

SYSTEMIC RACISM: VIRTUAL SERIES EXPLORES HISTORY, IMPACT AND CHANGE

By TYLER FENWICK
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The Jewish Community Center of Indianapolis will host a series of online discussions about systemic racism to explore the role history has played in impacting people and institutions.

The first part of the series — “Where We Are and How We Got Here” — is 7-8:30 p.m. Dec. 9 on Zoom and will examine the history of systemic racism. Future discussions on Dec. 16, Jan. 6 and Jan. 13 will deal with issues such as wealth and how to initiate change.

Former Indianapolis city-county councilor and deputy mayor Paula Means and community organizer Nedra Feeley will facilitate the discussions.

“We know to combat this issue it’s going to take time,” Means said. “And it’s going to take people who are willing to give the time and walk along some of the rough roads that there will be.”

Registration for all four sessions is \$15 for the general public and \$10 for JCC members. Learn more and register at jccindy.org/events. Contact lrrothenberg@jccindy.org if you cannot afford the cost.

Means and Feeley have hosted these types of conversations before, most recently after the police shooting of Jacob Blake in Kenosha, Wisconsin. The pair asked people to think back to the first time they recognized racism and if they did anything about it. What they found, Means said, was people recalled incidents, usu-



Paula Means



Nedra Feeley

SYSTEMIC RACISM SERIES

The Jewish Community Center of Indianapolis will host a virtual series on systemic racism, facilitated by former Indianapolis city-county councilor Paula Means and community organizer Nedra Feeley.

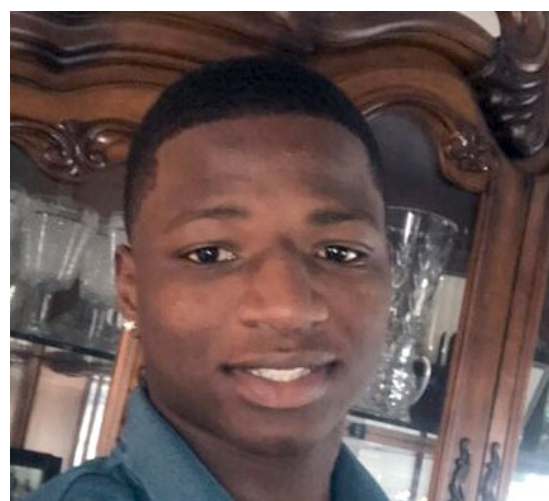
When: 7-8:30 p.m. Dec. 9, Dec. 16, Jan. 6 and Jan. 13

Where: Zoom

Registration: \$15 for the general public and \$10 for JCC members for all four sessions

Learn more: jccindy.org/events

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Nevan Baker. (Courtesy of his family)

Black communities’ distrust of police has roots in history

By DESIREE STENNETT
Orlando Sentinel

ORLANDO, Fla. (AP) — Sharhonda James is living in hell.

She has been plagued by daily nightmares since her 22-year-old son, Nevan Baker, was found hanging from a tree in an Orlando park last month.

Orlando police determined Baker had killed himself, a finding that has only fueled James’ agony because she doesn’t believe it. Neither did thousands of people who signed an online petition demanding the investigation be reopened and expanded. Nor did activists who led demonstrations calling for transparency and justice.

To many, the image of a young Black man hanging from an Orlando tree was too evocative of past racist lynchings to blindly trust the official explanation. To James, the horrific way police said her son committed suicide didn’t square with the seemingly happy young man she can see singing and rapping in cellphone videos he recorded in the weeks before he died.

“They didn’t do a fair investigation,” James said. “They didn’t handle my son’s situation in the proper way.”

Her doubt is not surprising.

It is indicative of a deep-seated ill that goes beyond personal grief or the actions of specific officers: Across the country, most Black communities have little faith in law enforcement.

The proof is found in anecdotes like

See DISTRUST, A7 ►

Local author turns debut novel into film

By BREANNA COOPER
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When Delores Thornton published her first novel, “Ida Mae,” in 1997, she drew inspiration from people and events in her own life to create the fictional world. In the back of her mind, Thornton, 71, knew she wanted to turn the book into a movie, but never felt comfortable tackling the project.

“I never felt like I could do the book justice,” Thornton, an Indianapolis native, said. “It was my debut novel, and when the story came to me, it consumed me and took over my entire life for a while. ... I promised myself I would do something for her [Ida Mae] in 2019, because that’s



Still from the trailer for “Ida Mae.” (Photo provided)

the year she died.”

Thornton and a small cast and crew began filming “Ida Mae” in August, taking many precautions in the wake of COVID-19. To limit

the amount of interaction between actors, much of the film consists of narration by Thornton. Kelah McKee, who plays Ida Mae, had to get used to COVID precautions on

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Celebrating 125 years
From the Recorder Archives
March 21, 2008

BREAKING THE CYCLE OF PRISON

By AARON MCCOY

Sean Hendricks has endured several horrific experiences that would force some people into a mental health institution.

However, on a cold and rainy day he is definitely happy and content.

While standing inside the gymnasium of a local youth center, he looks at a mural on the wall. The mural depicts a young man being saved by an angel before the forces of evil can destroy him.

In a moment of reflection Hendricks smiles and calmly says, “That reminds me a lot of my own situation. So many times, the devil has tried to pull me back into the darkness, but Christ has brought me into the light. If we never endure the darkness, how can we appreciate the light?”

Hendricks, a former prison inmate, would like to share that hope and optimism with others who are still in prison or have left recently. But achieving that goal might take a tremendous amount of hard work in com-

See ARCHIVE, A5 ►



Hoosier barbers are cutting mental health stigma among Black men

By HILARY POWELL

Where there is a mirror and barber chair, Trey Cato sees a ministry.

“We’ve prayed in my barbershop,” he said. “The kids are not going to church, but they’re going to get a haircut. When we come together and listen to these people, I believe we can change the community.”

Driven by that dedication to change, the Fort Wayne barber is part of a national coalition of haircutters

trying to improve the health of Black men. Operating under a vision that they are “more than a pair of clippers,” national nonprofit The Confess Project is helping Black barbers talk about mental health, one client at a time.

“The barbershop is the Black man’s country club,” Cato said. “It’s where we can talk without being judged.”

At his 2K Tight barbershop on the city’s south side, you’ll likely hear Cato candidly chatting about being

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BARBER

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a 47-year-old, divorced father of five. And you get the sense his frankness is as strong as his faith in God. That’s because Cato speaks highly of his 15-year marriage, even though it eventually ended.

“I’m a walking asset and I’m proud of that,” he said. “I’m not ashamed to tell people my faults, because I don’t want you to make the same mistake.”

Cato said he sees one client at a time to adhere to social distancing guidelines during the coronavirus pandemic. That intimacy has led to deeper discussions.

Alicia Mckoy, CEO of PEAK-Mind LLC in Indianapolis, said the pandemic has left many people with a blurred line between work life and home life. “Now our emotions are even more entangled,” said Mckoy, who helps businesses address the mental well-being of their employees. “Black males as we know are dealing with racial tension in addition to normal stressors and financial burdens of a pandemic.

“Mental well-being has traditionally not been talked about openly, but being in the middle of a pandemic, mental well-being cannot be overlooked.”

Prior to the pandemic, Mckoy said, research shows employee assistance programs that offer support such as counseling, were often underutilized, with less than 10% of employees using them nationwide.

Now, more Indiana communities are bringing resources to places where marginalized Black men feel safe. The ultimate goal is to connect clients with equitable and affordable mental health treatment.

The Confess Project recently included Fort Wayne as part of a virtual tour of partner barbershops. Organizers said the group teaches barbers how to be mental health advocates, not

counselors — and shows them how to replicate the program in their communities for free.

Darnell Rice, membership director for the project, said Fort Wayne was a crucial tour stop because of the area’s economic disparities. A 2018 study of Allen County found that in the 46806 ZIP code where Cato’s shop sits, about 38% of residents in the majority Black area live below the federal poverty line.

“We lash out because we don’t have affordable [mental health] services,” Rice said. “The barbershop is a safe space to come and get real and uncut. I will trust my barber with my deep concerns.”

He said Black men tend to rely on family, religious and social communities for emotional support rather than turning to health care professionals — even when that’s necessary. The Confess Project often sets referral agreements with medical providers that barbers can pass along to clients.

A similar program — the Indiana Black Barbershop Health Initiative — has been operating for a decade. The Indiana Commission on the Social Status of Black Males created it to encourage Black men to be proactive about their health care, including mental health.

“The barbershop has been called the Black man’s country club and we simply choose to discuss health ... and change the paradigm for Black males,” said James Garrett Jr., executive director of the commission.

The U.S. Department of Health and Human Services Office of Minority Health reports poverty affects a person’s mental health, and Black Americans living below the poverty level are twice as likely to report psychological distress. The latest federal data shows the suicide rate for Black men

is more than four times greater than for Black women.

Black men have the highest mortality rate in the state, Garrett says, adding that thousands of them have received health screenings through the commission’s health initiative.

“When our patrons sit in that barber chair, [barbers] hear many things that are going on in their life,” he said. “We’ve got the barbers to engage the patrons, asking, ‘How have you been feeling? Have you been sleeping well; have you been depressed?’”

Barbers in both community programs are trained to ask similar questions to “debunk the myth” that mental health is a shameful topic, Garrett said.

Experts say any effort to remove the stigma of mental health discussions in the workplace is encouraging. Mckoy said interested employees can advocate for better mental health programs by telling employers that the programs can help them be more productive.

Rice tells coalition members confidential chats with clients are also good business because they forge long-term bonds.

Look no further than Cato’s chair for proof. It’s where he’s watched some clients go from children to parents over the last three decades — while listening carefully to their concerns.

“My shop is a safe haven,” Cato says. “I try to build relationships. I try to speak life.”

This story was reported as part of a partnership between WFYI, Side Effects Public Media and the Indianapolis Recorder.

Contact Hilary Powell at hpowell@wfyi.org. Follow her on Twitter @mshilary.

DCS:

Allegation involving B4U FALL

‘unsubstantiated’

By TYLER FENWICK
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Fourteen-year-old Ramir McAfee sustained second-degree burns while asleep at B4U FALL when another student poured scalding hot water on him, but a report from the Indiana Department of Child Services concluded an allegation of neglect was “unsubstantiated.”

According to the report, which McAfee’s mother, Dominique Fitch, shared with the Recorder, McAfee awoke screaming around 3 a.m. Sept. 12 because his skin was burning. A social worker at Riley Hospital for Children told the family case manager the skin around the left side of his face, neck and chest was “gone.”

B4U FALL is a nonprofit mentoring program that includes a residential living program.

McAfee told the case manager the alleged perpetrator got the hot water from a staff member at B4U FALL, according to the report. The case manager interviewed the staff member, who said he was upstairs at the time of the incident.

In an interview with the Recorder, Shane Shepherd, the organization’s CEO and founder, said the alleged perpetrator likely told McAfee he got the water from a staff member because he thought it would lessen his chances of getting in trouble. Shepherd said the staff member has since left B4U FALL for another job.

According to the report, an Indianapolis Metropolitan Police Department detective said there would be criminal charges against the boy who poured the water.

According to the report, Shepherd said there was supposed to be another staff member at the home throughout the night, but she left shortly before the incident following a confrontation with the alleged perpetrator’s mother, who was going to to pick up her son.

Shepherd told the case manager the staff member who left early was terminated.

Staff members interviewed in the report said they didn’t believe the stove was used to heat the water dumped on McAfee. Shepherd told the case manager the water temperature was turned up so there would be enough hot water for showers in the morning, and the report said Shepherd had a video to show steam coming from the faucet with the water running.

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

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New Indiana law puts pressure on high schools
to reduce home-school withdrawals

By DYLAN PEERS MCCOY
Chalkbeat Indiana

One in five Indiana high schools are facing scrutiny that could lead to lower graduation rates because they marked a large number of students who didn't graduate as leaving to home-school.

The state will review over 100 schools under a new law that aims to stem the tide of students who leave without diplomas but are not counted as dropping out. Schools under audit must show that they have properly documented each withdrawal and that the students who withdrew were on track to graduate. Students who were behind on credits when they left will be re-categorized as having dropped out.

Statewide, schools claimed that about 3,200 Hoosier students who were expected to graduate in 2020 instead withdrew to home-school. The total reflected a dip from the prior year. A Chalkbeat investigation found that because the state does not track or oversee home schooling, it's impossible to say how many of those students continued their education.

The new law aims to prevent students who fall behind in school from withdrawing and disappearing from graduation rates. Indiana data for the class of 2019 showed that more than half of students who left high schools to home-school may have fallen behind on credits.

The growing focus on home-school withdrawals is pressuring schools to provide options for struggling students, such as alternative programs or career training. But it is too soon to say whether state attention will dramatically increase the number of students earning diplomas.

"Home schooling was pretty much a dumping ground for kids until lately," said Greg Prange, principal at Seymour Senior High School, a 1,500-student school in an agricultural community about an hour south of Indianapolis.

When he began as assistant principal over two decades ago, frustrated students could leave as soon as they turned 16. After the state made dropping out more difficult, some of those students started leaving to home-school, Prange said. Parents who are tired of fighting with their teens about school withdraw them, he added.

At Seymour, the district is relying on new career training programs to keep students engaged in school, including a fledgling agriculture science program that allows students to learn about land-



scape management, horticulture and animal science, Prange said. The program also helps students earn diplomas under the state's new graduation pathways even if they are not able to pass the state exam.

Those efforts seem to be paying off. Seymour will not face a state review this year because the school has drastically reduced the number of students leaving to home-school. Fourteen Seymour students in the class of 2020 withdrew for home schooling, about a third of the number in the prior class.

"We've changed so much over the years trying to provide for kids in the community," Prange said. "We're not losing those kids."

But at schools with some of the highest rates of students leaving to home-school, those strategies haven't shown results yet.

At Lincoln High School, a 700-student campus in southwest Indiana, Principal Steve Combs expects the graduation rate to fall by about 10% because of the new law. Combs was frustrated about the law marking students who are behind on credits as dropping out, a requirement imposed after students in the class of 2020 had withdrawn from school.

"I'm all for accountability. I just would like to know what the rules are," Combs said.

In the class of 2020, Lincoln had 31 students who

were marked as leaving to home-school. Most of them were behind on credits, and about 10 who were on track to graduate will likely be counted as dropouts because of a problem with documentation, Combs said.

When students fall significantly behind on credits, withdrawing to home-school and pursuing a high school equivalency can seem like the best option, Combs said. "That's difficult to battle against."

In the long term Combs hopes the school will be able to keep more of those students in school by offering more options. The district launched an alternative high school this year where students can catch up on credits more quickly through online classes with the support of teachers.

Whether students are counted as dropping out or leaving to home-school, when they leave school without diplomas it can have enduring consequences for them and for the community, Combs said.

"I live in this town. I absolutely worry about them," he said. "But I do feel good about the services that we try to provide while they're here."

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

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RACISM

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ally when they were kids, that they were only able to recognize as racist years later.

Those experiences make Means confident the upcoming series about systemic racism will include, as she said, rough roads.

Lev Rothenberg, JCC’s arts and education director, said there are many white people who don’t recognize the head start they get in America just by chance.

“I hear too many people say, ‘Look, my grandparents had nothing and now look at my circumstances. Why can’t Black people do that?’” he said. “There are systematic reasons why there have been obstacles placed in front of Black people all the time.”

This series is certainly not the first of its kind to pop up this year, especially since these types of programs became more popular with the rise of racial justice protests in the spring and summer months. One of the common themes that continues to show up, no matter who organizes the event, is the idea that in order to effect change, people need to get uncomfortable.

One of the questions Means likes to ask people when it comes to racism: How do you have motivation when someone is always trying to push you back?

She also has a slide in her presentation to show the burdens placed on Black people.

“I literally ran out of room on this pyramid I’m putting together,” she said.

The series will not just be Means and Feeley talking at participants. One of the things they learned from earlier projects is people tend to let themselves become more vulnerable — and thus honest — in an open environment, so about half of the time will be spent letting others share their own thoughts and experiences.

If necessary, Means said, they will do extra sessions to accommodate more people.

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

Assessment and Intervention Center opens in Indianapolis

By JILL SHERIDAN
WFYI

A new center opens to help people who have involvement in the criminal justice system with mental health or substance abuse issues. The Assessment and Intervention Center, or AIC, is the first building to open at Indianapolis’ Criminal Justice Campus.

Its services include addiction withdrawal treatment and connecting people to vital resources, like housing.

Indianapolis Metropolitan Police Department Commander Catherine Cummings said it will provide people with treatment options not in a jail or hospital setting.

“I’m really hopeful that the AIC will fill that gap, where officers have another option,” Cummings said.

The center opens with 30 beds, where people can have a safe place to stay, taking over operations of the former Reuben Engagement Center. Eskenazi Mental Health Center’s Dr. Ashley Overley said AIC will help them serve more than only people experiencing homelessness.



“It’s a broader admission criteria and we are adding mental health expertise to the staff,” Overley said.

IMPD’s mental health crisis teams will also have space in the building. The center will be staffed 24 hours a day to help assess the needs of referred individuals.

“For people who are appropriate, who are voluntary and who don’t need hospital level of care, but still need support and housing and help assessing their needs and their goals,” Overley said.

When the center is at full capacity, it will be able to house up to 60 people. It opens with a \$2.7 million annual budget.

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ARCHIVE

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munities across the country.

America’s prison population is rising fast, according to a recent report released by the Pew Center on the States. One in every 100 adults is currently in prison and the inmate population grew by more than 25,000 in 2007 alone.

Those statistics seem to coincide with a study by the U.S. Department of Justice, which shows that African American men continue to be jailed at a faster rate than their counterparts in other racial groups. There are more than 3,000 Black male prisoners per 100,000 Black men, compared to only 1,261 inmates per every 100,000 Hispanic males and 487 prisoners every 100,000 white males.

Also, one in nine Black men ages 20 to 34 is behind bars, while one in 100 Black women ages 35 to 39 are in prison, compared with one in 355 white women in the same category.

Most criminal justice analysts contribute the rise in the prison population to tougher state and federal sentencing laws imposed since the mid-1980s. Many observers, including Hendricks, believe the laws have affected Black males at a disproportionate rate.

“Unfortunately, many sentencing laws favor white offenders,” said Hendricks. “Not all Black men sell drugs and steal cars, so why do we make up over 40% of the prison population when we’re only 12% of the overall population?”

Byron Alston, a former gang member and inmate, believes a large part of the increase is caused by a higher rate of recidivism, or Black men returning to prison due to a lack of opportunities available to them upon release, especially in the area of employment.

“If someone got out of prison and they have no way to make a living, then what do we expect to happen?” asked Alston, who is now a community activist and director of Save the Youth, a local organization that helps at-risk youth and former inmates.

“If a person has been locked up for several years, they need help getting acclimated to the social and economic changes in society,” said Alston.

Hendricks agrees with Alston, and they both know ex-inmates who had difficulty finding employment or lost it once supervisors discovered their legal past.

“Most of the guys I talk to who have been released from prison say their biggest challenge in getting ahead is finding a job,” said Hendricks.

Hendricks, who robbed safes, was released from prison in 2004 after serving 15 years at a facility in Carlisle, a town in Southern Indiana.

Racial tensions were sometimes high between angry urban Blacks and angry rural whites, and Hendricks had to endure experiences such as stints in solitary confinement, 23-hour lockdown, inmates throwing human waste at each other and administrators making unkind remarks about his father, the late community activist Charles “Snooky” Hendricks.

Upon his release, however, Sean Hendricks began to turn his life around by connecting with business mentors, and began volunteering at Christamore House, a community service center on the Westside. He now works with Alston at Save the Youth, which provides youth mentoring, recreation, court advocacy and employment assistance.

“It’s nice being able to help youth avoid the same mistakes I made,” said Hendricks.

Alston noted that not all inmates receive the help that Hendricks had because many organizations that serve ex-inmates are struggling financially, which he says is shameful in a city with many affluent individuals.

According to Indianapolis Deputy Mayor Olgen Williams, help is on the way for ex-inmates trying to turn their lives around. The city, he stated, is creating a department devoted to helping people establish normal, stable lives after being released from prison.

“Each year Indianapolis receives over 5,000 people coming home from state and federal prisons,” said Williams, himself a former inmate who turned his life around and became director of Christamore House. “That’s why finding a solution to this issue is so important to the mayor.”

Williams added that the department, which has not been named yet, will be directed by someone who pulls togeth-

er efforts by faith-based organizations, GED education providers, businesses and job-training program instructors to provide a “one-stop” center for ex-convicts trying to establish stability. Businesses will also be asked to review hiring practices as they relate to former inmates.

“Far too often guys leaving prison are just thrown out there and no case worker is there to help them, so this department is a great idea,” said Hendricks.

For Williams, the cause of the prison population increase is simple: Too many people are committing more crimes.

“They have to look at why they are committing those crimes,” he said. “At the same time people who have paid their debt to society deserve a second chance so that they can take care of their families, rebuild their sense of pride and dignity and move on with their lives. We want to help them get that second chance.”

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Sound of Metal

By DWIGHT BROWN
NNPA News Wire Film Critic

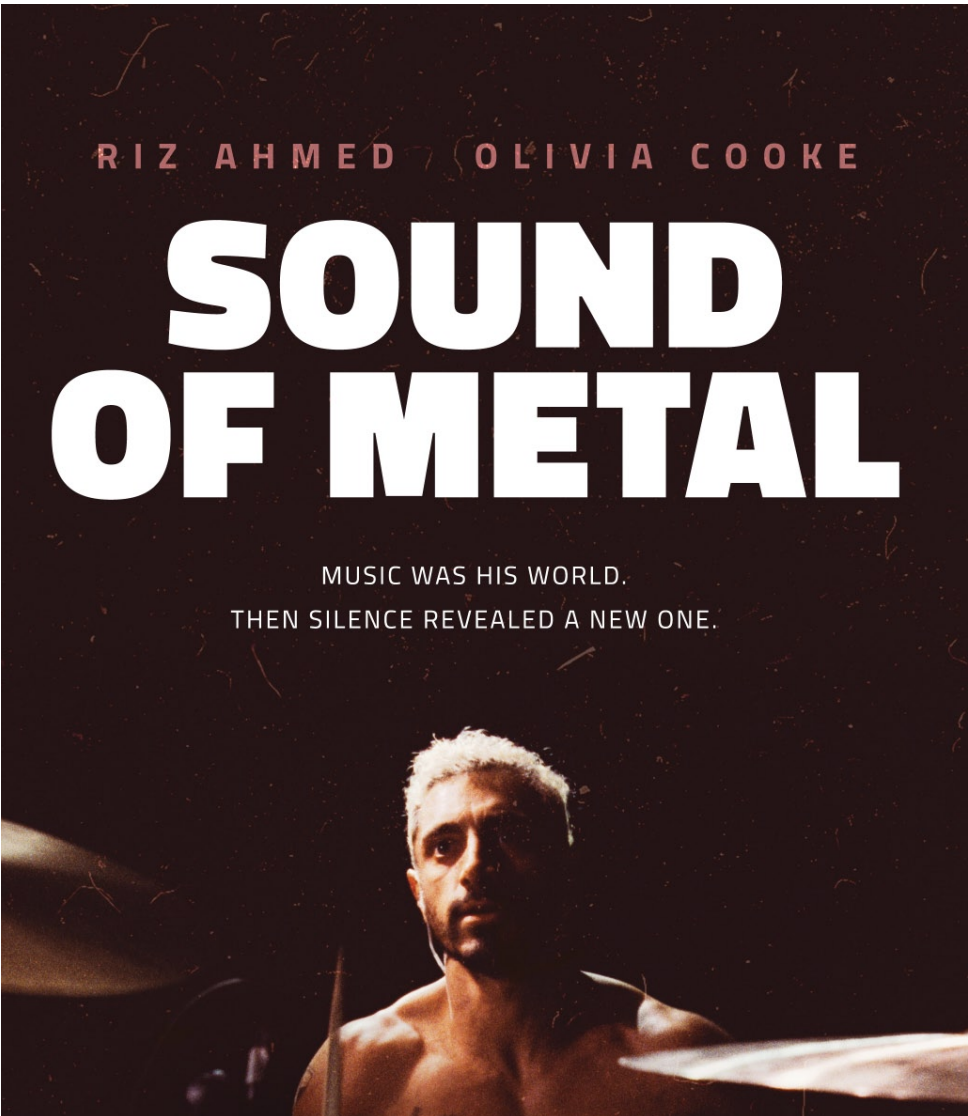
It's a struggle. Losing one of your senses can be devastating. But that's the reality a punk-metal drummer faces. Hearing loss. He's banging drums he can no longer hear.

Ruben (Riz Ahmed, "Nightcrawler"), a percussionist, and his lover Lou (Olivia Cooke, "Me and Earl and the Dying Girl"), a lead singer and guitarist, form a two-person metal band. They travel to small clubs and gigs in their RV, like low-budget indie rock stars. The music they play is earsplitting. Even the applause they receive is loud. But more and more for Ruben, everything is muffled.

It's a major adjustment for a recovering heroin addict whose life ambition is music. His ability to understand conversations, decipher low tones and listen to phone calls decreases dramatically. After an alarming test — left ear at 24% capacity, right ear 28% — an audiologist delivers the harsh news: "The hearing you have lost is not coming back." With love in her heart, Lou talks Ruben into becoming a resident at sober house for the deaf. Then she's gone. He's left to adjust to a progressive program that doesn't believe deafness is a handicap. He is not so sure.

The premise, based on a documentary by Derek Cianfrance about the husband-and-wife American sludge metal duo known as "Jucifer" who is hailed for extreme volume, was developed into a very engrossing script by writer/director Darius Marder. Two mutually dependent, nomadic loving souls barely eking out a living. Solid in their dedication to music, performing and fighting for sobriety. It's a brave Bohemian existence but noticeably fragile, especially when they encounter a major challenge.

It's no wonder the former addict is mortified and manifests his fear in angry outbursts and feelings of abandonment. He's an unlikely protagonist fighting an invisible and seemingly insurmountable adversary. An enemy



that forces him to look to others for guidance and within for a solution.

Ruben is the kind of high-potential, anti-hero character seasoned actors vie to play. Considering the high stakes, it isn't evident by Ahmed's filmography that he could do justice to a role that would be a supreme challenge even for a chameleon like Daniel Day-Lewis. Yet there he is, a British/Pakistani former rapper, now with bleached blonde hair, blanketed with tattoos and trying to convince viewers that Ruben's struggle is worth their attention.

Darius Marder, in an ingenious stroke of creativity and through innovative sound design, lets the audi-

ence hear or not hear just like Ruben. The screen goes increasingly silent as his ears fail. It's a drummer's worst nightmare and messing with the audio track adds an authenticity that underlines his desperation. He's trapped. Not able to go back to the old world, not accepting the new. Then there are moments when you can hear what others can hear, and he cannot. It's a very profound juxtaposition.

Ahmed invests his all in the rebellious but loving drummer, expressing his disappointment and making you feel and experience his disorientation. Ruben's stubborn attempts to cling to his past life and not accept his future is a paradox he must reconcile. And

Ahmed's deeply emotional, Oscar-worthy performance compels you to want to stick with him, through the worst of times, until he has or doesn't have an epiphany. How despondent is he? Ruben: "What I need is a fu--ing gun in my mouth!"

Yes, this is Riz Ahmed's showcase and his ultimate moment, thus far. But, excellent performances abound. Paul Raci, a CODA (child of deaf adults), as the director of the group home builds a portrait of a seasoned counselor who is as transparent and nurturing as he is demanding and disciplined. Lauren Ridloff (TV's "The Walking Dead"), a former Miss Deaf America, enlivens the role of Diane, a congenial elementary school teacher. Mathieu Amalric ("Munich") as Lou's dad casts a very paternal shadow. While Oliva Cooke perfectly counterbalances Ahmed. In fact, there are moments when Ahmed and Cooke's performances are so emotionally raw and primal they rival those of Gary Oldman and Chloe Webb's in "Sid and Nancy."

The film's very simple, cinema verité look comes from Daniël Bouquet's in-obtrusive yet intimate cinematography, Megan Stark Evans' authentic costuming, Tara Pavoni and Ruth Peeters' very informal sets and Jeremy Woodard's low-key production design. The musical score by Nicolas Becker and Abraham Marder couldn't be more audacious or subtly perfect and the tight editing by Mikkel E.G. Nielsen makes 2 hours and 10 minutes whiz by like 90 minutes.

Innovative filmmaker Darius Marder examines the psychology of deafness, creates indelible characters and molds a totally absorbing atmosphere. But that's just the beginning. Riz Ahmed is his vessel, muse and interpreter. He's the soul-searching guide who introduces viewers to a side of life that is too rarely shown.

Released in select theaters Nov. 20 and available on Prime Video Dec. 4.



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SPOTLIGHT

Where to find holiday fun this year

By STAFF

From elaborate light displays to visits with Santa, there is still plenty of fun to be had around the holidays this year — even during a global pandemic. Whether it's in your home or at a museum, go find some Christmas cheer in this dark year. Pay attention to health guidelines and check for any changes at events before making your trip.

Festival of Trees

The Indiana Historical Society is offering two ways to experience the Festival of Trees this year: in-person and virtually. There are 50 decorated trees representing individuals, families and organizations from around Indiana. You can also choose to curl up on the couch and use your smartphone or tablet to tour the festival.

- **Where:** Indiana Historical Society, 450 W. Ohio St.
- **When:** Now through Jan. 9 (hours vary)
- **Cost:** Ticket prices vary online (free for virtual)
- **Learn more:** indianahistory.org

Winterlights

This is the fourth year of Winterlights at Newfields, where guests can gaze at more than 1.5 million lights strung through 100-year-old trees. The experience is entirely outdoors this year, with

favorites such as Landscape of Light dancing to “The Nutcracker.” Chocolate chip cookies and popcorn will be available for purchase.

- **Where:** Indianapolis Museum of Art at Newfields, 4000 N. Michigan Road
- **When:** Now through Jan. 3 (hours vary)
- **Cost:** Ticket prices vary online
- **Learn more:** discovernewfields.org

Jolly Days Winter Wonderland

Children have tons of holiday activities to choose from at the Children's Museum of Indianapolis, including a giant snow globe, ice skating with socks, an ice castle, ice fishing and characters from Scrooge to Mrs. Claus. You can also visit Santa through Dec. 24 or schedule a time for a virtual visit.

- **Where:** The Children's Museum of Indianapolis, 3000 N. Meridian St.
- **When:** Now through Jan. 3 (hours vary)
- **Cost:** Included with museum admission
- **Learn more:** childrensmuseum.org

Celebration Crossing

Visit Santa, ride the Santa Claus Express Train and dine in a tea room at Celebration Crossing at the Indiana State Museum. New this year is Reindeer Barn, where visitors can explore Santa's flight path and groom a stuffed reindeer. Santa will be there for visits Friday through Sunday and on Christmas Eve.

- **Where:** Indiana State Museum, 650 W. Washington St.
- **When:** Now through Jan. 3 (hours vary)
- **Cost:** \$11-\$16 online
- **Learn more:** indianamuseum.org



DISTRUST

► Continued from A1

James', conclusions drawn by academic experts, elected officials, lawyers and police researchers and nearly three decades of polling. This year, data show Black adults reporting the lowest level of police confidence in a generation. The distrust, which periodically erupts into public view after police killings of Black people, like George Floyd or Breonna Taylor, can be traced back centuries, to slave patrols that served as one of the earliest forms of law enforcement in America. “The relationship is poor,” said Jeremy Levitt, an attorney and president of the Stono Institute for Freedom, Justice and Security, a human rights institution and think tank. “... You have to look at the history of policing in this country and how police organizations were formed, who they sided with, how they policed African Americans.” That history is what law enforcement agencies across Central Florida and the nation must contend with as they continue to police Black neighborhoods while facing calls for reform after this summer's wave of protests against police brutality, said Jacinta Gau, a criminal justice professor at the University of Central Florida. “That knowledge and that collective history doesn't just go away,” Gau said. In the Baker case, the Orlando Police Department stood by its findings, noting that Baker had attempted suicide before and saying that evidence, including the state of his body and clothing and the direction of the rope marks around his neck, proved there was no foul play. OPD presented the evidence to James, before releasing it publicly. The protests have since faded, but James, encouraged by her community sharing in her grief, still can't take the police department at its word. “The community, they're the ones telling me don't let this go,” she said. “I'm not letting it go. My son is in perfect peace right now. I'm the one still in this hell. ... But it's not only a blow my family, it's a blow to the world.”

DISTRUST HAS DEEP ROOTS

Since the 1970s, the pollster Gallup has measured confidence in American institutions like the presidency, organized religion and the public school system. In 1993, the year after unrest exploded in Los Angeles following the acquittal of four officers captured on video brutally beating Rodney King, Gallup started to collect data on policing. In the most recent poll, only 19% of Black adults reported having “a great deal” or “quite a lot” of confidence in policing, compared to 56% of white adults. For both groups, these were the lowest rates of trust in Gallup's polling history. The poll was conducted between June 8 and July 24, amid nationwide protests in the name of Floyd, who was recorded pleading for air as a Minneapolis police officer held a knee to his neck for more than eight minutes. Trust in law enforcement has always broken along racial lines, with white respondents routinely reporting levels of trust 20 to 30 percentage points higher than Black respondents. The distrust has deep roots in American history, Levitt says, tracing back to the Fugitive Slave Act, which required

the federal government to return to enslavement Black men and women believed to have escaped from the slaveholding South, and the Black Codes, a series of laws passed immediately after the end of the Civil War that limited African American freedoms. “When the genesis of police agencies is our federal law enforcement officials and state and local law enforcement officials enforcing the Fugitive Slave Act and Black Codes, it's not a really good way to begin a historical relationship,” he said. In Central Florida, as in much of the South, authorities in the Jim Crow era routinely ignored anti-Black abuses — and sometimes perpetrated them. A century ago, a white mob terrorized a Black community in Ocoee because a Black man had attempted to vote on Election Day, ending in the lynching of Julius “July” Perry. The mob was deputized by an Orange County deputy sheriff and led by a former Orlando police chief. Three decades later, now-infamous Lake County Sheriff Willis McCall shot two Black men falsely accused of raping a white woman in Groveland before they were set to be retried. One of the men was killed. Violence by police has been met by repeated uprisings: In 1965, it happened in Watts, a neighborhood in Los Angeles, after the arrest of Marquette Frye. In 1992, it was Los Angeles again, in response to Rodney King's beating. In 1999, it was in New York, over the police killing of Amadou Diallo, a Black immigrant. In 2014, Ferguson, Missouri, exploded after a police officer killed 18-year-old Michael Brown. His death took Black Lives Matter from a social media hashtag created after George Zimmerman was acquitted in the death of 17-year-old Trayvon Martin to a rallying cry that has defined the current civil rights movement. This year, it was Floyd in Minneapolis. It was Taylor in Louisville. And here, protests were reinvigorated in August after an Orange County Sheriff's Office deputy killed Salaythis Melvin. “Given the nature of our historical relationship with police, when considering how they were formed and who and how they policed, why wouldn't African American distrust law enforcement?” Levitt said.

‘DIFFERENT THINGS TO DIFFERENT PEOPLE’

The implications of this history was the subject of a two-week training session recently conducted for members of the Orlando Police Department's command staff and officers who work in Parramore, Washington Shores and other predominantly Black neighborhoods along Mercy Drive. Randy Nelson, department chair and criminal justice professor at Bethune-Cookman University, led the training. Nelson went through the police academy and worked as an armed parole officer in the early 1990s. “When I came out (of the academy), I was proud to have a badge,” Nelson said. “My mom reminded me that was the same badge used to hold them down when they were doing peaceful protests in Tallahassee during the Civil Rights times. ... That same badge was

used as suppressive, as discriminatory.” He realized “the badge means different things to different people” — historical context he says can help law enforcement professionals better understand Black communities they serve. In addition to conducting Nelson's training and an audit of agency policies, the Orlando Police Department also recently added new community outreach programs, including a youth outreach program coordinated by 14-year veteran Cpl. Joseph Lundy. And at a press conference recently, Chief Orlando Rolon, who declined to be interviewed for this story, announced the reformation of the agency's defunct Neighborhood Patrol Unit, which is meant to improve communication between the department and the community. An earlier iteration of the program ended about a decade ago, when OPD reassigned its officers to manage a spike in crime. In addition to steering people away from crime, Lundy says programs like these have the potential to change whole neighborhoods, reducing crime and encouraging community members to come forward with information about criminal activity. “We have to take this approach about changing lives and changing the community from a holistic standpoint. We know that the things that we're trying to do, it doesn't take one,” he said. “... It does take a village to change our community, to change these young people to give these them opportunities to succeed.” Lundy, who is Black, said he understands the uphill climb such efforts face. Like many Black parents across the country, he has had “the talk” with his three sons — coaching them on how to behave around police to avoid being subjected to violence. So has David Thomas, a former Florida police officer and senior research fellow for the National Police Foundation. In 2017, Thomas wrote an essay for the foundation urging law enforcement agencies to start working toward better relationships in Black communities. “Black families have the talk with the young Black males in the family because they're afraid that their child is going to be stopped, or worse yet shot by law enforcement,” Thomas said. “... My parents had that discussion with me in the '60s. And when I talked to my dad, his father had that discussion. My dad was born in 1914 and his dad, my grandfather, had that discussion with him.”

VIOLENCE REVIVES DISTRUST

The day George Zimmerman killed Trayvon Martin in Sanford, Feb. 26, 2012, Cecil Smith was working as deputy police chief in Elgin, Illinois, a city just northwest of Chicago. Even 1,200 miles away, he could feel the outrage over the Sanford Police Department's decision not to immediately arrest Zimmerman. So could “every police department around our country,” he said. “Regardless of the thousand good things you do, the media tends to focus on that one bad incident ... and lumps us into something that took place thousands of miles away, which is truly and completely unfair,” he said.

After then-Sanford Police Chief Bill Lee was fired for his handling of Trayvon's killing, Smith was brought in to replace him and begin the work of rebuilding trust between Sanford police and the community. Smith said the small number of protests in Sanford this summer, all of which remained peaceful, show the department is making progress. But that doesn't mean the work is done. Andrea Smith Green had participated in police community outreach programs before. She wanted to make sure officers knew her 17-year-old son, Adrien Green, because he was about 6-foot-5 and had been diagnosed with Asperger Syndrome. She worried that, if he encountered police, he could get hurt and thought, if law enforcement knew her family, they would be treated better. “I didn't want nobody to hurt him,” she said. “I didn't want the police department to treat him like a man. ... I just didn't want anyone to size him up.” On May 5, Adrien was shot by a Sanford homeowner. Police didn't arrest the man, explaining that evidence indicated the teenager was trying to break into a car on private property, which meant the killing was likely justified under Florida's “stand your ground” law. The killing sparked outrage and small protests. But the homeowner was never named publicly and was never arrested. In September, Seminole County prosecutors announced the man would not face charges. Sanford activist Starrgina Lawrence said the case was another example of how police and also the State Attorney's Office continue to fail the Black community and why, though she acknowledges Smith has made efforts to better the department, trust is still far off. “If that had been a white 17-year-old and a Black man shot him ... he'd be going to jail,” Lawrence said. That argument — that a different standard of justice would be applied were the races of those involved reversed — was common among those who argued for Zimmerman's arrest in 2012. After Zimmerman was acquitted the following year, his attorney, Mark O'Mara, argued the opposite: If Zimmerman was Black, he said, “he never would have been charged with a crime.” O'Mara, who now represents Adrien's family, says he is disappointed to see how little things have changed in the years since. He says he was sure at the time, given the national attention the case received, that police reform would follow any verdict. Though that didn't happen seven years ago, O'Mara says he thinks renewed conversations around policy changes and trust following Floyd's death could be a first step toward meaningful change. “I think a lot of our local law enforcement leaders have an awareness and I think they try pretty hard,” O'Mara said. “But the problem with it is multifaceted. ... The problem with it is that there are just some fundamental problems with law enforcement because there are fundamental problems with us.”

EDITORIAL

The three branches of government, a lesson in civics

By OSEYE BOYD



I often marvel that people who make ignorant comments or blatantly wrong statements often do it loud and proud.

I thought about this when I read about Tommy Tuberville, a new senator from Alabama and former Auburn University football coach. It seems Tuberville didn't know the three branches of government in the United States. I'm sure he knows them now after being a national laughingstock. Tuberville thought the branches of government are House, Senate and executive (presidency). The three branches of government, legislative, judicial and executive, were taught — or should've been — in school. I may have learned them before my government class my senior year of high school, but I distinctly remember my government teacher Mrs. Gore discussing the three branches. The whole point of the class was to give soon-to-be high school graduates the information we needed to participate in democracy and live up to the civic duty expected from all Americans. Lessons about how politicians work diligently to suppress certain voters weren't discussed.

I understand if regular folk don't know or have

forgotten the branches of government, but someone who is actually involved in government not knowing this information is shameful and embarrassing. Tuberville isn't even educated on the most basics of how our country works.

That wasn't his only gaffe, though. Tuberville didn't know what the Voting Rights Act of 1965 is, or that America fought against fascism not socialism during World War II. In fact, some of our allies were not only socialist but communist, i.e. the Soviet Union. (It's not surprising he doesn't know what fascism is given how many conservatives and Republicans are leaning toward fascism.)

Tuberville's nonsense made me think about another Alabama resident, former State Rep. Ted Crockett. Crockett is the guy who said on national TV a Muslim can't be sworn into the U.S. Senate because they have to swear on the Bible. When he was informed that you don't, in fact, have to swear on the Bible, he looked dumbfounded. He was lost for words for a few seconds.

Now, I don't want stereotype Alabama residents as I don't appreciate it when Indiana residents are stereotyped, but things aren't looking good for the state.

The truth is Tuberville and Crockett are indicative of a larger problem in this country. Many of us are ignorant of our history, current events in America

and global events. Many of us just parrot what we've heard without giving it much thought. But we speak with authority, making us loud and wrong.

That ignorance is also why it's easy to vote for other ignorant people. We get caught up in a cult of personality. Tuberville was a football coach in a football state. He had voters in the can based on that history. Donald Trump had automatic voters based on his real estate and business mogul persona. However, voting on these shallow points is immature. We, and I'm including myself, need to grow up when it comes to voting. We can't get caught up in "liking" someone based on superficial qualities. Liking people is irrelevant. What is this person going to accomplish while in office and how will that benefit me? Will my taxes be raised or lowered? Will he or she create laws that reduce funding for education in my school district while benefiting others, etc.? Those are but a few examples of questions to ask.

We're going to make mistakes and elect people who let us down, that's not the point. My point is we need to make decisions based on information not feelings. At the very least those we vote into office should know their role in our government. It's not asking too much to ask that they actually have a little knowledge of this country's history and laws.

We have to do better.

OPINIONS

The Republican reckoning

By LARRY SMITH



From the time it was clear that Donald Trump would be the Republican nominee for president in 2016, I have warned my GOP friends — publicly and privately — that their party would eventually pay a steep price for his brand of politics. Some chose to ignore his tiresome, vitriolic, insipid, intemperate, bigoted and even dangerous antics. Some chose to rationalize or even normalize them. And, most ashamedly, some actively championed them. In the end, *all* of them are complicit in the disgrace that is the Trump presidency.

Attorney General William Barr's confirmation that there is no evidence of widespread fraud in the 2020 election will — hopefully — be the death knell of the tortuous and tragic saga that his boss launched even as votes were still being counted. Indeed, now that Donald Trump's defeat is certain, Republican leaders have belatedly begun to cast their gaze introspectively. They're trying to determine what kind of post-

Trump party should emerge.

Of course, one major challenge for Republicans is that Trump is likely to be around for the foreseeable future. Rather than disappear gracefully, as former presidents of both parties tend to do, he'll be looking — lurking — over their shoulders. Some will welcome his dour and disruptive presence, at least until they commit some unforgiveable "transgression" (such as telling the truth). Others will, no doubt privately, lament that he won't simply ride off into the sunset in a Trump-branded limousine. It's not simply that Trump will cast a long shadow; it's that his falling star will likely burn up everything in its wake. (Those who will be vying for the 2024 GOP nomination have to be ticked off about Trump's teasing another run.)

Even with Trump out of the White House, "Trumpism" will continue unabated. The fact that more than 70 million Americans voted for him is a sobering reality. As I've repeatedly shared with my liberal friends, Trump voters (regardless of their eventual party label) are not going anywhere; the results of the 2020 congressional elections should confirm that. (And, yes, I'm aware that Republican-led

voter suppression efforts in several states play a role.)

This leads me back to my original point. The question is whether Republicans will fundamentally change — and I'm not solely talking about their support for Donald Trump. Will they continue to tolerate, and even tacitly endorse, the racism that routinely prevents roughly 90% of Black voters (and roughly 70-75% of other voters of color) from supporting them? Will they continue to embrace incumbents and candidates who openly peddle insane conspiracy theories?

These questions are separate from the equally important — and inveterately sad — likelihood that they will continue to champion tax policies that substantially increase our national debt, burden the middle class, and disregard the poor and working class. Equally as likely, Republicans will continue to perpetuate the false dichotomy that we must choose between so-called "job-killing regulations" and a strong economy.

As the saying goes, Black folk don't have permanent political allies; we have permanent political interests. In the not-too-distant past, Republicans had a legitimate opportunity to

secure 25% or more of Black votes. Unfortunately, they chose to double down on Richard Nixon's "Southern strategy" (which hasn't been confined to the South). In short, for the past five decades the GOP has increasingly appealed to white supremacy, which is an increasingly shaky strategy as our nation's demographics change. (Unfortunately, given this year's election results, there is a distinct possibility that at least half of Hispanic voters might not care as much about racism as the overwhelming majority of Black voters do.)

Finally, the "steep price" to which I referred earlier is not confined to the voting booth. Republicans must decide the extent to which they care about character and morality — far beyond the core issue of abortion. What does their party actually stand for, as opposed to what they stand against? What will historians say about them? How do they want their descendants to view them? Only time will tell.

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

Open enrollment ends soon

By ANDRE CARSON



There's an old saying we're used to hearing when times are tough: "At least I've got my health." This year, that expression has taken on new meaning, and we've all developed a new appreciation for it.

Indiana, our country and the entire world have been fighting COVID-19 for months now, and we are in its tightest grip yet as

cases and hospitalizations soar to record highs. In Black communities here in Indianapolis and across America, the impact of this horrible pandemic has hit particularly hard. We continue to face higher infection rates and death rates from COVID-19, on top of many other inequities in health outcomes Black people face. Diabetes, maternal mortality, many types of cancer and heart disease are just a few illnesses that Black people suffer from at higher rates than Americans of other backgrounds.

It's clear that for all people, and especially Black people, taking control of our health is one of the most important priorities to ensure future well-being and success. That's why I am so incredibly pleased that President Barack Obama understood this need in our communities and took bold action by enacting the Affordable Care Act (ACA). I was

honored to play a role in passing this bill, and voting for it remains one of the highlights of my time serving you in Congress. Since the ACA's passage more than 10 years ago, millions of Americans have secured quality health care through the law, many of them for the very first time.

However, Republicans continue to attack and undermine the Affordable Care Act. In fact, Republicans and the Trump Administration are trying to convince the Supreme Court to overturn the law after Congress repeatedly refused to repeal it. It is very wrong that they would try to rip care away from millions of people, especially in the middle of a global pandemic. Despite these attacks, the ACA remains the law of the land, and I will continue working tirelessly to protect it from these reckless repeal efforts.

One way you can help strengthen this law, as well as your health, is by enrolling in a health insurance plan through the Affordable Care Act during Open Enrollment season. It's happening now and ends Dec. 15. During this time, you can sign up for a quality and affordable plan that's right for you and your family. Your coverage will begin on Jan. 1, 2021. I can't think of a smarter way to ring in the new year. For more information and to enroll in a plan, please

visit [healthcare.gov](https://www.healthcare.gov) or call 1-800-318-2596. You may also be able to learn more at your local community health center.

When we face difficulties, we may feel like the only thing we have is our health. However, the current pandemic has reminded us that, in good times and bad, we're incredibly fortunate and blessed to hold on to it. Our health is our power. Our health is our strength. Our health allows us to fight another day, even when it seems like nothing else is going right.

This Open Enrollment season, safeguard and strengthen your well-being by enrolling in a health plan that protects you and your family. It may be the best thing you'll do in this tough year.

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

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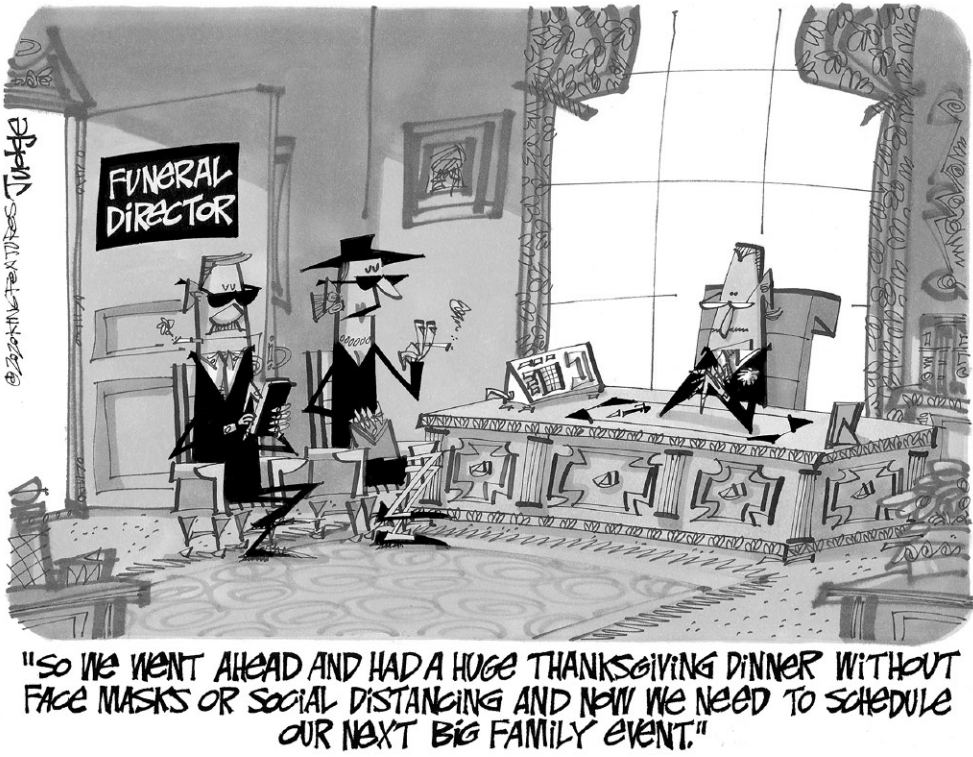
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LOCAL
► Continued from A1

the set.
“Ms. Delores has our safety as her top priority,” McKee, 25, said. “If we were ever in a closed space filming, she had her windows open and had masks for us. We were never really filming with more than a few people in a scene.”
McKee was in Thornton’s previous film production, “Airing Dirty Laundry,” also based on a novel by Thornton. Though she hasn’t had a chance to read “Ida Mae” yet, McKee said the story, though set decades ago, will resonate with audiences today.
The story is set in a small Georgia town in the 1950s. Ida Mae, an African American girl, is adopted by a white family after her parents die. The story grapples with one’s experiences of race and racism, as well as what it means to be a family.
While Thornton, who comes from a family of 13 children, can’t relate to Ida Mae’s experiences with adoption, she said the idea for placing the character in a white environment stemmed from her own experiences with feeling out of place.
“We only had one radio growing up, so we all had to take turns listening to what we wanted,” Thornton said. “My brother liked jazz; I had a sister that liked big bands. I was exposed to all types of music, and the only one that I had to explain was country and western. I felt the need to explain why I, as a Black person, love people

like Dolly Parton and Willie Nelson. So, I decided I was going to set this girl in a white environment.”
In the novel and film adaptation, Ida Mae goes on to defy the expectations of race and becomes a country and western disc jockey at a Tennessee radio station.
“She broke a lot of barriers, and I see a lot of myself in Ida Mae,” Thornton said.
While Thornton still has a few scenes to finish filming, she expects the movie to be completed, and released, by the end of February 2021. Normally, she said she would plan on releasing it in theaters. With the uncertainties of COVID, however, she plans on having smaller screenings in various places throughout the city.
Even though filming in the middle of a global pandemic was a bit of a hassle, Thornton said it’s important to continue to create and share art to bring some light into these dark times.
“It gives people something else to think about,” Thornton said. “People want to see something other than daily news reports and negativity. Art is really soothing, and for such a time as this, people need to see something like this and be moved by it.”

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

CORRECTIONS

An article in last week’s paper, “Remembering John Joiner, a gracious athlete,” said Joiner’s sister’s name is Debra Wilson. It is actually Debra Wilburn.

An article in last week’s paper, “Recorder celebrates 125 years, commitment to community remains the

same,” said the great-great-granddaughter of Recorder funder George P. Stewart is Hazel Stewart. It is actually Barbara Turner.

We apologize for the errors. The Recorder makes every attempt to correct its mistakes.

2020 Crisis and COVID-19
Fatigue is Harmful to
Millions Around the World

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



As the world is experiencing a huge spike in positive COVID-19 cases, the frustration of having to rearrange our lives to deal with this dangerous pandemic has had a negative effect on many of us in countless ways.
You don’t have to contract the coronavirus to experience the many times serious stresses, inconveniences and anxieties of having to cope with the daily restrictions and warnings that have weighed on us for nearly an entire year.

In addition to COVID-19, we’ve also lately been faced with a contentious election season, thousands of jobs lost and many parents taking on the responsibility of teaching their children. The combined stress of those negative catalysts has been difficult to deal with for us all, so if you think you may be experiencing COVID-19 fatigue or perhaps overall crisis fatigue, you’re not alone in that regard and here are some recommendations that may help you.

Do your best to avoid negative coping solutions that seem like quick and easy fixes such as alcohol or drug use, or overspending money. You may find those diversions helpful at the time, but the repercussions of those actions may become costly if not disastrous.

Consistent procedures in your life create familiarity, which can be

a huge comfort to you, so develop successful routines such as going to bed at night and getting up in the morning at the same times each day, and setting aside particular hours to work and work out, read or enjoy other recreational activities.

Help yourself out each day by taking a moment or two to think about what you’re grateful for in your life whether that be your family and friends, your good health, or perhaps just a beautiful day. Although we’re all going through a difficult time, doing what we can to accentuate the positive can be a big help in getting through this.

Set aside time to check in with family, friends and neighbors to see how they’re doing and see if there’s anything you can do to help them, and while expressing your concern for others, make sure you’re doing what you can to take care of yourself by eating properly and seeing your health providers as scheduled.

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.

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Institution ID#431669 LENDER

Vaccine study resumes at Indiana University

By BREANNA COOPER
BreannaC@indyrecorder.com

After a brief pause of testing throughout the United States, researchers at Indiana University have resumed work toward a COVID-19 vaccine. Testing in the AstraZeneca study was put on hold briefly after announcing one patient – not in Indiana – experienced side effects.

So far, over 3,000 Hoosiers have volunteered to take part in the clinical study for the vaccine, known as AZD1222. The trial is taking place at IU Health University Hospital in Indianapolis. Researchers want to expand the trials and engage a more diverse group of participants.

Dr. Cynthia Brown, associate professor of clinical medicine and the director of the Indianapolis testing site, said she's looking to enroll 1,000 more volunteers in the upcoming weeks to make sure the testing is as thorough as possible. She said she would like the control groups to be as diverse as possible.

"Historically, minority populations have been underrepresented," Brown said in a previous interview with the Recorder. "Looking at our sample of volunteers, we're trying to oversample Black and Hispanic people to bring more minorities in."

Through education campaigns and representation in leadership, the research team hopes to bring Brown's goal to fruition. Francesca Duncan, a pulmonary and critical care medicine fellow leading the study, hopes her role in the trial puts other African Americans at ease.

"It's important for me to be part of this study, because I just feel that African Americans often have a mistrust in the medical community," Duncan said. "My hope is that through education, as well as my presence, more African Americans will be willing to participate so that we can find a vaccine that can help everyone."

Despite the rising COVID-19 cases in Indiana – as of Dec. 1 the state had 350,970 positive cases – some Black Hoosiers are wary of getting a vaccine once one becomes available.

Tawnya Williams, 57, has not yet fully recovered from COVID-19 since her diagnosis in August. Despite her persistent muscle aches and memory issues, Williams said she's in no rush to get vaccinated.

"I can't see myself getting one," Williams said.

Brown understands the apprehension, citing historic mistreatment of African Americans in medical trials. However, she said patient safety is first and foremost in any clinical trial.

Each volunteer will be given two shots over the course of a year. Currently, researchers believe the vaccine will be most effective with two

rounds. Some volunteers will receive a second round of the vaccine while others will get a saline placebo.

To be included in the study, participants cannot have had COVID-19 in the past.

"We've seen the travesties," Dr. Roberto Swazo, who is also helping to lead the study, said in a press release. "The coronavirus has affected millions of people worldwide. I think we owe it to everyone to try and be part of the solution, and we're hoping this clinical trial will have a positive impact here at home."

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

For more information on how you can get involved, visit www.iupui.edu/research.



Taking Care of Your Health This Holiday Season

Many people are taking precautions to protect their health from COVID-19. Holidays are a great opportunity to enjoy time with family and friends, whether it's in-person, on the phone or virtually. Celebrate life, take time to be grateful, and reflect on what's important. This is also a great time to appreciate the gift of health.

The Marion County Public Health Department and the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention have some tips for a healthy and safe holiday season.

Mask up. Lather up. Sleeve up. When outside the home, wear a proper mask that covers the nose and mouth. Keep hands clean by washing hands with soap and clean running water, and rub them together for at least 20 seconds. Or, use a hand sanitizer with at least 60% alcohol. Everyone should also get a flu shot to receive the important protection it offers.

Handle and prepare food safely. While preparing holiday meals, stay safe from food-related illness. Wash hands and surfaces often. Avoid cross-contamination by keeping raw meat, poultry, seafood, and eggs away from ready-to-eat foods and eating surfaces.

Cook foods to the proper temperature and refrigerate promptly after eating. Do not leave perishable foods out for more than two hours.

Manage stress. The holidays don't need to take a toll on a person's health and pocketbook. Keep commitments and spending in-check. Balance work, home and play. Find support from family and friends and keep a relaxed and positive outlook. And, get plenty of sleep.

Travel safely. Whether a trip is across town or across the county, don't drink and drive. And keep others from driving under the

influence. Wear a seat belt at all times in the car and always buckle a child into an approved child safety seat, booster seat, or seat belt appropriate to their age, height and weight.

Watch the kids. Keep a watchful eye on younger kids as they eat and play. Keep potentially dangerous toys, food, drinks, household items, and choking hazards (such as coins and hard candy), and out of their reach. Learn how to provide early treatment for children who are choking. Make sure toys are used properly, and develop rules about acceptable and safe behaviors for electronic media.

Prevent injuries. Injuries often occur around the holidays. Use step stools instead of climbing on furniture when hanging decorations. Most residential fires occur during the winter months, so keep candles away from children, pets, walkways, trees and curtains. Never leave fireplaces, stoves or candles unattended.

Generators, grills or other gasoline- or charcoal-burning devices should not be used inside the home or garage. Install a smoke detector and carbon monoxide detector as in the home according to recommendations. Test them once a month and replace batteries twice a year.

Eat healthy, and be active. With balance and moderation, everyone can enjoy the holidays the healthy way. Choose fresh fruit as a festive and sweet substitute for candy. Limit the intake of fats, salt and sugary foods. Find fun ways to stay active, such as dancing to your favorite holiday music. Be active for at least 2.5 hours a week and help kids and teens be active for at least one hour a day.

For more tips on staying healthy this holiday season, visit CDC.gov.

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VIRGINIA A. CAINE, M.D., *Director & Chief Medical Officer*
Marion County Public Health Department

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NBA players hailed by pope at Vatican for demanding justice

By TIM REYNOLDS
AP Basketball Writer

Pope Francis lauded a delegation of NBA players who met with him at the Vatican recently as “champions” and said he supported their work on addressing social injustice.

Five players — Marco Belinelli, Sterling Brown, Jonathan Isaac, Kyle Korver and Anthony Tolliver — were joined by NBA players’ union executive director Michele Roberts and two other union executives, Sherrie Deans and Matteo Zuretti.

“We’re here because, frankly, we’re inspired by the work that you do globally,” Roberts told the pope during the meeting, which took place in the papal library.

The union said the players spoke about their “individual and collective efforts addressing social and economic injustice and inequality occurring in their communities.” Belinelli addressed the pope in Italian, and the group presented the pope with gifts such as a commemorative basketball, a union-produced book highlighting efforts players have taken and an Orlando Magic jersey.

“You’re champions,” Pope Francis said. “But also giving the example of teamwork, you’ve become a model, giving that good example of teamwork but always remaining humble ... and preserving your own humanity.”

The audience was held days before a book comes out in which Pope Francis supports demands for racial justice, specifically the actions taken



following the killing of George Floyd, a Black man who died in May. A police officer in Minneapolis pressed a knee against his neck for minutes while Floyd said he couldn’t breathe.

Roberts said Pope Francis sought the meeting with the players, and that it “demonstrates the influence of their platforms.” Demands for social and racial justice have been paramount among players, especially in recent months following the deaths of Floyd and Breonna Taylor, among others.

Brown, in his remarks to the pope, told him about what he and the Milwaukee Bucks went through in the NBA’s restart bubble — particularly

when they decided to sit out a playoff game against Orlando in response to the shooting of Jacob Blake, a Black man, by police in Kenosha, Wisconsin.

“It was raw and emotional for our team,” Brown told the pope.

Brown sued officials in Milwaukee after getting taken to the ground, shocked with a Taser and arrested during an

encounter with police in 2018, contending in that lawsuit that police used excessive force and targeted him because he is Black. A settlement where Brown would receive \$750,000 plus an admission from the city that his civil rights were violated was agreed to this month.

“We are extremely honored to have had this opportunity to

come to the Vatican and share our experiences with Pope Francis,” Korver said. “His openness and eagerness to discuss these issues was inspiring and a reminder that our work has had a global impact and must continue moving forward.”

Pope Francis meets a delegation of five NBA players, including Jonathan Isaac and Sterling Brown and officials from the National Basketball Players Association at the Vatican November 23, 2020. (Photo by Vatican Media/Handout via REUTERS)

Jehovah’s Witnesses initiate global campaign reaching elected officials, businesses

By STACY M. BROWN
NNPA Newswire Senior National Correspondent

With more than 150 million Americans casting their votes in the November general election, about 1.3 million Jehovah’s Witnesses in the United States, and more than 8.5 million globally, embarked on a campaign to reach hundreds of millions of people — including those in office and those running.

Jehovah’s Witnesses have launched a worldwide plan to distribute an issue of the Watchtower magazine, titled “What is God’s Kingdom?”

Robert Hendricks, the national spokesman for the religious organization, told BlackPressUSA that the answer to that question had captivated people’s attention from many different faiths for centuries.

“Many people pray for God’s kingdom to come. But they often wonder what that kingdom is when it will come, and what it will do,” Hendricks

related.

“This magazine explains how the answers to these questions can readily be found in the Bible. We are confident that the Bible’s promises about God’s kingdom will bring readers comfort and hope for a world free of pain and suffering.”

Hendricks noted that the Lord’s Prayer, found in the King James Bible at Matthew Chapter 6, beginning at verse 9, states: “Our Father which art in heaven, Hallowed be thy name. Thy kingdom come, thy will be done on earth, as it is in heaven.” “Think about that,” Hendricks declared. “God’s will being done. God’s kingdom coming. Many people don’t understand that God’s kingdom is a real government under the messianic King Jesus Christ, and he has already proven right here on earth that he has the desire, the power, and the wisdom to be the only leader leading the only government that can solve mankind’s problems.”

The organization plans to reach as many governments and court officials, businesses and hundreds

of millions of people worldwide, Hendricks said.

While distributing the campaign, Witnesses will proceed using methods following local health protocols, Hendricks stated.

“This may include distributing the magazine and making visits via electronic means,” he added.

An electronic copy in over 300 languages is available on the official website of Jehovah’s Witnesses, jw.org.

“God did not design us to rule over each other,” Hendricks said of human rulership.

“We don’t have the power; we don’t have the wisdom. Mankind has ruled over each other for thousands of years and haven’t found solutions to sickness and death. They haven’t been able to do it, and it’s unlikely they’ll make any progress that would demonstrably make any changes for people’s lives. There is a government that will do that. It’s called God’s kingdom.”



Thomas Leon Jones

3/5/1963 - 11/23/2020

Timothy Deon Jones

3/5/1963 - 11/26/2020

Twin brothers and community giants Tim (left) and Tom Jones of Indianapolis passed away within days of each other. The twins were raised in the Martindale-Brightwood community and graduated from John Marshall High School before serving in the United States Army. Both Tim and Tom were known for their kind personalities and for mentoring hundreds of children over the years.

Funeral arrangements are pending. Please visit www.RawlsMortuary.com/listings for more information and obituaries.

SPiritual Outlook

Give thanks to God

By MARION J. MILLER

“It is good to praise the Lord and make music to your name, O Most High, proclaiming your love in the morning and your faithfulness at night.” Psalms 92:1-2

God loves a thankful heart. And God loves the praises of His people. It is through praise we have the power to lift our spirits in the midst of distress. The Bible tells us “in everything give thanks to God.” This means we should be thankful to God in the good times, as well as the bad times.

We are living in some unprecedented times. The United States is surging over 13 million cases, and over 263,000 people have died from COVID-19. Millions are infected and fighting for their lives — with billions in isolation or lockdown. Daily the news media informs of the rapid increases across the state, nation and world. This news is alarming and requires all of us to make difficult but necessary decisions.

COVID-19 is spreading so well it has found a way to exploit a good part of who we are. It has found a way to hijack our social nature, our closeness among family and come between our communities of friends. But the Psalmist reminds us that we still have a reason to praise the Lord. We are to praise God in difficult times and never lose sight of putting our trust in Him.

We are to go to bed at night giving God thanks! And then wake up in the morning giving God thanks! For our God inhabits the praises of His people. And God would not be satisfied with us lim-

iting our praises. In other words, keeping our praises to ourselves.

There’s a short illustration about toilet paper. When people were preparing to ride out the COVID-19 outbreak, many shoppers took to the stores, like a plague of locusts. They began to wipe the shelves clean of toilet paper. This created a huge global shortage of toilet paper.

People were hoarding toilet paper and many thought they were horrible. But how much more horrible are they, when we hoard what belongs to God? Hoarding tissue paper is no different than hoarding God’s praise!

We were made to praise God. By praising God, we are fulfilling our purpose! So, repent, and stop quenching the spirit! And whatever you do — don’t keep your praises to yourself!

In this holiday season, we ought to be the most thankful and praising people on God’s green earth! With all that is going on in our world today, our days should be marked with humility, simplicity and integrity. So, let us all be thankful, not only for the things we have, but also for the things we no longer have to have. In everything — “Give Thanks to God!”

Rev. Marion J. Miller is the senior pastor of Wesley United Methodist Church, 1201 Thomas V. Bryant Drive, Jeffersonville. She may be contacted at 812-283-3747 or via email at wesley1201@sbcglobal.net.

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Indiana investigation could imperil new casino projects



By TOM DAVIES
Associated Press

An investigation stemming from allegations of illegal political contributions by a longtime Indiana casino executive could snarl the future of multimillion-dollar projects for new casinos in Gary and Terre Haute.

The Indiana Gaming Commission has more than 10 people under investigation for possible financial misconduct that would violate state casino laws or regulations, said Sara Gonso Tait, the commission's executive director.

The companies that currently own the Gary casino along Lake Michigan and are working on a replacement \$300 million inland casino in Gary and a \$125 million casino in Terre Haute have been under state scrutiny since top company executives were linked to allegations that corporate money was illegally funneled to a former state lawmaker's unsuccessful 2016 congressional campaign.

Gaming Commission board member Susan Williams said during a Nov. 23 meeting that regulators needed to be decisive about a situation she called

"unprecedented for this commission." "We've got on project marching along up in Gary and one to be started in Terre Haute," Williams said, adding that a deadline was needed for "a plan in order to convince us that we don't need to suspend this license."

Commission members said they wanted a report within the next month for them to decide what action to take, with Chairman Michael McMains saying they needed to have a "zero tolerance policy of illegal gaming activities." Tait did not identify those under investigation but said "their suitability and ability to continue to hold gaming licenses is in serious doubt."

State officials suspended the casino license of former Spectacle Entertainment vice president John Keeler in September after an indictment charged him with taking part in the political contributions scheme. Indiana casino officials this spring forced Keeler and fellow Spectacle executive Rod Ratcliff to give up their ownership stake in the Terre Haute casino but allowed a business partner to go ahead with the project.

Ratcliff and Keeler, a lawyer who was a Republican legislator for 16 years

during the 1980s and 90s, have been active lobbyists in the Indiana Legislature for many years on casino matters and were among the owners of the two central Indiana horse track casinos until they were sold to Las Vegas-based Caesars Entertainment Corp. in 2018 for \$1.7 billion.

They pushed lawmakers last year to allow the Gary casino's move from along Lake Michigan to a more lucrative location along Interstate 80/94 in Gary and permit Terre Haute to become Indiana's first new casino city since 2008. Republican Gov. Eric Holcomb faced a state ethics review last year of his dealings with Ratcliff.

Ratcliff, who is not named in the federal indictment and does not face any criminal charges, resigned in June as Spectacle's chairman and CEO but has been allowed to keep his ownership stake.

Indianapolis-based Spectacle, which owns the Gary casino, said in a statement that it has been fully cooperating with the Gaming Commission and restricting its organization.

"From the beginning, we have taken this matter very seriously, as we share the Commission's objective of pro-

tecting the integrity of gaming in the state," said Jahnae Erpenbach, Spectacle's CEO and board chairwoman.

The Terre Haute casino is being planned by a company called Spectacle Jack led by Greg Gibson, a Terre Haute businessman who is also vice chairman of Spectacle Entertainment.

Spectacle Jack said in a statement Nov. 24 that Gibson was cooperating with the gaming commission and wasn't a subject of its investigation.

"Gibson is committed to ensuring the integrity of the Indiana gaming industry and will continue to work to ensure both projects move forward," the statement said.

Jennifer Reske, the gaming commission's deputy director, said the agency did not want to derail casino projects that are important to the state and those cities.

"Ensuring these projects are successful is a top priority," Reske said. "It's a goal to make sure that they continue and there are no delays, but at the same time we have to ensure that these facilities are conducted in compliance with statute."



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ADOPTION

STATE OF INDIANA
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CAUSE NO. 49D08-1910-AD-042876
IN THE MATTER OF THE ADOPTION OF JAY MANI WARDELL ZAYON SCHOOLET, A MINOR CHILD.
AMENDED PETITION FOR ADOPTION
COME NOW Petitioners, Sheree Dunay and Brian Dunay, who first being duly sworn upon their oath, and the undersigned, petitioners the Court as follows:
1. That Petitioners reside at 11071 Indian Lake Boulevard, Indianapolis IN 46236, Marion County, Indiana.
2. That Sheree Dunay is Forty-Six Years Old, born 1973, a resident of the State of Indiana and a citizen of the United States of America, and was married to Brian Dunay on July 4, 2013 in Hamilton County, Indiana.
3. That Brian Dunay is Fifty-Four Years Old, born 1964, a resident of the State of Indiana and a citizen of the United States of America, and was married to Brian Dunay on July 4, 2013 in Hamilton County, Indiana.
4. Sheree Dunay is the Co-Owner of Zedco Carpet Care since 2013 and a realtor with FOTucker since 2018.
5. Brian Dunay is the Co-Owner of Zedco Carpet Care since 2013, is a member of the Indiana National Guard since 2005.
6. That the name of the minor child sought to be adopted is JAY MANI WARDELL ZAYON SCHOOLET (the "Child"); that the Child is a multi-racial dark-skinned male born in Dallas, Texas on September 8, 2013.
7. That Petitioners are the de facto custodians of the child. They have continuously raised him, under a Guardianship, since October, 2014 under Cause 49D08-1410-GU-035007.
8. That the Child does not possess real or personal property of its own.
9. That if this petition is granted, Petitioners desire that the Child shall be given the name of Jason Michael Dunay.
10. That the name of the biological mother of the Child is Aliqua Schoolet, born September 22, 1989. Mother is known to reside at 3117 E. Louisiana Avenue, Midland, TX 79701; and that the consent of the biological mother with regard to the adoption of the Child is not required pursuant to IC 31-19-9.8, on the grounds that the biological mother is unfit, has abandoned or deserted the Child for at least six (6) months immediately preceding the date of the filing of the petition for adoption, or has made any effort to communicate with the child. No father is listed on the birth certificate of the Child and the biological mother has only ever disclosed that the Child's father was Hispanic. The consent of this unknown father is not required pursuant to IC 31-19-9.8, on the grounds that the biological father is unfit, has abandoned or deserted the Child for at least six (6) months immediately preceding the date of the filing of the petition for adoption, or has failed without justifiable cause to communicate significantly with the child when able to do so, or has knowingly failed to provide for the care and support of the child when able to do so as required by law or judicial decree.
11. That the name of the biological father is unknown. No father is listed on the birth certificate of the Child and the biological mother has only ever disclosed that the Child's father was Hispanic. The consent of this unknown father is not required pursuant to IC 31-19-9.8, on the grounds that the biological father is unfit, has abandoned or deserted the Child for at least six (6) months immediately preceding the date of the filing of the petition for adoption, or has failed without justifiable cause to communicate significantly with the child when able to do so, or has knowingly failed to provide for the care and support of the child when able to do so as required by law or judicial decree.
12. That Brian Dunay is the biological Father of Aliqua Schoolet and, therefore, is not applicable to these proceedings. IS. There is no existing order on child support.
13. Petitioners have not been convicted of a felony of misdemeanor relating to the health and safety of children.
14. That the Child is not an "Indian Child" under the Indian Child Welfare Act, 25 U.S.C. § 1901 ("ICWA"), and, therefore, ICWA is not applicable to these proceedings. IS. There is no existing order on child support.
15. Indiana Code 31-19-16-1 provides for post-adoption contact with the child if the parent consents to the adoption. Each parent is hereby notified that if he or she consents to the adoption, he or she may seek post-adoptive contact in an amount to be determined by the Court. Each parent is further notified that if he or she consents to the adoption may prevent that parent from seeking post-adoptive contact with the child. WHEREFORE, Petitioners pray the Court to examine this petition, determine whether the same is in proper form, and if found to be so by this Court, to order the Clerk to forward one copy of this petition to the Indiana Department of Child Services and one copy of this petition to the Marion County Department of Child Services, for the purpose of investigating this petition and reporting to this Court, and to hear evidence on this petition to determine whether or not it should be granted, to confirm and order that the Child cannot and should not be returned to the home of the biological parents, and for all other proper relief in the premises.
We, Sheree Dunay and Brian Dunay, affirm under the penalties for perjury that the foregoing representations are true.
11/20/20
11/27/20
12/04/20

DISSOLUTION

STATE OF INDIANA
COUNTY OF MARION
IN THE SUPERIOR COURT
OF MARION COUNTY
PLAINTIFF Vs ABIDEMI E. BABADE
Respondent
CAUSE NO. 49D07-2011-DC-03958
ORDER
The Court, having considered Petitioner's Petition for Service by Publication in Marion County, Indiana, and being duly advised, hereby Grants said request. Respondent may be severed for Notice of these proceedings by publication in Marion County, IN
Myia Eldridge, Clerk
12/04/20
12/11/20
12/18/20

DISSOLUTION

STATE OF INDIANA
COUNTY OF MARION
IN THE MARION SUPERIOR COURT
OF CIVIL DIVISION
JOCEFINA GIERREZ
Petitioner
JUAN CARLOS GERARDO AGUSTIN
Defendant
CAUSE NO. 49D14-2010-DC-038660
NOTICE OF SUIT
The State of Indiana to the Respondent above named, and any other person who may be concerned. You are notified that you have been sued in the Court above named. The nature of the suit against you is Petition for Dissolution of Marriage. And to the following respondent whose whereabouts are unknown: Juan Carlos Gerard Agustin. In addition to the above named respondent 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 Petitioner arising from the same transaction or occurrence, you must assert it in your written answer. You must answer the Complaint in writing, by you or your attorney, on or before the day of ____, (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.
Myia Eldridge, Clerk
11/20/20
11/27/20
12/04/20

DISSOLUTION

STATE OF INDIANA
COUNTY OF MARION
COURT OF CIVIL DIVISION
JOCEFINA GIERREZ
Petitioner
JUAN CARLOS GERARDO AGUSTIN
Defendant
CAUSE NO. 49D14-2010-DC-038660
NOTICE OF SUIT
The State of Indiana to the Respondent above named, and any other person who may be concerned. You are notified that you have been sued in the Court above named. The nature of the suit against you is Petition for Dissolution of Marriage. And to the following respondent whose whereabouts are unknown: Juan Carlos Gerard Agustin. In addition to the above named respondent 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 Petitioner arising from the same transaction or occurrence, you must assert it in your written answer. You must answer the Complaint in writing, by you or your attorney, on or before the day of ____, (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.
Myia Eldridge, Clerk
11/20/20
11/27/20
12/04/20

DISSOLUTION

STATE OF INDIANA
COUNTY OF MARION
COURT OF CIVIL DIVISION
MORUFAT SALAMI
Plaintiff
Vs
MORUFU SALAMI
Defendant
CAUSE NO. 49D10-2010-DC-037371
NOTICE OF SUIT
The State of Indiana to the Respondent above named, and any other person who may be concerned. You are notified that you have been sued in the Court above named. The nature of the suit against you is Petition for Dissolution of Marriage. And to the following respondent whose whereabouts are unknown: Morufu Salami. In addition to the above named respondent 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 Petitioner arising from the same transaction or occurrence, you must assert it in your written answer or response.
Myia Eldridge, Clerk
11/20/20
11/27/20
12/04/20

DISSOLUTION

Marion Superior Court, Civil Division 3
SUPERIOR COURT # CASE#
49D03-2002-DC-007125
Petitioner: Wilson Roberto Bussio Alvarado
Respondent: Eudoxia Mariene Avia
NOTICE OF SUIT
This notice is directed to Eudoxia Mariene A via who is being sued and whose whereabouts are unknown. In addition to the above person being served by this summons, there may be others who have an interest in this law suit. Darrell J. Dolan represents the person seeking service by publication, and can be located at 6525 E. 82nd Street, Suite #102, Indianapolis, IN 46250. The nature of the suit against you is a Dissolution of Marriage and the property at issue is marital property. You must answer the Complaint in writing, by you or your attorney, within thirty days after the last notice of action is published. If you fail to do so a judgment will be entered against you for what the Plaintiff/Petitioner has demanded.
Myia Eldridge, Clerk
12/04/20
12/11/20
12/18/20

NAME CHANGE

STATE OF INDIANA
COUNTY OF MARION SS
IN THE MARION CIRCUIT COURT
CIVIL DIVISION
IN RE THE NAME CHANGE OF:
MORGAN ELYSIA LEROY SCHLAGENHAUF.
CAUSE NO. 49C01-2011-MI-039756
MICHAEL SCHLAGENHAUF AND MEGAN SCHLAGENHAUF, Petitioner.
ORDER SETTING HEARING AND
NOTICE OF HEARING ON PETITION FOR CHANGE OF NAME
COMES NOW the Petitioners, Michael Schlagenhaut and Megan Schlagenhaut, and submits her Verified Petition for Name Change of Minor and hereby gives notice that Petition for Change of Name for Minor has been filed in the MARION County Circuit Court request that the name of minor Morgan Elysia LeRoy Schlagenhaut be changed to Adrian LeRoy Schlagenhaut. The Court, being fully advised in the matter, now finds that this matter should be and is hereby set for hearing. WHEREFORE, the Court orders that Name Change Hearing is scheduled for the February 23, 2021, at 9:00 A.M. which is more than thirty (30) days after the third publication of this Notice, for Thirty (30) minutes. Notice is further given that any person has the right to appear at the hearing on said Petition and/or to file objections on or before the hearing date. This hearing may be held in person at the City-County Building, 200 East Washington Street, Room W506, Indianapolis, IN 46204; however, if the COVID-19 pandemic is ongoing, or the Court gets authority to continue remote hearings, this hearing will be held remotely, by WebEx or Zoom, and the Court will send a separate WebEx or Zoom email invitation, with instructions, to join the hearing.
SO ORDERED
ADJUDGED AND DECREED this November 19, 2020.
Susan Boatright
Magistrate, Marion Circuit Court
12/04/20
12/11/20
12/18/20

NAME CHANGE

STATE OF INDIANA
COUNTY OF MARION SS
IN THE MARION CIRCUIT COURT
CIVIL DIVISION
IN RE THE NAME CHANGE OF:
SUSAN LYNN BARNES
Petitioner.
ORDER SETTING HEARING AND
NOTICE OF HEARING ON PETITION FOR CHANGE OF NAME
COMES NOW the Petitioner, Susan Lynn Barnes, by counsel, Aaron Freeman, and states as follows:
1. The Petitioner resides at 5410 Shelbyville Road Indianapolis, IN 46239.
2. The Petitioner is a resident of Marion County, Indiana.
3. The Petitioner by counsel, hereby gives notice that she has filed a petition in the Marion Circuit Court requesting that her name be changed to Susan Lynn Hendrix.
4. Notice is further given that a hearing will be held on said petition on the 9th day of February, 2021 at 9:00 o'clock A.M.
This hearing may be held in person at the City-County Building, 200 East Washington Street, Room W506, Indianapolis, IN 46204; however, if the COVID-19 pandemic is ongoing, or the Court gets authority to continue remote hearings, this hearing will be held remotely, by WebEx or Zoom, and the Court will send a separate WebEx or Zoom email invitation, with instructions, to join the hearing.
All interested parties are hereby advised that they have the right to file objections to the Verified Petition and to appear at the hearing on said Petition.
Myia A. Eldridge, Clerk
12/04/20
12/11/20
12/18/20

GUARDIANSHIP

STATE OF INDIANA
COUNTY OF MARION
IN THE MARION COUNTY CIRCUIT COURT
PATERNITY DIVISION
IN RE THE PATERNITY OF ATENEA MAYHUERE MORALES
MARISOL F. MAYHUERE MORALES
Petitioner/ Mother
JOSE MANUEL SANCHEZ GAMBOA
Respondent/ Father
49C01-2005-JP-017190
To Respondent: Jose M. Sanchez Gamboa
Whereabouts unknown
This Summons is to the above named Respondent, who after diligent search his whereabouts are unknown and to any other person who may be concerned. Petitioner's counsel has conducted a diligent search of court records and social media and has not discovered an address or the whereabouts of the Respondent. The petitioner has not seen or heard from the Respondent has been unable to locate the Respondent. You are hereby notified that you have been sued in the Marion County Indiana Superior Circuit Court, Paternity Division in an action entitled: In Re Paternity of Atenea Mayhuere Morales. Marisol F. Mayhuere Morales and Jose Manuel Sanchez Gamboa Cause No. 49C01-2005-JP-017190 by the person named above as Petitioner. This summons by publication is specifically directed to the Respondent above named above whose current address and whereabouts are unknown. This matter is set for hearing on Friday, December 11, 2020, at 9:00 a.m. in the period of one hour in the Marion County Circuit Court, City County Building, Room E-156, 200 E. Washington Street, Indianapolis, Indiana 46204. The hearing will be conducted virtually via WebEx, Video attendance is preferred when possible, but telephonic appearance is acceptable. Meeting number (access code) 129 3535417; Meetingpassword: 8A0b7MQVU25. Join by phone: 1-544-992-4726. The named Petitioner is represented by Vanessa Lopez-Avalos, a LOPEZ LAW OFFICE, P.C., 3502 North Meridian Street Indianapolis, IN 46208. TELEPHONE (317) 3634-9484. Email: vploe2@vanessalopezlaw.com. The nature of the suit against you is a paternity and child custody matter. The Petitioner and the Respondent are the parents of the minor child, Atenea Mayhuere Morales, who is being sued and whose whereabouts are unknown. In addition to the above person being served by this summons, there may be other persons who have an interest in this law suit. If you fail to do so a judgment by default may be rendered against you for the relief requested by the Petitioner. If you have a claim for relief against the Petitioner arising from the same transaction or occurrence, you must assert it in your written answer or response.
Myia Eldridge, Clerk
11/27/20
12/04/20
12/11/20

NAME CHANGE

STATE OF INDIANA
COUNTY OF MARION, ss:
IN THE CIRCUIT COURT
IN RE THE NAME CHANGE OF MINOR:
KATHLEEN A. VAYKO, Ford, Minor child
JEFFREY DUNCAN
Petitioner
CAUSE NO. 49C01-2010-MI-036550
ORDER SETTING HEARING AND NOTICE OF HEARING
COMES now, Petitioner, Jeffrey Duncan, by counsel, and filed his Verified Petition for Change of Name of Minor Child requesting that the name of the minor child be changed from Jessica Ray Ford to Jessica Ray Duncan. The Petition is scheduled for a hearing on January 26, 2021 at 9:00 A.M. This MATTER WILL BE HELD REMOTELY, AND THE COURT WILL ISSUE A WEBEX/Zoom INVITATION FOR THE HEARING. Any party wishing to file written objections on or before the hearing.
Myia A. Eldridge, Clerk
11/27/20
12/04/20
12/11/20

NAME CHANGE

STATE OF INDIANA
COUNTY OF MARION SS:
IN THE MARION CIRCUIT COURT
CIVIL DIVISION
IN RE THE NAME CHANGE OF:
CAUSE NO. 49C01-2010-MI-038513
IN RE THE NAME CHANGE OF:
SUSAN LYNN BARNES
Petitioner.
VERIFIED PETITION FOR CHANGE OF NAME
Comes now the Petitioner, Susan Lynn Barnes, by counsel, Aaron Freeman, and moves the Court for a change of name, and in support states: The Petitioner's current name is Susan Lynn Barnes. The Petitioner's date of birth is July 24, 1964. The Petitioner currently resides at 5410 Shelbyville Road Indianapolis, IN 46237. The Petitioner's Driver's License Number is, 891 7 6753 12 issued from Indiana. The Petitioner has never had any other name except her maiden name of Susan Lynn Hendrix. Pursuant to Indiana Code 34-28-2-1, Petitioner wishes to change her last name to her maiden name: Hendrix. WHEREFORE, The Petitioner respectfully requests this Court to Grant her Petition for Change of Name, and for all other just and proper relief. Petitioner affirms under the penalties of perjury that the foregoing representations are true.
11/20/20
11/27/20
12/04/20

NAME CHANGE

STATE OF INDIANA
COUNTY OF MARION SS:
IN THE MARION CIRCUIT COURT
CIVIL DIVISION
IN RE THE NAME CHANGE OF:
KATHLEEN A. VAYKO, Petitioner.
ORDER SETTING HEARING AND
NOTICE OF PETITION FOR CHANGE OF NAME
Comes now the Petitioner, Susan Lynn Barnes, by counsel, Aaron Freeman, and states as follows:
1. The Petitioner resides at 5410 Shelbyville Road Indianapolis, IN 46239.
2. The Petitioner is a resident of Marion County, Indiana.
3. The Petitioner by counsel, hereby gives notice that she has filed a petition in the Marion Circuit Court requesting that her name be changed to Susan Lynn Hendrix.
4. Notice is further given that a hearing will be held on said petition on the 9th day of February, 2021 at 9:00 o'clock A.M.
This hearing may be held in person at the City-County Building, 200 East Washington Street, Room W506, Indianapolis, IN 46204; however, if the COVID-19 pandemic is ongoing, or the Court gets authority to continue remote hearings, this hearing will be held remotely, by WebEx or Zoom, and the Court will send a separate WebEx or Zoom email invitation, with instructions, to join the hearing.
All interested parties are hereby advised that they have the right to file objections to the Verified Petition and to appear at the hearing on said Petition.
Myia A. Eldridge, Clerk
12/04/20
12/11/20
12/18/20

NAME CHANGE

STATE OF INDIANA
COUNTY OF MARION SS:
MARION CIRCUIT COURT
IN THE MARION SUPERIOR COURT
CIVIL DIVISION
CAUSE NO. 49C01-2011-MI-039973
IN RE THE NAME CHANGE OF A MINOR CHILD
KYLIE RAY MOORE
Petitioner
ORDER SETTING HEARING AND
NOTICE OF PETITION FOR CHANGE OF NAME
Comes now the Petitioner, Kylie Ray Moore, counsel, Aaron Freeman, and states as follows:
1. The Petitioner is a minor child who resides at 10707 Cracking Drive, Indianapolis, IN 46259, with her father, Kevin Ray Moore.
2. The Petitioner is a resident of Marion County, Indiana.
3. The Petitioner hereby filed a petition in the Marion Circuit Court requesting that her name be changed to Kylie Ray Dawn Moore.
4. Notice is further given that a hearing will be held on said petition on February 23, 2021 at 9:00 a.m.
This bearing may be held in person at the City-County Building, 200 East Washington Street, Room W506, Indianapolis, IN 46204; however, if the COVID-19 pandemic is ongoing, or the Court gets authority to continue remote hearings, this hearing will be held remotely, by WebEx or Zoom, and the Court will send email invitation, with instructions, to join the hearing.
Myia A. Eldridge, Clerk
12/04/20
12/11/20
12/18/20

NAME CHANGE

STATE OF INDIANA
COUNTY OF MARION SS:
IN THE MARION CIRCUIT COURT
CIVIL DIVISION
IN RE THE NAME CHANGE OF:
MARLEE AVA MAE THURMON
KATHERINE SCHERER, Petitioner.
CAUSE NO. 49C01-2010-MI-036589
ORDER SETTING HEARING AND
NOTICE OF HEARING ON PETITION FOR CHANGE OF NAME
COMES NOW the Petitioner, Katherine Scherer, and submits her Verified Petition for Name Change of Minor and hereby gives notice that Petition for Change of Name for Minor, being filed in the MARION County Circuit Court request that the name of minor Marlee Ava Mae Thurmon be changed to Marlee Ava Mae Scherer. The matter is fully advised in the matter, now finds that this matter should be and is hereby set for hearing. WHEREFORE, the Court orders that Name Change Hearing is scheduled for the January 26, 2021, at 9:00 a.m., which is more than thirty (30) days after the third publication of this Notice, for Thirty (30) minutes. Notice is further given that any person has the right to appear at the hearing on said Petition and/or to file objections on or before the hearing date. This MATTER WILL BE HELD REMOTELY, AND THE COURT WILL ISSUE WEBEX/Zoom INVITATION FOR THE HEARING. Any party wishing to file written objections on or before the hearing date. This hearing may be held in person at the City-County Building, 200 East Washington Street, Room W506, Indianapolis, IN 46204; however, if the COVID-19 pandemic is ongoing, or the Court gets authority to continue remote hearings, this hearing will be held remotely, by WebEx or Zoom, and the Court will send a separate WebEx or Zoom email invitation, with instructions, to join the hearing.
Myia A. Eldridge, Clerk
11/27/20
12/04/20
12/11/20

NAME CHANGE

STATE OF INDIANA
COUNTY OF MARION SS:
IN THE MARION CIRCUIT COURT
CIVIL DIVISION
IN RE THE NAME CHANGE OF:
SUSAN LYNN BARNES
Petitioner.
CAUSE NO. 49C01-2010-MI-038513
ORDER SETTING HEARING AND
NOTICE OF PETITION FOR CHANGE OF NAME
Comes now the Petitioner, Susan Lynn Barnes, by counsel, Aaron Freeman, and states as follows:
1. The Petitioner resides at 5410 Shelbyville Road Indianapolis, IN 46239.
2. The Petitioner is a resident of Marion County, Indiana.
3. The Petitioner by counsel, hereby gives notice that she has filed a petition in the Marion Circuit Court requesting that her name be changed to Susan Lynn Hendrix.
4. Notice is further given that a hearing will be held on said petition on the 9th day of February, 2021 at 9:00 o'clock A.M.
This hearing may be held in person at the City-County Building, 200 East Washington Street, Room W506, Indianapolis, IN 46204; however, if the COVID-19 pandemic is ongoing, or the Court gets authority to continue remote hearings, this hearing will be held remotely, by WebEx or Zoom, and the Court will send a separate WebEx or Zoom email invitation, with instructions, to join the hearing.
Myia A. Eldridge, Clerk
12/04/20
12/11/20
12/18/20

NAME CHANGE

STATE OF INDIANA
COUNTY OF MARION SS:
IN THE MARION CIRCUIT COURT
CIVIL DIVISION
IN RE THE NAME CHANGE OF:
KATHLEEN A. VAYKO, Petitioner.
ORDER SETTING HEARING AND
NOTICE OF PETITION FOR CHANGE OF NAME
Comes now the Petitioner, Susan Lynn Barnes, by counsel, Aaron Freeman, and states as follows:
1. The Petitioner resides at 5410 Shelbyville Road Indianapolis, IN 46239.
2. The Petitioner is a resident of Marion County, Indiana.
3. The Petitioner by counsel, hereby gives notice that she has filed a petition in the Marion Circuit Court requesting that her name be changed to Susan Lynn Hendrix.
4. Notice is further given that a hearing will be held on said petition on the 9th day of February, 2021 at 9:00 o'clock A.M.
This hearing may be held in person at the City-County Building, 200 East Washington Street, Room W506, Indianapolis, IN 46204; however, if the COVID-19 pandemic is ongoing, or the Court gets authority to continue remote hearings, this hearing will be held remotely, by WebEx or Zoom, and the Court will send a separate WebEx or Zoom email invitation, with instructions, to join the hearing.
All interested parties are hereby advised that they have the right to file objections to the Verified Petition and to appear at the hearing on said Petition.
Myia A. Eldridge, Clerk
12/04/20
12/11/20
12/18/20

NAME CHANGE

STATE OF INDIANA
COUNTY OF MARION SS:
IN THE MARION CIRCUIT COURT
CIVIL DIVISION
IN RE THE NAME CHANGE OF:
KATHLEEN A. VAYKO, Petitioner.
ORDER SETTING HEARING AND
NOTICE OF PETITION FOR CHANGE OF NAME
Comes now the Petitioner, Susan Lynn Barnes, by counsel, Aaron Freeman, and states as follows:
1. The Petitioner resides at 5410 Shelbyville Road Indianapolis, IN 46239.
2. The Petitioner is a resident of Marion County, Indiana.
3. The Petitioner by counsel, hereby gives notice that she has filed a petition in the Marion Circuit Court requesting that her name be changed to Susan Lynn Hendrix.
4. Notice is further given that a hearing will be held on said petition on the 9th day of February, 2021 at 9:00 o'clock A.M.
This hearing may be held in person at the City-County Building, 200 East Washington Street, Room W506, Indianapolis, IN 46204; however, if the COVID-19 pandemic is ongoing, or the Court gets authority to continue remote hearings, this hearing will be held remotely, by WebEx or Zoom, and the Court will send a separate WebEx or Zoom email invitation, with instructions, to join the hearing.
All interested parties are hereby advised that they have the right to file objections to the Verified Petition and to appear at the hearing on said Petition.
Myia A. Eldridge, Clerk
12/04/20
12/11/20
12/18/20

NOTICE OF ADMINISTRATION

STATE OF INDIANA
COUNTY OF MARION SS:
IN THE MARION SUPERIOR COURT
PROBATE DIVISION
ESTATE DOCKET: 49D08-2011-EU-040828
IN THE MATTER OF THE UNSUPERVISED ADMINISTRATION OF THE ESTATE OF HARRIET STOWERS, DECEASED
NOTICE OF UNSUPERVISED ADMINISTRATION
To: Cora Gant
411 W. 44th Street
Indianapolis, IN 46208
Notice is hereby given that Gregory A. Stowers on November 19, 2020, was appointed as the personal representative of the estate of Harriet Stowers, who died on the 26th day of July, 2017. The estate will be administered without Collit supervision, As an heir of the estate (contributor), you are advised of the following information:
1. The personal representative has the authority to take actions concerning the estate without first consulting you.
2. The personal representative may be serving without posting a bond with the Court. You have the right to petition the Court to set a bond for your protection.
3. The personal representative will not obtain COURT approval of any action, including the amount of attorney fees or personal representative fees.
4. Within two (2) months after the appointment of the personal representative, the personal representative must prepare an inventory of the estate's assets. YOU have the right to request and receive a copy of this inventory from the personal representative.
5. The personal representative is required to furnish you with a copy of the closing statement that will be filed with the court and, if your interests are affected, with a full account in writing of the administration of the estate.
6. You must file an objection to the closing statement within three (3) months after the closing statement is filed with the Court if you want the Court to consider your objection.
7. If an objection to the closing statement is not filed with the Court within three (3) months after the filing of the closing statement, the estate is closed at'd the Court does not have a duty to audit or make an inquiry.
Myia A. Eldridge, Clerk
12/04/20
12/11/20

NOTICE OF ADMINISTRATION

STATE OF INDIANA
MARION SS:
IN THE MARION CO. SUPERIOR COURT
PROBATE DIVISION
CAUSE NO. 49D08-2010-EU-037458
IN THE MATTER OF THE UNSUPERVISED ADMINISTRATION OF THE ESTATE OF DAVID A. MARTINEZ, DECEASED
NOTICE OF ADMINISTRATION
NOTICE is hereby given that on the 23rd day of October, 2020, Stephanie Pedroza was appointed Personal Representative of the Estate of David A. Martinez, who died on January 26, 2020. All persons who have claims against this estate, whether or not now due, must file a claim in the office of the Clerk of this Court within three (3) months from the date of the first publication of this notice, or within nine (9) months after the death of the decedent, whichever is earlier, or the claims will be forever barred. Dated at Indianapolis, Indiana, this October 23, 2020
Myia A. Eldridge, Clerk
12/04/20
12/11/20

NOTICE OF ADMINISTRATION

STATE OF INDIANA
MARION, SS:
IN THE MARION CO. SUPERIOR COURT
PROBATE DIVISION
CAUSE NO. 49D08-2011-EU-040477
IN THE MATTER OF THE ESTATE OF ESTER M. QUARLES, DECEASED
NOTICE OF ADMINISTRATION
NOTICE is hereby given that on the 16th day of November, 2020, Alice Whitney was appointed Personal Representative of the Estate of Ester M. Quarles, who died on November 3, 2020. All persons who have claims against this estate, whether or not now due, must file the claim in the Office of the Clerk of this Court within three (3) months from the date of the first publication of this notice, or within nine (9) months after the decedent's death, whichever is earlier, or the claims will be forever barred. Dated at Indianapolis, Indiana, this 20th day of November, 2020.
Myia A. Eldridge, Clerk
12/04/20
12/11/20

NOTICE OF ADMINISTRATION

STATE OF INDIANA
COUNTY OF MARION SS:
IN THE MARION SUPERIOR COURT
CIVIL DIVISION
IN RE THE NAME CHANGE OF:
RONALD A. CROUCH
CAUSE NO. 49D08-2011-EU-040477
IN THE MATTER OF THE UNSUPERVISED ADMINISTRATION OF THE ESTATE OF RONALD A. CROUCH, DECEASED
NOTICE OF ADMINISTRATION
Notice is hereby given that on November 4, 2020, Darby J. Baldwin was appointed Personal Representative of the Estate of Ronald A. Crouch, deceased, who died testate on August 21, 2020. All persons having claims against said estate, whether or not now due, must file the claim in the office of the Clerk of this Court within three (3) months from the date of the first publication of this notice, or within nine (9) months after the decedent's death, whichever is earlier, or the claims will be forever barred. Dated at Indianapolis, Indiana, this November 4, 2020
Myia A. Eldridge, Clerk
12/04/20
12/11/20

NOTICE OF ADMINISTRATION

STATE OF INDIANA
COUNTY OF MARION SS:
IN THE MARION SUPERIOR COURT
CIVIL DIVISION
IN RE THE NAME CHANGE OF:
KATHLEEN A. VAYKO, Petitioner.
ORDER SETTING HEARING AND
NOTICE OF PETITION FOR CHANGE OF NAME
Comes now the Petitioner, Susan Lynn Barnes, by counsel, Aaron Freeman, and states as follows:
1. The Petitioner resides at 5410 Shelbyville Road Indianapolis, IN 46239.
2. The Petitioner is a resident of Marion County, Indiana.
3. The Petitioner by counsel, hereby gives notice that she has filed a petition in the Marion Circuit Court requesting that her name be changed to Susan Lynn Hendrix.
4. Notice is further given that a hearing will be held on said petition on the 9th day of February, 2021 at 9:00 o'clock A.M.
This hearing may be held in person at the City-County Building, 200 East Washington Street, Room W506, Indianapolis, IN 46204; however, if the COVID-19 pandemic is ongoing, or the Court gets authority to continue remote hearings, this hearing will be held remotely, by WebEx or Zoom, and the Court will send a separate WebEx or Zoom email invitation, with instructions, to join the hearing.
All interested parties are hereby advised that they have the right to file objections to the Verified Petition and to appear at the hearing on said Petition.
Myia A. Eldridge, Clerk
12/04/20
12/11/20
12/18/20

NOTICE OF ADMINISTRATION

STATE OF INDIANA
COUNTY OF MARION, SS:
IN THE MARION SUPERIOR COURT
IN THE MATTER OF THE UNSUPERVISED ADMINISTRATION OF THE ESTATE OF JAMES C. RALPH, DECEASED
NOTICE OF ADMINISTRATION
Notice is hereby given that Jimmy D. Ralph was on the November 20, 2020, appointed Personal Representative of the Estate of James C. Ralph, deceased, who died on the 24th day of October, 2020. All persons having claims against said estate, whether or not now due, must file the claim in the office of the Clerk of this Court within three months from the date of the first publication of this notice, or within nine months after the decedent's death, whichever is earlier, or the claims will be forever barred. Dated at Indianapolis, Indiana, this November 20, 2020
Myia A. Eldridge, Clerk
12/04/20
12/11/20

NOTICE OF ADMINISTRATION

STATE OF INDIANA
COUNTY OF MARION SS:
IN THE MARION SUPERIOR COURT
PROBATE DIVISION
CAUSE NO. 49D



Titans down Colts for AFC South lead

Indianapolis Colts wide receiver T.Y. Hilton (13) stiff-arms Tennessee Titans cornerback Breon Borders (39) during the Colts' 45-26 loss Nov. 29 at Lucas Oil Stadium.(Photos/Jeff Brown)



Colts tight end Trey Burton (80) makes the catch for a touchdown.



Colts wide receiver T.Y. Hilton (13) catches a touchdown while being defended by Titans cornerback Breon Borders (39).



Colts quarterback Jacoby Brissett (7) dives into the end zone for a touchdown.

Rockets getting more than Silas name



Houston Rockets head coach, Stephen Silas (Photo: Chuck Burton/AP)

By **TERRANCE HARRIS**
Defender News Network

Some might think Stephen Silas is just another coach with the right last name and lineage. But the Rockets' new head coach is much more than the son of one of the best coaches the NBA has known. The 47-year-old Silas has built a worthy assistant coaching career that is worthy of taking on one of the top head coaching jobs in the league.

"He has been doing this a long time. He has been doing a lot. He was with me a long time," Paul Silas said in a recent conversation with The Defender. "Stephen knows exactly what to do. I'm just so happy, I think it's going to be great. I really believe it. He knows just what to do."

Silas began working with his father in 1999 as a scout with the Charlotte Hornets. By the time he was 27, he had joined his father on the bench, becoming the youngest NBA assistant coach at the time.

Silas also joined his dad in Cleveland from 2003-2005 where they started out the career of a fresh out of high school LeBron James. He and his dad also coached together again back in Charlotte from 2010-2012.

But prior to coming back to Charlotte, Silas spent some time as an assistant with the Washington Wizards from 2005-2006 and Golden State Warriors from 2006-2010. Additionally, he has been an assistant coach in Dallas on Rick Carlisle's staff since 2018.

Along the way, Silas has been instrumental in the development of young star guards such as Kemba Walker, Steph Curry and Luka Dončić. It's likely his work with top-level guards is what caught the eye of the Rockets' brass this time around with the tandem of James Harden and Russell Westbrook as the center-

Stephen Silas

Age: 47
College: Brown University
Assistant coaching stops: Charlotte, New Orleans, Cleveland, Washington, Golden State, Charlotte and Dallas.
Top players he has coached: LeBron James, Steph Curry, Kemba Walker and Luka Dončić.

pieces of the team. "Basketball has been a huge part of my life since the day I was born, and this is the moment I've strived for," Stephen Silas said. "I've been fortunate to have coached some great players over the course of my career and am excited to work with this incredibly talented team as we build upon the success they have established."

His father couldn't be more proud of the opportunity his son has earned.

"He has done a great job," the elder Silas said. "When he was with Dallas he did really good. Now he is a lot better now. He is going to be good. I tell you. He's going to be good, there is no question. I really believe it."

But that isn't to say Silas wasn't a little worried that this time might now work out with the Rockets. He interviewed four years ago when the Rockets went with Mike D'Antoni and names like Tyronn Lue, Jeff Van Gundy, Doc Rivers and John Lucas had been mentioned prior to the Rockets officially hiring Silas last week.

"I talked to him last week and I told him it's a feeling that it's going to happen," Paul Silas said. "He said, 'Dad I don't think it's going to happen at all.' But I said OK, I think it will and it did."

"It was outstanding. I'm so happy that it happened."

Purdue Poly Englewood falls to Brebeuf



Purdue Polytechnic Englewood's Daisha Lasley (23) battles with Brebeuf's Elle Born (32) for a rebound during Brebeuf's 51-45 win Nov. 24. (Photo/Walt Thomas)