleen S. Crebo & Hocker Associates, LLC 5320-919251 04/16/21 04/23/21 04/30/21

STATE OF INDIANA) IN THE MARION CIRCUIT COURT COUNTY OF MARION) CAUSE NO: 49C01-2104-PL-011478 ALL IN ONE REMODELING LLC Plaintiffs, Vs. INVESTMENTS LLC DELTON HINDERLITER UNKNOWN OCCUPANTS And The unknown husbands, wives, widows, widowers, surviving spouses, heirs, legatees, devisees, grantees, children, descendants, mortgages, creditors, administrators, executors, trustees, receivers, guardians, successors, assigns, if deceased, of all persons above named, all persons, associations, partnerships, partners, trustees, assigns, representatives, successors, corporations, or claimants, who assert any title to claim upon or interest in the real estate herein described, all women once known by any of the names or designations above stated, whose names may have been changed and the names of all the spouses of persons above named; described and designated as defendants to this action who are married and whose names are unknown to Plaintiffs, Defendants. NOTICE OF SUIT The State of Indiana to the defendants above named, and any other person who may be concerned. You are notified that you have been sued in the Court above named. The nature of the suit against you is: Complaint to Quiet Title to the following Real Estate in Marion County, Indiana, to-wit: LOT 158 IN EAGLEDALE, ELEVENTH SECTION, PART TWO, AN ADDITION TO THE CITY OF INDIANAPOLIS, INDIANA, AS PER PLAT THEREOF RECORDED IN PLAT BOOK 31, PAGE 405, IN THE OFFICE OF THE RECORDER OF MARION COUNTY, INDIANA. Commonly known as: 5620 Suburban Dr., Indianapolis, IN 46224 To the following Defendants whose whereabouts are known: NONE. To the following Defendants whose whereabouts are not known: JIF INVESTMENTS LLC, DELTON HINDERLITER, UNKNOWN OCCUPANTS and the unknown husbands, wives, widows, widowers, surviving spouses, heirs, legatees, devisees, grantees, children, descendants, mortgages,

creditors, administrators, executors, trustees, receivers, guardians, successors, assigns, if deceased, of all persons above named, all persons, associations, partnerships, partners, trustees, assigns, representatives, successors, corporations, or claimants, who assert any title to claim upon or interest in the real estate herein described, all women once known by any of the names or designations above stated, whose names may have been changed and the names of all the spouses of persons above named; described and designated as defendants to this action who are married and whose names are unknown to Plaintiffs, Defendants. NOTICE OF SUIT The State of Indiana to the defendants above named, and any other person who may be concerned. You are notified that you have been sued in the Court above named. The nature of the suit against you is: Complaint to Quiet Title to the following Real Estate in Marion County, Indiana, to-wit: LOT 158 IN EAGLEDALE, ELEVENTH SECTION, PART TWO, AN ADDITION TO THE CITY OF INDIANAPOLIS, INDIANA, AS PER PLAT THEREOF RECORDED IN PLAT BOOK 31, PAGE 405, IN THE OFFICE OF THE RECORDER OF MARION COUNTY, INDIANA. Commonly known as: 5620 Suburban Dr., Indianapolis, IN 46224 To the following Defendants whose whereabouts are known: NONE. To the following Defendants whose whereabouts are not known: JIF INVESTMENTS LLC, DELTON HINDERLITER, UNKNOWN OCCUPANTS and the unknown husbands, wives, widows, widowers, surviving spouses, heirs, legatees, devisees, grantees, children, descendants, mortgages,

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‘We Broke Up’

By DWIGHT BROWN
NNPA News Wire Film Critic

Make up or break up. What will they do? This film's title points in one direction. However, what's to come will keep audiences guessing. And as they wonder, they'll experience the complexities of a relationship that is being tested.

It's often said that film is a director's medium. But in this case the writing carries the weight of this romantic comedy drama. For lovers, couples and those contemplating the traditional next step — marriage — the premise is titillating. The thoughtful, balanced approach to the pros and cons of matrimony comes courtesy of scribes Jeff Rosenberg and Laura Jacqmin. Their even-handed depiction of how men and women navigate romance, beginning to end — especially the ending — is as perceptive as it is modern and quirky. The enticing premise, colorful characters and heartfelt sometimes poignant dialogue can be refreshing, tender and unpredictable.

Lori (Aya Cash, Amazon's "The Boys") and Doug (William Jackson Harper, NBC's "The Good Place") are having a bad day. He pops the big question. She barfs — not out of a nervous joy, more out of fear and repulsion. Doug is so upset when she brushes off his proposal, he dumps the woman he's loved and lived with for 10 years. Doug: "I want to grow old together, don't you?" Lori. "No." The timing couldn't be worse. It's just days before they'll head to a lodge in the Malibu mountains for her younger sister Bea's (Sarah Bolger, "In America") wedding to Jayson (Tony Cavalero, HBO's "The Righteous Gemstones"), an older, divorced man.

A decision is made. Lori: "Maybe we should not tell anyone?" Doug: "You mean pretend we're together." Lori: "Just for three days." That's the plan. A ruse until the wedding weekend is over. This will preserve the decorum of the day, placate Lori's mom Adelaide (Peri Gilpin, "Frasier") and keep attention focused on the bride and groom. The charade works, until it doesn't. Opening up about the demise of their partnership gives the two an opportunity to assess what just happened. Something like filing an accident report after a car crash.

The setup's potential is realized, for the most part. Within the confines of rom/com/dra norms, the writing is enjoyable. Lori's the dour one with cold feet, when traditionally in movies men shy away from marriage. Doug has a self-effacing humility that makes audiences root for him. She works in a coffee shop. He drives a cheap car. Neither of the two are rich or supremely successful. All this makes these richysomethings as accessible and relatable as the couple next door. It also makes you wonder what could have been if this was an outlandish, over-the-top comedy of errors and far less cautious? Or more brooding like "Rachel Getting Married"? Or more contagiously joyful like "My Best Friend's Wedding"?

Add in Lori's mom favoring her and not Bea, being repulsed by the groom and having no faith that the impending union will ever last. Adelaide: "It will be through by Christmas!" Toss in a touch of the bride being flaky and the groom being an often-disparaged loser. Mix that in with a mysterious strikingly beautiful woman named Roya (Azita



Ghanizada, "Complete Unknown") and Eric (Zak Steiner) a handsome ex-friend of Lori's. Bake until done.

Rosenberg also directs. As an assistant director on sitcoms like "Veep," he has developed a strong feel for light TV comedy, which makes the family's and friends' antics endearing. He's assembled the cast on a set at the Calamigos Ranch in Malibu. He guides them like they're stage actors in a low-budget, Off-Broadway production. Everyone hits their mark. They know how to make you wince, laugh, cringe or cry. As an ensemble, they create a beguiling illusion that's so much fun to watch you'd expect them to take a group bow after the last scene.

Shot on location with a 60% women/BIPOC cast and crew, the modest sets, props, interiors and exteriors were created with the assistance of production designer Amelia Steely. Lori's eclectic wardrobe is the best example of costume designer Alexis Jacks' funky style. Andrew Aiello's cinematography captures every scene just well enough, but nothing stands out. Nick Sena's musical score seems very reflective in an indie film kind of way. And editor Stephanie Kaznocha cuts the footage down to 80 succinct minutes, which brings attention to the script's most obvious short coming. It lacks the girth of a true feature film.

What if two bigger-named stars were in the lead, more money was spent on the production elements and there were 10 more pages of script that further developed this love story? Would it make a big difference? Probably. So, don't be surprised if a smart, monied producer buys this film's remake rights, aims higher and produces a rom/com/dra that does well at the box office and during award season.

Cash and Harper have an oddly appealing chemistry. Their intimate portrayals make Lori and Doug feel sincere. Their bickering, misunderstandings and emotional confessions elevate the script, while Bolger, Cavalero and Gilpin's performances seem very broad, in a TV sitcom kind of way. With Cavalero having the best character arc in the bunch.

There are no easy answers for Lori and Doug. Their relationship is imperfect, just like the film. However, their complex series of emotional interactions makes them appealing enough for audiences to want to crash Bea's wedding.

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Pacers beat Pistons, hang on to playoff spot

Pacers guard Cris LeVert battles for a loose ball with Pistons guard Josh Jackson during the Pacers' 115-109 win over Detroit on April 24. The Pacers currently hold the No. 9 seed in the Eastern Conference. The top 10 teams make the postseason. (Photos/Walt Thomas)



Pacers forward Oshae Brissett recorded his second straight double-double with 11 points and 11 rebounds.



Pacers guard Edmond Sumner scored a season-high 22 points with four made 3-pointers.

Sports seem insignificant in these troubling times

By **DANNY BRIDGES**

I've always said sports certainly pale in comparison to the sanctity of real life. Sure, it's a trillion-dollar global industry, but when you look at it without the cash, it's simply fun and games despite what the television networks promote in a nonstop fashion in an attempt to capture your interest and generate all that wonderful ad revenue.

Normally I'd be as happy as one can be with basketball, baseball and auto racing all overlapping one another, but it's definitely not a normal spring. It's nearly impossible for me to get fired up about my beloved IndyCar racing and the upcoming NBA playoffs with all the violence and injustice ongoing in our society today.

I find it hard to concentrate on sports as I normally would when nearly every time I flip on my television or computer it's another blatant example of gun violence and police brutality often aimed at people of color, many of them impoverished and with no legitimate chance to get ahead in the crazy world we live in.

Like billions of people, I watched the video show-

ing the murder of George Floyd and was shaken to my core by it. How an excuse for a human being such as Derek Chauvin ever became a policeman to begin with is something I will never understand, and his ensuing criminal trial took yours truly to a dark place.

The fact that a coward hiding behind a badge could murder a man in public, all the while disregarding his pleas to live, is beyond insane and impossible to even begin reconciling.

None of it had to happen, and while anything short of a life sentence without the chance of parole for Chauvin seems criminal in itself, I remain optimistic that in the end this horrible ordeal has finally shined the proper light on just how dangerous things are.

There can be no debating the fact that more monsters such as Chauvin are out there and need to be dealt with swiftly.

As someone who led a rather sheltered life growing up in the rural setting of Greenwood, Indiana, I can honestly say I never anticipated the type of chaos that has become commonplace in this country and I struggle mightily every time I see the video clips of people's rights being disregarded and their

lives being threatened and in many cases taken, as if they meant nothing to begin with.

So forgive me if I can't write about slam dunks and home runs as sports mean absolutely nothing in these troubled times. I'm hoping someday things will change, and then we can talk about what's important and how to deal with things beyond that realm, and not be worried that a traffic stop or a search warrant will turn into yet another funeral that snuffs out the hopes and dreams of an individual and their families.

There will always be sports and all the entertainment that goes along with it. Just not right now. It's just too difficult to cheer for your favorite team when there is a fitting moment of silence paying tribute to those we lost before the first pitch can be thrown. Let these senseless killings stop, then maybe I'll feel like heading to a racetrack or a basketball game. Until then I can't cheer.

Danny Bridges, who would trade all his great sports memories in exchange for no more unnecessary illegal actions by rogue policemen, can be reached at 317-370-8447 or at bridgeshd@aol.com.



Indy Express, a semi-pro team with The Basketball League, plays a fast-paced brand of basketball and beat the Kokomo Bobcats, 113-109, on April 25. Point guard T.J. Henderson (2) had 18 points. (Photos/David Dixon)



Indy Express head coach Andre Owens motions to his team from the bench to be patient.

Indy Express get big win over Kokomo



Indy Express is tied for second place in the Midwest division, which includes teams from Kokomo, Detroit and Dayton, Ohio, among others.



Indy Express guard Alan Arnett (7) is one of the top players in the league. He's averaging just over 20 points and 7.5 rebounds and is also known for his defense.