

Jury's swift verdict for Chauvin in Floyd death:



Philonise Floyd and Attorney Ben Crump, from left, react after a guilty verdict was announced at the trial of former Minneapolis police Officer Derek Chauvin for the 2020 death of George Floyd, Tuesday, April 20, 2021. (AP Photo/Julio Cortez)

“It’s not enough. We can’t stop here. We’re going to deliver real change and reform. We can and we must do more to reduce the likelihood that tragedies like this will ever happen again.”

By AMY FORLITI, STEVE KARNOWSKI and TAMMY WEBBER
Associated Press

MINNEAPOLIS (AP) — After three weeks of testimony, the trial of the former police officer charged with killing George Floyd ended swiftly: barely over a day of jury deliberations, then just minutes for the verdicts to be read — guilty, guilty and guilty — and Derek Chauvin was handcuffed and taken away to prison.

See CHAUVIN, A5 ►

LAWSUIT:

Family wants IMPD to hand over evidence from man’s killing

By TYLER FENWICK
tylerf@indyrecorder.com

The family of a man killed in 2015 says Indianapolis Metropolitan Police Department is violating the state’s public records law by refusing to release evidence from the case.

Vetta Holland King-Scott, the mother and representative of the estate, filed a lawsuit against IMPD in June 2020 to make IMPD turn over evidence in the case and pay for legal costs. The department says it’s within its rights to withhold certain records.

King-Scott’s son, Morgan Hart, was killed March 17, 2015, in the 2600 block of Hawthorne Lane on the east side. He was 27. At the time, police said the shooting appeared to stem from a domestic violence incident.

The lawsuit calls for IMPD to turn over all of the evidence it still has, but the main thing King-Scott wants is a thumb drive that contains security camera footage from a neighbor who lived two houses away from where Hart was killed.

King-Scott doesn’t believe Hart was killed in self-defense. She and other family members believe they can make their case with the video evidence IMPD won’t give up.

IMPD representatives said the department won’t provide information about a particular case. They also said video footage and pictures usually remain within a case file even after the case is closed.

See LAWSUIT, A3 ►



Morgan Hart was killed in 2015 when he was 27. His estate has sued Indianapolis Metropolitan Police Department because the agency won’t release all of the evidence to the family. (Photo provided by Vetta Holland King-Scott)



Taylor Hall (L) organized a vigil downtown April 18. (Photo/Breanna Cooper)

‘THIS IS AMERICA’:



Mourners leave flowers and candles for the eight victims of the FedEx shooting during a vigil on April 18. (Photo/Breanna Cooper)

rebuilding community after tragedy

By BREANNA COOPER
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Several vigils took place throughout Indianapolis over the weekend to honor the eight people killed in the FedEx mass shooting April 15. From Monument Circle to Beech Grove, prayers rang out — in both English and Punjabi — to offer peace to the families and friends of the victims, who ranged in age from 19 to 74.

It was the third mass shooting in Indianapolis since January.

At Beech Grove City Hall on April 18, a member of the Sikh community, who did not want to be named, asked the predominately white crowd to reach out to

members of the Sikh community, to offer love despite language or cultural barriers.

“This is America,” he said after getting a laugh from the crowd describing his Catholic education in India.

“We’re hurting right now, but we’ll come back stronger than ever. But please remember when you go home tonight, pray and hold your families tight. There are families now who can’t do that anymore.”

As the crowd stood in the cold rain, family friends of Samaria Blackwell, including Beech Grove Mayor Dennis Buckley, spoke. Blackwell, 19, was home-schooled in her hometown of Beech Grove and wanted to be a police officer. She

See AMERICA, A11 ►

CDC declaration on racism an important step, experts say

By FARAH YOUSRY

Now that the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) director has called racism a “serious public health threat,” public health experts are watching closely for the impact.

“It’s an appropriate statement but some might say it is overdue,” said Paul Halverson, founding dean of the Richard M. Fairbanks School of Public Health at IUPUI.

The declaration’s premise may not be offering any new revelations. But the



Paul Halverson

fact that the CDC is saying it out loud is what’s new and promising, according to experts like Halverson.

The CDC’s director, Dr. Rochelle Walensky, made the declaration earlier this month. She said the agency would boost resources to address health disparities that affect Black Americans and other groups.


Her statement came after 1,400 CDC employees signed a letter asking the agency to declare racism a public health threat. They also called the agency out for what they described as

lack of diversity and inclusion within its own ranks.

According to Halverson, statements by public health officials — especially the high-profile CDC director — usually serve as a compass for agency priorities. Walensky’s statement could also reflect how much funding the federal government will designate for key issues.

Indiana ranks near the bottom in public health spending, studies show. In turn, state residents have some of the nation’s highest rates of chronic

See CDC, A7 ►



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‘They keep the music playing’: Jazz Kitchen wraps up Jazz Appreciation Month

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

Tributes to Gerry Mulligan, Chet Baker and Ella Fitzgerald are among the shows that will wrap up the Jazz Kitchen’s celebrations of Jazz Appreciation Month.

On April 23, musicians Amanda Gardier and Mark Buselli will be joined by “The Voice” winner Josh Kaufman to celebrate the legendary collaborations between Mulligan and Baker. The duo began recording with each other in the early 1950s and their group is still regarded as one of the best cool jazz groups in the country. The tribute shows will be 7 p.m. and 9:30 p.m.

At 7 p.m. and 9:30 p.m. April 24, local talent Yvonne Allu will pay tribute to “the first lady of song” Ella Fitzgerald. Fitzgerald’s voice was a staple in Allu’s childhood in St. Louis, and she’s been paying tribute to her since 2017.

“She set the tempo and crossed all genres of music and hit all audiences,” Allu said. “She kept to the music, not just jazz music, but music period. Later on in her career, she recorded pop songs, R&B, and artists and the

public alike recognized the beauty in her music.”

Allu released her first solo album last year, and said she’s channeled Fitzgerald throughout her career, working with many different musicians and bands to cultivate her own unique sound.

It’s impossible to talk about Indiana history without discussing jazz. In the early 20th century, jazz musicians provided the soundtrack to Indiana Avenue, and Allu met many of the legends, who she said helped her hone her skills, when she moved to Indianapolis.

The clubs that used to line the Avenue are long closed now, but the Jazz Kitchen, Allu said, is keeping the legacy alive.

“They’re great, they keep the music going,” she said.

“I’m thankful to them for doing this tribute and for giving me and others a platform and a family for when I stepped into the jazz scene here in the city.”

After the Fitzgerald tribute, the Jazz Kitchen will host a tribute to John Coltrane on April 25 and a Jazz Jam Session on April 26.

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



Yvonne Allu will pay tribute to Ella Fitzgerald in two shows April 24. (Photo provided by Yvonne Allu)

Jazz Appreciation Month Tribute Series

7 P.M. AND 9:30 P.M. APRIL 23
Amanda Gardier, Josh Kaufman and Mark Buselli, “The Music of Gerry Mulligan and Chet Baker”

6 P.M. AND 9:30 P.M. APRIL 24
Sandy Lomax and Yvonne Allu, “Ella Fitzgerald Birthday Tribute”

6 P.M. AND 8 P.M. APRIL 25
Rob Dixon Quartet, “John Coltrane’s ‘A Love Supreme’”

7 P.M. AND 9:30 P.M. APRIL 30
International Jazz Day Celebration, presented by the Indianapolis Jazz Foundation and Owl Music Group

1-5 P.M. MAY 1
Inclusive! showcase and symposium celebrating International Jazz Day



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APRIL 24TH
7:00 PM

MODERATED BY:
DR. MARC LAMONT HILL

Divide - Attitudes
and of mind
do we go from here



LAWSUIT

► Continued from A1

King-Scott’s attorney, Johnny Ulmer, filed his first request to receive the police report, along with “any memos, notes, drawings, videos, tapes, and diagrams of the crime scene” in March 2019, court documents show.

IMPD denied the request, citing a section of the Access to Public Records Act that gives law enforcement agencies discretion to withhold investigatory records, defined in the act as “information compiled in the course of the investigation of a crime.”

The state’s Public Access Counselor, Luke Britt, wrote in an advisory opinion, included in the lawsuit, that the investigatory records exception doesn’t apply to the records in this case and recommended IMPD release the requested records.

“IMPD’s response in this case is cursory to the point of being deficient,” he wrote. “Stated differently, the department’s response could have just as easily been: ‘the records are investigatory records *because we said so*.’ That approach does not comport with the letter or the spirit of the law.”

Ulmer asked IMPD to reconsider its decision, but the department denied the request again.

The correspondence is included in the lawsuit, which was filed in Marion County Superior Court Civil Division 14. (The case is now in Division 13.)

Ulmer responded that the case didn’t result in any criminal indictments and noted the department did return items such as Hart’s cell phone and clothing.

IMPD’s attorney filed the department’s response to the lawsuit in August 2020 and in it said the statute of limitations on murder hasn’t expired. “You should not do this to nobody’s mother, sister or anything,” King-Scott said in an interview, “because, one, you’re not respecting nobody, and two, you’re not treating nobody right.”

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

Weekly SUDOKU

Answer

1	2	6	9	5	4	3	8	7
8	7	5	3	1	2	4	9	6
9	3	4	8	7	6	2	5	1
3	9	1	4	2	8	6	7	5
6	5	2	1	9	7	8	3	4
7	4	8	5	6	3	9	1	2
2	6	3	7	8	1	5	4	9
4	1	9	6	3	5	7	2	8
5	8	7	2	4	9	1	6	3

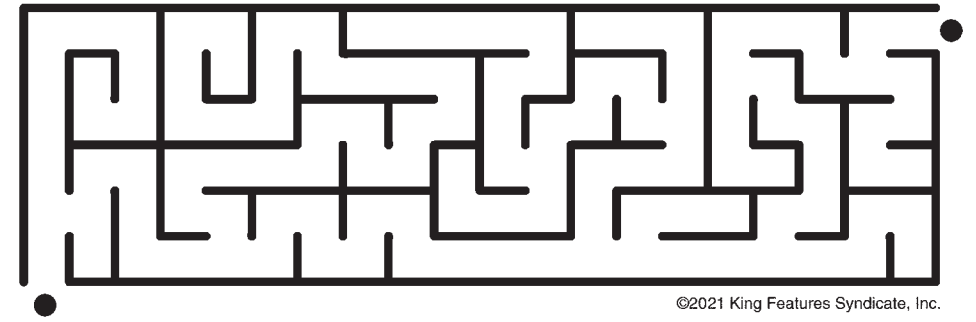
The Spats



Out on a Limb



Kids' Maze



Puzzles4Kids

RIDDLE SEARCH – A GARDEN OF FLOWERS

Look up, down, and diagonally, both forward and backward to find every word on the list. Circle each one as you find it. When all the words are circled, take the UNUSED letters and write them on the blanks below. Go from left to right and top to bottom to find the answer to this riddle: **How does a flower ride a bicycle?**

- ALYSSUM
- ANEMONE
- BLUET
- BUTTERCUP
- DAISY
- DELPHINIUM
- IMPATIENS
- IRIS
- LILAC
- LILY
- PEONY
- PHLOX
- SNOWDROP
- TULIP
- VIOLA
- WILD ROSE

S	I	R	I	P	I	Y	A	Y	M
T	N	U	E	S	W	S	L	X	U
V	I	O	L	A	I	I	Y	O	I
E	N	S	W	I	L	A	S	L	N
Y	T	S	P	D	D	D	S	H	I
B	U	T	T	E	R	C	U	P	H
B	L	U	E	T	O	O	M	E	P
C	A	L	I	L	S	T	P	A	L
L	S	I	A	N	E	M	O	N	E
I	M	P	A	T	I	E	N	S	D

Riddle answer: _____

Puzzles4Kids

Answer

S	I	R	I	P	I	Y	A	Y	M
T	N	U	E	S	W	S	L	X	U
V	I	O	L	A	I	I	Y	O	I
E	N	S	W	I	L	A	S	L	N
Y	T	S	P	D	D	D	S	H	I
B	U	T	T	E	R	C	U	P	H
B	L	U	E	T	O	O	M	E	P
C	A	L	I	L	S	T	P	A	L
L	S	I	A	N	E	M	O	N	E
I	M	P	A	T	I	E	N	S	D

Riddle Answer:
It uses its petals.

by Helene Hovanec

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Weekly SUDOKU

by Linda Thistle

	2			5			8	
		5	3			4		
9					6			1
		1	4		8			5
	5				7		3	
7				6		9		
2			7			5		
		9		3				8
	8				9		6	

Place a number in the empty boxes in such a way that each row across, each column down and each small 9-box square contains all of the numbers from one to nine.

DIFFICULTY THIS WEEK: ♦♦♦

♦ Moderate

♦♦ Challenging

♦♦♦ HOO BOY!

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Super Crossword

WELL-PRESERVED

ACROSS

1 Tribal emblems

7 Sobbing

14 Hunt for food

20 Of a big blood vessel

21 Church part near the altar

22 Mistreating type

23 Start of a riddle

25 Starts a PC session

26 Copies a cat

27 Pop singer Grande, to fans

28 Doctrine in copyright law

29 Buy that can be deleted

31 With 110-Down, decisive trial

34 Hawk's nest

37 Goldman's partner

38 Riddle, part 2

43 Fig and fir

44 Foster

45 Miner's strike

46 Unruffled

48 Plotting group

51 Pastry variety

57 Riddle, part 3

62 Pieces of gig gear

65 Bridle part

66 Of a central point

67 Perform wonderfully

68 Buck mate

69 Apple's apple, e.g.

70 Miss.-to-Minn. dir.

71 Foyer floor protectors

73 Linking word in Leipzig

74 Befogged

76 1960s radical to fans

78 Huge hauler

79 February 14 deity

80 Riddle, part 4

84 Weds on the fly

85 University of — Dame

86 Buddy from way back

90 Group in a roundup

93 Griffin who created "Jeopardy!"

96 Debonair

97 End of the riddle

105 Helmsley with hotels

106 Beau —

107 Rebuke to Brutus

108 "Hel-I-lp!"

109 Divided into segments

111 Cry of cheer

113 Part of OTB

116 Provoke

117 Riddle's answer

123 Fishing nets

124 Vacillated

125 Comic Boosler

126 Most eccentric

127 Cabbie's query

128 More packed

DOWN

1 Shooting marble

2 Cry of delight

3 Stomped on

4 Kin of -ess

5 Japanese soup variety

6 Investment bigwig

7 Hosp. section

8 Bruins' org.

9 "I did it!"

10 Bait

11 More tender

12 Mr. —! (old detective game)

13 Foxy

14 FDR's dog

15 Wind section player

16 Little kid

17 "That being the case ..."

18 Hostess in a kimono

19 Borgnine of "Marty"

24 Grouchy Muppet

28 Familial fight

29 Deeds

30 Prune

32 34th prez

33 Priest's assistant

35 Threw the dice

36 Altar avowal

39 Conducts

40 In re

41 "Damn it!"

42 Relinquish

47 The younger Saarinen

49 Grammy winner Tony

50 State frankly

52 Grows older

53 Shoot down

54 Rack up

55 Old-style office scribe

56 Clings (to)

58 "Just Shoot Me!" actor George

59 Mourner of myth

60 Personal identifiers

61 Pin it on

62 Wise truism

63 Roadhouse

64 Basil-based sauce

69 Overdue

70 Boy, in Bolivia

72 DVR pioneer

75 Sci-fi power

77 Family on "Married ... With Children"

78 Jacket part

79 Finish

81 Court king Arthur

82 Cookbook writer

83 Snow queen in "Frozen"

87 Openers of many locks

88 Chevy debut of 2004

89 Some watch displays, for short

91 Leg up

92 Pop's Carly — Jepson

94 Like a prof. emeritus

95 Flashy Chevy, for short

97 Texas city

98 Got close to

99 Doughnut-shaped figure

100 Harmonious

101 Hoists

102 Took pains

103 Physician, often

104 Lay in concealment

110 See

31-Across

112 Roll call reply

114 Proficient

115 — Grape (Ocean Spray flavor)

117 URL part

118 "Take that!"

119 Sweaty, say

120 Old Tokyo

121 Prop- or hex-ender

122 The, in Vienna

Bridging the gap between police, community

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

In his nearly 40 years as an Indianapolis Metropolitan Police Department (IMPD) officer, Matt Steward saw officers use their money to keep strangers’ lights on and stock empty cabinets with groceries.

He’s also been horrified by videos of Black men and boys — George Floyd, Philando Castille and Tamir Rice, among many others — killed by police throughout the nation. As an African American, Steward understands there is a divide between police officers and the Black community but hopes they can be brought together through conversation.

Using his not-for-profit, Steward Speakers Series, Steward will start the conversation through “Bridging Conversations: Police and the Community” to discuss policing, social justice and mental health. The virtual event will be 7 p.m. April 24 and moderated by author and activist Marc Lamont Hill.

Steward said Hill was chosen to moderate the panel because he has spoken out against police brutality in the past. Steward said he didn’t want the conversation to focus only on the good he believes police do in their communities.



Author and activist Marc Lamont Hill will moderate the discussion April 24.

“We want to build trust and transparency,” Steward said. “It’s really hard to do anything else with a group or individual if there’s no trust there.”

The panel will include eight IMPD officers who will discuss their experiences on the force and their work in the community. Steward said he plans to have a separate panel later to speak with community members about policing.

Steward, who retired as a police officer in June 2020, said the community and police have more in common than

“Bridging Conversations: Police and the Community” will be streamed at 7 p.m. April 24 on the Steward Speakers Facebook page.

people think.

“I just want the two communities to know that police officers are members of the community and some of the [Black] community members are police officers,” Steward said. “We go to the same churches, barber shops and grocery stores that you do. We have on that police uniform for eight hours a day, five days a week. But when we take off that uniform, we’re just members of society. We want the same things you do.”

Tensions between police and the community peaked nationally and locally in 2020 following the murder of George Floyd and killings of Dreason Reed and McHale Rose in May. Those deaths highlighted the divide between police and protesters.

IUPUI Chancellor Nasser Paydar said this is an important conversation for the city. IUPUI is a sponsor of the event.

“IUPUI is proud to support the Steward Speaker Series as we provide forums for conversations that shape our society,” Paydar said in a statement. “Working hand-in-hand, we welcome thought leaders who raise awareness and advance knowledge, especially as we participate in critical dialogue that impacts our community’s health and safety.”

Steward said he and other officers he worked with were heartbroken by the video of former Minneapolis police of-

ficer Derek Chauvin murdering George Floyd, but every police officer shouldn’t be judged for his actions.

“We’re public servants not perfect servants,” Steward said. “Sometimes we make mistakes. Sometimes we have officers who do the wrong thing. But 99% of police officers are good, decent people just doing their jobs, and I think the same of the overall community.”

NiSean Jones, founder of local activist group Black Out For Black Lives, isn’t convinced a productive conversation can take place with only one side represented.

“Community members need to be involved in every aspect of the conversation when it comes to the community,” Jones said. “That’s like politicians having conversations about education without any teachers there. How can they have an effective conversation and say, ‘Oh, I think we’re holding ourselves accountable’ when there’s no one there to hold them accountable?”

While no events have been planned at this stage, Steward wants this conversation to be recurring, with more diverse panels of police officers and community members.

“We understand that there is a gap, but how do we go about bridging that gap?” Steward asked. “We just need to sit down and talk and listen. Sometimes I feel like the community talks in one direction and the police talk in another direction. This is a chance to speak directly to one another.”

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



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Zeta Phi chapter of Omega Psi Phi celebrates 96 years of service

STAFF

On the evening of Nov. 17, 1911, Omega Psi Phi was founded inside the science building (later renamed Thirkield Hall) at Howard University, Washington, D.C. The founders were three undergraduates — Edgar Amos Love, Oscar James

Cooper, and Frank Coleman. Joining them was their faculty adviser, Ernest Everett Just.

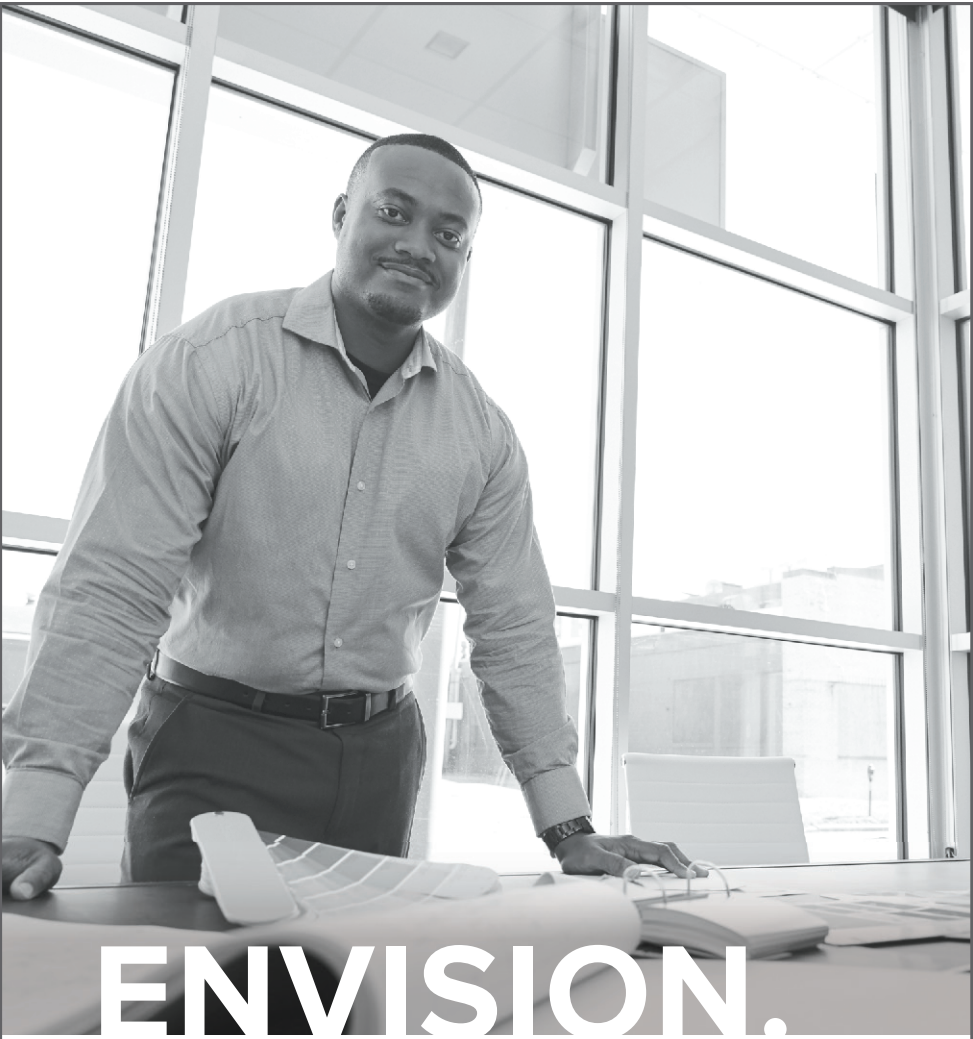
A little less than 14 years after the fraternity’s founding, Zeta Phi chapter, located in Indianapolis, was chartered April 1925 as Omega’s 54th chapter. Zeta Phi chapter is considered

by many to be one of the strongest chapters of the Omega Psi Phi fraternity Inc. Zeta Phi is one of more than 900 chapters that contributes to the fraternity’s rich and auspicious history.

Zeta Phi was formed as a graduate chapter with five previous members of the fraternity: Emory A. James, a charter member of Beta chapter, initiated Feb. 6, 1914; Myers E. Proctor, Beta chapter, 1915; Charles E. Harry III, Alpha chapter, 1918; Charleston B. Cox, Camp Howard chapter, 1918; and William Conway Summers, a charter member of Theta Omega chapter, 1922. Within one month of Zeta Phi’s chartering, these brothers initiated another six men in Indianapolis who included Henry E. Dunn, William T. Wilhite, Harry D. Evans, F.F. Bowler, William A. Thomas and William E. Baugh.

Over the years, Zeta Phi has grown to average 100 fully financial members per year and has helped to “birth” undergraduate chapters at Indiana University (Zeta Epsilon), Indiana State University (Chi Sigma), Purdue University (Rho Sigma), Indiana University-Purdue University Indianapolis (Sigma Beta) and Ohio State University (Iota Psi), along with graduate chapters Phi Mu Nu (Fishers) and Nu Mu Nu (Kokomo). Zeta Phi is also credited with helping to establish chapters at the University of Illinois (Pi Psi), Ball State University (Upsilon Beta) and Butler University (now part of an Indianapolis Citywide Chapter).

Zeta Phi Chapter will celebrate 96 years of auspicious service on April 29.



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Associate Director of Development – Indiana Chapter

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The Associate Director of Development is a key position within the Indiana Development Team. They implement and coordinate effective multi-year strategies and plans for gift prospects, including corporate, foundation, and/or individual donors. The ADoD will build a portfolio of qualified donors, develop strong donor strategies, and build lasting donor relationships. They will effectively communicate the programs of the Conservancy in broad terms and engage donors through a variety of methods, such as meetings, presentations, events, and field trips. The ADoD will be responsible for direct asks to both global and local priorities to meet the funding needs of the Indiana Chapter and other Conservancy programs; and listen for opportunities for gifts of assets or other non-cash gifts, such as planned gifts and trade lands. They will use the Conservancy’s donor database, develop donor proposals, and involve appropriate partners and staff, keeping them apprised of interactions, issues, or concerns, as appropriate.

This is a full-time position based at the Efronson Conservation Center in downtown Indianapolis, Indiana. The compensation range begins at \$64,300 and is commensurate with experience.

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

Minimum Qualifications	Preferred Qualifications
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Bachelor’s degree and 5 years related experience; or equivalent combination of education and experience.• Experience building and maintaining long-term relationships with fundraising constituents.• Experience in asking for and closing gifts of \$25,000 or more.• Experience in managing and tracking multiple prospects and donors.• Experience working with cross-functional teams.• Experience, coursework, or other training in fundraising principles and practices.• Must have a valid driver’s license.	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Multi-lingual skills and multi-cultural or cross-cultural experience appreciated.• Ability to determine an individual’s interests, capacity, and potential for helping the Conservancy meet its goals, and act appropriately to tie those interests with the Conservancy’s work.• Ability to educate, inform, and inspire prospective and existing donors about appropriate giving vehicles.• Ability to implement and manage fundraising plans, including individualized cultivation, solicitation, and recognition plans.• Knowledge of current trends in charitable giving in the areas of capital campaigns, major gifts, or planned giving.• Demonstrated experience using listening, diplomacy, and tact to build strong relationships and motivate donors and volunteers.• Proven ability to negotiate high profile or sensitive agreements.• Working knowledge of the basics of charitable gift planning.

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

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



Volunteer & Events Coordinator – Indiana Chapter

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

TNC Indiana’s Inspiring People for Nature strategy includes the expansive work of engaging people and nature while increasing our capacity and expertise. The Indiana Volunteer & Events Coordinator will develop, grow, and support our volunteer and community engagement programs as part of our Inspiring People for Nature initiative. They will work with community and conservation partners, and organize hands-on events for volunteers, corporate work groups, interns, and youth. The Coordinator will work closely with the Director of Community Programs and the Director of Stewardship to implement Conservancy-wide initiatives and processes for event, outreach, and volunteer management within the Indiana Chapter.

The Indiana Volunteer & Events Coordinator will be responsible for improving and expanding the volunteer program and creating events that engage communities, members, volunteers, partners, and donors. They will research and develop events and volunteer activities that attract and engage diverse communities. They will lead activities to recruit, train, manage, and recognize volunteers. They will coordinate events, outreach, and projects with staff and volunteers, maintain and improve processes and databases, and ensure compliance with all TNC Standard Operating Procedures and local laws. The Coordinator will provide leadership and direction to volunteers and will work cooperatively with Conservancy staff and members, as well as partner organizations, agencies, and businesses.

This is a full-time position based at the Efronson Conservation Center in downtown Indianapolis, Indiana. The compensation range begins at \$41,300 and is commensurate with experience.

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

Minimum Qualifications	Preferred Qualifications
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Bachelor’s degree and 2 years’ experience; or equivalent combination of education and experience.• Experience in business writing, editing, and proofreading.• Experience with digital media.• Experience organizing and leading volunteers to accomplish a goal.• Experience managing multiple projects and activities to meet deadlines.• Experience working and communicating with a variety of people.• Ability to obtain a valid driver license within one month of employment start date.• Ability to meet Conservancy Youth Qualification requirements and background checks.	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• 1-year experience in organizing and managing a volunteer program.• Ability to analyze information for the purpose of preparing reports, coordinating efforts, and solving problems.• Ability to write and edit written materials for use with member communications and special events.• Experience using Microsoft Office software: Word, Excel, PowerPoint, Forms, etc.• Demonstrated knowledge of the structure and needs required by a volunteer program.• Database management skills with ability to produce reports.• Volunteer outreach and/or recruiting experience.• Knowledge of land stewardship activities such as invasive species removal or tree planting.• Experience with community science data collection applications such as Naturalist or eBird.• Strong organizational skills and attention to detail.• Supervisory experience.

We offer a competitive salary with great benefits. For a complete position description and to apply, visit <http://www.nature.org/careers> and search for Job ID# 49652. Deadline to apply is 11:59 PM EDT, May 14, 2021.

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

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

CHAUVIN

► Continued from A1

Chauvin, 45, could be sent to prison for decades when he is sentenced in about two months in a case that triggered worldwide protests, violence and a furious reexamination of racism and policing in the U.S.

The verdict set off jubilation mixed with sorrow across the city and around the nation. Hundreds of people poured into the streets of Minneapolis, some running through traffic with banners. Drivers blared their horns in celebration.

“Today, we are able to breathe again,” Floyd’s younger brother Philonise said at a joyous family news conference where tears streamed down his face as he likened Floyd to the 1955 Mississippi lynching victim Emmett Till, except that this time there were cameras around to show the world what happened.

On April 21, Philonise Floyd described his thoughts while watching Chauvin being handcuffed. He recalled to ABC’s “Good Morning America” how it appeared “a lot easier” on Chauvin than when his brother was handcuffed before his death, but said it still represented “accountability.”

“It makes us happier knowing that his life, it mattered, and he didn’t die in vain,” he said.

The jury of six whites and six Black or multiracial people came back with its verdict after about 10 hours of deliberations over two days. The now-fired white officer was found guilty of second-degree unintentional murder, third-degree murder and second-degree manslaughter.

Chauvin’s face was obscured by a COVID-19 mask, and little reaction could be seen beyond his eyes darting around the courtroom. His bail was immediately revoked. Sentencing will be in two months; the most serious charge carries up to 40 years in prison.

Defense attorney Eric Nelson followed Chauvin out of the courtroom without comment.

President Joe Biden welcomed the verdict, saying Floyd’s death was “a murder in full light of day, and it ripped the blinders off for the whole world” to see systemic racism.

But he warned: “It’s not enough. We can’t stop here. We’re going to deliver real change and reform. We can and we must do more to reduce the likelihood that tragedies like this will ever happen again.”

The jury’s decision was hailed around the country as justice by other political and civic leaders and celebrities, including former President Barack Obama, Oprah Winfrey and California Gov. Gavin Newsom, a white man, who said on Twitter that Floyd “would still be alive if he looked like me. That must change.”

At a park next to the Minneapolis courthouse, a hush fell over a crowd of about 300 as they listened to the verdict on their cellphones. Then a great roar went up, with many people hugging, some shedding tears.

At the intersection where Floyd was pinned down, a crowd chanted, “One down, three to go!” — a reference to the three other fired Minneapolis officers facing trial in August on charges of aiding and abetting murder in Floyd’s death.

Janay Henry, who lives nearby, said she felt grateful and relieved.

“I feel grounded. I can feel my feet on the concrete,” she said, adding that she was looking forward to the “next case with joy and optimism and strength.”

Jamee Haggard, who brought her biracial 4-year-old daughter to the intersection, said: “There’s some form of justice that’s coming.”

The verdict was read in a courthouse ringed with concrete barriers and razor wire and patrolled by National Guard troops, in a city on edge against another round of unrest — not just because of the Chauvin case but because of the deadly police shooting of a young Black man, Daunte Wright, in a Minneapolis suburb April 11.

The jurors’ identities were kept secret and will not be released until the judge decides it is safe to do so.

It is unusual for police officers to be prosecuted for killing someone on the job. And convictions are extraordinarily rare.

Out of the thousands of deadly police shootings in the U.S. since 2005, fewer than 140 officers have been charged with murder or manslaughter, according to data maintained by Phil Stinson, a criminologist at Bowling Green State University. Before Chauvin, only seven were convicted of murder.

Juries often give police officers the benefit of the doubt when they claim they had to make split-second, life-or-death decisions. But that was not an argument Chauvin could easily make.

Floyd, 46, died May 25, 2020, after

being arrested on suspicion of passing a counterfeit \$20 bill for a pack of cigarettes at a corner market. He panicked, pleaded that he was claustrophobic and struggled with police when they tried to put him in a squad car. They put him on the ground instead.

The centerpiece of the case was the excruciating bystander video of Floyd gasping repeatedly, “I can’t breathe” and onlookers yelling at Chauvin to stop as the officer pressed his knee on or close to Floyd’s neck for what authorities say was 9 1/2 minutes, including several minutes after Floyd’s breathing had stopped and he had no pulse.

Prosecutors played the footage at the earliest opportunity, during opening statements, and told the jury: “Believe your eyes.” From there it was shown over and over, analyzed one frame at a time by witnesses on both sides.

In the wake of Floyd’s death, demonstrations and scattered violence broke out in Minneapolis, around the country and beyond. The furor also led to the removal of Confederate statues and other offensive symbols such as Aunt Jemima.

In the months that followed, numerous states and cities restricted the use of force by police, revamped disciplinary systems or subjected police departments to closer oversight.

The narrative of Floyd’s death began with a late-night Minneapolis police news release that said Floyd “appeared to be suffering medical distress” after he resisted arrest and was handcuffed. Once teenager Darnella Frazier’s bystander video surfaced, a department spokesman said it became clear the statement was inaccurate, and the “Blue Wall of Silence” that often protects police accused of wrongdoing rapidly crumbled.

The Minneapolis police chief quickly called it “murder” and fired all four officers, and the city reached a staggering \$27 million settlement with Floyd’s family as jury selection was underway.

Police-procedure experts and law enforcement veterans inside and outside the Minneapolis department, including the chief, testified for the prosecution that Chauvin used excessive force and went against his training.

Medical experts for the prosecution

said Floyd died of asphyxia, or lack of oxygen, because his breathing was constricted by the way he was held down on his stomach, his hands cuffed behind him, a knee on his neck and his face jammed against the ground.

Chauvin’s attorney called a police use-of-force expert and a forensic pathologist to try to make the case that Chauvin acted reasonably against a struggling suspect and that Floyd died because of a heart condition and his illegal drug use. Floyd had high blood pressure and narrowed arteries, and fentanyl and methamphetamine were found in his system.

Under the law, police have certain leeway to use force and are judged according to whether their actions were “reasonable” under the circumstances.

The defense also tried to make the case that Chauvin and the other officers were hindered in their duties by what they perceived as a growing, hostile crowd.

Chauvin did not testify, and all that the jury or the public ever heard by way of an explanation from him came from a police body-camera video after an ambulance had taken the 6-foot-4, 223-pound Floyd away. Chauvin told a bystander: “We gotta control this guy ‘cause he’s a sizable guy ... and it looks like he’s probably on something.”

The prosecution’s case also included tearful testimony from onlookers who said the police kept them back when they protested what was happening.

Frazier, who shot the crucial video, said Chauvin gave the bystanders a “cold” and “heartless” stare. She and others said they felt a sense of helplessness and lingering guilt from witnessing Floyd’s slow-motion death.

“It’s been nights I stayed up, apologizing and apologizing to George Floyd for not doing more, and not physically interacting and not saving his life,” she testified.

Webber reported from Fenton, Michigan. Associated Press video journalist Angie Wang in Atlanta and writers Doug Glass, Stephen Groves, Aaron Morrison, Tim Sullivan and Michael Tarm in Minneapolis; Mohamed Ibrahim in Brooklyn Center, Minnesota; and Todd Richmond in Madison, Wisconsin, contributed.



A Renew Indianapolis home under construction. (Photo provided by Renew Indianapolis)

By TYLER FENWICK
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Renew Indianapolis will join a national network of organizations focused on affordable housing through NeighborWorks America, a nonprofit chartered and funded through Congress.

The partnership will give Renew Indianapolis more access to money, training and technical support. In the short term, many of those resources will benefit the Martindale-Brightwood area, a small section of which was recently named a Lift Indy neighborhood.

“Everyone is entitled to affordable housing that is safe and decent, where they can be part of a stable community,” NeighborWorks President and CEO Marietta Rodriguez said during a virtual press conference April 19.

Renew Indianapolis CEO Steven Meyer said the extra resources, including a grant for \$85,000, will go toward what the organization has already committed to do, including programs for mortgage refinancing

and construction to spur new homeownership in Martindale-Brightwood.

The grant money is not specific to Martindale-Brightwood but will support the organization’s initiatives in general.


Mayor Joe Hogsett said part of strengthening neighborhoods is combining affordable housing with revitalization and economic growth, terms that notoriously are associated with gentrification and displacement.

“Every resident should be able to dream of homeownership,” Hogsett said.

NeighborWorks America has a network of nearly 250 organizations. Renew Indianapolis is the first from Central Indiana and fourth in the state. There are 57 organizations in the Midwest, according to Rodriguez.

The nonprofit said it distributed \$90.9 million in grants from its federal appropriation in its most recent financial report.

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





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HBCUs: America’s pathway to next generation prosperity

In tribute to Dr. King’s calls for economic inclusion

By JAMIE BRACEY-GREEN



I once had a powerful interaction with Mrs. Coretta Scott King while taking her order for lunch. As she was teasing me about the taste of northern “barbecue” she suddenly turned to make the decisive statement, “They didn’t kill my Martin for civil rights, they killed him for turning to economics.” I don’t remember what she ordered, but I remember what she said. It was clear to me that she and her husband knew why he would die. Yet, they did not back down from the sacrifice, knowing that although Dr. King considered himself a nonviolent warrior, warriors often died. Still they fought against a pervasive system of segregation that blanketed the nation as a tool of white supremacy, a system of economic violence limiting Black access to ownership.

Two generations after that conversation, which was two generations after Dr. King’s death, we confront a 21st century where little has changed. Citibank’s 2020 report suggests the economic violence we inherited has cost America \$16 trillion over the past 20 years. Institutional policies and practices continue to starve the aspirations of vulnerable populations by limiting access to white controlled resources, to protect the economic system built on stolen land and labor. Restricted access has resulted in beneficiaries of the status quo owning the wealth while the most vulnerable Americans own the nation’s poverty. Owners of that poverty are disproportionately children, and today, as in the centuries past, America’s most vulnerable children are given little access to resources and investments to participate in our nation’s future. It’s no longer a sustainable path.

As of 2014, 54% of our nation’s 50 million K-12 students are mainly of African and Hispanic descent, and they represent the next generation of leaders, activists, economists,



Getty Images

industrialists, scientists and inventors. Thirty million are qualified for free and reduced lunch. Even in fairly resourced schools most of America’s next generation lacks consistent exposure to high quality STEM knowledge and experiences they’ll need to achieve and sustain this administration’s goal to “build back better” after the coronavirus shutdowns.

The Biden administration is pivoting the nation toward health recovery. As states and cities scramble to close economic gaps using the \$1.9 trillion American Rescue Act, the paucity of data on the Black employer-owned companies, entrepreneurs and physical assets where those 54% live hinders how we prioritize investments to ensure vulnerable communities are transformed into economically productive assets.

Our mission at The National Institute for Inclusive Competitiveness is to shatter the intransigent barriers to entry to education and economic ecosystems that should (but

don’t) serve vulnerable children attending segregated schools in the 21st century, or their families. Our call to action is simple and elegant — regions must invest in strategic planning to attract and guide investments that strengthen the capacity of key stakeholders to cultivate talent and entrepreneurship aligned with America’s future. The NIIC believes historically Black colleges and universities (HBCU) are central to this solution, and with an economic approach can leverage their physical and virtual infrastructures to create actionable, collective wealth.

The NIIC’s role as the nation’s chief advocate for inclusive economic competitiveness strategies is to address gaping racial inequalities by offering existing solutions that have been historically undervalued and underutilized. Our work is designed to align HBCUs, alongside their partners and investors, with high growth global opportunities that are based in the United States. We seek to build HBCU capacity to increase pre-college STEM

pathways for more of the 54% as well, who’ve been least likely to inherit STEM knowledge. The creative ingenuity of millennials will be critical for bolstering regional economic competitiveness, entrepreneurship and parity in business ownership that’s sustainable in a just and civil society.

Two generations into the future, no matter what anyone looks like, the climate is changing, new technologies are evolving, new markets are opening, new challenges to the environment are emerging and new viruses are coming. The NIIC is working with HBCUs and public-private partners to amplify the role of HBCUs as anchor institutions responsible for economic planning, research and development, technology transfer and seed capital for the communities where their faculty, staff, students and employees live.

Dr. King wrote in his 1964 book, “Why We Can’t Wait”: “The average Negro is born into want and deprivation. His struggle to escape his circumstances is hindered by color dis-

crimination. He is deprived of normal education and normal social and economic opportunities. When he seeks opportunity, he is told, in effect, to lift himself by his own bootstraps, advice which does not take into account the fact that he is barefoot.”

America needs its most vulnerable populations to increase their productivity in the workforce, in entrepreneurship and business ownership. We need the 54% and growing to become Americans who are visionary inventors, employers and job creators, advancing the overall global competitiveness of the United States. To reach that objective we must invest in the economic ownership and equity aspirations of the next two generations of all young people. Before their belief in America is permanently destroyed. Dr. and Mrs. King held onto that belief and we must too.

Jamie Bracey Green, Ph.D., is a co-founder and CEO of The NIIC. Contact her at jbgreen@niicusa.org.

CDC

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diseases and preventable health conditions.

John Auerbach, president and CEO of Trust for America’s Health, said using a racial equity lens to direct spending on preventive public health measures is crucial. And it’s one way to tackle long-standing health disparities facing Black and Hispanic communities.

“We see a disproportionate impact that’s affected people of color, largely as a result of the barriers to optimal health that result from systemic racism and multi-generational poverty,” he said. “Where even when people are doing their absolute best to live a healthy life, it’s challenging, it’s because of the obstacles they face.”

Another important step is developing systems that collect up-to-date, accurate demographic data, Auerbach said. A recent CDC report shows that race and ethnicity data is known for only 55% of vaccine recipients nationwide.

“Similarly, the data that are routinely collected for public health, reportable illnesses around the country, often does not include the race and ethnicity of the person even though that’s a required field in all of the materials,” he said.

Data collection is one of the most important steps in knowing where funding needs to be directed, both on a federal and local level, according to Auerbach.

Locally, there have been similar declarations about racism. In June 2020, as Black and brown communities were being hit hardest by the pandemic, Indianapolis City-County Council declared racism to be a public health crisis.

Dr. Virginia Caine, director of the Marion County Public Health Department, said that declaration

shined a bright light on systemic racial barriers. And that meant local officials were committed to “frank and open discussions of race ... and racial inequities in our communities.”

“We are hoping that these discussions will be integrated into the daily work of companies and agencies,” Caine said. She wants to ensure that local officials work to eliminate policies and procedures with “any implicit and explicit racial bias and develop, instead, policies and procedures that will build up racial equity.”

Similarly, in October of 2020, three major health systems — Community Health Network, Eskenazi Health and Indiana University Health — pledged to “do more to end health disparities.”

Since then, IU Health has set up training for health care providers on racism and inclusion and piloted programs aimed at increasing health care access. One of those programs offers free transportation in collaboration with ride-hailing apps, so Hoosiers in underserved communities can get a COVID-19 vaccine.

Community Health Network is working with churches and community groups to provide information on vaccines. It also sets up vaccine clinics in neighborhoods hit hardest by the pandemic, where health care access is a challenge.

Eskenazi Health, meanwhile, is expanding its primary care sites to neighborhoods with the highest health disparities.

Local declarations help give researchers and academics direction when studying the pandemic’s impact and its relation to race and socioeconomic conditions. For instance, Halverson said last year IU studied the prevalence of COVID-19 and public health officials allowed researchers to

work with minority communities to understand the pandemic’s impact.

“It was a very, very important study,” he said. “In fact, it was sort of groundbreaking because it was the first study in the country that actually measured the actual true prevalence of the disease.”

Still, these declarations are no guarantee that a certain issue will receive more funding or lead to changes in Indiana communities.

For the most part, Congress establishes how the CDC and other federal agencies allocate their funding. They have some discretionary money and Auerbach said states like Indiana

need to make sure they are “applying for as many federal grants as possible.”

In the meantime, public health experts believe that such declarations by leaders are a step in the right direction — and the first thread in unraveling a complex, multi-layered web of problems.

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_Yousrym.

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We've offered new and expanded benefits to help our employees balance family and work, including over **3.7 million days** of back-up child and adult care. That's an investment of more than \$370 million in child and adult care reimbursement.

I'm so proud of the way our community has come together to help those who need it most. And I'm certain that Indianapolis has the power to be stronger than ever as a result.



Andy Crask
President, Bank of America Indianapolis



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- Delivered PPP funding to over **377** of our small business clients in Indiana for more than **\$62 million** in relief
- Distributed **54,000 masks** through our local partners including:
 - Christamore House Family and Community Center
 - Boys and Girls Clubs of Indianapolis
- Expanded benefits for our employees to include additional child and adult care services plus virtual medical and behavioral health consultations at no cost

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*PPP data as of 04/04/2021
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Southport Middle School gets upgraded media center

By TYLER FENWICK
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Students at Southport Middle School got their first look at the school's upgraded media center April 9, the first project unveiled as part of the leadup to the 2022 College Football Playoff national championship in Indianapolis.

The College Football Playoff Foundation and the city's playoff host committee partnered with Lakeshore Learning to modernize the media center, which has new computer stations, tables, chairs and a seating area for reading and studying. The center also has new tablets, 3D pens, a sewing machine and Lego wall.

"We just had books and things like that. It was OK at first," seventh grader Samuel Lloyd said as he used one of the 3D pens for the first time. "This makes me want to come back here even more."

Lloyd laughed off a question about if he gets good grades, but he knows this much about his improved media center: "It makes me more motivated to get good grades for language arts and things like that."

Southport Middle School has 1,190 students enrolled, according to data from the state. About 40% of students are white, and about 11% are Black or African American. Nearly half of students are Asian or



L-R: Jashun Rochon and Samuel Lloyd, seventh graders at Southport Middle School, use new 3D pens in the school's upgraded media center April 9. (Photo/Tyler Fenwick)

Hispanic.

Perry Township Schools Superintendent Patrick Mapes said the new technology and other upgrades should help the school better serve its diverse student body.

Part of the reason cities want to host large

sporting events such as the national championship or Super Bowl is because it usually brings investments into other areas. The College Football Playoff Foundation traditionally focuses on education.

"Our job is to use the

popularity of football to benefit teachers," said Britton Banowsky, the foundation's executive director.

The Indianapolis host committee said it will invest \$1 million to helping teachers and students through school make-

overs, as well as programs to help with e-learning and recruiting diverse teachers.

The next schools scheduled to get a media center makeover are Garden City Elementary School in Wayne Township, James and Rosemary

Phalen Leadership Academy on the northeast side and Victory College Prep on the southeast side.

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

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EDITORIAL

‘Tears of relief’

By OSEYE BOYD



Yesterday I cried. The tears that streamed down my face weren’t tears of joy; they were tears of relief. Relief that the man who murdered George Floyd was convicted. After deliberating for about 10 hours, the jury came back with a guilty verdict on all three counts — second-degree murder, third-degree murder and second-degree manslaughter. I’ve been worried about the outcome of the trial since it began. I was on pins and needles when jury deliberations began. I want to be clear about the kind of tears I shed. As I said, these were not tears of joy. This isn’t a situation where there’s joy. A man died — senselessly. A daughter lost her father. A brother lost his brother. Family members and friends lost a loved one for no reason. You’re never going to convince me that possibly paying for goods with a counterfeit \$20 bill is grounds for death. You’re also never going to convince me that George Floyd died from anything other than someone kneeling on his neck for more than 9 minutes. Because I respect this publication, I won’t say how I really feel about those who mock or suggest there was another cause of death. Blocking someone’s air passageway leads to death. Period. To suggest anything else is callous and inhumane. My tears weren’t tears of joy because, we’re not done. Chauvin’s guilty verdict was but one case of police brutality. I have a few theories on why Chauvin was found guilty, most importantly being that his actions were brutal, appalling and shameful. He

couldn’t hide behind the excuse of fearing for his life. He couldn’t hide behind any excuse. It showed he just didn’t care and seeing someone torture another human being in that way was too much for many Americans. Hearing George Floyd cry out for his mother touched many people who never paid attention to police brutality. By the way, Speaker of the House Nancy Pelosi, George Floyd didn’t sacrifice his life for justice. George Floyd didn’t have a choice in his death. He wasn’t actively fighting for justice at the time of his death. George Floyd didn’t deserve to die, which is why I have a problem saying justice was served. So, while I’m relieved George Floyd’s family “won,” this isn’t a victory. He’s still dead and the system hasn’t changed. As pundits talked on TV shows, politicians spoke and think pieces were written about this verdict and its impact on systemic racism, Columbus, Ohio, was reeling from the death of a teenage Black girl killed by the police. The police in Columbus, Ohio, have been on a roll when it comes to killing Black people. You may remember Casey Goodson, 23, was killed at the entrance of his home in December, and Andre Hill, 47, was killed just two weeks later. When it comes to justifying Black people killed by the police, those who back the police always point out any criminal behavior by the victim, non-compliance, the police being in fear (as if the victim isn’t fearful), cops doing a difficult job and how they just want to go home at the end of the day (as if the victims don’t want to go home as well). However, I’ve never heard anyone justify why when white criminals actually jeopardize the life of officers, they walk away in handcuffs. (Folks always have a lot to say about

Black people.) A recent video on social media showed a white man in Minnesota hitting a police officer with a hammer and dragging the officer with his truck. The hammer-wielding man had an altercation with an employee at a home improvement store. He refused to wear a mask and hit the employee with a piece of lumber. He fled, and in addition to hitting and dragging a cop, he rammed his truck into two police cars. He’s alive and well. It’s just another example of the cops not shooting a white person. Before the Chauvin verdict was announced, I planned to write my column about the mass shooting at FedEx. Something must be done besides sending our heartfelt condolences, thoughts and prayers to victims’ families. It’s become cliché. Lawmakers need to get some courage and stand up to the National Rifle Association to legislate gun laws that keep Americans safe. And I don’t mean encouraging every American to start packing. If we haven’t figured it out by now — which we really should have — everyone doesn’t need a gun. We need to make it more difficult for people to get a gun than easier. We could at least make it more difficult for people to get assault rifles and machine guns. Other than ego, I’m not sure why a civilian needs an arsenal. According to Gun Violence Archive, 150 mass shootings have occurred in the U.S. in 2021. We’re only in the fourth month of the year. I remember a time when mass shootings weren’t a normal occurrence. Now, we’ve moved on to the next one before the previous victims are even buried. It shouldn’t take losing a loved one to make you care. Don’t you wonder why other western “civilized” countries aren’t experiencing mass shootings at the rate we do in “the best country in the world”?

OPINIONS

Breathing a little easier

By LARRY SMITH

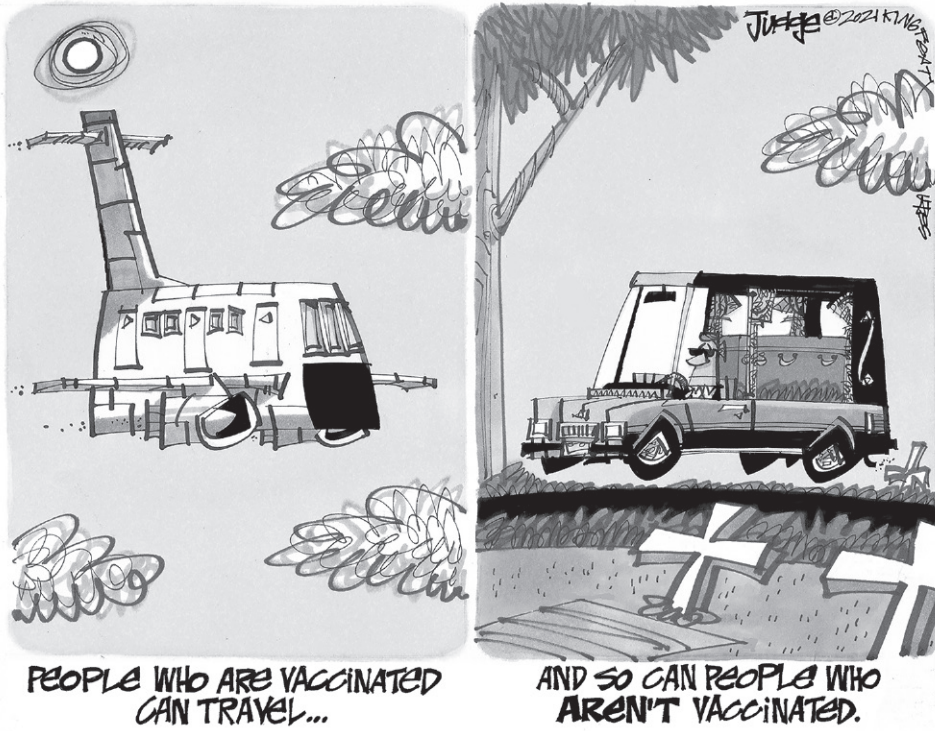


“He mattered because he was a human being.” Minnesota Attorney General Keith Ellison delivered these solemn, simple, sermonic words at a press conference following the guilty verdicts in the trial of Derek Chauvin, the disgraced former police officer who murdered George Floyd. In 2007, Ellison made history as the first Muslim to be elected to Congress and the first African American from Minnesota. He resigned that seat in 2019 to mount a successful bid to become the top legal officer in his state. At the request of Gov. Tim Walz, Ellison personally took control of the Chauvin case. He charged Chauvin with second-degree murder, which carries a tougher penalty than the third-degree murder charge that the local prosecutor had levied. Ellison also built a team of superlative attorneys who expertly and methodically prosecuted the case. We’ll never know for sure, but justice might have not been served had Ellison decided to stay in Congress. If I might take a point of personal privilege, once the jury started de-

liberating, I dared not expect even one guilty verdict — much less three. Expecting a guilty verdict, even of the lowest charge, was a luxury that I could not afford; the emotional price of even potentially being wrong was too high for me. Thus, I waited in what felt like suspended animation. Of course, this purgatory was not unique to me; African Americans as a group endured the pricks of proverbial pins and the jabs of psychological needles as we waited. Finally, Judge Peter Cahill spoke. The guilty verdicts floated in the air as melodically as a symphony. Our wait was over. I am cautiously optimistic that the following six words (and 10 syllables) will change history: Derek Chauvin is going to prison. In the absence of severe mental health challenges, that is where violent criminals should be. (As someone who is pro-life, I am against the death penalty.) We don’t know how long he’ll be in a cell; that is to be determined later. But we can take some solace in the fact that Chauvin’s freedom has been taken away legally, which is far more than what we can say about the manner in which he stole George Floyd’s freedom. As I write, I can hear the plaintive, siren song of the late Sam Cooke: “It’s been a loooong time comin’, but I know a change is gonna come.”

George Floyd was a human being. He was saint and sinner, hero and villain, man and monster. That’s what it means to be human. That basic biological and moral reality should have afforded George Floyd the right to life. One should not have to be a deity to demand dignity. In waiting for Chauvin to be held accountable, the phrase “don’t hold your

breath” repeatedly came to mind. We nearly ceased breathing as we waited for Judge Cahill to announce the verdicts. Now, for at least once in our lives, for at least a moment, we can exhale. Larry Smith is a community leader. Contact him at larry@leaf-llc.com.



HB 1006: The Great Compromise

By ROBIN SHACKLEFORD



When you hear the word compromise, you think of sacrifice, loss and war. While that may be the case in many compromises, House Bill 1006 authored by State Rep. Greg Steuerwald and co-authored by yours truly was collaborative and historic. House Bill 1006 Law Enforcement Officers has de-

finitively changed the Indiana criminal justice system forever. During the summer, the Indiana Black Legislative Caucus was on the forefront of justice reform. We participated in town halls, community discussions, demonstrations and advocacy calls. From there we listened to the issues that plagued our community and created an action plan to tackle them. On the list of solutions, our biggest feat to tackle was police reform. In our pursuit of reforming our police departments, we knew that a true bipartisan effort was needed to accomplish this goal. Additionally, we knew we would have to find common ground among activist, law enforcement and judicial expectations. We approached the speaker of the House for a task force, but luckily, he assigned Rep. Steuerwald to work with us and together we pushed through comprehensive legislation that: Requires the Indiana law enforcement training board to establish mandatory training in de-escalation as part of the use-of-force curriculum and to be provided in pre-basic, mandatory in-service and executive training programs. Establishes procedure to allow the Indiana law enforcement board to decertify an officer who has committed misconduct. Defines “chokehold” and prohibits the use of a chokehold under certain circumstances: “Chokehold” means applying pressure to the throat or neck of another person in a manner intended to obstruct the airway of the other person.

“Deadly force” includes a chokehold. Specifies that an officer who turns off their body camera with the intent to conceal a criminal act commits a Class A misdemeanor. Requires a law enforcement agency to request a potential hire’s employment record and certain other information from the previous employing agency. Appropriates \$70 million from the state general fund to the Indiana Law Enforcement Academy (ILEA) to make repairs and updates to their facility. Gov. Eric Holcomb signed the legislation into law a few weeks ago, and we could not be more ecstatic of this monumental feat. HB 1006 was a phenomenal starting point; however, we still have more work to do, which will take our entire community. Our next steps include participating in another legislative work group over the summer to create an additional bipartisan justice reform bill and ensure our minority, women and veteran-owned businesses are a substantial part of the ILEA rehab. I have absolute faith in our community and in my colleagues that we will be able to achieve more accomplishments that move the needle forward on the necessary transformation needed to make our community safe for all.

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

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AMERICA

► Continued from A1

had worked for FedEx for two months before her death.

“She was a kid who loved everybody,” Buckley said. “She was one of our bright young citizens who has been called home, and I’m never going to question why.”

In addition to the eight victims, participants also offered thoughts for the shooter, Brandon Hole, and his family. Hole, 19, legally purchased the weapons he used in the massacre despite previously being investigated by police.

At a vigil on Monument Circle earlier that day, a friend of victim Karli Smith, 19, expressed similar concern for Hole’s family.

“I’m usually pretty angry,” the young man told the crowd. “And I’m angry now, but my mom made me stop and think about how [Hole’s] mom must be feeling. She tried to get help for him. The system f---ing failed her, and now we’re all here grieving.”

Following the shooting, Hole’s house on the city’s east side had a “no trespassing” sign on the door, and no family members were available for comment.

An 82-year-old neighbor who lived in the area for over 40 years said he feels for Hole’s mother, but they kept to themselves. He said he received no warning that Hole was interviewed by the FBI last year.

“Maybe we’re not as nosey as we should be,” he said. “But these things happen, and you move on. My heart just goes out to the families of the victims and to [Hole’s] mom. A lot of people are hurting.”

While Hole’s family has declined interviews, they released a statement April 17.

“We are devastated at the loss of life caused as a result of Brandon’s actions; through the love of his family, we tried to get him the help he needed,” the statement read.

“Our sincerest and most heartfelt apologies go out to the victims of this senseless tragedy. We are so sorry for the pain and hurt being felt by their families and the entire Indianapolis community.”

Despite messages of hope shared throughout the multiple vigils, the pain was palpable.

The vigil at Monument Circle

was organized by Taylor Hall, 20, and Tyshara Loynes, 21.

“We were planning to come out here to protest the death of Daunte Wright (who was killed by police in Minnesota on April 11),” Loynes said. “And then this happened, and we sort of switched gears.”

Hall knew Karli Smith. Smith was the basketball manager for Crispus Attucks High School, where they both attended.

“It’s one thing to watch mass shootings on the news,” Hall said. “But to see it happen to people you know, it’s real. It’s so hard when it’s someone you knew so vividly.”

Hall described Smith as being kind and “a part of our family” on the basketball team. Indianapolis Public Schools released a statement remembering Smith, who graduated last year.

“Indianapolis Public Schools is devastated to learn about the loss of Karli Smith by this latest round of gun violence. Karli was a longtime IPS student and graduate. ... She graduated from George Washington, where she was known as a hardworking and dedicated student. While at Crispus Attucks, she played on the softball team and was loved by her teammates and coaches. ... Administrators, teachers and classmates remember Karli for her sense of humor that often generated smiles and laughter. Karli was a bright light wherever she went. She will be dearly missed by all throughout IPS who knew and loved her.”

While no motive has been released, some in the community believe Sikhs were targeted. Four of the eight victims were Sikh.

“Black and brown communities have the same struggles,” Loynes said of the need for solidarity between communities of color.

“We can’t stray away from that. We are all still killed for the color of our skin, for our religion, for our language. It’s crucial that we stand together.”

While remembering the eight Hoosiers lost was top of mind for everyone in attendance, it was difficult to ignore the calls for change regarding gun laws.

Speaking on the Circle, Rep. Andre Carson called for tighter gun control legislation, including closing loopholes that allow people to buy guns from private sellers without a federal background check.

Cathy Weinmann of gun control advocacy group Moms Demand Action said thoughts and prayers are no longer working.

“We’re sending a letter to Gov. [Eric] Holcomb demanding that he take action,” Weinmann said at a prayer vigil April 17. “We also want our two senators [Sens. Mike Braun and Todd Young] to take a stand and fight back against the [National Rifle Association] NRA.”

Combined, the two senators have taken a total of \$4,147,549 from the gun rights lobbying group, which advocates against tighter gun laws.

Maninder Singh Walia, a board member of the Sikh Association, said our leaders can no longer wait to take action on gun violence.

“Enough is enough,” Walia said at Monument Circle. “We’re sick and tired of coming together to mourn loss of life. If not now, when? Who else has to lose a grandmother, a sister, a family member?”

Walia wasn’t related to any of the victims, but said “we are all family,” and that’s why he’s fighting to prevent the next mass shooting. “We must come together with love and unity to prevent these things from impacting another community.”

In the three hours between the vigils at Monument Circle and Beech Grove, six more people — three in Texas and three in Minnesota — were killed in shootings.

As the Sikh speaker in Beech Grove finished his comments, he pleaded with the crowd to take action, quoting President Abraham Lincoln:

“If destruction be our lot, we must ourselves be its author and finisher. As a nation of freemen, we must live through all time, or die by suicide.”

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

Police report: FedEx shooting suspect ‘voiced suicidal ideation’ in March 2020

By TYLER FENWICK
tylerf@indyrecorder.com

Brandon Scott Hole, the suspect in the mass shooting at a FedEx facility, was taken to a hospital in March because he “voiced suicidal ideation,” according to a police report.

The incident, which occurred March 3, 2020, involved Indianapolis Metropolitan Police Department’s Behavioral Health Unit.

FBI Special Agent in Charge Paul Keenan said in a statement April 16 that Hole’s mother contacted police to report he might try to commit “suicide by cop.”

The report says Hole’s mother went to police March 3 to tell them Hole purchased a shotgun the day before. He did not purchase shells for the gun, according to the report.

Hole’s mother asked what he wanted to do with the gun, and he said, “This is not the life I want to live and I’ll end it my way,” according to the report.

He added: “I am going to point this unloaded gun at the police and they will shoot me.”

Hole’s father killed himself when Hole was 3 years old, according to the report.

Police went to the home and detained Hole without incident, the report says.

Hole became anxious and said, “Please just turn the power strip off on my computer,” according to the report. “I don’t want anyone to see what’s on it.”

An officer went upstairs and got the shotgun and also noticed “what through his training and experience indicated was white supremacist websites.”

“Brandon downplayed any suicidal thoughts or plans; however, he voiced feeling sad and depressed and would benefit from counseling,” the report says.

The FBI interviewed Hole in April 2020, according to Keenan’s statement, but found no criminal violations or indications of Racially Motivated Violent Extremism (RMVE).

At a press conference April 19, Marion County Prosecutor Ryan Mears said his office didn’t use the state’s red flag law against Hole and that gaps in the law would have made it difficult to keep Hole from getting the two assault rifles he used in the shooting.

Police said Hole purchased the two rifles legally in July and September of 2020.

IMPD confirmed Hole as the suspect in the mass shooting around 4 p.m. April 16. Police said FedEx officials confirmed he was a former employee who last worked in 2020.

Police said Hole, 19, appeared to die by suicide by the time they entered the facility, which is near the airport, after he killed eight people.

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

Advertisorial

Connected To Her Roots.

by Kara Kavensky

Ma’at [pronounced my at] Lands has always felt a deep sense of connection and responsibility to her community. While growing up on the east side, her father was the executive director of the Fall Creek YMCA and her mother worked at the Fay Biccard Glick Community Center at Crooked Creek serving Pike & Washington Townships. It is not surprising, given her family’s influence, that Lands identified at an early age that she wanted to engage in education in a meaningful way that would positively impact the lives of young people.

After college, the first person to offer Lands a job was the assistant principal from her high school. Lands taught in IPS in the same school where her mom had attended decades earlier. During that experience, Lands saw the discrepancies in education, witnessing first hand that all schools were not created equal; not all schools have access to highly qualified teachers nor the necessary resources to help students succeed post graduation. Lands shares that her students at IPS had some of the highest scores on the Biology ECA. In addition to teaching, Lands coached sports and served in a leadership faculty position.

Six years into her career, Lands’ mother became ill, so she left IPS to support her mom at the community center. Lands ran after school programs and also worked part-time as a science teacher in Pike Township. When her mom passed away, Lands made the decision to return to education and became a founding teacher at a charter school. Lands earned her administration license from Marian University and became an assistant princi-



pal, also at a charter school. Lands is the ninth of eleven children in her family and has over twenty-six nieces and nephews. One of her nephews struggled at Carmel High School and moved to a smaller charter school where he thrived.

“For many students, attending a smaller school is better for getting the support they need, like my nephew,” says Lands, Founder and CEO of Rooted School. “This is one of the reasons why I wanted to open a Charter school.”

In 2017, a mentor to Lands, LaTonya Turner, reached out and shared information about a school in New Orleans. The New Orleans school created personal pathways to financial freedom and is named 228 North Star after the amount of years (228 years) an average Black family needs to achieve the same amount of wealth that an average white family has.

Lands knew that she needed to bring this type of school to Indiana so she moved to New Orleans to immerse herself in the 228 North Star school culture in order to recreate this back home. Her New Orleans sabbatical was a giant leap of faith. Miraculously, once she returned, she was able to open a school through the Mayor’s office and backed by Eastern Star Church.

Eastern Star used to have a school years ago, but it closed. They were strongly supportive of the 228 North Star model and collectively, they named it Rooted School.

The 46218 / Arlington Woods neighborhood demographics: 21% Unemployment rate, 31% poverty rate, 14% post-high school degree, and 76% people of color. Technology is supposed to be the great equalizer for communities, regardless of their color palette. While the potential is there, Herculean efforts must be undertaken to make this a reality. Rooted School focuses on culturally relevant curriculum for their students and is community-driven. Their name is Rooted School for a reason: they are Rooted in their community.

“Over three hundred thousand jobs in tech are opening in the next ten years and how do we get students into STEM careers faster and getting them exposed to tech earlier,” says Lands, who lives in Arlington Woods. “Black students are being left behind and we need to accelerate and create producers of technology.”

Lands grew up in the Arlington Woods neighborhood and is intimately familiar with the challenges that the population faces. Eastern Star, in conjunction with other partnerships, are working hard to provide affordable housing for residents and a safe place, like the Youth Center, which is being built to help students feel more secure.

“The east side is an often forgotten place and the decisions we [Rooted School] make are with the community, not for the community,” states Lands. “We work in conjunction with our parents and neighborhood association to support students and families in the best way

possible.”

Mrs. Tramell, now a parent of a Rooted School student, originally heard about Rooted when she attended a parent meeting at Eastern Star. She liked what she heard about not shoving students towards college unless that is what they really wanted to do. Her son had been pushed through to 4th grade before someone would listen to her about his learning disability. Mrs. Tramell had spent years advocating for her son without much help. When she was finally able to get him tested, they discovered that he was dyslexic. Public school was failing him, but a private charter school had helped. While Mrs. Tramell’s son was back in public school for his middle school years, they did not have the resources to help him. Upon hearing this story, Lands asked Mrs. Tramell to

write down her information, her son’s name, and which school he attended. Lands asked to be in a meeting with his teachers. Lands not only helped Mrs. Tramell’s son while in middle school, she helped get him a tutor. This was all before Rooted School opened. Mrs. Tramell’s son is now part of the inaugural freshman class at Rooted School. According to Mrs. Tramell, her son used to stay quiet, and now he is opening up more.

“Someone is reaching him. It’s one thing to teach — it’s another thing to reach a student,” says Mrs. Tramell, whose son’s grades have dramatically improved. “We could have avoided a lot of drama if we had the right intervention earlier. I was adamant that my son was not going to be another statistic

unless it was something positive. God provided an outlet. I am just amazed at the Rooted School. Any parents out there who know the issues that I have gone through with my son, send them to Rooted.”

The goal of Rooted School is for every student to graduate with a college acceptance letter in one hand and a job offer in the other. Ma’at’s niece is a student at Rooted. The students are an extension of her as if they are her own children, like Mrs. Tramell’s son. Rooted School has many community partners, including Eastern Star Church, Martin University, Ivy Tech Community College, and Eleven Fifty Academy. All of these organizations are working together to facilitate positive impact for students and their community.



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Study shows clearer picture of pain, inflammation from sickle cell disease

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

A new study from the National Institutes of Health offers more insight into the cause of pain and inflammation in people with sickle cell disease and could lead to new treatment options.

Researchers discovered DNA from the mitochondria — the “powerhouse of the cell,” if you remember your biology class — acts as a danger signal in the body and triggers inflammation.

The study, published in March in the journal *Blood*, could help scientists better understand how to stop the chronic inflammation that often comes with sickle cell disease.

Normally, red blood cells get rid of their mitochondria when they mature because the cell no longer needs that energy. Researchers looked at people with sickle cell anemia — the most common type of sickle cell disease — and found their red blood cells keep the mitochondria. That can lead to a buildup of chemical molecules that stress the cells.

This condition

disrupts the way cells are supposed to function, leading to inflammation.

Gary Gibson, president and CEO of the Martin Center Sickle Cell Initiative, said this research represents another step forward for people living with sickle cell disease.

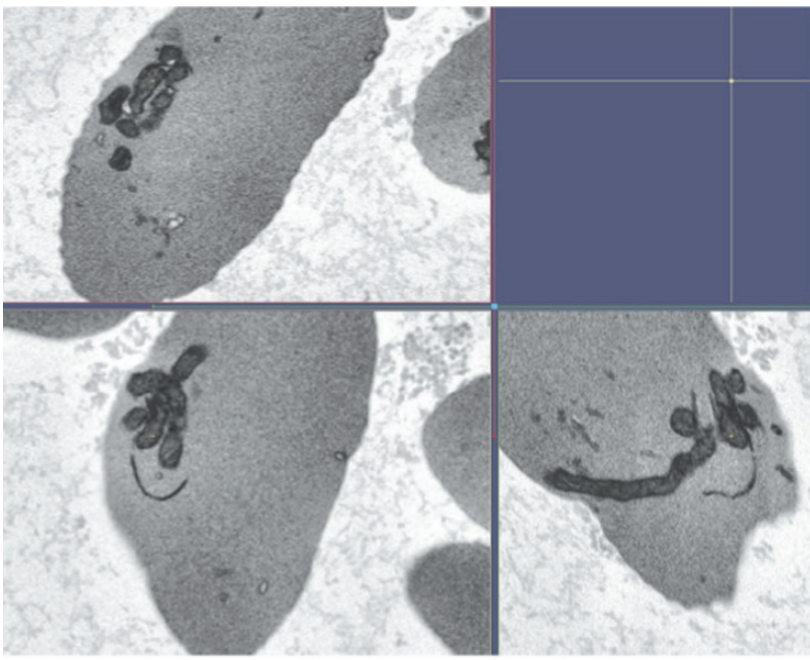
“Hopefully what it means is one day we’ll have to go out of business,” he said with a laugh.

Swee Lay Thein, chief of the Sickle Cell Branch at the National Heart, Lung, and Blood Institute (NHLBI), hopes the findings can help doctors and other researchers measure the effectiveness of medicine meant to curb pain and inflammation.

The next step: Researchers want to start testing drugs that target mitochondrial DNA and the inflammation process.

That will be a delicate undertaking, though. Thein and her team were able to block the formation of neutrophil extracellular traps, or NETs, which have a role in a specific inflammatory process but also help the immune system fight infections.

Thein said it’s possible to block the



Pictured is an image of mitochondrial bundles in several sickle cell red blood cells, showing evidence that circulating red blood cells from people with sickle cell disease abnormally retain mitochondria. (Photo provided by National Heart, Lung, and Blood Institute)

negative function of NETs without compromising the immune system, but any medication still has “quite a way to go.”

When the time comes, Gibson said it’s possible patients won’t get the full benefits of a new medication because there isn’t enough information on the provider side.

“We still are worried that providers in general don’t know enough about sickle cell disease, and they also do not know enough about how to treat sickle cell disease,” he said.

The Martin Center

MARTIN CENTER SICKLE CELL INITIATIVE ANNUAL CONFERENCE

The Martin Center Sickle Cell Initiative’s annual conference will focus on how new treatment options can improve the quality of life for younger patients.

- When: 8:30 a.m.-12:30 p.m. April 23
- Where: Facebook

will host its annual conference from 8:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. April 23 on the organization’s Facebook page. The focus this year is how new treatment options

can improve the quality of life for younger patients.

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

New health clinic opens on east side

By **BREANNA COOPER**
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For many elderly folks on the city’s east side, a lack of transportation means they live in a health care desert — far away from a primary care physician. A new Indiana University Connected Care clinic wants to change that.

The clinic, located at 7140 E. Washington St., is designed to help those on Medicare and Medicaid get the care they need. Patients can schedule same-day primary care appointments where they can spend 30 to 60 minutes with a doctor, get blood work and various examinations done and work with a pharmacist to fill prescriptions.

Erin Bhalla, community outreach coordinator for Indiana University Health, said the clinic’s “robust core team,” which includes a social worker, behavioral health professionals and care managers, should be fully staffed within the next year. Patients who need help understanding their health care options with Medicare or Medicaid will have on-site assistance, as well as access to continuing education for things such as diabetes management.

Led by Dr. Kamal Wagle, whose background is in family medicine and geriatrics, the Connected Care facility has the virtual capabilities to connect patients with Indiana University Health doctors downtown to ensure those on the east side don’t have to travel far to meet with their physicians.

Diane Allen, who works as the care coordinator for Eastern Star Church on the east side of Indianapolis, said the clinic will be a big help for the community.

“I don’t even really know where another clinic is on the east side, so this will help a lot of people,” Allen said. “It’s a good location, and elderly people don’t have to go downtown to see their doctor, so it’s going to help a lot of people in the community.”

Allen, who works in Eastern Star’s food pantry, plans to hand out flyers for the clinic to the community members the church serves.

For more information about Connected Care, visit iuhealth.org/connectindy.

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

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Health Department opens COVID-19 vaccine clinic to serve eastside

Appointments are now available at the Marion County Public Health Department’s newest COVID-19 vaccine clinic to provide better access for eastside residents. Anyone age 16 and older is now eligible for the vaccine and is encouraged to visit OurShot.IN.gov or call 2-1-1 to sign up for an appointment.

The clinic on the eastside is located at 9503 E. 33rd Street and will operate during the following hours:

Tuesdays: 10 a.m.–6 p.m.
Wednesdays & Thursdays: 11 a.m.–7 p.m.
Fridays: 8 a.m.– 3 p.m.
Saturdays: 9 a.m.–1 p.m.
Sundays & Mondays: Closed

IU Health has a program offering free rides to a vaccine appointment for those who need them. Residents in need of transportation to a vaccine appointment can call 888-IUHEALTH (888-484-3258) and choose option 9. Homebound individuals can arrange for a vaccine through the State of Indiana’s Homebound Indiana program by contacting their local Area Agency on Aging at iaaaa.org or by calling 800-986-3505.

Medical professionals recommend the vaccine even for those who previously tested positive for COVID-19 since contracting the virus may only provide limited protection. Some side effects can be expected after receiving the vaccine, which include a fever, chills, tiredness, headache, or aching at the injection site. These side effects are normal signs that the body is building protection, and typically go away in 24-48 hours.

In another step to help the community recover from COVID-19, applications are currently being accepted for a \$1 million grant program announced by the health department and the City of Indianapolis. Funding will be awarded

to Marion County community organizations working to address disparities in health and economic wellbeing that have resulted from the COVID-19 pandemic.

The goal is to address racial inequities in COVID-19 response and recovery, including pop-up vaccine clinics.

Community-based organizations are invited to submit applications for projects promoting the wellness and recovery among the minority communities that have been hardest hit by the virus and its economic impacts.

Projects that are eligible for funding may include, but are not limited to, campaigns to increase education about COVID-19 and the available vaccines, mental health services such as counseling or community discussions, outreach activities to disseminate or gather information, and wrap-around services to support recovery from the financial or health impacts of the pandemic.

Applications are due by April 30 with awards to be announced May 14. To apply, community-based organizations can visit MarionHealth.org/communityrecovery to fill out a simple online form that outlines details such as the COVID-19-related need, key activities planned to address that need, and how the requested funds will be used.

“Getting the COVID-19 vaccine, along with wearing a mask, washing our hands, and watching our distance, is how we will end this pandemic,” said Virginia A. Caine, M.D., director and chief medical officer of the Marion County Public Health Department. “Through efforts such as the \$1 million in grants to uplift community-based initiatives, and the opening of this new clinic to serve the eastside, we are continuing the work to make the COVID-19 accessible to all in our community.”

Sikhs in America:

A religious community long misunderstood is mourning deaths in Indianapolis mass shooting

By **SIMRAN JEET SINGH**
Union Theological Seminary

On April 16, a gunman opened fire at a FedEx facility in Indianapolis killing eight people and injuring several others before taking his own life. Four members of the Sikh community were among those gunned down.

The site was reported as having a significant number of Sikh employees, and the massacre has left the community shaken and in grief.

“I have sat with families from our community and so many others at the Holiday Inn Express as they wait to hear the fates of their loved ones,” said Maninder Singh Walia, a member of the Indianapolis Sikh community. “These kinds of violent attacks are a threat to all of us. Our community has a long road of healing — physically, mentally, and spiritually — to recover from this tragedy.”

The shooter’s motive is not yet known. In a statement following the incident, the Sikh Coalition, an advocacy group, called on authorities to conduct a full investigation “including the possibility of bias as a factor.”

Sikhs have in the past been targeted in racist attacks. As a scholar of the tradition and a practicing Sikh myself, I have studied the prejudices and barriers that many Sikhs in America face. I have also experienced racial slurs from a young age.

The bottom line is there is little understanding in the U.S. of who exactly the Sikhs

are and what they believe. So here’s a primer.

Founder of Sikhism

To start at the beginning, the founder of the Sikh tradition, Guru Nanak, was born in 1469 in the Punjab region of South Asia, which is currently split between Pakistan and the northwestern area of India. A majority of the global Sikh population still resides in Punjab on the Indian side of the border.

From a young age, Guru Nanak was disillusioned by the social inequities and religious hypocrisies he observed around him. He believed that a single divine force created the entire world and resided within it. In his belief, God was not separate from the world and watching from a distance, but fully present in every aspect of creation.

He therefore asserted that all people are equally divine and deserve to be treated as such.

To promote this vision of divine oneness and social equality, Guru Nanak created institutions and religious practices. He established community centers and places of worship, wrote his own scriptural compositions and institutionalized a system of leadership (gurus) that would carry forward his vision.

The Sikh view thus rejects all social distinctions that produce inequities, including gender, race, religion and caste, the predominant structure for social hierarchy in South Asia.

Serving the world is a natural expression of Sikh prayer and worship. Sikhs call this prayerful service “seva,” and it is a core part of their practice.

The Sikh identity

In the Sikh tradition, a truly religious person is one who cultivates the spiritual self while also serving the communities around them — or a saint-soldier. The saint-soldier ideal applies to women and men alike.

In this spirit, Sikh women and men maintain five articles of faith, popularly known as the five Ks. These are: kes (long, uncut hair), kara (steel bracelet), kanga (wooden comb), kirpan (small sword) and kachera (soldier-shorts).

Although little historical evidence exists to explain why these particular articles were chosen, the five Ks continue to provide the community with a collective identity, binding together individuals on the basis of a shared belief and practice. As I understand, Sikhs cherish these articles of faith as gifts from their gurus.

Turbans are an important part of the Sikh identity. Both women and men may wear turbans. Like the articles of faith, Sikhs regard their turbans as gifts given by their beloved gurus, and its meaning is deeply personal. In South Asian culture, wearing a turban typically indicated one’s social status — kings and rulers once wore turbans. The Sikh gurus adopted the turban, in part, to remind Sikhs that all humans are sovereign, royal and ultimately equal.

Sikhs in America

Today, there are approximately 30 million Sikhs worldwide, making Sikhism the world’s fifth-largest major religion.

After British colonizers in India seized power of Punjab in 1849, where a majority of the Sikh community was based, Sikhs began migrating to various regions controlled by the British Empire, including Southeast Asia, East Africa and the United Kingdom itself. Based on what was available to them, Sikhs played various roles in these communities, including military service, agricultural work and railway construction.

The first Sikh community entered the United States via the West Coast during the 1890s. They began experiencing discrimination immediately upon their arrival. For instance, the first race riot targeting Sikhs took place in Bellingham, Washington, in 1907. Angry mobs of white men rounded up Sikh laborers, beat them up and forced them to leave town.

The discrimination continued over the years. For instance, after my father moved from Punjab to the United States around the time of the Iran hostage crisis in 1979 and racial slurs like “Ayatollah” and “raghead” were hurled at him. It was a time when 52 American diplomats and citizens were taken captive in Iran and tension between the two countries was high. These slurs reflected the racist backlash against those who

fit the stereotypes of Iranians. Our family faced a similar racist backlash when the U.S. engaged in the Gulf War during the early 1990s.

The racist attacks spiked again after 9/11, particularly because Americans did not know about the Sikh religion and conflated the unique Sikh appearance with popular stereotypes of what terrorists look like.

The rates of violence against Sikhs surged after the election of President Donald Trump. The Sikh Coalition estimated in 2018 that Americans Sikhs were being targeted in hate crimes about once a week.

Scholars and government officials estimate the Sikh American population to number around 500,000.

As a practicing Sikh, I can affirm that the Sikh commitment to the tenets of their faith, including love, service and justice, keeps them resilient in the face of violence. For these reasons, many Sikh Americans, including those affected by the mass shooting in Indiana, I believe, will continue to maintain their unique Sikh identity, proudly and unapologetically.

This is an updated version of an article first published on Aug. 9, 2018.

The Conversation is an independent and nonprofit source of news, analysis and commentary from academic experts. The Conversation is wholly responsible for the content.



Indianapolis Sikh community members pray for victims of the FedEx shooting during a vigil April 18. (Photo/Breanna Cooper)

SPIRITUAL OUTLOOK

How do we heal?

By **PRESTON T. ADAMS III**

Psalm 119:50 — “This is my comfort in my affliction, that your promise gives me life.”



How do we heal? It is a question we need to address and seek honest answers to where no easy answers are found. Healing is necessary in our present state and given our present world conditions. Healing is necessary because our communities are severely traumatized, and the trauma is getting worse by the day.

The American Psychological Association (APA) defines trauma as “an emotional response to a terrible event like an accident, rape or natural disaster.” APA further notes that “immediately after the event, shock and denial are typical. Longer term reactions include unpredictable emotions, flashbacks, strained relationships and even physical symptoms like headaches or nausea.”

I am writing this article while reflecting on the tough week of traumatic events we’ve all endured in Indianapolis and nationwide. These events include the present pandemic (COVID-19) that continues to rage in spite of social distancing, masking and vaccines.

The trial of former police officer Derek Chauvin has focused more on the human frailty of George Floyd versus his apparent death from having Chauvin’s knee on his neck for well over 9 minutes. Just 10 miles away from the tragic death of George Floyd, 20-year-old Daunte Wright, a Black male, lost his life in a police-action shooting during a traf-

fic stop.

Thirteen-year-old Adam Toledo, a brown male, lost his life in Chicago at the other end of yet another police-action shooting. And on the morning of April 16, here in the city of Indianapolis, we awoke to the news of eight people tragically murdered by a 19-year-old at a local FedEx facility. The FedEx massacre is but one more mass shooting in our nation in 2021, with three of those mass shootings happening right here in Indianapolis.

I talk to people every day who have lost loved ones to senseless gun violence. Families that are grieving and seeking answers as to how we heal from the devastation and ensuing trauma. Trauma abounds in our city and our nation. Trauma that continues to open wounds which have not yet had time to heal.

The Bible gives us an assurance that God is the source of our healing from all hurt and trauma. The psalmist notes that our “comfort” comes from knowing and embracing God’s promises. The longest chapter in the Bible, this psalm has been one of great historical interest. Charles Spurgeon notes: “This wonderful psalm, from its greatest length, helps us wonder at the great immensity of scripture.”

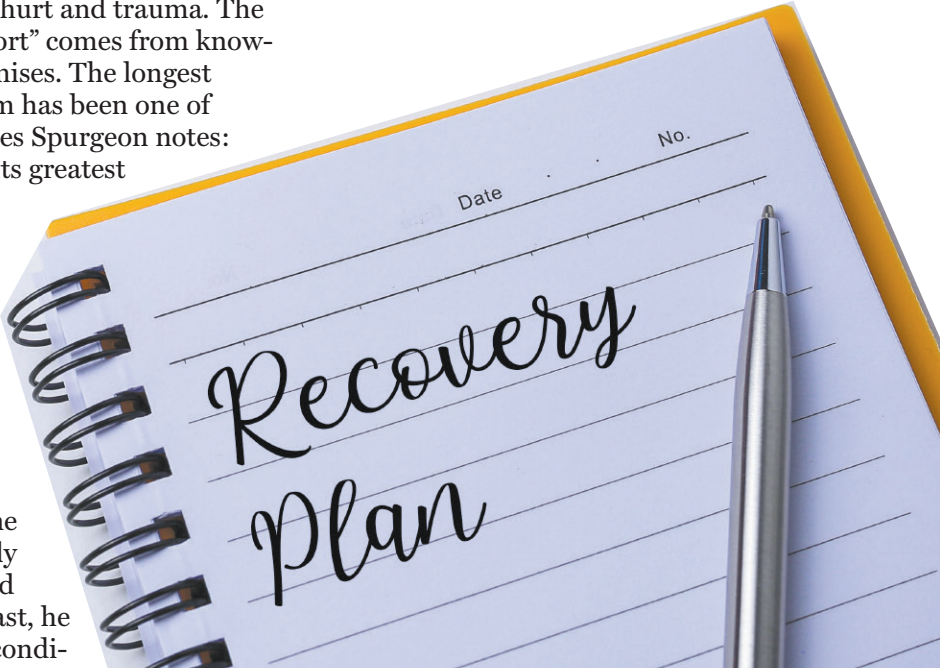
What are the promises of God and how do these promises help us to heal from the trauma we are facing daily? Psalm 119:50 clearly states: “This is my comfort in my affliction, that your promise gives me life.” Enduring Word Commentary states: “When the psalmist recalled how faithfully and powerfully God’s word had brought him comfort in the past, he found comfort in his present condi-

tion.” The psalmist found healing from his trauma.

There are over 8,000 promises of God in Scripture. Promises to heal sickness and disease. Promises of salvation and restoration. Promises of help and hope. Promises that help us triumph over trials, tribulations and trauma.

Healing comes from God’s promises. God’s promises are found in God’s word. Believers should remember that God’s word gives life. This is the comfort experienced by the psalmist, and the comfort available to us today.

Dr. Preston T. Adams III is senior pastor at Amazing Grace Christian Church in Indianapolis. Contact Pastor Adams via email at seniorpastor@agccindy.org or via Twitter @DrPrestonTAdams. For more information, visit agccindy.org.



BIBLE TRIVIA
by Wilson Casey

- 1. Is the book of Agrabah in the Old or New Testament or neither?
- 2. Which book repeats this paraphrased counsel three times to the young women of Jerusalem, "Do not stir up or awaken love until it pleases"? Proverbs, Psalms, Song of Solomon, Genesis

- 3. By Roman reckoning, what time of day did Jesus meet the Samaritan woman at the well? Daybreak, Noon, Mid-afternoon, Dusk
- 4. On the island of Patmos, to whom was the Book of Revelation given? John, Paul, Matthew, Luke

- 5. Who hid 100 prophets in two caves and supplied them food and water? Solomon, Philemon, Obadiah, Hosea

- 6. The Semites were descended from Shem, the son of ...? Moses, Noah, Paul, Jacob

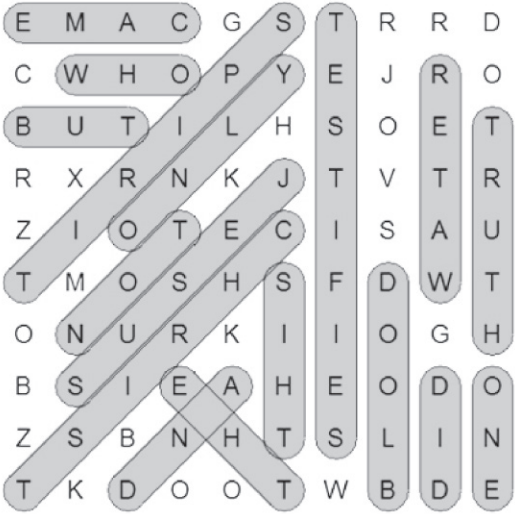
ANSWERS: 1) Neither; 2) Song of Solomon (2:7, 3:5, 8:4); 3) Noon; 4) John; 5) Obadiah; 6) Noah

"Test Your Bible Knowledge," a book with 1,206 multiple-choice questions by columnist Wilson Casey, is available in stores and online.

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BIBLE WORD SEARCH

Answers

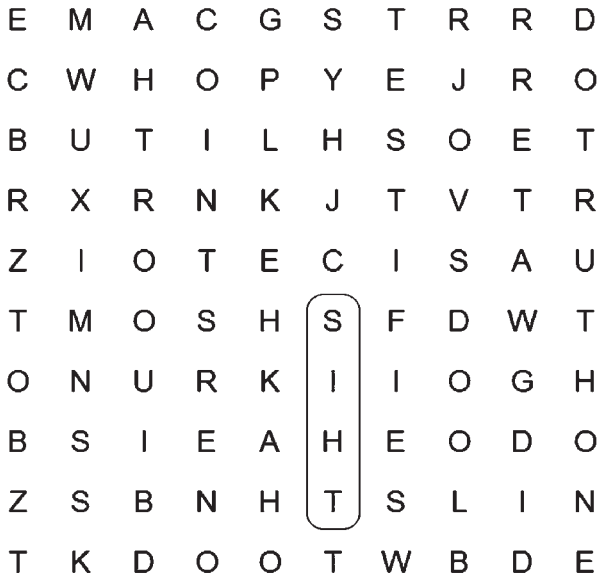


BIBLE WORD SEARCH
by Elie's Spiritual Treasures

1 John 5:6

This is the **one** who **came** by **water** and **blood**—**Jesus Christ**. He **did not** come by water **only**, **but** by water and blood. **And** it is **the** Spirit **who testifies**, because the **Spirit** is the **truth**.

NEW INTERNATIONAL VERSION



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

WWW.SEARCHING-FOR-JESUS.COM

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GNWBC Full Time Senior Pastor Vacancy
Greater Northwest Baptist Church of Indianapolis, IN announces **Senior Pastor vacancy**. Interested candidates should visit www.gnwbc.com for vacancy details and submit their online application packet by May 19, 2021. Click gold Pastoral Application tab on homepage. **Only online applications accepted.**



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Tuesday Bible Study 7:30 PM

Pleasant Union Missionary Baptist Church
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Indpls, Indiana 46208
phone 925-4382 fax 283-5615

Sunday Worship 10:50 am
Sunday School 9:15 am
Monday Morning Prayer 6:00am
Wed. Bible Study 12:00 noon & 7:00pm
Thurs. Family Living 7:00pm
Fri. Victory Over Addictions 7:00pm

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Pastor Chas A. Sheppard
Lady Edna M. Sheppard

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Morning Worship 11:30am
Sunday Evening Service 6:30pm
Wednesday Bible Study/Prayers 7:00pm/8:00pm
Friday Bible Study 11:00am

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www.stlukeindy.org

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Getty Images

Equal pay bill passed by House but faces long odds in Senate

By BRIAN SLODYSKO
Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — House Democrats approved legislation April 15 that they say would help close the gap between what men and women are paid in the workplace, though the measure faces little chance of overcoming Republican opposition in the Senate.

The bill, which is supported by President Joe Biden’s administration, passed 217-210 on a mostly party-line vote. It is the latest salvo in a long-running debate about equality of pay and the government’s role in ensuring it.

Despite their past efforts, including the Lilly Ledbetter Fair Pay Act of 2009 signed into law by President Barack Obama, Democrats say there

is still more that needs to be done to close a gap in pay, where white women make on average 82 cents to every dollar earned by men.

“Sadly, equal pay is not yet a reality in America,” said House Speaker Nancy Pelosi, D-Calif. “It’s almost sinful.”

The bill would make it easier to sue employers over pay discrimination, curb the ability of companies to retaliate and beef up enforcement of existing laws, including a new requirement that businesses submit detailed pay data to the federal government for use in policing pay discrimination laws. It would also ban employers from prohibiting employees from discussing their salaries.

Republicans say laws already on the books outlaw pay dis-

crimination. And they counter that the bill would largely be a boon for trial lawyers looking to sue companies while miring employers in burdensome new reporting requirements that would require them to submit detailed pay information to the federal government.

Rep. Michael Burgess, R-Texas, said that “wage discrimination has no place in any society.” But he said the Democrats’ bill wasn’t the right way to go about correcting those wrongs.

“The path Congress must take is to not increase opportunities for trial lawyers, but to continue its focus on strong economic policy that actually expands opportunities for all Americans,” he said.

Democrats counter, however, that existing protections have

proved insufficient, including those offered under the Equal Pay Act of 1963, which requires that men and women in the same workplace be given equal pay for equal work.

The U.S. is hardly alone in having such disparities. But the gap is larger here than in many other countries, with only Mexico, Finland, Israel, Japan and Korea having larger differentials, according to a study by the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development, an international group based in Paris.

Democrats also note that the disparity is particularly acute for women of color, with Black women making about 63 cents for every dollar earned by a white male counterpart and Hispanic women making even less.

Rep. Virginia Foxx, R-N.C., said many women choose jobs that offer more flexibility to balance home and work.

“Democrats aren’t giving the full story when they talk about pay differences,” Foxx said. “Women are making career choices that are best for themselves and their families.”

The measure is widely opposed by business, including the U.S. Chamber of Commerce, which argued in a letter to members of Congress that there are often legitimate reasons for differences in pay between men and women.

“Increasing the opportunity for frivolous litigation would only further serve to undermine our nation’s civil rights laws,” the Chamber wrote.

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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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DISSOLUTION

STATE OF INDIANA) IN THE MARION SUPERIOR COURT)
SS: COUNTY OF MARION)
CAUSE NO.)
49D10-2102-DC-001294)
IN RE: MARRIAGE OF)
JENNIFER B. PEMBERTON)
Petitioner,)
vs.)
DAVID L. PEMBERTON)
Respondent,)
04/23/21)
04/30/21)
05/07/21)

You are hereby notified that you have been sued by the Petitioner of Dissolution of Marriage in the Court indicated above.
You must respond by filing a written appearance personally, or by an attorney authorized to practice law in the State of Indiana, within 30 days after the last publication of this notice. If you fail to respond, a default judgment may be entered against you, or the relief demanded in the petition. A final order may be issued by the Court granting a Dissolution of Marriage not sooner than 60 days after the Petition for Dissolution of Marriage was filed.
YOU ARE HEREBY COMMANDED to appear before the judge of the Marion Superior Court 10 for a hearing on July 20, 2021, at 11:00 a.m. said time, the Court will consider the suit brought against you and will decide issues relating to the division of marital property, child custody, child support and parenting time.
Mary A. Eldridge, Marion County Clerk Mullins Law, LLC 1903 Crown Plaza Blvd Plainfield, IN 46168 (317) 839-9400 5320-919703

04/23/21
04/30/21
05/07/21

SUMMONS -- SERVICE BY PUBLICATION IN THE MARION COUNTY SUPERIOR COURT)
CIVIL DIVISION)
STATE OF INDIANA)
CAUSE NO.)
49D14-2003-DN-011369)
IN RE: THE MARRIAGE OF)
AAZEZAT O. SENGIE)
Petitioner,)
and)
COREY S. BURTS)
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. Burt
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
By Jatin D. Shah Attorney for Petitioner Jatin D. Shah #14699-49 Attorney for Petitioner 8520 Allison Pointe Blvd. Suite 220 Indianapolis, IN 46250 (317) 713-2928 5320-919620

04/23/21
04/30/21
05/07/21

SUMMONS -- SERVICE BY PUBLICATION IN THE MARION SUPERIOR COURT)
CIVIL DIVISION)
STATE OF INDIANA)
CAUSE NO.)
49D16-2103-DN-002091)
IN RE: THE MARRIAGE OF:)
ROSE GREVER,)
Petitioner,)
vs.)
MARK GREVER,)
Respondent,)
TO RESPONDENT: Mark Grever)
VIA PUBLICATION)
You have been sued by your spouse for dissolution of marriage, in the court stated above.

In order to participate in the proceedings, you must enter a written appearance in person or by your attorney, in the event you do not enter a written appearance within sixty (60) days of the date hereof, your marriage can be dissolved by Decree of the Court by default. In the event a Decree is entered by default, it may contain a judgment against you and provisions regarding the custody of your child(ren), support for your child(ren), parenting time with your child(ren), distribution of assets, and payment of debts. The Decree may also require you to take actions or refrain from actions in order to carry out the terms of the Court's Decree.

If you do not enter a written appearance, you will receive no further notice of these proceedings. If you wish to countersue, you must do so by written petition filed with the Clerk's Office listed below not more than sixty (60) days from the date below.

Charge 3/19/2021
04/23/21
04/30/21
05/07/21

STATE OF INDIANA) IN THE MARION SUPERIOR COURT)
CIVIL DIVISION)
STATE OF INDIANA)
CAUSE NO.)
49D16-2104-DN-002673)
IN RE: THE MARRIAGE OF:)
KENNETH IVORY,)
Petitioner,)
and)
HORTENSE IVORY,)
Respondent,)
NOTICE OF SUIT)
The State of Indiana, to the Respondent above named, and any other person who may be concerned.

You are notified that you have been sued in the Court above named. The nature of the suit against you is: Petition for Dissolution of Marriage

This summons by publication is specifically directed to the following named Respondent whose whereabouts are unknown: HORTENSE IVORY, last known address is: Indianapolis, IN. However, her current whereabouts are unknown at this time.

If you have a claim for relief against the Petitioner arising from the same transaction or occurrence, you must assert it in your written answer. You must answer the Complaint in writing, by you or your attorney, on or before the 30th day of May, 2021, (the same being within thirty (30) days after the Third Notice of Suit) and if you fail to do so a judgment will be entered against you for what the plaintiff has demanded.

04/23/21
04/30/21
05/07/21

SUMMONS -- SERVICE BY PUBLICATION IN THE MARION SUPERIOR COURT)
CIVIL DIVISION)
STATE OF INDIANA)
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04/30/21
05/07/21

SUMMONS -- SERVICE BY PUBLICATION IN THE MARION SUPERIOR COURT)
CIVIL DIVISION)
STATE OF INDIANA)
CAUSE NO.)
49D16-2104-DN-002673)
IN RE: THE MARRIAGE OF:)
KENNETH IVORY,)
Petitioner,)
and)
HORTENSE IVORY,)
Respondent,)
NOTICE OF SUIT)
The State of Indiana, to the Respondent above named, and any other person who may be concerned.

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will be entered against you for what the Petitioner has demanded.
ATTEST: FOR
REGINALD B. BISHOP
THE BISHOP LAW FIRM
151 N. Delaware St., #1130
Indianapolis, IN 46204
(317) 608-5377
(317) 608-2911 fax
Attorney ID #2754-49
5320-919601

04/23/21
04/30/21
05/07/21

SUMMONS -- SERVICE BY PUBLICATION IN THE MARION SUPERIOR COURT)
CIVIL DIVISION)
STATE OF INDIANA)
CAUSE NO.)
49D16-2104-DN-002998)
IN RE: THE MARRIAGE OF)
MICHAEL C. FICKLIN)
Petitioner)
vs.)
ELIZABETH M. FICKLIN)
Respondent)
TO RESPONDENT:)
Elizabeth M. Ficklin)
Whereabouts unknown)
You are hereby notified that you have been sued by the person named as Petitioner and in the Court indicated above.

The nature of the suit is dissolution of marriage and is stated in the petition filed in this matter. The petition states the relief sought or the demand made against you by the Petitioner. There are no property, debt, or child issues between the Petitioner and Respondent that need resolved in the action for dissolution of marriage. An interest in this action for dissolution of marriage.

An answer or other appropriate response in writing to the petition must be filed either by you or your attorney within thirty (30) days after the last notice of the action is published, or a judgment by default may be rendered against you if relief demanded by the Petitioner.

If you have a claim for relief against the Petitioner arising from the same transaction or occurrence, you must assert it in your written answer.

If you need the name of an attorney, you may contact the Indianapolis Bar Association Lawyer Referral Service (269-2222), or the Marion County Bar Association Lawyer Referral Service (634-3950).

Dated: 4/15/2021
Mary A. Eldridge, Marion County Clerk Mullins Law, LLC 1903 Crown Plaza Blvd Plainfield, IN 46168 (317) 839-9400 5320-919703

04/23/21
04/30/21
05/07/21

SUMMONS -- SERVICE BY PUBLICATION IN THE MARION SUPERIOR COURT)
CIVIL DIVISION)
STATE OF INDIANA)
CAUSE NO.)
49D14-2003-DN-011369)
IN RE: THE MARRIAGE OF)
AAZEZAT O. SENGIE)
Petitioner,)
and)
COREY S. BURTS)
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. Burt
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
By Jatin D. Shah Attorney for Petitioner Jatin D. Shah #14699-49 Attorney for Petitioner 8520 Allison Pointe Blvd. Suite 220 Indianapolis, IN 46250 (317) 713-2928 5320-919620

04/23/21
04/30/21
05/07/21

SUMMONS -- SERVICE BY PUBLICATION IN THE MARION SUPERIOR COURT)
CIVIL DIVISION)
STATE OF INDIANA)
CAUSE NO.)
49D16-2103-DN-002091)
IN RE: THE MARRIAGE OF:)
ROSE GREVER,)
Petitioner,)
vs.)
MARK GREVER,)
Respondent,)
TO RESPONDENT: Mark Grever)
VIA PUBLICATION)
You have been sued by your spouse for dissolution of marriage, in the court stated above.

In order to participate in the proceedings, you must enter a written appearance in person or by your attorney, in the event you do not enter a written appearance within sixty (60) days of the date hereof, your marriage can be dissolved by Decree of the Court by default. In the event a Decree is entered by default, it may contain a judgment against you and provisions regarding the custody of your child(ren), support for your child(ren), parenting time with your child(ren), distribution of assets, and payment of debts. The Decree may also require you to take actions or refrain from actions in order to carry out the terms of the Court's Decree.

If you do not enter a written appearance, you will receive no further notice of these proceedings. If you wish to countersue, you must do so by written petition filed with the Clerk's Office listed below not more than sixty (60) days from the date below.

Charge 3/19/2021
04/23/21
04/30/21
05/07/21

STATE OF INDIANA) IN THE MARION SUPERIOR COURT)
CIVIL DIVISION)
STATE OF INDIANA)
CAUSE NO.)
49D16-2104-DN-002673)
IN RE: THE MARRIAGE OF:)
KENNETH IVORY,)
Petitioner,)
and)
HORTENSE IVORY,)
Respondent,)
NOTICE OF SUIT)
The State of Indiana, to the Respondent above named, and any other person who may be concerned.

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NOTICE OF ADMINISTRATION

College sports already adapting to new NCAA transfer rules



College football players gather at midfield for a coin toss before a game. (Photo/Rojan Maharjan)

By **RALPH D. RUSSO**
AP College Football Writer

As spring practice winds down, Arkansas coach Sam Pittman sees some potential holes in his roster.

Arkansas didn't use the maximum 25 scholarships this year on its incoming recruits so it has a few left over to hit the transfer market, where there is no longer any question about whether athletes who switch schools will be immediately eligible to compete.

"We might take a tight end," Pittman said. "The bottom line is whomever we took would have to be a D-lineman or someone with the ball in his hands. I don't think we'd take an offensive lineman in the portal right now."

The NCAA made it official April 15, announcing the Division I Council had voted to approve a plan that will allow all college athletes to transfer one time as an undergraduate without having to sit out a season.

The so-called one-time exception that has been available to athletes in most college sports for years will now also be available to football, men's and women's basketball, men's ice hockey and baseball players who transfer from one Division I school to another.

It's a big change, a long time coming and it has some in college sports, especially football, worried about the potential for unintended consequences: Fewer scholarships available to high school recruits. Power programs poaching players from small schools. Rosters turning over quicker than coaches can keep up.

While those are all real concerns, it has been apparent for several years this was coming and coaches have already been operating in this new reality of increased player freedom.

"I don't think anything's changed," Penn State football coach James Franklin said. "Let's be honest, over the last two years everybody knew all the transfer policies and the requirement to get immediate eligibility and everybody was saying whatever they had to say to become eligible."

Franklin was referring to a tweak to the NCAA's waiver policy made a few years back that seemed to make it easier for transferring athletes to gain immediate eligibility. It wasn't quite so simple and plenty of athletes had their requests denied, but it did create an expectation of immediate eligibility for all.

Starting next September, there will be no more gray area. The first transfer is free, no questions asked.

"We're going to adapt to it and make it an advantage for us," Alabama coach Nick Saban said. "I think what's going to happen as you see how often in a lot of leagues, you know the good players go to a good team and the bad players leave good teams because they're not playing. So is that going to make the rich get richer?"

Among the notable transferring football players who will now be eligible next season at their new schools are former five-star running back Demarcus Bowman, who left Clemson for Florida, and receiver Wan'Dale Robinson, who switched from Nebraska to Kentucky.

There appears to be an uptick this year in athletes putting their names in the NCAA transfer portal, a database created in 2017 to provide more transparency in the process.

"There's over 2,000 kids that went into the football transfer portal," North Carolina coach Mack Brown said. "The last update that I got was that only 37% had

a place to go."

Combine the number of transfers with the NCAA's decision to give athletes in all sports a free year of eligibility because of the pandemic and there is little doubt that there will be more scholarship-worthy major college football players than available scholarships over the next few seasons.

Coaches have already begun lobbying for relief in the form of increasing either the yearly cap of 25 signees or the overall roster cap of 85 scholarship players. Brown is among those who have mentioned allowing programs to add a transfer if they lose a transfer.

The concern, especially in football, is that a wave of departures after spring practice could lead to a depleted roster and no means to fill it.

The NCAA's new transfer rules will require players in fall and winter sports to notify their current schools they intend to leave by May 1; spring sport athletes must do so by July 1, starting in 2022.

Administrators who have the final say on NCAA rules are in no rush to make changes.

"Our position as a football oversight committee was: Let's let this thing play out a little and not rush to judgment," West Virginia athletic director Shane Lyons said. "If we start seeing a complete trend, then we can go back and revisit it."

Lyons acknowledged that about 30% of football players in the portal would likely be left without a landing spot, but he believes that could lead to a market correction in coming years.

"Does that slow it down, when you tell a young person, 'Hey, you can enter the portal but it doesn't mean you're going to definitely get a home out of this?'" said Lyons, who is chairman of the NCAA football oversight committee.

Michigan State coach Mel Tucker is one of many coaches who has already designed his program's recruiting operation similar to the way pro teams have college scouting for the draft and pro scouting for free agency.

"We have someone that monitors the portal, sits there and presses refresh every 30 minutes," Tucker said. The Spartans have had more than a dozen players transfer out this offseason and more than a dozen transfer in.

NCAA rules already prohibit recruiting players who are not yet in the portal, but skirting tampering violations by making indirect contact with athletes through high school coaches or personal trainers is already a fact of life.

That's especially problematic in basketball, where the up-transfer — a quality mid-major player leaving for a school in a traditional power conference — has become common.

"When it doesn't feel good is when it feels like, in essence, a kid is being recruited off your roster by somebody else, which typically means it's not legal or ethical. There's no integrity in that scenario," South Dakota State athletic director Justin Sell said.

The players flow both ways, though. Plenty of athletes who were highly sought after in high school are finding more playing time after transferring out of the Power Five.

Count Pittman among those who don't seem too worried about the new normal — for now.

"I think it's headed in the right direction," Pittman said. "I think the one-time transfer is the key there, though. I don't think it's let's transfer once a year. At some point you've got to stick and make it happen and make it work for you."



Park Tudor's baseball team wore special jerseys to commemorate Jackie Robinson and the Indianapolis Clowns. (Photos/Walt Thomas)

Jackie Robinson Day

Some Indianapolis high school baseball teams celebrated Jackie Robinson Day with throwback uniforms from The Indianapolis Clowns of the Negro Leagues. The Park Tudor Panthers took the field against Scecina wearing the uniforms in honor of late Jackie Robinson, who broke the baseball color barrier in 1947 with the Brooklyn Dodgers.



Joshua Bumpus walks to the outfield.



Arsenal Tech also wore the commemorative jerseys in its game against Crispus Attucks. (Photos provided by Indianapolis Public Schools)



The jerseys featured Robinson's famous No. 42 on the back.



Shortridge baseball players pose for a picture in their jerseys.

Pacers' skid continues with loss to Spurs



Malcolm Brogdon contests a shot from Spurs forward DeMar DeRozan during Indiana's 109-94 loss to San Antonio on April 19 at Bankers Life Fieldhouse. (Photos/David Dixon)



Pacers guard Cris LeVert hit two of his 18 points over the Spurs guard Derrick White. LeVert finished with 18 points.