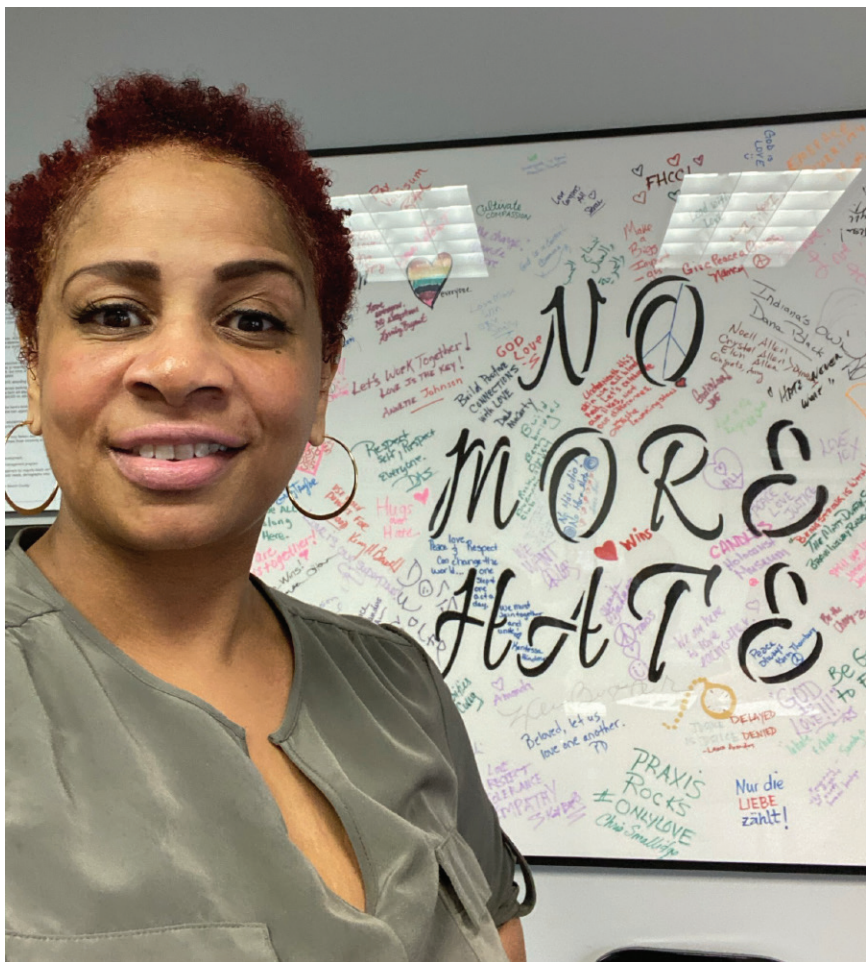


Complaints allege discrimination against Black woman in appraisal process



Carlette Duffy says she was discriminated against after two appraisals returned lower values for her home than she expected. The Fair Housing Center of Central Indiana filed a complaint with the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development on her behalf. (Photo provided by Carlette Duffy)

By TYLER FENWICK
tylerf@indyrecorder.com

Carlette Duffy wanted to refinance her home so she could buy her grandparents' old house and keep it in the family. There was a problem, though. Two appraisals left her with little

equity after she purchased her home three years ago in a neighborhood on the near northwest side. The appraisals came back with estimated values of \$125,000 and \$110,000. She purchased her home for \$100,000 three years prior. The house had to be almost

completely renovated, she said, after a fire destroyed it years ago. Duffy, who works for the city, decided to try an experiment. She contacted a third lender for another appraisal, but this time didn't include her race or gender on the application. She interacted with the appraiser through email only and removed anything from the home that would have identified her as African American, including pictures, art and books. She also told the appraiser she would be out of town and had a white friend pretend to be her brother who met the appraiser at the house. That appraisal returned an estimated value of \$259,000. "Only when I removed myself did I increase the value," Duffy said. "So I'm being seen as the object of devaluation in my home, and that part hurts. That's the part that's hard to get over." The Fair Housing Center of Central Indiana (FHCCI) filed complaints with the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) alleging discrimination against Duffy because of her race and color.

The complaints, available on FHCCI's website, allege the appraisers violated Title VIII of the Civil Rights act of 1968, which prohibits discrimination in real estate transactions based on race, color, religion, sex,

See DISCRIMINATION, A5 ►



Schawayna Raie at the PhenomeMOM Awards in 2016. (Photo/Curtis Guynn)

Event to celebrate mothers returns

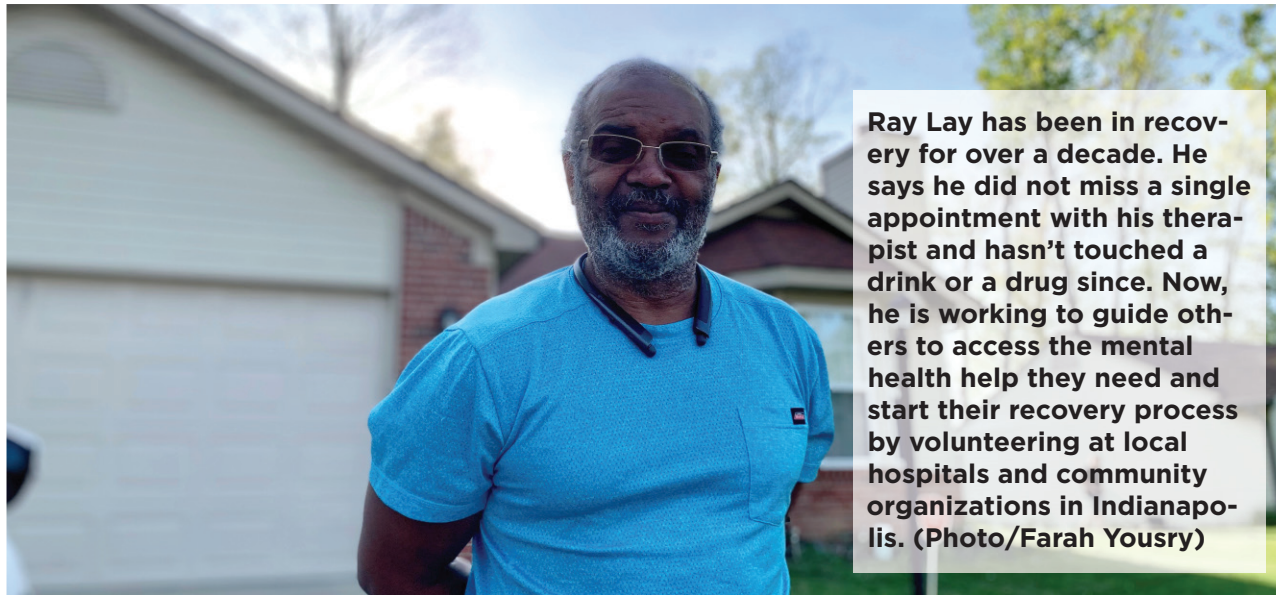
By BREANNA COOPER
BreannaC@indyrecorder.com

After being canceled last year due to the pandemic, the PhenomeMOM Awards is back for the seventh year. Created by local musician Schawayna Raie, founder of the group UpLift Your Sister, the award ceremony will be 11:30 a.m. May 8 at Pipers at the Marrott, 2625 N. Meridian St. Raie started the program in 2014 to celebrate the stories and sacrifices mothers make and aren't credited for often enough. The event gives guests the opportunity to speak about their mothers or other loved ones and share stories. While Raie doesn't

See MOTHERS, A7 ►

For more information on the PhenomeMOM Awards and to purchase tickets, visit www.upliftyoursister.org.

Link between mental illness and mass violence is weak but stigma persists



Ray Lay has been in recovery for over a decade. He says he did not miss a single appointment with his therapist and hasn't touched a drink or a drug since. Now, he is working to guide others to access the mental health help they need and start their recovery process by volunteering at local hospitals and community organizations in Indianapolis. (Photo/Farah Yousry)

By FARAH YOUSRY

Ray Lay lives in a tidy brick house on the east side of Indianapolis. His living room is filled with photos and souvenirs from his travels with his wife. "This is us in the Cayman Islands. Here I was riding on two dolphins," the 60-year-old said, pointing to photos on a table. In the backyard are five wind chimes that he got

on trips or as gifts. On a breezy spring day, they combine for a beautiful, relaxing tune. But his living conditions weren't always this serene. "I am a formerly homeless, honorably discharged United States Marine. I live with two severe mental illnesses," he said. For a long time, he used drugs and alcohol to cope with his schizophrenia and bipolar disorder.

See ILLNESS, A2 ►




Lorenzo Esters begins his tenure as chancellor of the Ivy Tech Community College Indianapolis campus May 17. (Photo provided by Ivy Tech).

Ivy Tech welcomes new chancellor

By BREANNA COOPER
BreannaC@indyrecorder.com

Though he's a native of the Mississippi Delta, Lorenzo Esters has been a valuable part of the Indianapolis community for years. In the nearly seven years he's lived here, Esters has served on the board of trustees of Martin University, supported the Indiana Commission for Higher Education and is active in the community through the United Methodist Church. Esters' love of his adoptive hometown and passion for higher education — along with an impressive resume — made his decision to take on his new role

See CHANCELLOR, A9 ►







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Raised garden beds help connect more people to food

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

Flanner House added raised garden beds to its farm to increase accessibility for older adults and anyone else who has difficulty bending over to work the land.

The organization partnered with the Home Depot Foundation, which had volunteers help build the garden beds over three days from April 27-29.

The project is part of a broader “food justice system,” said Nick Selm, the farm director at Flanner House, which includes a greenhouse, farm and bo-dega. People can learn everything from how to grow and harvest food to how to prepare and distribute the food.

Garden beds that are raised off of the ground make it easier for older adults, as well anyone who uses a wheelchair or otherwise has mobility issues, to get involved.

“It sounds so simple, but repeated bending down or prolonged bending



Erroll Carter stands by a pile of mulch at Flanner House on April 29, 2021. Carter volunteered to help make raised garden beds. (Photo/Tyler Fenwick)

down to weed or to plant or to harvest can be a huge barrier,” Selm said.

Flanner House Executive Director Brandon Cosby said the project is about community engagement.

“It’s in our DNA,” he said of the 123-year-old organization. “From the very beginning, making sure that there were access points for healthy and affordable food options was always historically a part of who we were.”

Flanner House serves the northwest side, which represents one of the larg-

est food desert areas in Indianapolis. Double 8 Foods, a locally based grocer, closed its four stores in 2015, including one about a half mile north of Flanner House on Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Street.

Flanner House started its farm four years ago. Part of the goal, aside from feeding people, is to help connect the community to the food-growing process in a more meaningful way than what can be attained by sifting through aisles at a grocery store.

“There’s something emancipatory about growing and eating your own food,” Selm said.

Erroll Carter was one of the people who volunteered to help April 29. He shoveled mulch through a persistent sprinkle in the morning.

“I like the outdoors,” he said as he waited for another wheelbarrow to show up at his pile.

Carter, 60, lives on the northeast side and works part time in the lawn and garden section at the Walmart on North Keystone Avenue. He learned about the opportunity to volunteer while watching the news.

Carter said he doesn’t have a garden or grow his own food but would like to soon.

“I’m getting familiar with the process,” he said.

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

ILLNESS

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Then he decided to commit to mental health help and it changed his life. He’s now a business owner, recovery support specialist and mental health advocate in Indianapolis.

Still, he sees the negative perceptions of people living with a mental illness. He once had a job as a dishwasher and said he disclosed his mental health condition to his employer. But one day he had an episode and asked to leave work. His manager agreed but later that day, a co-worker called.

“She said, ‘Ray, they told me to call you and tell you that if you come to work in the morning, they’re going to call the police and have you arrested,’” he recalled.

That sort of reaction often flares up after a mass shooting, like the recent one at the FedEx facility in Indianapolis.

“You almost always hear that the people think that there was something wrong — that this person had a mental illness,” said Barbara Thompson, executive director of the National Alliance on Mental Illness in Indiana. “And so it becomes something really difficult for people who are experiencing mental health conditions, to feel like maybe they’re being connected somehow to these tragic events.”

That can deepen the stigma surrounding these illnesses in America.

Yet studies show that people with a mental illness

are actually more likely to be victims of violence than the perpetrators. In fact, they’re 2.5 times more likely to be victims of violence than the general public. That’s partly because of the false perception that they’re violent or not trustworthy.

“That stigma shows up in terms of social rejection, shows up in terms of discrimination,” said Dr. Zachary Adams, a clinic psychologist at Indiana University. “And one of the consequences is that people may be less likely to seek treatment.”

There are over 51 million Americans living with mental illness in the United States and only 44% receive mental health help, according to federal data.

Bernice Pescosolido, an Indiana University professor of sociology, said, “In the United States, we’re such a medicalized society that we have equated horrendous acts as ‘sick,’ and ‘sick’ then ends up translating into mental illness.”

But the link between mental illness and mass violence is weak.

An FBI study was able to establish a link to mental illness in only 25% of mass shooting cases.

Research also suggests that social, demographic and economic factors are the main drivers behind violence. And Pescosolido said that’s what needs to be addressed.

“The same kind of things that can trigger a mental health problem in a person also leads other people

without that vulnerability to the same outcomes,” she said.

At the root of the problem, she said, are issues such as social isolation, being bullied or feeling like you don’t matter.

Lay continues to see the negative perception of people with mental illness at play.

“I have met people or tried to meet people as I was first starting to recover,” he said. “And I would tell them that I have a severe mental illness. And I’m never seeing them again. I would say these people are missing out on a great friendship or a potential friendship.”

At his home, Lay shows off some awards for his work as a recovery specialist. He proudly describes himself as “a walking, talking example of hope.”

In the aftermath of the FedEx mass shooting and incidents like it, he hopes to increase awareness and combat the stigma, so people like him can have a chance to get the help they need.

“Recovery is possible,” Lay said. “If by the grace of God, I can change my life, I believe anybody can.”

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

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Education

IPS approves plan to move 600 students to IndyGo for transportation services



By TYLER FENWICK
tylerf@indyrecorder.com

Indianapolis Public Schools will transition about 600 high school students from yellow bus service to IndyGo starting next school year, another step in the partnership between the state's largest school district and public transportation provider.

The school board approved the plan with a 6-1 vote April 29.

Moving some students to IndyGo — along with enforcing walking zones and consolidating bus routes — will save the district an estimated \$5 million. IPS needs to find a total of about \$18 million in cuts because of lower enrollment.

A Shortridge High School senior spoke in favor of the move at the meeting. He said he participated in the district's pilot with IndyGo and said it helps students learn about responsibility and independence.

"It's allowed me a lot more flexibility," he said. "If I miss the bus, I can catch the next bus. I'm not relying on only one like the school bus."

The board took in-person public comment for the first time since the pandemic started.

An IPS parent voiced one of the most common concerns about the transition: safety. She said it's common to see adults congregate and fight or do drugs at bus stops near her home.

Board member Taria Slack, the lone no vote, said she also had concerns about safety, as well as inequity when it comes to infrastructure such as sidewalks to get to a bus.

Board member Venita Moore voted yes but recommended commissioners take an IndyGo bus to a school to understand what they're asking students to do.

The assistant principal at Shortridge, Jacob Practor, submitted written comment to the board and said the school asked families as part of the registration process if they feel comfortable having their child use IndyGo. Of the 613 responses, 235 said yes, and 189 said no, Practor wrote. (It wasn't clear what the remaining responses were.)

According to the district, high school students rode an IndyGo bus 150,000 times over the last three

years as part of a pilot program without incident.

"With the Board's approval of today's transportation recommendations, we know our work does not end, it's just moving into the next phase," IPS Superintendent Aleesia Johnson said in a statement. "We are committed to the continued engagement and support of our families to ensure a transition that is as smooth as we're able to make it at the start of the next school year."

IPS chose the roughly 600 students to transition to IndyGo based on three criteria.

- Total travel time from home to school would be less than 50 minutes, which is a half hour shorter than district guidelines for yellow buses.

- Students would have to walk less than 0.7 miles total, including from home to the bus and from the bus to school.

- Students would need to be able to get to school without transferring buses.

The average travel time for those students will be about 24 minutes, according to the district, and almost 90% of students will have a shorter travel time with IndyGo than they would on a yellow bus.

Any IPS high school student can opt in to making IndyGo their transportation provider, meaning they would give up yellow bus service.

The district's transportation plan also includes enforcing walking zones, a move the board did not need to approve because it was already district policy.

The district defines walking zones as the following:

- Elementary school students who live within 1 mile of school.
- Middle school students who live within 1.25 miles of school.
- High school students who live within 1.5 miles of school.

The district hadn't enforced walking zones for years in part because of a shortage of crossing guards, but IPS will have more to accommodate walkers.

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

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DISCRIMINATION

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handicap, familial status or national origin. HUD will investigate to determine any violations of the law as part of the complaint process.

Neither appraiser — Tim Boston of Appraisal Network and Jeffrey Pierce of Pierce Appraisers — could be reached by phone. A man who said he is Pierce’s son said his father didn’t want to comment.

Duffy said she got the idea to remove any indication of her race from a New York Times article in 2020 that told the story of an interracial couple in Florida who essentially did the same thing. The wife removed pictures, books, anything that might tell the appraiser she’s Black. The result was a 40% increase from their first appraisal.

“You want to believe that you’re being treated fairly,” Duffy said. “You want to believe that what the appraiser is saying is true.”

Duffy paid for a market analysis that determined a possible list price for her home was \$187,000, but the appraisal amounts didn’t change despite that.

Freedom Mortgage, which Duffy worked with between May and July 2020, lists a press contact on its website, but the contact did not respond to a request for comment.

Teresa Whitehead, CEO of Citywide, the first lender Duffy worked with in March and April 2020, said the rise in appraisal value from Duffy’s experiment could have been because it was a “very, very unusual year in the mortgage business.”

“We did see values go up considerably in a short period of time last year,” she said.

Whitehead, the only person who spoke to the Recorder at length about the allegations, said if there was discrimination, it would be on the part of the appraisal management company, not the lender.

She also said the lender’s role in the appraisal process is limited because of the Dodd-Frank Wall Street Reform and Consumer Protection Act, passed in 2010. The act emphasizes “appraisal independence” but leaves lenders with options to ask an appraiser for an explanation of the value or “correct errors” in the report.

Congressional Research Service wrote Dodd-Frank “also mandates that professionals who have a reasonable basis to believe that an appraiser is failing to comply with the [Uniform Standards of Professional Appraisal Practice], violating applicable laws, or otherwise engaging in unethical or unprofessional conduct, refer the matter to the state appraiser certifying and licensing agency.”

Whitehead said Citywide requested a reconsideration of value from the appraiser (which was denied) but did not respond to a follow-up question about why the company didn’t request another appraiser.

Myra Lillard, owner and chief appraiser of Home Guide Realty Services, said a lender that has already requested a reconsideration of value should go to the appraisal management company and request another appraiser.

“I’ve not heard of a lender that can’t order another appraisal,” said Lillard, who is also part of the National Society of Real Estate Appraisers.

A 2018 study from Brookings Institution found homes in neighborhoods where the share of the population is 50% Black are valued at about half the price as homes in neighborhoods with no Black residents.

FHCCI Executive Director Amy Nelson said part of the reason this problem persists is because the appraisal industry has created a false perception that appraisals are mostly subjective.

“I think that we have allowed the appraisal industry to be able to push off checks upon them by convincing all of us that it’s art over science,” she said.

Duffy knows she has opened part of her life to the world and said she’s already heard from others who think they were discriminated against. She said it can feel overwhelming but decided to share her experience anyway.

“I want to see the system changed,” she said. “I don’t know if we can, but I’m up for the fight.”

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



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‘Madame Butterfly’ comes to Indianapolis Zoo

By BREANNA COOPER
BreannaC@indyrecorder.com

Thomas Cannon has performed opera in theaters around the world — from New York to Japan. His next stop? The Indianapolis Zoo.

From May 14-16, Cannon and the rest of the ensemble of “Madame Butterfly” will perform one of the world’s most popular operas in the zoo’s butterfly garden, presented by Indianapolis Opera.

“I think it’s going to be a beautiful experience,” Cannon said. “How wonderful to see such a fantastic, exotic opera in a fantastic, exotic space?”

“Madame Butterfly” tells the story of geisha Cio-Cio San, who falls in love with an American naval lieutenant and starts a family, only to have it destroyed by the lieutenant’s infidelity. Cannon plays Colonel Sharpless, an American consulate in Japan.

This is Cannon’s first time working with an orchestra since the beginning of the pandemic, and he said he hopes the unconventional venue will bring new eyes to opera.

Indianapolis Opera General Director David Starkey hopes performing the opera at the zoo will make the arts more accessible to the general public.

“By presenting ‘Madame Butterfly’ at an unusual venue for opera, we believe this makes arts more approachable,” Starkey said. “We’ve also given special consideration to themes of the production by addressing the stigma of interracial relationships with an exceptional mixed-race cast. The Indianapolis Opera has the tools to be a socially responsible



Thomas Cannon will play the role of Colonel Sharpless in “Madame Butterfly” from May 14-16 at the Indianapolis Zoo. (Photo provided by Indianapolis Opera).

voice, and I say it to everyone I work with that our job is to pursue an artistic and educational citizenship.”

Cannon got his start in the arts young. Raised in a small town near New Orleans, he saw Puccini’s “Tosca” on a school trip when he was around 12 years old. That experience, coupled with his school’s “top-notch arts and choir training,” led Cannon to a career in performing arts. Through productions such as “Madame Butterfly,” he hopes to share the power of art with a wide audience.

“I think throughout the pandemic, we really started to understand the value of what [artists] do, and the general public is starting to understand that, too,” Cannon said. “We’re starting to understand how important the arts are to our country and our human condition. I hope we can get more people to join in and understand its value.”

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



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MOTHERS

► Continued from A1

have children of her own — though she helped raise several nieces and nephews — she said the event has helped improve her relationship with her mother.

“My mom and I have definitely had moments where our relationship was fractured,” Raie said. “This event has brought us closer. My mother was the first woman I gave the Julia Carson Legacy of Love Award to because I wanted her to know that I remember the great things from my childhood and all the sacrifices she made, and even though we have moments where we don’t get along, I appreciate her and wanted to uplift her in that moment.”

The Julia Carson Legacy of Love Award, given annually to a woman working to better her community, is this year being awarded to Alicia Ramsey, first lady of New Life Church Indianapolis. Host of the podcast “She Words,” Ramsey shares motivation and spiritual guidance to women around the globe. The Legacy of Love recipient is chosen by the board, but other awards — including a philanthropic award and an award specifically for single mothers — are all by nomination.

This year, Raie said they have received eight nominations for four awards. However, most guests come for the celebration itself, not the awards. In a normal year, Raie said roughly 60 people are in attendance, creating an intimate environment for loved ones to share stories.

“A lot of our audience members enjoy just being in the atmosphere to soak up that love,” Raie said.

Doshia Fifer has been attending the PhenomeMOM Awards for years, but this year marks the first year she’ll

host the event. Fifer said she hopes to encourage women and mothers to keep doing great things for their families and said children need strong moms now more than ever.

“Our youth are dealing with a lot,” Fifer said, “From COVID to violence. I want to tell mothers they were created for this; they can keep moving, and I want to celebrate them.”

This year will be a difficult Mother’s Day for many families here in Indianapolis. In Indiana, over 13,000 families have lost a loved one to COVID-19. While Raie has always set aside a moment to recognize the mothers who died throughout the year, she knows this year will be painful for many. Instead of the usual picture slideshow, Fifer will read aloud the names of women who have died, followed by a prayer.

Raie hopes this recognition will help people heal after a tough year. She’s no stranger to loss — her grandmother died in 2019 — and said the PhenomeMOM Awards that year was difficult to get through without her grandmother in the front row.

“We just want to make everyone reflect on what that person was to them, and to help them realize that they’re still watching over them and their spirit rests within them,” Raie said.

The ceremony will include a performance from Raie and a keynote address by Sanithia Chowning. Attendance is limited to 50 people due to COVID-19. Masks and temperature checks are required.

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

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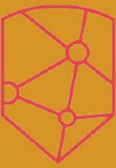
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Pop-up park opening will remember Belmont Beach

By BREANNA COOPER
BreannaC@indyrecorder.com

In the 1930s, the White River — named for the white limestone sand that originally appeared at the bottom of the river — was far from the pristine waters Native Americans once called Wapahani. Water conditions were worse past Emrichsville Dam at Belmont Beach. After years of companies dumping industrial chemicals and slaughterhouse waste, the water was blackened and dangerous to swim in.

Despite — or more likely perhaps because of — the dangerous water quality, Belmont Beach was named a Black-only beach. Black residents on the city’s west side looking for outdoor recreation were limited to the beach. The only other place Black people could swim was in Douglass Park in Martindale-Brightwood on the east side.

According to research from historian Paul Mullins, Belmont Beach was the “epitome of environmental racism — Black residents were only allowed to be in water deemed too degraded to be of use to white residents.”

Despite safety concerns, Belmont Beach was a hotspot for the Black community in Indianapolis; people would gather to go swimming, have picnics and enjoy themselves.



Belmont Beach was a popular spot for African Americans in Indianapolis during the 1930s. (Photo from Recorder archives.)

On May 8, the Belmont Beach Project will open a pop-up park on the beach to celebrate the history of the location and create a family-friendly space. The project is supported by a grant from Lilly Endowment.

“The Belmont Beach Project is very important, as

The Belmont Beach pop-up park will run from May 8 through Oct. 31, located at Belmont’s original site: 1300 N. White River Parkway, Indianapolis, IN 46222.

this type of development will bring awareness to the community and shine a positive light on the progress being made on the west side of Indianapolis,” Tedd Hardy, community ambassador for the Central Indiana Community Foundation, said.

Through Oct. 31, community members will be able to attend concerts, athletic programming, grab concessions and learn more about the history of Belmont Beach. Though it’s a temporary pop-up site, Hardy hopes it will eventually lead to more development in the Haughville area.

Olgen Williams, former deputy mayor of Indianapolis and a member of the project, said on “Community Connection” radio show with host Tina Cosby, he hasn’t been able to find anyone who frequented the beach, but information available at the pop-up will share the history of not just Belmont Beach, but of Indiana’s segregated history, as well.

The pop-up park will be free to the public and include free WiFi through solar paneling.

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

CHANCELLOR

►Continued from A1

as chancellor of Ivy Tech Community College’s Indianapolis campus easy. When he starts May 17, he’s looking forward to engaging with students and the overall community.

“This community has a strong ecosystem, and it’s a prime location for innovation through partnerships,” Esters said. “There is this ecosystem of support, tremendous opportunities to build pathways for students, whether they’re recent high school graduates or they’re single parents seeking credentials for a higher wage job. ... It’s a place where we can build all the great things already underway at the college to put students and community at the center of everything we do.”

Ivy Tech President Sue Ellspermann said Ester’s connection with the community and his background will serve him well in his new role.

“His broad and rich experience along with his recognized leadership in higher education makes him ideal to serve our largest and most diverse campus,” Ellspermann said in a statement. “... As a resident of Central Indiana, he has deep ties to many Indianapolis organizations and communities. I am confident he will ‘hit the ground running’ as the Indianapolis campus has an outsized role in developing talent for the city’s growing economy and increasing the prosperity of our students, families, neighborhoods and communities.”

While Ester has plenty of firsthand experience cultivating partnerships — he served as vice president for advancement and member engagement with the Association of American Colleges and Universities before coming to Ivy Tech, as well as the vice president for the Association of Public and Land-Grant Universities Office for Access — he also understands the importance of an education.

Raised by a single mother after his father died, Esters grew up around his grandparents, who were sharecroppers. His grandmother’s second husband, Willie, only had a ninth-grade education, but could always be found with a book in his hand.

“He read mostly Christian books and watching him taught me there’s something powerful about reading and learning and applying that to education,” Esters said.

When Esters received his undergraduate degree in English literature from Rust College in Mississippi, he became the first person in his family to get a college education. He went on to receive his master’s from Jackson State University and a doctorate in higher education from Morgan State University. Esters realizes his status as a first-generation college graduate gives him something in common with many of Ivy Tech’s students. His personal experiences with higher education, he said, will shape his decision making as chancellor.

“I didn’t have a roadmap,” Esters said of his college experience. “No one in my family had gone to college, so it made an incredible difference for me when I got to know several teachers in high school who took personal interest in me. When I got to college, I met a professor, Ila Wells, who was the first African American to earn a Ph.D. in English. She took a personal interest in me, and I declared my major in English because of her. That is the power of faculty and why I’m eager to support faculty development.”

While the pandemic turned the education world upside down last year, Esters isn’t daunted by the challenges that lie ahead. Instead, he views them as opportunities to grow.

“Our community and students have been challenged to reimagine education, so it’s a great opportunity for us to do that,” Esters said. “To reimagine how we serve students regardless of where they are. Thinking about the future, it’s important for Ivy Tech and higher education in general to be focused on providing multiple methods for engaging students in teaching.”

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



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EDITORIAL

America is racist

By OSEYE BOYD



Dishonest. Disingenuous. Delusional.

Those three words came to mind when I heard Sen. Tim Scott say America isn't a racist country and Vice President Kamala Harris later agree with him.

Scott has spoken about discrimination he's faced and his being racially profiled by law enforcement. Scott, from South Carolina — the state that gave us staunch segregationist (i.e., racist) Strom Thurmond — even discussed the racist treatment his grandfather faced. Harris, on the other hand, while denying America is racist, said we must deal with America's historical racism. So, both Scott and Harris say racist things have happened in this country, but America isn't racist.

When did racism end?

I need the exact date. Last time I checked, history was as recent as yesterday, and I know racism existed yesterday. Scott says it's not the country that's racist, it's the people in this country. Lord help me! What kind of mental gymnastics, semantics-splitting hairs is this man doing? This country is made up of people, "we the people," as it states in the Preamble of the Constitution — that "infallible" document Republicans love to talk about. Scott says Democrats want to discredit the gains Black people have made over the last century.

Delusional.

In a matter of days, we had a Republican and a Democrat agree America isn't racist. I don't think either one of these parties is doing Black folks any

favours.

Those of us who refuse to pretend this country isn't racist are often viewed negatively. It's said we always play the race card. We're for reverse discrimination. We want to take from white people who have never held slaves. That's such a purposely ignorant way to view what we're talking about. We are saying America should live up to its ideals when it comes to Black people. It should repair the harm done to us through slavery as we're still reaping the consequences of 200 years of unpaid labor and then Jim Crow segregation — and America (by and large white people) is still reaping the benefits. We're saying we truly want our country to be what it says it is.

What we refuse to do is pretend the country wasn't built on white supremacy. We (I) refuse to fall for the fallacy that calling out racism makes us racist or a race-baiter. The conservative right loves to play these mind games that will have you believing seeing race is racist — all while they're using coded language to maintain the status quo of rich white men in power. Don't even get me started on the misuse of Dr. King. They want you to be afraid to call out systemic racism while it runs rampant and knocks Black people out of opportunities. They want to use these pull-yourself-up-by-your-bootstraps success stories as a way to mask this country's failing as it relates to Black people. Yes, we have progressed, but how much more would we have progressed if laws were passed to end systemic racism in, say, 1865?

Scott brought up the employment rate, which he said was great for Black people before COVID. Really? There's a slight of hand whenever we talk about employment and unemployment numbers. Is it the real rate or the standard rate for unemployment? The standard rate is usually lower. The real rate includes

more unemployed adults. Take for instance March 2020 when the standard unemployment rate was 4.4% while the real rate was 8.7%, according to the Bureau of Labor Statistics. When you talk about employment numbers, are you talking about people who are working but aren't paid enough to live on, so they have to rely on food stamps and Medicaid, both funded by taxpayer dollars? Republicans always want to talk about lowering taxes. How about quit giving corporations government handouts that allow them to pay their employees so poorly that those employees must rely on "we the people" to help them survive. The poverty rate for Black people in Indianapolis is 28%. That tells me there are a lot of hardworking people out there who aren't making nearly enough.

As far as homeownership goes, the data shows Black homeownership hasn't changed much since the Fair Housing Act of 1968. Oh, it did trend positively until the Great Recession in 2008 when Black people lost their homes due to subprime lenders. No, Black people weren't the only ones, but predatory lenders preyed on Black people trying to achieve the American Dream. The homeownership gap between Blacks and whites widened. It was 30 percentage points in 2017, which is larger than it was in 1968, according to the Urban Institute.

I could go on and on. There's the wealth gap, wage gap, education gap and disparities in health care, maternal and infant mortality rate, the incarceration rate, etc., etc. Yes, these gaps exist because of historical events, but a fairy godmother didn't wave her magic wand to stop America to fix these issues. America has kept plugging along and the disparities continue.

Closing your eyes doesn't make you invisible and pretending racism doesn't exist doesn't make it true.

OPINIONS

Democracy in the balance

By LARRY SMITH



With exceedingly few exceptions, the rational political choice in America is deciding whether to be a Republican or a Democrat.

I have frequently referred to myself as a "reluctant Democrat."

Indeed, I have often stated that my sole reason for being a Democrat is that the alternative is being a Republican. Yet, despite some strong disagreements and deep disappointments with the Democratic Party, my affiliation is not in doubt. However, my identity as an American is infinitely more important to me than being a member of a particular political party. It is in that context that I write.

I very much favor our two-party political system. America needs two strong, well-informed and, most importantly, sane parties. Yes, it is somewhat uncomfortable for me to hope that the Republican Party will continue to be a viable entity — albeit with substantial changes to its messaging, its demographics, its dogged efforts to suppress voting, its tolerance of con-

spiracy theorists and its relationship with white nationalists.

At its base, the primary conflict between the two parties is that one is focused on expanding rights versus the other party that is focused on contracting rights. In terms of bridging the gap between the two, this fact is more important than tax policy, environmental policy, etc.

To be clear, I am not suggesting that the "Grand Old Party" should become the Democratic Party by another name. I am suggesting that the Republican Party should not continue to exist in its current iteration. To use a well-worn metaphor, that party has gone off the rails. Newt Gingrich's "Republican Revolution" is the immediate precipitator, with antecedents in Richard Nixon's "Southern Strategy" and Ronald Reagan's winks and nods at white nationalism (via his self-professed support of "states' rights" in the South).

The most recent Republican president — who was actually a Republican — recently weighed in. George W. Bush said, "I know this — that if the Republican Party stands for exclusivity, you know, used to be country clubs, now evidently it's white Anglo-Saxon Protestantism, then it's not going to win anything."

The problem is that Bush is wrong, at least in the short-term. Ironically, he is the only Republican presidential candidate since 1992 who won the popular vote. (He did so in 2004.) Remarkably, since 1992, Republican presidents and candidates have lost the popular vote by roughly 36 million votes — yet we've had three Republican presidents in that span. (Much the same is true for Congress.)

That is not democracy; it is the subversion thereof. They can only do so via gerrymandering and voter suppression.

Yet, Republicans understand that they can't continue these tricks forever. The demographic clock is too powerful — and time is running out. Further, not only are most of their 250 or so voter suppression bills doomed to fail when challenged in court, their moral obligation to change should be self-evident. We'll see what happens in the next few years.

The fractionalization of America is profoundly intensified in the halls of Congress, not to mention statehouses across "the fruited plain." The entrenched nature of our two-party system makes it very difficult to imagine that we would experiment with another type of government, such as a parliamentary one. (Americans have

always favored a bifurcated system as our preferred political setup long before the Democratic Party and the Republican Party came into existence.) I'm not holding my breath that things will change in my lifetime.

Despite its myriad flaws, America is still the indispensable nation. We cannot let our hatred of said flaws overcome the love that we have for our highest ideals — and the relentless pursuit thereof.

The most powerful, and even radical, response to exclusionary jingoism and myopic white nationalism is for African Americans and other people of color to forcefully assert our citizenship. We have paid for that citizenship in blood. Our children and grandchildren have a stake in the direction that this nation takes.

One party would take us down a path of destruction because it is unwilling — and at some point will be unable — to control its basest instincts. Right now, the Republican Party is winning the loser's game. Republicans must change their ways in order for us all to win.

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

Let's work together to eradicate breast cancer

By NICHELLE HAYES



Racism is a social factor that leads to disparities in health outcomes and economic disadvantages among Black Americans. Racism acts as a stressor and determiner of who receives resources in America, particularly health care. Because of this, Black people have very poor outcomes with many diseases. Breast cancer is one of the most dramatic.

Black women are not as likely to have breast cancer but are more likely to die from the disease. The mortality rates have declined in some ethnic populations; however, the overall cancer rates among Blacks have continued to grow. According to the Susan G. Komen Foundation, Black women in the U.S. have a

40% higher death rate than white women. The death rate for Black women is higher than all other ethnic groups. There are multiple factors that contribute to this higher rate. Some of those variables are differences in the structure of the tumor, late-stage diagnosis, lack of health insurance, body weight and incomplete treatment.

According to an article by Yedjou CG, Sims JN, Miele L, et al. "Health and Racial Disparity in Breast Cancer," "There have been medical improvements in early detection, diagnosis and screening. Still many Black women are less likely to obtain adequate treatment compared with White women. There has been limited success for African Americans. We need to redouble our efforts. Including participating in clinical trials, early detection and spreading information about the effects of breast cancer on Black Women."

Self-breast exams and screenings combine to play an important role in early detection.

Women are encouraged to perform self-breast exams on a monthly basis. There are three basic patterns: circle, up and down, and wedge. Check with your health care professional to see which one they recommend. Monthly self-breast exams allow you to become knowledgeable about the way your breasts look and feel. If you feel something abnormal, report it to your doctor immediately. Become your own advocate. Seek a second opinion if you feel the test or diagnosis is incorrect.

It's critical to screen for breast cancer. The screens are mammography, clinical breast exams and breast MRI. When these screens are combined with follow-up tests and treatment (when required), it can reduce the chance of death.

There are several barriers to screening. To reduce these barriers, we need to increase access to screening and care, remove financial barriers, address cultural differences, educate about breast cancer risks and

screening, and doctors and other health care providers must encourage women to get regular screenings. These barriers must be removed to address the disparities in survival rates.

Finally, each of us, women and men, must reach out to loved ones and ask them if they are doing self-breast exams and having regular screenings as well as participating in clinical trials.

In January 2016, I participated in a tissue donation that was sponsored by the Susan G. Komen Foundation and conducted at the IU Simon Cancer Center in Indianapolis. This involved a quick and relatively painless procedure where a small amount of my breast tissue was taken along with many other people and studied. Having Black people participate in studies like this is critical to diminish the health disparities. There also have been periodic follow-ups regarding my current health status. My hope is that this study has had a positive impact on the eradication of breast cancer.

Since that time, I have personally lost two dear sorority sisters, Dannee Neal and last week Joni L. Reese. Both of their deaths were heartbreaking. Joni's passing was especially difficult because of how long we knew each other. I grieve her passing and pray for all those who have lost loved ones to this dreaded disease. This column is dedicated to everyone who has been touched by breast cancer. My prayers are with all of you. As the word says in James 2:17, "Faith without works is dead." So we need to work to encourage our community and family members to conduct self-exams and obtain screenings. We can make a difference.

Nichelle M. Hayes is a native of Indianapolis. She is an information professional, a genealogist, civic leader and a life longlearner

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After years, court hands tax win to Michael Jackson heirs

By **ANDREW DALTON**
AP Entertainment Writer

LOS ANGELES (AP) — A U.S. tax court has handed a major victory to the estate of Michael Jackson in a years-long battle, finding that the IRS wildly inflated the value at the time of his death of Jackson's assets and image, leading to an estate tax bill for his heirs that was far too high.

The IRS had put the value of three disputed aspects of Jackson's worth at the time of his 2009 death at about \$482 million. In his decision issued May 3, Judge Mark Holmes put that figure at \$111 million, far closer to the estate's own estimates.

The estate's executors said it was a huge and unambiguous victory for Jackson's children.

"We're pleased," co-executor John Branca told The Associated Press on May 4. "We always try to do the right thing. We tried from the beginning to follow the IRS rules and regulations and relied on the best experts possible. It's unfortunate that we were forced to litigate to protect ourselves."

The judge most disagreed with the IRS over the value of Jackson's image and likeness. While the IRS put it at \$161 million, Holmes ruled it was just \$4.15 million. He noted that despite Jackson's acquittal on all counts at his 2005 trial for child molestation, the allegations continued to dog him, and while Jackson was selling out dates for a planned world tour when he died, he could not find a sponsor or merchandise partner.

"The fact that he earned not a penny from his image and likeness in 2006, 2007, or 2008 shows the effect those allegations had, and continued to have, until his death," Holmes wrote in the sprawling 271-page decision that tracks Jackson's fame and finances through most of his life.

The tax fight had led to a bill of about \$700 million after an audit of the 2013 taxes on the estate, whose heirs are Jackson's mother and three children, about \$200 million of it a penalty for underpaying.

A new tax bill will now be calculated using Holmes' figures, and it will include no penalties.

Also in dispute were Jackson's 50% stake in Sony/ATV Music Publishing, a

catalog that includes 175 Beatles songs; and his interest in another catalog that includes the songs he wrote.

The IRS expert had put those assets at a combined total of about \$320 million. The judge found that with Jackson's debts, both combined were worth only \$107 million at the time of his death.

The ruling, awaited for years, resolves one of the few disputes that still hovered over Jackson's estate nearly a dozen years after his unexpected death on June 25, 2009, after a lethal dose of the anesthetic propofol.

Another was resolved a week earlier when a judge dismissed a lawsuit brought by choreographer Wade Robson, one of two men featured in the 2019 documentary "Leaving Neverland," who alleged Jackson sexually abused him as a child. The similar lawsuit of James Safechuck, the other man featured in the documentary, was dismissed in October. The men's attorney called the decisions a dangerous precedent for protecting children, and said they plan to appeal.

With years of disputes cleared and a pandemic-forced delay on projects lifting, the estate's leaders feel like they are in an excellent spot to again start promoting Jackson's legacy.

"We're at an absolute turning point," Branca said. "I think people have come to realize that Michael was innocent of any charges and unable to protect himself. We've got a wonderful Broadway play coming, we'll be reopening our Cirque du Soleil show soon and we've got some surprises coming."

The judge noted the huge success that the estate has seen since Jackson's death through such shows, a hit concert film, and several strategic decisions to sell assets.

However, he said, the IRS appeared to be factoring those successes into its decisions rather than considering only the circumstances at the moment of Jackson's death, when things were considerably more grim after several years of waning popularity, poor management and reckless spending from Jackson.

The judge mocked the estate's initial valuing of Jackson's image and likeness at only \$2,000, however, saying it was putting "one of the best known celebrities in the world — the King of Pop — at the price of a heavily used 20-year-old Honda Civic."

You're Fully Vaccinated for COVID-19. So What Can You Do Now?



Broderick Rhyant, M.D.,
Chief Physician Executive
Eskenazi Health Center Forest Manor

Although the distribution of COVID-19 vaccinations began just a few months ago, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) now states that more than half of all American adults have received at least one vaccine dose.

To reach a point where we can get back to something approaching our normal lifestyles again, researchers have estimated that around 70 to 85 percent of the country needs to be immune to the coronavirus for it to stop spreading through communities then eventually dissipate, and vaccinations will play a key role in achieving that goal. So for those who are fully vaccinated or soon will be, what can they do now that they couldn't do before, and what should they continue not to do?

- The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) states that based on what we know now about COVID-19 vaccines, people who have been fully vaccinated can start to do some things that they had ceased doing because of the pandemic are the following:
- Visit with other fully vaccinated people indoors without wearing masks or physical distancing
 - Visit with unvaccinated people (including children) from a single household who are at low risk for severe COVID-19 disease indoors without wearing masks or physical distancing

- Participate in outdoor activities and recreation without a mask, except in certain crowded settings and venues
 - Resume domestic travel and refrain from testing before or after travel or self-quarantine after travel
- For now, fully vaccinated people should continue to:
- Take precautions in indoor public settings like wearing a well-fitted mask
 - Wear well-fitted masks when visiting indoors with unvaccinated people who are at increased risk for severe COVID-19 disease or who have an unvaccinated household member who is at increased risk for severe COVID-19 disease
 - Wear well-fitted masks when visiting indoors with unvaccinated people from multiple households
 - Avoid indoor large-sized in-person gatherings
 - Get tested if experiencing COVID-19 symptoms
 - Follow guidance issued by individual employers
 - Follow CDC and health department travel requirements and recommendations

As you are aware, recommendations are constantly being updated as we learn more about COVID-19 and vaccines. I encourage you all to continue to be educated and keep up to date with recommendations made by the CDC, Indiana State, and local health departments.

People who believe they may have been exposed to COVID-19 should contact their health care provider immediately. If you are ill with flu-like symptoms such as fever, cough or shortness of breath, please call your health center or clinic before coming to your appointment. If you are an Eskenazi Health patient, please call 317.880.7666 before coming to your appointment. Health care professionals are available 24/7 to answer questions on symptoms and direct you to the most appropriate care. It is important to first call before arriving at Eskenazi Health.

Accelerating the Generation of Wealth

by **Kara Kavensky**

The focus of this year's InnoPower Minority Business Week is accelerating economic development and generating wealth in Indiana's Black communities. The event will be held in June 14th — 18th.

Opportunities are not equally distributed across cities like Indianapolis, Fort Wayne, Gary, Evansville, and South Bend. Those trapped in poverty live in places with little investment, low financial services, and almost no ownership. In other words, we don't have poor neighborhoods as much as broken economies.

There are two leading causes of the lack of adequate and promising jobs in Indiana. First, we have a labor pool that is not ready to fill positions in the knowledge economy. And second, there are not enough jobs where low-income citizens live. Minority entrepreneurs can solve the second half of this problem because they create jobs in high-poverty neighborhoods.

In response to these challenges, businesses have responded in different ways. For example, a McKinsey study reported that more than 40% of minority-owned small businesses have added new services to support their communities and employees, compared with 27% of all respondents. People of color run 22% of all small businesses across Indiana and these businesses have been a cornerstone of their communities during these uncertain times.

Indiana's 113,456 minority-owned small businesses hire more employees than the state average, which shows the importance of a vibrant minority entrepreneurial ecosystem.

Emil Ekiyor grew up in a Cash-based economy in Nigeria with few safety nets to protect citizens who fall on hard times. Emil quickly learned the value of having an entrepreneurial mindset to survive.

A startling fact is that the 2.6M Black-owned businesses in the U.S. generate less than one percent of total U.S. GDP (gross domestic product). This has to change. Another fact is that Black people have the highest level of entrepreneurial startups. One of several efforts to equalize the playing field is investment.

"To develop wealth faster, we must change the status quo. If we do nothing, accelerating the pace for which Black people achieve wealth could take generations," says InnoPower founder Emil Ekiyor. "We must increase the overall quality of life in Black America and one of the ways to do that is through innovation and entrepreneurship."

According to the Equal Employment Opportunity Commission, African-Americans make up less than five percent of the technology industry's workforce in Silicon Valley. According to the commission, the percentage of African-Americans that occupy executive positions in the tech industry may be as low as one percent and independent entrepreneurs have it just as bad as those already established in the sector.

Ekiyor was heavily influenced by his youth spent in Nigeria. Nigeria is a cash-based economy. Nigerians have just recently begun establishing a system of credit.

"There are no safety nets in Nigeria, everyone is trying to perform a transaction and there are not enough available jobs so entrepreneurship is a key part of the culture," says Ekiyor, who moved to the U.S. as a teen for high school. "Everyone has a hustle."

This exposure to millions of people with a hustle mindset as a youth impacted Ekiyor. Another fact of life in Nigeria is the limited access to electricity, with much of the population experiencing only four hours of power each day. For example, if someone sold goods in the

market, at the end of the day they would have to sell or eat what they had left due to lack of refrigeration. This creates intense pressure, which forces adaptability in order to make ends meet. Adaptability is the essence of the entrepreneurial mindset.

When Ekiyor played in the NFL for the Tampa Bay Buccaneers, it was during Dungy's stint as head coach. Dungy and his staff, which included Lovie Smith, were rebuilding the franchise and Ekiyor paid attention. This was an act of entrepreneurship that resonated with Ekiyor.

"We must connect the dots and focus on solutions. Even with limited resources, we can solve problems and become self-reliant," states Ekiyor. "We have to be innovative and create solutions."

Creating solutions for accelerating the closure of the Black wealth gap is a far-reaching topic. Grants and charity work will not solve the problem. According to Ekiyor, innovation is the answer, thus he created the InnoPower organization to promote entrepreneurship and solutions for the complicated challenges impacting

vulnerable communities and populations.

InnoPower partners with many organizations, including Rooted School, Eastern Star Church, Ivy Tech, and Eleven Fifty Academy to create a talent funnel towards careers in technology.

Eleven Fifty Academy's Chief Operating Officer, Dewand Neely, is focused on the Academy being a funnel for diversity in tech. "We are doing a better job as a team by challenging employers to look at us as a feed for their DEI. Employers should come to us to work hand in hand to become more diverse."

Eleven Fifty Academy is a launch pad to accelerate people into rewarding and sustainable careers in tech. The Academy is working diligently to prove that tech can be the great equalizer that it promises to be.

"Entrepreneurial skills, critical thinking, and market-driven intra-prenuerial skills are absolutely critical for creating the innovators of tomorrow," adds Ekiyor. "Tech education is a big component of our solution."

To learn more, <https://innopowerindy.com> or <https://elevenfifty.org>

"We know that opportunity is not shared equally in Indianapolis, Fort Wayne, Gary, Evansville, and South Bend. Those trapped in poverty live in places with little investment, low financial services, and almost no ownership. In other words, we don't have poor neighborhoods as much as broken economies."

Emil Ekiyor
Founder & CEO, INNOPOWER

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National Infant Immunization Week: How early childhood vaccines encourage a healthy life

By CAMEUAL WRIGHT

In addition to the COVID-related battle the world is facing, Indiana continues to also fight for the health of Hoosier children.

April 24-May 1 was National Infant Immunization Week, and this year it is more crucial than ever to make sure your children are properly vaccinated. There has been a significant drop in childhood vaccinations due to the pandemic as families chose to stay home and avoid doctor's offices. Although social distancing is appropriate, we can't lose sight of the need to prevent other deadly illnesses.

Vaccines are crucial to keeping your baby healthy and helping your child fight off diseases that can be passed from person to person. There are currently 19 conditions that previously caused serious illness or death that are now preventable thanks to modern medicine and vaccination.

Parents must not overlook the importance of properly vaccinating their child in their first two years of life. Infants are prone to many viruses in their first year that affect their health and well-being. During their first year, they should be vaccinated for 14 serious diseases on a specific timeline, per the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC). The reality is that going to visit a doctor now is very safe as there are many safety protocols in place. These crucial immunizations are as accessible as ever, and their importance to a child's health and well-being should not be underestimated.

How do vaccines work?

Vaccines essentially expose the body to harmless parts of viruses so the body can recognize it and create antibodies. Once exposed to a germ, the body has the defense mechanisms to fight it. When children get vaccinated, they are able to create antibodies without ever being infected and are protected from the serious, sometimes life-threatening consequences from contracting the



Getty Images

virus.

Are there risks?

Despite the importance of vaccines, there continues to be concern among parents about their safety. It can be challenging to decipher between what information is accurate and what's not. All available vaccines have gone through a rigorous process to prove they are both safe and effective and are approved by the Food and Drug Administration (FDA). There is also a vaccine registry where both patients and providers can document adverse effects to continue to monitor vaccine safety on an ongoing basis.

A local reaction can be possible and allergic reactions are always possible; however, the consequences are very minor. One longstanding concern related to vaccines is their link to autism. The diagnosis of autism often occurs around the time of childhood vaccination,

causing people to believe that they are related. In addition, one research study conducted many years ago linked vaccination and autism; however, a later review of that study revealed concerns as to how the study was conducted and it has since been debunked. There have since been numerous studies that prove that there is no link to autism, including a 2013 CDC study. The concern regarding autism persists despite evidence to the contrary.

How can a health care provider assist families with getting their infant vaccinated?

CareSource, a nonprofit health plan, has care management staff that is there for one-on-one parent support to help members with needs, connect them with services and provide educational resources. CareSource offers a Babies

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It's important to have your child vaccinated not only to protect your baby but every other child they interact with. Children are susceptible to deadly diseases even in their first year of life if not properly vaccinated. CareSource recognizes the importance of vaccinations and provides coverage for all childhood and adult vaccinations. For more information about our services offered in Indiana, visit www.caresource.com.

Dr. Cameual Wright is vice president and market chief medical officer for CareSource.

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Ready to get your COVID-19 vaccine?

Call **211** or visit ***ourshot.in.gov*** to make an appointment.



Indiana University Health

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Public Health Campaign in Marion County Focuses on Substance Use Disorder

The Marion County Public Health Department is launching an anti-stigma campaign that brings a message of hope and encouragement to people who are struggling with substance use disorder (SUD). “You’re Worth It” addresses the guilt, shame and self-doubt of those in the community who are struggling with SUD and empowers them to seek help.

Campaign video and print ads feature Kristy and Phil who are in recovery from SUD and are currently working as peer recovery coaches. The campaign is aimed at adults ages 18 and older with empowering messages to uplift those struggling with SUD by telling them they are worth it, no matter how times they have sought help in the past.

“You’re Worth It” is currently scheduled to run through the month of August.

Resources developed as part of the campaign are available at MarionHealth.org/WorthIt, including information on getting help now, how those still considering treatment can stay safe, and additional resources for family and friends.

The campaign also hopes to inspire individuals who have found recovery to share their story using #YOUREWORTHIT to help inspire hope through social media platforms. “Recognizing that you need help and taking the first step to get connected to resources is a difficult decision for anyone dealing with substance use disorder, whether it’s the first time or it’s the hundredth time,” said Virginia A. Caine, M.D., director and chief medical officer of the Marion County Public Health Department. “We must stand together with loved ones and neighbors in our community to let them know they are important and to help them take that first step toward a healthier life.”

Angela Shamblin, Overdose Data to Action Grant coordinator and

epidemiology manager at the health department, added, “This campaign is an important feature of our overall response to substance use disorder and overdoses in our community. We are working with our partners to offer a variety of services to assist those that need help with addiction and to maintain recovery. Without people taking that first step to seek out help, our efforts cannot bear fruit.”

Special thanks are offered for the support and input of the INSTEP Consumer Advisory Group which is made up of people with lived experience with substance use disorder. The group provided valuable feedback for the types of messages it thought would be most impactful for those currently struggling with substance use disorder.

“You’re Worth It” is funded by National Association of County and City Health Officials’ Implementing Overdose Prevention Strategies at the Local Level (IOPSL), and Overdose Data to Action grants from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention.

ABCs of Diabetes Classes Offered Online

The ABCs of Diabetes is a free, four-part series of diabetes self-management classes offered each month by the Marion County Public Health Department. Classes include instruction on medications, nutrition, exercise, monitoring, complications and available community resources. Registration is open to anyone with diabetes or pre-diabetes. Family members and friends are also welcome.

Due to COVID-19, the ABCs of Diabetes is currently offered online. Registration is required one week prior to first class so that materials can be mailed in advance. To see the schedule of upcoming classes and to register, please visit MarionHealth.org/diabetes or call 317-221-2094.

US Catholic bishops may press Biden to stop taking Communion

By DAVID CRARY
AP National Writer

When U.S. Catholic bishops hold their next national meeting in June, they'll decide whether to send a tougher-than-ever message to President Joe Biden and other Catholic politicians: Don't receive Communion if you persist in public advocacy of abortion rights.

At issue is a document that will be prepared for the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops by its Committee on Doctrine, with the aim of clarifying the church's stance on an issue that has repeatedly vexed the bishops in recent decades. It's taken on new urgency now, in the eyes of many bishops, because Biden — only the second Catholic president — is the first to hold that office while espousing clear-cut support for abortion rights.

Such a stance, by a public figure, is "a grave moral evil," according to Archbishop Joseph Naumann of Kansas City, Kansas, who chairs the USCCB's Committee on Pro-Life Activities.

"Because President Biden is Catholic, it presents a unique problem for us," Naumann told The Associated Press. "It can create confusion. ... How can he say he's a devout Catholic and he's doing these things that are contrary to the church's teaching?"

The document, if approved, would make clear the USCCB's view that Biden and other Catholic public figures with similar viewpoints should not present themselves for Communion, Naumann said.

In accordance with existing USCCB policy, it would still leave decisions on withholding Communion up to individual bishops. In Biden's case, the top prelates of the jurisdictions where he frequently worships — Bishop W. Francis Malooly of Wilmington, Delaware, and Cardinal Wilton Gregory of Washington, D.C. — have made clear that Biden is welcome to receive Communion at churches they oversee.

The document-in-the-works results from a decision in November by the USCCB's president, Archbishop José Gomez of Los Angeles, to form a working group to address the "complex and difficult situation" posed by Biden's stances on abortion and other issues that differ from official church teaching. Before disbanding, the group proposed the drafting of a new document addressing the issue of Communion — a project assigned to the doctrine committee.

The committee has not released details about its work. Naumann said the matter will be discussed at the USCCB's meeting in June and the bishops will vote on whether the committee should continue working on the document so it could be publicly released later.

A two-thirds majority would be needed for work to proceed, Naumann said. But even critics of the initiative, such as Bishop John Stowe of Lexington, Kentucky, predict the endeavor will win overwhelming approval.

Stowe is among a relatively small group of U.S.



Getty Images

bishops who worry that the USCCB's emphasis on abortion is undercutting Pope Francis' exhortations for the church to also stress such issues as climate change, immigration and inequality.

"If a politician is targeted as a negative example by his own church, that sets a sad context in which the church can deal with this Catholic president," Stowe said.

Nonetheless, the bishops wanting to send a tough message to Biden are determined to press ahead.

"There's a growing sense of urgency," said San Francisco Archbishop Salvatore Cordileone. "Abortion is not just one among many important issues. ... It's a direct attack on human life."

American Cardinal Raymond Burke has broached the possibility of Catholicism's ultimate sanction. He says politicians who "publicly and obstinately" sup-

port abortion are "apostates" who not only should be barred from receiving Communion but deserve excommunication.

Bishops already troubled by Biden's stance on abortion grew more dismayed by three measures from his administration in mid-April.

It lifted restrictions on federal funding for research involving human fetal tissue. It rescinded a Trump administration policy barring organizations such as Planned Parenthood from receiving federal family planning grants if they also refer women for abortions. And it said women seeking an abortion pill will not be required to visit a doctor's office or clinic during the COVID-19 pandemic, enabling women to get a prescription via telemedicine and receive the pill by mail.

SPIRITUAL OUTLOOK

George Floyd and the cries of our mothers and children

By ANGELIQUE WALKER-SMITH



"Momma! I'm through." This was the cry of a mother's child, George Floyd, during the last moments of his life as an officer knelt on his neck. One of the witnesses to this was a 9-year-old girl after she bought snacks at a nearby store with her cousin.

When Jesus, the child of Mary, was crucified on a cross, his last words were also directed to his mother. According to John 19:26-27, "he said to his mother, 'Woman, here is your son,' and to the disciple, 'Here is your mother.' From that time on, this disciple took her into his home."

These same cries are also heard today from unaccompanied children who have made or are making the dangerous journey to the United States because of the disturbing conditions and dangers in their homes. ProPublica reports that "they scream 'Mami' and 'Papá' over and over again, as if those are the only words they know." There were 18,663 unaccompanied children in March 2021.

How many cries are made today by children and mothers desperate for their lives to be protected and saved? How many are assaulted by the threat and horror of death because of violence, conflict, hunger, poverty, climate change and other interrelated causes? Perhaps we will never know, but these echoed cries of Rachel's lamentation in Jeremiah 31:15 and Matthew 2:16-18 beckon us to listen and respond today: "A voice is heard in Ramah, weeping and great mourning, Rachel weeping for her children and refusing to be comforted, because



Getty Images

they are no more."

Revelations 21:4 says God is listening and responding: "God shall wipe away all tears from their eyes; and there shall be no more death, neither sorrow, nor crying, neither shall there be any more pain: for the former things are passed away."

Therefore, as people of faith and goodwill, we are called to listen and respond. Listening to our mothers and children and advocating with them can help turn their cries and tears of anguish to tears of renewed hope and possibilities.

Mothers and children have been key leaders in the increased public advocacy for a racially equitable future that has been a response to the tragedy of George Floyd's death and other similar deaths. Recently, there were tears of hope when the policeman who put his knee on his neck was held accountable. There are tears of hope as unaccompanied children who have crossed the southern border are placed in foster care homes until permanent homes can be found — instead of being caged and condemned.

Bread for the World, in partnership with persons like you, advocates for policies that advance resources for child and maternal health and nutrition, and police and immigration reforms. You are invited to join us at the upcoming Bread for the World Advocacy Summit to learn more.

This month also brings Mother's Day and the Africa month celebrations that can bring hope. May the tears and cries of all of us find hope in our individual and communal acts of love, justice and compassion.

Angelique Walker-Smith is senior associate for Pan African and Orthodox Church Engagement at Bread for the World in Washington, D.C.

BIBLE TRIVIA

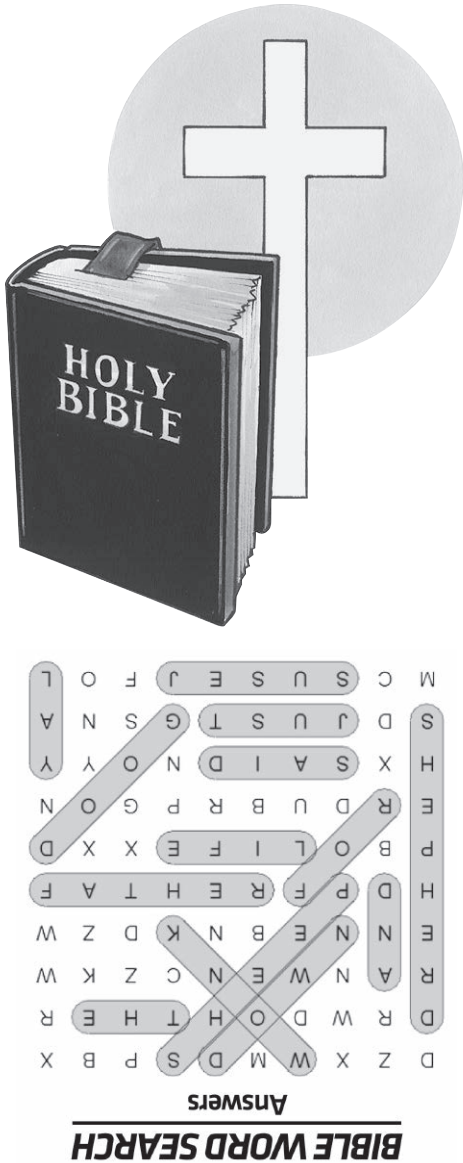
by Wilson Casey

1. Is the book of Ecclesiastes in the Old or New Testament or neither?
2. The King James translation of the Bible contains more than how many references to gems and precious stones? 100, 500, 1,700, 2,200
3. Which book recounts the story of the Israelites wandering in the desert for 40 years? Titus, Hebrews, James, Romans
4. From 2 Samuel 14, how many shekels did Absalom's hair weigh after he cut it off? 2, 10, 50, 200
5. Two hundred shekels weighed around how many pounds by royal standard in biblical times? 1/2, 1, 3, 5
6. Where did Jesus attend a wedding where the wine was exhausted? Sardis, Antioch of Syria, Joppa, Cana of Galilee

ANSWERS:
1) Old; 2) 1,700; 3) Hebrews; 4) 200; 5) 5;
6) Cana of Galilee

Sharpen your understanding of scripture with Wilson Casey's book "Test Your Bible Knowledge," available in bookstores and online.

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BIBLE WORD SEARCH

by Elie's Spiritual Treasures

John 10:14-15

Jesus said, "I am the **good shepherd**; I **know** my sheep **and** my sheep know me—**just** as the **Father** knows me and I know **the** Father—and I **lay down** my **life for** the **sheep**."

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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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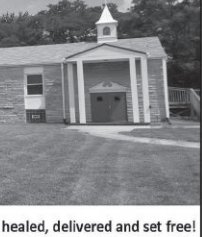

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6:00am
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12:00 noon & 7:00pm
Thurs. Family Living
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US wages and benefits jump as economy reopens

By **CHRISTOPHER RUGABER**
AP Economics Writer

WASHINGTON (AP) — Wages and benefits grew quickly for U.S. workers in the first three months of the year, a sign that businesses are starting to offer higher pay to fill newly-opened jobs.

U.S. workers' total compensation rose 0.9% in the January-March quarter, the largest gain in more than 13 years, the Labor Department said April 30. That's up from 0.7% in the final three months of last year. Still, the increase is just barely above 0.8% gains in two quarters in 2018.

The solid rise comes after weaker increases during the pandemic, when the unemployment rate initially shot to nearly 15% before declining steadily to 6% in March. As a result, workers' pay and benefits rose just 2.6% in the year ending in March, down from 2.8% a year earlier.

The data comes from the Labor Department's Employment Cost Index, which measures pay changes for workers who keep their jobs. Unlike some other measures of Americans' paychecks, it isn't directly affected by mass layoffs such as the pandemic job losses that occurred last spring.

The figures suggest that as the economy is reopening and more Americans are willing to venture out to restaurants, bars, and shops, businesses are having to provide higher pay and benefits to pull workers back into the job market. Many businesses have struggled to find people to take jobs, despite still-high unemployment.

Some Americans are reluctant to take jobs in industries like restau-



Getty Images

rants, hotels and bars for fear of contracting the coronavirus. Others, particularly women, are constrained by child care obligations. And a generous federal supplement to unemployment benefits of \$300 a week may also be keeping some unemployed on the sidelines. That benefit ends Sept. 6.

Overall incomes grew by a record amount in March, according to a

separate report April 30, bolstered by \$1,400 government stimulus checks and unemployment aid to roughly 18 million Americans. Incomes soared 21.1%, while spending rose 4.2%, a sign that much of the income was saved and may be spent in coming months.

Wages and salaries rose 1% in the first three months of the year, the Employment Cost Index showed,

while benefits such as health insurance increased 0.6% in value.

Hotels and restaurants boosted pay and benefits by 1.5% in the first quarter, as many businesses in those industries have had a hard time finding workers. Total compensation jumped 3.6% in the financial services industry.

Biden's corporate tax plan takes aim at income inequality

By **PAUL WISEMAN**
AP Economics Writer

WASHINGTON (AP) — From John Kennedy to Ronald Reagan to Donald Trump, American presidents have taken aim at corporate America's tax-avoidance schemes before — and mostly missed.

Now, President Joe Biden is training the government's sights again on the loopholes, shelters and international havens that have long allowed multinational companies to dodge taxes in ways that ordinary households cannot.

The idea is twofold: First, to help pay for Biden's trillions in proposed spending — for everything from roads and bridges and green energy to inter-

net access, job training, preschool and sick leave. And second, to shift more of the federal tax load onto companies and narrow America's vast income inequality. Affluent investors reap the biggest windfalls when after-tax corporate profits accelerate.

Biden, in effect, wants to swing the pendulum back. At one time — the early-to-mid-1950s — corporations accounted for 30% of federal tax collections. Last year, their share barely topped 7%.

The president wants to stop companies from stashing profits in countries with low tax rates. To do so, he's proposed a 21% minimum tax on multinationals' foreign earnings and is urging other countries to follow suit. His plan would also rescind what the administration sees as international loopholes in

Trump's 2017 tax legislation.

To strengthen its ability to root out tax cheating, the administration has proposed adding \$80 billion to the IRS budget over a decade to bolster the agency's underfunded enforcement team. As part of his effort to reduce America's wealth gap, he's also proposed raising the tax rate on long-term capital gains for Americans who earn over \$1 million a year.

If adopted, the 21% minimum global tax "effectively spells the end of the tax haven as we have come to know it," said Alexander Arnon, an analyst at the nonpartisan Penn Wharton Budget Model, a research organization associated with the University of Pennsylvania.

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The intent of Section 3 is to provide job training and employment opportunities to local, low-income residents and businesses, should training or openings become available during the project. These opportunities are available at the Parkside at Tarkington project as certain Federal funding has been awarded to the project. If you are interested in and qualified for these potential opportunities, or have any questions, please contact Rene Hart at (317) 313-0962 or parkside@cfic.com.

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) SS: COUNTY OF MARION)
) CAUSE NO. 49C01-1806-)
) JP-021561)
) Rachel Pope,)
) Plaintiff)
) vs.)
) Josh Gikos,)
) Defendant)

NOTICE OF SUIT
The State of Indiana to the defendants above named, and any other person who may be concerned.

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

The nature of the suit against you is: Order This summons is specifically directed to the following named defendant(s) whose addresses are: And to the following defendant(s) whose whereabouts are unknown: John Gikos.

In addition to the above named defendants being served by this summons there may be other defendants who have an interest in this law suit.

If you have a claim for relief against the plaintiff arising from the same transaction or occurrence, you must assert it in your written answer. You must answer the Complaint in writing, by you or your attorney, on or before the 20th day of June, 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.

ATTEST:
Clerk of the Marion Circuit Court
John Kassis
Attorney at Law
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Indianapolis, IN 46227
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) COUNTY OF MARION)
) CAUSE NO. 49C01-2103-)
) PL-010874)
) Yonance Cheek)
) Plaintiff)
) vs.)
) Heirs of Jesse Murff; Heirs of Anderson Murff; Heirs of Lula Frieson; Robert E. Murff; Willie L. Murff; Frances Washington; Charlie Murff; Ora Lee Jacobs; and Statewide Credit Association; and Cochran Exteriors, Inc. Defendants

NOTICE OF SUIT
To the defendants named below herein, and any other person who may be concerned.

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

The purpose of this proceeding is to quiet the title to real estate legally described as follows: Lots Numbered 124 and 125 in McCarty's Subdivision of the East part of Out Lot 120 of the Donation Lands of the City of Indianapolis, the plat of which is recorded in Plat Book 2, Page 86, in the Office of the Recorder of Marion County, Indiana.

Real Estate is commonly known as: 1110 South Kenwood Ave., Indianapolis, IN 46225, and 1114 South Kenwood Ave., Indianapolis, IN 46225 Property 1LD, No. 49-11-11-119-038.000-110 Property 1LD, No. 49-11-11-119-037.000-110 (hereafter collectively "Real Estate").

This summons by publication is specifically directed to the following defendants who may have some interest in the Real Estate and whose whereabouts are not known with certainty:

Heirs of Jesse Murff; Heirs of Anderson Murff; Heirs of Lula Frieson; Robert E. Murff; Willie L. Murff; Frances Washington; Charlie Murff; Ora Lee Jacobs; and Statewide Credit Association; and all other persons claiming any right, title or interest in the Real Estate by, or through them, or any other person or entity, names of all whom are unknown to the Plaintiff.

You must respond to this summons by publication, by you or your attorney, on or before thirty (30) days after the Third Notice of Suit has been published. If you fail to do so, a default judgment may be entered against you. ATTEST:
Clerk of the Marion County Court
John B. Platt, Attorney
Number 20883-45
Attorney for Plaintiff
NELSON & FRANKENBERGER, LLC
550 Congressional Blvd., Suite 210
Carmel, Indiana 46032
Telephone: (317) 844-0106
5320-920245

05/07/21
05/14/21
05/21/21

NAME CHANGE

STATE OF INDIANA) IN THE MARION CIRCUIT COURT)
) SS:)
) COUNTY OF MARION)
) CASE NO. 49C01-2104-)
) MI-011639)
) IN RE THE NAME CHANGE)
) OF:)
) JOELLEN ZACK, an Adult,)
) Petitioner)
) AND)
) ORDER SETTING HEARING)

NOTICE OF PETITION FOR CHANGE OF NAME
Petitioner, JoEllen Zack, whose mailing address is: 5929 Wagon Wheel Trail Indianapolis, Indiana 46237 If different, Petitioner's residence address is: Marion County, Indiana, hereby gives notice that a hearing will be held on April 20, 2021, she filed a petition in the Marion Circuit Court, requesting that her name be changed to JoEllen Snow. Notice is further given that a hearing will be held on said Petition on the 9th day of July, 2021, at 9:00 o'clock a.m. Any person has the right to appear at the hearing and to file objections. This matter will be heard at 200 East Washington Street, Room W506, City Council Building, Indianapolis, IN 46204. /s/ JoEllen Zack So Ordered: 05/07/21
Petitioner Date: 3/8/21 /s/ Susan Boatright
Magistrate, Marion Circuit Court 05/14/21
5320-920305 05/21/21

STATE OF INDIANA) IN THE MARION CIRCUIT COURT)
) SS:)
) COUNTY OF MARION)
) CAUSE NO. 49C01-2104-)
) PL-014540)
) JOSE A NUNEZ)
) Plaintiff)
) vs.)
) CITY OF INDIANAPOLIS)
) And The unknown)
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) widowers,)
) surviving spouses, heirs,)
) legatees, devisees,)
) grantees,)
) children, descendants,)
) mortgagors, creditors,)
) administrators, executors,)
) guardians,)
) successors, assigns, if)
) deceased, of all persons)
) above named, all persons,)
) associations, partnerships,)
) partners, trustees,)
) assigns, representatives,)
) successors,)
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) who assert any title to claim)
) upon or interest in the real)
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) Defendants,)
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Prepared By: Kathleen S. Crebo)
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5320-920410)
05/07/21)
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New IUPUI head coach Matt Crenshaw tries to remodel his alma mater



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

It's been 18 years since Matt Crenshaw made the college basketball world pay attention to IUPUI, if only for a week or so, after his 12-foot jumper in the conference title game gave the Jaguars their first and only NCAA Tournament appearance.

Can he do it again?

IUPUI announced Crenshaw as the next head coach of the men's program in April. It was a call he wanted before, having been an assistant coach at the school from 2006 to 2018. He was an associate head coach the final seven years.

"It's home for me," Crenshaw said.

During his time as an assistant, IUPUI went through two coaching searches and didn't land on Crenshaw either time. He left to become an assistant at Ball State in 2018.

Even Crenshaw's son, Michael, said he started wondering what was taking so long. He thought his father's resume spoke for itself after more than a decade of helping guide the program.

"It's something me and him talked about over the years for a long time," Michael said.

Those who played alongside Crenshaw in the early 2000s, and those who played on the teams he helped coach after, made their opinions known about who the administration should hire this time.

George Hill, who played under Crenshaw his final two seasons at IUPUI and is the only player in program history to get drafted in the NBA, posted a collage of college head coaches at their alma maters on his Facebook page with the caption: "All These Amazing Coaches/Individuals Are Getting The Opportunity To Coach Their Alma Mater. While My Alma Mater Is Relying On A Search Firm To Find Their Next Coach. I Could've Sworn One Of Our Own Has Been Sitting Waiting His Turn For The Past 6 Year. Can We Give Our Alum A Chance #TeamCrenshaw."

(IUPUI used Parker Executive Search to help with its national head coach search.)

Hill, now with the Philadelphia 76ers, was the first person to call Crenshaw after the announcement.

One of Crenshaw's teammates at IUPUI, Odell Bradley, offered to call the athletic department to vouch for his friend.

"Maybe I can call someone and give them my 2 cents," he said.

It wasn't necessary. Crenshaw couldn't tell him at the time, but the job was his. The school made it official the next day.

Bradley, who coaches basketball in Nashville, Tennessee, said he doesn't know how Crenshaw will do in the win and loss columns but hopes the administration gives him enough time to turn the program around.

"What I do know is he cares about kids," Bradley said. "He knows the game of basketball, and he's a great leader of young men."

The challenge is plain: IUPUI hasn't had a winning season since going 19-14 in 2010-11 under the program's most successful head coach, Ron Hunter, who coached the lone NCAA Tournament team. The 2010-11 season was the last in a streak of 10 straight at .500 or better.

Hunter left in 2011 with 274 wins. The next three coaches had a combined record of 105-199.

Crenshaw was on the Jaguars' bench for much of that time and is as familiar with the program's shortcomings as anyone else.

His plan to revamp the program starts with recruiting locally.

"We want to put the fence up," he said. "We want to lock down the state of Indiana, the city of Indianapolis."

Only one player on last season's team was from Indiana.

The other part of Crenshaw's plan is what many might call culture. Fans don't pack the stands at home games at Indiana Farmers Coliseum, but if Crenshaw can make this a proud program — one where former players want to come back and stay involved — he'll be on his way to doing that.

"How can you talk about your program if none of your former players and alums are engaged or they're not around?" he said.

D.J. McCall, who played under Crenshaw and graduated in 2019, knows how his former coach can make that happen.

Crenshaw is a mentor, McCall said, and that makes it easier to learn from a coach and accept criticism.

Crenshaw took the Ball State job going into McCall's senior season, but even then he kept in contact with his old players and even gave McCall some pointers before the two teams played in Indianapolis in 2018.

"I know that no one in the history of IUPUI basketball knows more about how to be what it takes to get to that tournament and succeed with that program," McCall said.

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Pacers try to finish strong

Pacers guard Edmond Sumner scored 16 points in the Pacers' 130-113 loss to the Nets on April 29. (Photo/David Dixon)

Sights from the Kentucky Derby



Ladies get dressed up and show off their fancy hats during the 147th running of the Kentucky Derby on May 1 at Churchill Downs in Louisville, Kentucky. (Photos/Jeff Brown)



A fan wears an American flag suit.



Jockey John Velazquez rides Median Spirit (8) to victory at the Kentucky Derby.

KIPP wins cheer battle



KIPP Indy Legacy High won a "stomp and shake" cheer battle April 30. (Photos/Michael Patton)



Herron High School won second place.



L-R: Kenidi Ache, first runner-up; Faith Baskin, winner; Ciara Searchy, second runner-up.