

INDIANAPOLIS COMMUNITY MUST COME TOGETHER AGAINST GUN VIOLENCE

By VOP OSILI



Of all the challenges Indianapolis has faced since I first was elected to the council

a decade ago, none pains my heart more deeply or has visited more despair on our community than the reality of the lives, loves and human potential our city has lost to gun violence.

Not once, but twice so far in 2021, entire households have been slaughtered by a member of their own family. And the eight people, guilty of nothing more than going to work, killed by a troubled young man that our society deemed too young to buy alcohol but old enough to purchase deadly weapons. A 12-year-old boy visiting his grandparents was shot in the head as he sat in their living room playing video games.

It would be easy to give in to a feeling of hopelessness. The Giffords Law Center reports that, although Black men make up just 5% of Indiana's population, we account for more than 57% of our state's gun homicide victims. Black men in Indiana between the ages of 18-24 are 33 times more likely than white men the same age to be murdered with a gun. Nationally, Black children and teens are 14 times more likely to die from gun homicide than their white counterparts.

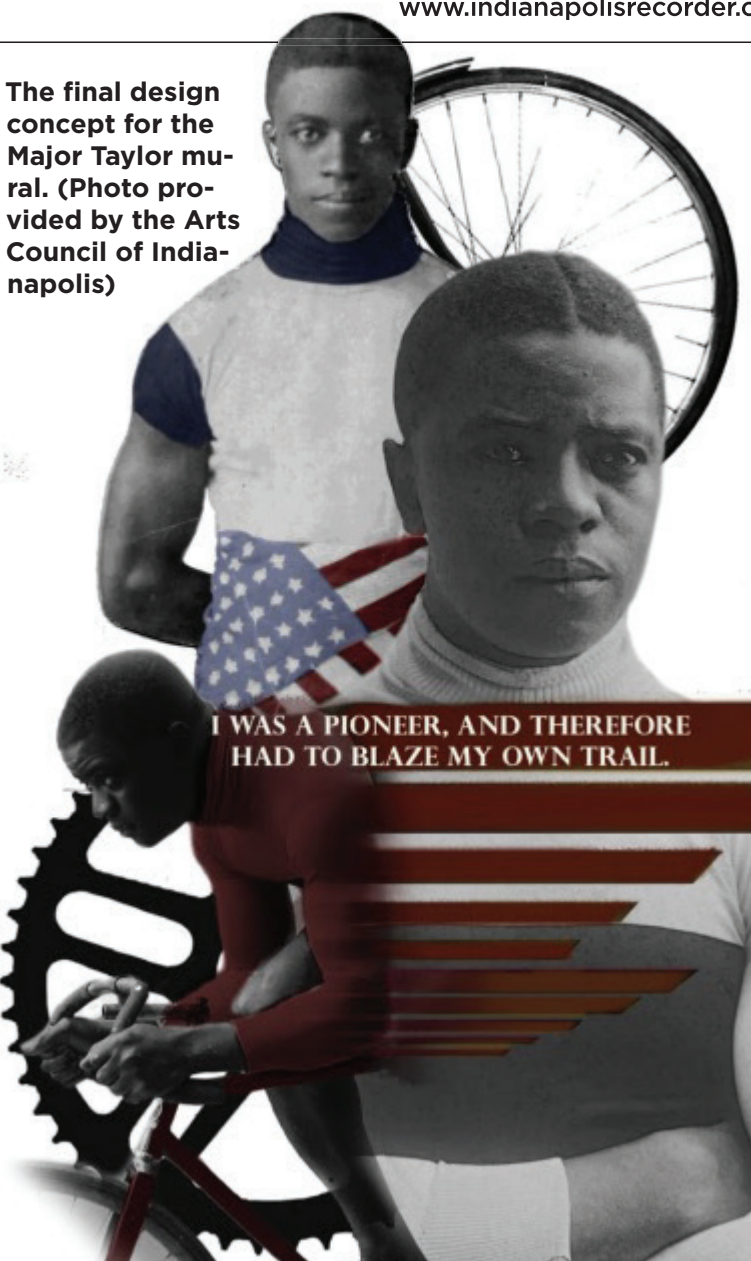
We don't need fact sheets to understand the scope and scale of the problem of violence in Indianapolis.

In his acceptance speech upon receiving the 1964 Nobel Peace Prize, Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. said violence is immoral because "it destroys community." Violence in our neighborhoods is, in no small part, the compounded interest of centuries of racial inequity.

That is a payment we must stop making. My faith in our ability as a community to stand against this is built on our collective response to COVID-19. Many people could have locked themselves away — and some did. But many more started checking in on neighbors, volunteering at food banks, delivering meals and sewing face masks. After all, when we talk of "herd immunity," we are at least acknowledging the reality of our interdependence. My challenge and my hope is that we bring that perspective to the fight against community violence. Not one of us is or ever will be immune from a bullet. But if we begin to operate more like a "herd," we will strengthen our city's immune system against the

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The final design concept for the Major Taylor mural. (Photo provided by the Arts Council of Indianapolis)



Major Taylor mural honors a trailblazer

By BREANNA COOPER
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Nine years before Jack Johnson became the first African American heavyweight champion and 48 years before Jackie Robinson broke baseball's color barrier, there was Marshall "Major" Taylor.

In 1899, the Indianapolis native became the first Black cycling world champion. Throughout his career, which ended in 1910, Taylor established seven world records, defeating opponents from around the globe and persevering through racist attacks, verbal and physical. Despite his successes, Taylor died penniless in the charity ward of Cook County Hospital outside of Chicago and was buried in a pauper's grave in 1932 at the age of 53.

Now, thanks to a friendship between avid cyclists Dan Lee and Anthony Bridgeman and a partnership with the Arts Council of Indianapolis, Major Taylor's legacy in Indianapolis will be memorialized in a mural. Chicago-based artist Shawn Michael Warren is currently adding Taylor's likeness to the Barnes & Thornburg building at the southeast corner of East Washington and South Meridian streets, about 60 feet off the ground. The mural, adorned with Taylor's quote, "I was a pioneer, and therefore had to blaze my own trail," depicts the cyclist in various stages of his racing career.

Lee first learned of Taylor as a sophomore at Ball State Univer-

See MAJOR, A7 ►

'Ujamaa is a love offering to the community': Bookstore provides place for the Black community



By TERRENCE LAMBERT
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As you walk into the Ujamaa Community Bookstore, a feeling of warmth and positivity overwhelms you. If it is a Monday or Thursday around 3 p.m., you will see former Recorder publisher Eunice Trotter leading her "Tracing Family Roots" workshop to help people learn more about their ancestors.

"We are Black history," Trotter said, which is why she runs the workshop.

The bookstore opened June 19 and is a part of Flanner House, a 123-year-old nonprofit that empowers the community toward self-sufficiency by providing educational, social and economic resources.

"Piece by piece we will continue to support the neighborhood and the community by not just making those things available but giving it to them in a way that honors and values the Blackness of who they are," Brandon Cosby, CEO of Flanner House, said. "Ujamaa is a love offering to the community."

The name Ujamaa is a Swahili word

meaning brotherhood, extended family, and shared and cooperative economics.

"What if you could have a bookstore that was focused on us, but then every other object that was in that store was made by Black hands?" asked Cosby. That question led to what is now the Ujamaa Community Bookstore.

Cosby wanted to partner with another nonprofit to create the bookstore, but he later learned that organization moved elsewhere. The experience didn't stop Cosby. He said "forget it, we'll do it ourselves" and created Ujamaa a year later in the space of a former Indianapolis Public Library branch.

"Everything in here, to the tune of around 85%, is from Black makers," said Rohini Townsend, manager of the bookstore, which sells books and other products. "Probably around half of that is from Black local makers."

Townsend said she and the staff only had six days to put everything together before the store's grand opening.

Images of historical events and figures — designed by Chaya Peterson — such as

What Brandon Cosby calls "The Trigger Wall," historic images of Harriet Tubman, Transatlantic slave ships and The Mammy Caricature line the back wall of the Ujamaa Community Bookstore. (Photo/Terrence Lambert)

See Ujamaa, A6 ►



Down to Earth Tooth Dirt, an alternative to conventional toothpaste made with 13 organic herbs, is one of the items that will be sold at the SHE. Xperience Department Store. (Photo provided by Mothers Earth LLC)

SHE. Event Indy to open store in Circle Centre Mall

By MADISON SMALSTIG
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SHE. Event Indy is bringing about 20 minority-women-owned businesses to the center of the city this fall.

The SHE. Xperience Department Store is scheduled to open Oct. 1 in the Circle Centre Mall. SHE. Event Indy, an organization that provides connections and education for mainly minority-women-owned businesses, will own the shop and vendors will pay rent to use a portion of the 9,048 square foot space that once was Victoria's Secret.

Katina Washington, SHE. Event Indy president and CEO, said many of the businesses can't set up their own brick and mortar locations, so they are pooling their resources to help each other grow and find more clients. Washington hopes the store serves as a stepping-stone for these businesses to open their own location, especially because Black businesses do not have as much access to physical stores.

There used to be many Black businesses along Indiana Avenue — where

See MALL, A7 ►



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An Indianapolis tutoring program meets homeless students where they are

AARICKA WASHINGTON
Chalkbeat Indiana

Tutor Rita Novak remembers the time when she managed to connect with a child in a homeless shelter. The girl usually liked to dance and avoid schoolwork. But Novak talked patiently about the task, tweaked the assignment, and the child gradually started to come around.

Novak thinks giving her attention and meeting her needs did the trick. “It makes you feel good when that connection does happen,” the 76-year-old retired teacher said.

Novak is among scores of volunteers working with School on Wheels, an organization that brings tutors to un-housed students. After a year of working virtually with them, the group returned to schools and more recently to shelters, seeking to replicate that human connection that sparked Novak’s distracted student.

Karen Routt, who directs the group’s work in schools, said the pandemic created challenges. For one, the organization struggled to locate students.

Staff members combed apartment complexes and motels in search of their students, sometimes conducting tutoring sessions in parking lots. They read to children outdoors while socially distant, conducted tutoring sessions via Zoom and, in Washington Township, created a learning pod for virtual studies. But safety measures kept volunteers from meeting with children face to face.

Partner schools, which normally identify unhoused families and refer children to School on Wheels, lost touch with students in unstable housing — as did many school districts nationwide during the pandemic. Because of pandemic precautions and public fears, homeless shelters remained below capacity, further shrinking the number of families referred to the program.

The nonprofit’s normal caseload of 400 students dropped to just over 200.

Many families lacked reliable internet, Routt said. Parents who spoke



little English struggled to connect younger students with Chromebooks and other devices.

Now School on Wheels has revived in-person summer tutoring for more than a dozen homeless students in Indianapolis. The program offers three hours a week of small-group tutoring to help students who live at Salvation Army Barton Center get on track with their schoolwork.

Besides that summer program, the organization also has been supporting regular school partners this summer.

Volunteers tutor students in nine Indianapolis schools and eight shelters throughout the school year. At the same time, School on Wheels helps teachers and parents develop learning plans and goals.

Even before the pandemic, homeless students were less likely to be promoted to the next grade and less likely to pass state assessments, while being more likely to be suspended or expelled and to earn a lower-quality high school diploma.

As some school districts struggled to provide technology and other resources for all their students during

the pandemic, learning gaps among students most likely widened.

School on Wheels tries to bridge that. Its 20 staff members and scores of trained volunteers — ranging from teens to retired teachers — serve as tutors, the main liaison with students.

Even at full capacity, School on Wheels can serve only a minuscule portion of Indiana’s homeless students. The need has likely grown since 2018-19, the latest data available from the Indiana Department of Education, when approximately 16,380 Indiana students were experiencing homelessness.

More than one-quarter of those were in Marion County, which had 14.5% of public school students. But while Indiana has a much lower homeless student population rate than do neighboring Midwestern states, according to a 2020 Indiana Youth Institute and School on Wheels report, in 2017 Indiana ranked 34th in the U.S. for identifying students who are homeless.

Homeless students are disproportionately Black and are overrepresented in special education.

School on Wheels operates on a \$1 million budget. It recently received \$270,000 from an Indiana Department of Education Student Learning Recovery Grant. The two-decade-old group seeks to expand.

Because School on Wheels leaders believe that literacy is key to helping a student who may be falling behind, they’ve focused on reading and writing, as well as arts and performance in pre-K to 12th grade.

Tutors check reading comprehension and knowledge through daily assessments, and survey students at the end on if they’ve learned and had fun.

This year, the group has added robotics.

At the shelter, students from pre-K to ninth grade build dexterity with Playdoh, create videos and podcasts, and read articles about how robots are used in NASA, in industry, and in medicine and about careers in those fields.

The program contracts with two Indianapolis Public Schools science teachers to teach coding for robotics weekly to older students. Younger students work with iPad apps to learn how to control a robot.

An Asante Children’s Theatre staff member produces children’s performances, while volunteers try to keep students engaged. This year, they are creating a robot character while helping students develop storytelling skills.

Brittany Bayles, the organization’s education manager, said running a program in the downtown area is important because many programs come with a fee. School on Wheels is free.

“We’re able to really connect with those children and families over the summer,” Bayles said. “It was huge for those families to be able to have somebody in the building working with them and having that engagement to get them back to normal as much as possible.”

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

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IUPUI to launch publication centering Black theater

By **TERRENCE LAMBERT**
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A new publication highlighting Black theater throughout Indiana is set to launch at IUPUI.

Black Stage is an initiative of the Africana Repertory Theatre of IUPUI (ARTI) — a project that documents and reflects on the history, cultural life and politics of people of the African diaspora — that supports community engagement, public relations and information about theater companies throughout Indiana and the Midwest.

After realizing there was no digital or print publication about Black theater in Indiana, the ARTI staff decided to create one themselves.

“Black Stage is ARTI’s engine for serving the community and showcasing Africana creativity and talent in all its art forms including literature, music, film and performance,” Dr. Khaula Murtadha, associate vice chancellor for the Office of Community Engagement, said in a statement for IU Day.

ARTI consists of staff from various schools at IUPUI such as the IU School of Liberal Arts, School of Education, Africana Studies Program and the IUPUI Office of Community Engagement.

The digital publication will feature five sections: Bringing It, Off Script, Anatomy of A Dream, Well What Did You Think and Backstage.

Bringing It serves as the marketing and public relations section to promote upcoming theatrical events throughout Indiana. Off Script is dedicated to interviewing actors, performers and directors to gain further insight on their work and performances.

“My favorite section is Off Script,” said Sha-Nel Henderson, manager for partner cultivation for Black Stage. “Because many times we are able to appreciate a production but don’t get to gain perspective from artists. Gaining perspective from the artist is just as important as putting on the production.”

Anatomy of A Dream highlights local theater troupes, playwrights and performers who have made an impact on the theater scene in Indiana. Well What Do You Think gives theatergoers a chance to review a production after they’ve seen it, and Backstage dives into the arts-based research of Afrocentric theater by examining historical Black playwrights and taking a



Freetown Village executive director Ophelia Wellington will be featured in Black Stage, a new digital magazine about Black theater. Freetown Village performs in this photo from 2012. (Recorder file photo)

deeper dive into understanding the Black experience.

“The purpose for Black Stage is to uplift, celebrate, cultivate and promote Black theater,” Henderson said. “Arts-based research is imperative to the work of Black Stage.”

For the initial launch, the Anatomy of A Dream section will be a one-on-one conversation and spotlight of Ophelia Wellington, executive director of Freetown Village.

Founded in 1982, Freetown Village is a living history museum that educates the public about the African American experience through theater and storytelling. Freetown Village began after Wellington’s desire to create a platform that teaches African American history.

“Storytelling is crucial for the Black community to reclaim our narratives,” Henderson said. “Theater

To check out the launch of Black Stage, visit arti.sitehost.iu.edu

does an amazing job of expressing ourselves and sharing our experiences.”

Murtadha said Black Stage is a “culturally engaging effort to capture the existence of Black artistic value, its beauty and its history.”

The publication will begin July 31.

Contact staff writer Terrence Lambert at 317-924-5243. Follow him on Twitter @_TerrenceL_.

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Indiana University Health

SPOTLIGHT

Indiana Fashion Foundation to host youth fashion camp at state fair

By MADISON SMALSTIG
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In less than one month, participants of the Imagine IFF fashion camp will be rushing through a scavenger hunt, searching for different textures and motions in the lights, sights and displays at the Indiana State Fair. In less than 24 hours, they will use that inspiration to create an upcycled piece of clothing that will be displayed for all fair attendees to see.

Imagine IFF, the youth division of Indiana Fashion Foundation, will have its fall event, Fashion Camp at the Fair, on Aug. 7-8 at the Indiana State Fairgrounds.

The first day, students will listen to fashion industry experts who work in marketing, style and design, said Michelle Weston, program coordinator for Imagine IFF.

“It’s helpful to learn from people who are actually living out their dream,” Weston said. “These are the people to connect with.”

After the speakers, participants will go on a scavenger hunt for materials and inspiration. The activity will incorporate parts of the fair’s own scavenger hunt and some extra fashion elements, so they can think of ideas for their final project.

The second day, students will be taken to a to-be-disclosed location where they will find clothing items to take back to the fair booth and upcycle, or use the existing product to create a new item of higher value. The students will have the rest of the day to complete their outfits using fabric tape, scissors and help from IFF interns in the socially distanced space at the fairgrounds, Weston said.

“We want them to take already existing pieces and then add their own flair to what they have,” Weston said.

The upcycled outfits will then be displayed at IFF’s booth, the IN Fashion Marketplace at the Indiana State Fair.

The camp was originally scheduled for mid-July but was moved to August to coincide with the fair. Having the camp at the fair allows for the campers to not only grab some fair food but also experience what Indiana has to offer career-wise, Weston said. She hopes the camp both sparks the campers’ interest in pursuing a fashion career and helps them realize they can build that career without leaving Indiana.

“I really hope that they grasp the opportunities that are available to them and that they realize that it doesn’t matter where they live or where they are, there are so many connections and networks available,” she said. “You don’t have to move away if you



Zairion Lester looked at a jacket he bought from Goodwill and created a plan to upcycle it for Indiana Fashion Foundation’s 2019 Youth Designer Challenge. (Photo provided Indiana Fashion Foundation, Simone Murray)

don’t want to. You can be who you are where you are.”

IFF CEO Denisha Ferguson said while Indiana does not have a fully developed fashion market, it does have a lot of resources in areas such as technology, agriculture and sports. For those who choose to stay and develop their careers in Indiana, they can use fashion as the creative bridge between all these industries.

In addition to learning about the fashion opportunities available in Indiana, campers will also learn basic skills necessary to continue in the fashion industry and about how to be confident in their personal style. Ferguson said she loves seeing students, especially those who come into the camp a little shy, leaving with their heads held high.

“Our thing is not to try to get you to do fashion. It is to get you to know that you already are fashion,” she said. “You already have your own style.”

Zairion Lester, who participated in IFF’s 2019 Youth Designer Challenge, said he learned how to collaborate, be patient and work quickly. Lester, 17, never worked under a deadline before the youth challenge but doing so allowed him to see just how much he can accomplish in a short time frame.

“I had to think fast,” he said. “I feel like I did some good pieces.”

Children between 12 and 17 who are interested in the camp can apply at indianafashionfoundation.org. Applicants must upload samples of their work. The application closes at 11:59 p.m. July 27 and selected participants will be informed July 30.

Contact staff writer Madison Smalstig at 317-924-5143. Follow her on Twitter @madi_smals.



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VIOLENCE

▶ Continued from A1

epidemic of violence.

When my colleagues and I talk about fighting the root causes of violence, we are, in many ways, also talking about strategies that combat racial inequity, like:

- developing and reinforcing grassroots community relationships,
- rebuilding infrastructure and attracting investment in Black neighborhoods,
- increasing employment, education and economic op-

portunities,

- expanding access to addiction and trauma recovery support groups,
- working with the community to implement public safety programs and policing reforms, and
- supporting safe and stable housing.

I know achieving these things is not as simple as writing a list, and I'm well aware that no individual can do this work alone. I know also that our commu-

nity is not destroyed; there is great power and possibility in it. Even in neighborhoods with the highest rates of violence, there are mothers and grandmothers hosting block meetings, fathers and grandfathers doing neighborhood walks and community leaders of all ages organizing.

In the coming weeks and months, your city-county council will consider our city's budget for 2022. The dual challenges of violence and

inequity that we face together as a community will be at the forefront of our minds.

We are, as Paul wrote in 2 Corinthians, “perplexed, but not despairing ... persecuted, but not forsaken; struck down, but not destroyed.”

Vop Osili is president of the Indianapolis-Marion County City-County Council.

UJAMAA

► Continued from A1

Harriet Tubman, Madam C.J. Walker, “Whipped Peter” and the lynching of Thomas Shipp and Abram Smith stand out along the back wall of the bookstore to show both the triumphs and hardships of the Black experience.

Cosby said it is amazing to watch people respond to the wall.

He recalled the day of the bookstore's grand opening where Peterson met the descendants of one of the two men lynched in Marion in 1930.

"To get to watch them have a moment, I get chills talking about it," Cosby said. "This very ugly and dark piece of history still found its way to bring two people together."

Keshia McEntire, one of the authors of "Girls of Might and Magic: An Anthology by Diverse Books with Magic," said this was the first time she has seen her book on the shelf of a bookstore.

McEntire said she is pleased the bookstore has a section dedicated to local Indiana authors because it gives them a platform to have their work seen.

Megan Thomas, author of the children's book "My Dad," said it was surreal to have the opportunity to put her own books on a shelf.

"I put my products where I wanted them to go," Thomas said. "It all hit me at once. I'm surprised I didn't start crying."

The bookstore features various events, free programming such as instrument lessons, acting classes and roller-skating lessons throughout the year and will have open mic night for all ages every third Friday of the month starting Aug. 20. "I want people to walk in and feel like this is their bookstore," Townsend said. "I wanted the entire diaspora represented. That meant belief systems. That meant books. That meant art. It means everything."

Contact staff writer Terrence Lambert at 317-924-5243. Follow him on Twitter @ TerrenceL .

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MAJOR
► Continued from A1

sity. Andrew Richie's 1988 biography, "Major Taylor: The Extraordinary Career of a Champion Bicycle Racer" had just been published, and Lee was constantly looking for ways to learn more about the Hoosier legend. Lee, who works for the bicycle company SRAM, went so far as to recreate a 75-mile race Taylor participated in, spanning from Massachusetts Avenue in Indianapolis to Grant County, near Marion. He said the mural will remember Taylor not just for his racing abilities, but for the values: namely determination and perseverance that Taylor embraced throughout his life.

"This is such a great moment for Major Taylor," Lee said. "I think he can say something to everyone in our country. ... He overcame a tremendous amount of hardship and discrimination and racism, and he still managed to show everyone around him grace, and he had a strong Christian faith. His is just a very compelling story. We've gone through a tough stretch in our country as far as division, and I feel like he can speak to a true kind of justice and unity."

Born in Indianapolis in 1878, Taylor worked in various bicycle shops and began his racing career in the Circle City. Despite his early successes on the track, Taylor faced frequent harassment and discrimination in Indianapolis. He ended up moving to Massachusetts as a teenager, where he began to break records.

Bridgeman said the mural, along with a historical marker dedication on the Monon Trail in 2009, are signs the city is moving in the right direction.

"I think it does represent a change to

some degree," Bridgeman said. "I'm glad that individuals and institutions are recognizing the raw deal that Taylor received when he was a resident here in Indianapolis, and I think it's great that he's finally getting his due."

Of course, Taylor's experiences with racism weren't limited to Indianapolis. Bridgeman recounts an incident in 1897 when Taylor beat cyclist William Becker in a race, which resulted in Becker throwing Taylor to the ground and choking him until he lost consciousness. Along with a brief suspension, Becker was only charged with a \$50 fine before he was reinstated.

"Despite all of those things, he still persevered and continued to dominate his rivals," Bridgeman said. "It's great now that Indianapolis is embracing who was once its prodigal son."

While the mural and the informative plaque accompanying it are not complete, both men hope passersby will be inspired by Taylor's tenacity.

"I hope that more people, especially young people, get to know who Major Taylor was and learn about his story," Bridgeman said. "Even though there are challenges around you, I'd like young people to not despair but to see that if they stay dedicated to their craft, whatever that is, if they stay dedicated to being good people and disciplined about the way they live their lives ... there's opportunities for them to succeed beyond the people that may want to pull them down. They can persevere."

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

MALL
► Continued from A1

Washington originally wanted to set up shop — but now there is a lack of them. So, Washington is looking forward to bringing more Black local businesses to the heart of Indianapolis.

"There is definitely a need for more of a Black presence downtown, so this is an excellent opportunity for that to happen," she said.

Vendors in the SHE. Xperience Department Store will offer a variety of products including handbags, accessories, bath and body products, candles and Down to Earth Tooth Dirt.

The tooth dirt — an alternative to conventional toothpaste made with 13 organic herbs — will be sold by Mothers Earth LLC, which makes and sells organic vegan skincare and oral care products. Mothers Earth founder Tia Scott originally made the product for herself in 2015, after she developed an allergy to toothpaste. She started selling the product in October 2015, after people she distributed samples to saw improvements in their oral health.

In addition to the five flavors and three types of the tooth dirt, Scott will also sell dental floss, bamboo toothbrushes, body oil, body scrubs, face cleanser and moisturizer. Scott said she is excited to move from her current store to the Circle Centre Mall location because she will get more foot traffic, which will help expose her products to more people and help them lead healthier lives.

"This will definitely broaden my customer base," she said, "diversify it as well."

The store will also have a makeup counter where customers can try on and purchase products from Joli Pretty Cosmetics, a cosmetics line created by a Black woman for Black women. Some of the products that will be offered are eyeshadow palettes, foundations and liquid lipsticks.

Cosmetologist Stephanie Baylor, who will be managing the counter, said she only wears Joli Pretty Cosmetics items because she loves that the foundations are made for Black women, who tend to have different undertones which makes it harder to buy from mainstream

brands. She also loves the vibrant, pigmented colors in the lipsticks and palettes.

"A lot of good cosmetic lines, they have good products, but they don't specifically have a line for Black women," she said. "Joli Pretty Cosmetics came along and basically she introduced a line with Black women in mind as far as the lipstick colors, the different shades that go good with our skin and also the eye shadow colors."

Baylor said she can't wait to work at the SHE. Xperience Department Store because she will have the opportunity to help more women feel confident about their appearance.

"A lot of people wear makeup, but they are not sure how to properly apply makeup on their own," she said. "I can educate them on the different skin products, different makeup application techniques so they are able to wear the makeup confidently."

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WILLIAM "BILL" CRAWFORD
CHARITY
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EDITORIAL

Where is the love?

By OSEYE BOYD



If the United States of America is a Christian nation — as many believe it is — how do we reflect Christ’s love? As a nation? As individuals? In the way we govern? In the way we operate businesses? I often think about this as I reflect on this country’s history as well as current events.

What makes one think we are a Christian nation? Is it because “In God we trust” is on our money? Or maybe it’s because in our Pledge of Allegiance we say “One nation under God.” Or could it be because the Declaration of Independence states we have “unalienable rights endowed by God” that makes this a Christian nation?

I could go into the fact that this country was not founded as a Christian nation. It was, in fact, purposely created to be a secular government and open to other religions. Many of the Founding Fathers didn’t want to recreate what they just left, so they kept church and state separate. But arguing whether or not the U.S. is a Christian nation isn’t the point of this column. Instead, I’d like to know how we demonstrate what we profess we are. This has always baffled me.

When I go down this path, I’m reminded of the Greatest Commandment. In Matthew 22:34-40, Jesus was asked by a Pharisee, who was an expert of the law, what is the greatest commandment, the one that is most important to adhere to. Jesus answered: “Love the Lord your God with all your heart, with all your soul, and with all your mind. This is the greatest and most important commandment. The second is like it: Love your neighbor as yourself. All the Law and the Prophets depend on these two commandments.”

The constant I see in this passage of Scripture is love. Love of God, humanity and self. Love. It’s real simple. But it’s so darn hard!

When I think about slavery, I don’t see Jesus’ words reflected there. Jim Crow? Nope. Eugenics? Nope. Tuskegee Experiment? Nope. Mass incarceration? Nope. Racism? Nope. Sexism? Nope. Homphobia? Nope. Transphobia? Nope. Ageism? Nope. Ableism? Nope. The Insurrection of Jan. 6? Nope.

I could go on, but I think you’re getting the point. Sure, there are pockets of goodness and love in our history and happening today. But I’m referring to the general sentiment of the country. If I’m from another country or another galaxy, could I easily see the Christian values we profess to follow, or would I see contradictions everywhere I glance?

I see contradictions. I see hate. I see hate happening

in the name of Jesus and God. Many times the haters play the victim. Their values are being assaulted, they say, and this is why they must fight back. But that’s more about control and believing your beliefs and way of life are superior. It’s appalling to me that many who say they’re Christians are the main ones fighting against anything that doesn’t fit into their small, narrow-minded view of what the U.S. should be. Again, this view never espouses love.

Doesn’t sound Christ-like to me. Going to church and believing in Jesus Christ as your personal savior isn’t enough to make this a Christian nation. I’m not a theologian or Biblical scholar, but I know enough to know you must have action to your words — “faith without works is dead” is what I was taught.

This is where I differ with those who want this to be a Christian nation but show hate not love. I believe the fight for equity and justice is about love — a love for humanity. It’s not about one person or group of people being better than another. It’s about everyone in this country being allowed to pursue life, liberty and happiness. Your (legal) pursuit doesn’t have to mirror mine, and it doesn’t have to make me feel comfortable. That’s the beauty of love. Maybe one day the country that is all about Christ will actually emulate him.

OPINIONS

The two Americas

By LARRY SMITH



This nation is divided along many lines. Historically, the most important line has been that of race, which has sparked the greatest social unrest — including our deadliest war.

Freedom fighter Frederick Douglass wrote an article titled “The Color Line” in 1881, but scholar W.E.B. DuBois is most closely associated with that phrase. DuBois wrote the following prescient statement in his seminal 1903 work, “The Souls of Black Folk”: “The problem of the twentieth century is the problem of the color line.” (Three years earlier he had been a signatory to a document titled “Address to the Nations of the World,” which called for racial equality. Given that DuBois had drafted the document, it’s not surprising that it referred to America’s “color line.”)

Roughly one-fifth of the 21st century has expired. What has been the primary American problem during these years? While race was a strong contender for the first 15 or so, I would argue that there is a separate (though

related) line that is — arguably — more dangerous today. On one side of that dividing line are people who can discern objective facts and who recognize that there is a process for verifying the accuracy of information; on the other side are those who don’t. I call this phenomenon “the reality line.”

The dangerous side of the reality line is comprised of people who are susceptible to conspiracy theories (no matter how insane they become). They believe that their version of common sense — which they often confuse with logic — is just as valid as empirical data. They frequently don’t understand or embrace science, yet cling to debunked “scientific” studies. They voraciously consume news from sources that have little or no credibility, while railing against “the mainstream media.” They are convinced that they’re right, even when every shred of available information proves that they’re wrong.

While it may be comforting to argue that this divide is based on one’s level of education (especially whether one has earned a college degree) or one’s political party, that simply isn’t the case. There are three crucial factors in determining the side on which one resides. (Though, admittedly, some people straddle the line at some

point.) One factor is the ability to think critically, which is a skill that should be taught as early as kindergarten. A second, which is related to the first, is the intellectual honesty to obtain information from credible sources. The third factor, which is the most difficult, is the psychological maturity to avoid being ruled by emotion and confirmation bias. (Literally no one is immune from this challenge, though there are ways to mitigate it.)

Recently, I have written about how misinformation led to the Capitol insurrection in January (and that this assault is only the beginning) as well as how the abandonment of truth by right-wing media and politicians has imperiled our nation. Democracy is fragile and we are facing an existential threat. Sadly, before we devolve into the dystopia that I and many others are afraid of, we will increasingly exist in social silos and reverberating echo chambers — which reinforce the reality line.

President Lyndon Johnson’s Kerner Commission, which he created to examine the racial divide in America, issued a report shortly before Martin Luther King Jr. was assassinated in 1968. It says, in part, that America is “moving toward two societies, one

black, one white—separate and unequal.” The commission also suggested that the nation would become a “system of “apartheid” in our major cities.

That prediction has come true. Our neighborhoods and our schools are in a state of de facto apartheid. In fact, several predominately white enclaves (e.g., in Cincinnati) have literally sought to secede from the (blacker and browner) cities in which they reside. This is the inevitable result of racist laws and public policies, combined with misanthropy and a lack of respect for human dignity. Unfortunately, that’s not the only apartheid.

There is a nexus between involuntary racial apartheid and the voluntary ideological separation that is entrenched in our body politic. That body politic is sick with the disease of misinformation and disinformation. America has long had a very unhealthy tendency toward anti-intellectualism; the reality line is the inexorable result. As is the case with climate change, we still have a small — and closing — window to change course. Tragically, it’s not clear that we will.

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

Problematizing the collective journey

By TERRI JETT and MICHAEL TORRES



Recently, a multitude of public and private organizations have made diversity, equity and inclusion (DEI) a critical focus of their current institutional policies and objectives. While this is a welcome change, too often those on the forefront of diversity work

who have been bringing awareness to inequities, disparities and injustices are eclipsed by shiny new initiatives that supplant rather than nurture them and the contributions they have made to the organization. Indeed, they have shouldered the burden of racist and misogynist policies and when speaking out have been met with dismissal, disregard and often downright hostility.

The intensity of our collective societal and institutional DEI work, especially in the last year, was the result of the catalytic witnessing of the state-sanctioned killing of George Floyd Jr. by Minneapolis police officer Derek Chauvin along with the recognition of the unjust killing of Breanna Taylor by detective Myles Cosgrove, Sgt. Jonathan Mattingly and officer Brett Hankison of the Louisville Police Department. Along with those tragedies was the rising and sustained visibility of health disparities along racial and economic lines playing out in the midst of the COVID pandemic. We have experienced a moment that finally served as a wake-up call to many that while we can name the pattern of these racist practices as systemic, they do occur at the hands of individuals and necessitate real accountability and change.

In the case of the Indianapolis Public Library (IndyPL) there must be real change in leadership that is brought to bear by public pressure because it is painfully obvious that those in a position to do something won’t. Perhaps they find some political benefit in propping up the promise of job opportunities in the guise of seductive legacy-induced brick and mortar despite the fact that there is no evidence of increased jobs just a shifting of personnel across a severely under-staffed organiza-

tion. Or perhaps their own limited vision is accustomed to settling for mediocrity rather than revolutionizing a public organization that is stifled under a limited vision of multiracial intellectual life and is instead entrenched in a culture of white saviorism. The language of journey and partnership guided by the existing power structure is nothing but performative wokeness and we aren’t fooled by it.

Real DEI work doesn’t just give lip-service acknowledgement to the courageous voices that speak out. Real DEI work doesn’t sideline perspectives of Black and brown people as anecdotal, “not universal.” Real DEI work does not disregard the protective institutional entity, the union AFSCME 3395, that serves as the most important vehicle with the capacity to respond to the individual and collective anguish of Black and brown people. After all, most of the Black and brown people working at IndyPL are represented by the union. Real DEI work doesn’t just say, “Well, I’ve tried, we all read a book by Kendi, I hired a consultant, I created a committee to study it, I’m on a journey,” without taking a long, hard look in the mirror and coming to understand that it is your journey that is not universal. Real DEI work centers the expertise and knowledge of Black and brown people and their lived experiences and acts on what they have learned. For the good of the public, especially right now, there is new leadership needed at IndyPL.

Dr. Terri Jett is an honorary member of AFCME Local 3395 and former IndyPL board trustee.

Michael Torres is president of AFSCME Local 3395 Library Workers Union.

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Civil, human rights investigation to be conducted in Indianapolis

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

Civil rights attorney Malik Shabazz is leading an investigation into possible civil and human rights violations in regard to the murder of Dorian Murrell. Shabazz is the president of Black Lawyers for Justice, a Maryland-based civil rights law organization. Murrell’s family reached out to Shabazz to try to get answers.

At a rally outside the City-County Building on July 16, Shabazz said the city’s handling of Murrell’s murder investigation is a reflection of how white supremacy “permeates the judicial system.”

Murrell, 18, was killed downtown at roughly 2:30 a.m. May 31, 2020. Tyler Newby, 30, confessed to the killing shortly after. He was charged with murder June 4, 2020.

Newby told police Murrell shoved him to the ground, and he shot in retaliation. However, a family member who was walking with Murrell said that the altercation didn’t happen, and that Murrell collapsed after being hit with a bullet from an unknown source.

Beyond what they said are inconsistencies between Newby’s story and family members’ recounts of the murder, family and members of the community



Attorney Malik Shabazz (left) and Corey Goodridge speak at a rally July 16 to demand answers in the 2020 death of Dorian Murrell. Murrell, Goodridge’s cousin, was killed during the protests of 2020. (Photo/ Breanna Cooper)

are also questioning why Newby is out on bail.

On Aug. 10, 2020, Newby was released on \$250,000 bond, \$25,000 of which was paid upfront. It is currently unknown who paid Newby’s bail. Shabazz said it’s highly unusual for someone charged with murder to be released on bail, and that no one from the prosecutor’s office has explained to Murrell’s family why Newby was released.

A representative from Marion County Prosecutor Ryan Mears’ office told the Recorder “a significant factor in the prosecution’s position was the need to

protect the integrity of multiple investigations that were active at that time.”

However, Shabazz said Newby would still be in jail if he were Black.

“If Tyler Newby was a Black man, do you think he would be out on bail?” Shabazz asked a group assembled outside the City-County Building. “What this shows is, you can shoot a Black man, pay \$25,000 and walk free in Indianapolis.”

Shabazz is also calling for evidence — including video footage from the night of the shooting and social media posts that allegedly show Newby was a white

supremacist — to be released. Shabazz is also concerned about a charge of voluntary manslaughter that was added to Newby’s case July 16. Shabazz and Murrell’s family worry that the addition of a manslaughter charge might mean Newby won’t be convicted of murder.

Shabazz said the independent investigation into the city and the Indianapolis Metropolitan Police Department will help him determine whether a legal case is warranted. Both Shabazz and local activist Mmoja Ajabu said learning how to navigate the court system can help Black Hoosiers get justice for their loved ones, as well as more equal outcomes when it comes to sentencing and bail.

“We like to think that because Abraham Lincoln signed the Emancipation Proclamation that we’re free,” Ajabu said at the rally. “That’s true on paper, but not in practice. A white man said he was shoved and came up shooting and caused a Black man to lose his life, and now he’s free. That’s slavery.”

Newby’s trial will begin Aug. 3 in the Marion County Superior Court.

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

Advocates for Indiana inmates to call for clemency

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

A group that advocates for Indiana inmates will host an event July 25 to advocate for clemency for a man convicted of murder in 1999 and to bring together other families seeking clemency for loved ones.

The event, 1:45-3 p.m. at Tarkington Park, will feature speakers, poetry and food from Black Leaf Vegan.

Though the event is meant to spotlight anyone seeking clemency, 45-year-old Leon Benson will be the focus. Benson was sentenced to 60 years in prison for the death of Kasey Schoen in 1998. He was also convicted for carrying a handgun without a license. His earliest possible release date from Correctional Industrial Facility in Pendleton is in 2029.

Benson and his family have maintained his innocence. He filed for clem-



Leon Benson was convicted of murder in 1999. He and his family have maintained his innocence and are seeking clemency. (Photo provided by family)

ency in April but hasn’t received a hearing yet. The clemency process involves a five-member state parole board, which conducts hearings and then makes a recommendation to the governor. Only the governor can grant clemency.

Nick Greven, a coordinator with Indiana Department of Corrections Watch (IDOC Watch), which is one of the hosts for the event, said the demonstration is intended to draw attention not only to specific cases — including Benson and others — but also the general issue of clemency.

Clemency refers to reducing or altering a sentence for a criminal conviction, though it doesn’t affect the conviction. It can be a slow and burdensome process. The parole board announces its clemency agenda in advance, usually listing two cases for each month. (Benson is not listed on future agendas, which have been announced through September.)

WANT TO GO?

- **When: 1:45-3 p.m. July 25**
- **Where: Tarkington Park, 45 W. 40th St.**
- **Who: Indiana Department of Corrections Watch and other groups**

“It is extremely difficult and can be very traumatizing,” Greven said of the effect on families, “and can result in all kinds of psychological stress.”

Regardless of guilt when it comes to specific cases, IDOC Watch has called for clemency for inmates who say they’ve been rehabilitated or who are elderly.

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

Advertorial

Both of Andry Rakotomalala’s parents are “Malagasy”, which means they are from Madagascar. Andry was born and lived in Madagascar for five years until his parents, who are both physicians, moved their family to Cameroon, where the Rakotomalala’s spent twelve years. When Andry was seventeen, they moved to Kenya where he spent the last two years of high school at an American international boarding school in Kijabe.

A high school counselor at Andry’s school introduced him to Anderson University, located a mere 12,755 miles away across the globe from Kenya.

“My dad is a pediatric surgeon and my mom is a general practice doctor, so we moved around so they could provide medical care to populations in need,” says Andry, who majored in family science at Anderson University. “My goal was to be a family life specialist and help families navigate through challenging times, then someone suggested project management.”

Andry began an MBA in Project Management at Anderson after completing his undergraduate degree. Referring to himself as a “professional intern”, Andry had a couple internships at Anderson University, then landed an internship at Rook Security, which is now Sophos. While he was at Rook, he developed an interest in cybersecurity and began exploring cybersecurity as a passive hobby.

After graduating with his MBA in 2016, Andry became a business analyst intern with then-named TinderBox, which rebranded to Octiv and was recently acquired by



Conga. Finally breaking free from the “intern” moniker, Andry began consulting on implementation processes and during the pandemic, he explored a shift to cybersecurity and discovered Eleven Fifty Academy.

“The CARES Act provided me with an opportunity to do cybersecurity part-time while still working,” states Andry, who started the EFA Cybersecurity course in November of last year. 2020.

Andry really liked the class, indicating that a lot of information comes at you all at once and he really enjoyed it. His understanding of cybersecurity concepts grew from his experimentation with solutions, and experiential failures which illuminated a path towards success. “The instructors broke things down into chunks, and gamified the learning process, which I sincerely appreciated,” says Andry, who now

works with OnPrem Solution Partners, based in Los Angeles. Andry is relocating to southern California.

His advice to prospective students, “If there is anyone who is looking at the Eleven Fifty Academy course, they are already on the right path. Eleven Fifty will give you the opportunity to level up. Prepare for a very rewarding and challenging experience, and like anything else, you get out what you put into it.”

An instructor of Andry’s shared that you must make choices to stay focused, “you have time for it, you make time for it”.

Andry has two sisters and one of them is interested in becoming a student at Eleven Fifty Academy, from Madagascar.

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Not enough African American blood donors — that’s a problem

BY FARAH YOUSRY

Adam Richardson wasn’t planning to donate blood or register to be a stem cell donor at the Indiana Black Expo health fair. But the booth at the Indiana Convention Center hall had only one other person donating blood — a young white man.

“I felt bad they may not be getting enough people and I was like, ‘Why not donate and be one more person who can help out?’” Richardson said while he pressed on a stress ball to keep the blood flow going as a half-liter inflated bag was slowly being puffed up with his blood.

The nurse pointed to the blood bag and said, “This bag will save three people.” Richardson’s calm face lit up with a smile. Needles scare him, but he was assured his impromptu decision was worth it.

There is a dire need for African American blood donors like Richardson — the pandemic has dealt a heavy blow to blood donations across the board, but Black blood scarcity has been an issue even before the pandemic.

According to the Red Cross, only 3% of donors are African American.

This leaves many patients with some of the most debilitating diseases scrambling to find a suitable match when they need a life-saving transfusion.

Blood types — A, B, O, AB, which can all be positive or negative — are not the only things that matter. A combination of “antigens,” or proteins and sugars, present on blood cells are unique and are more likely to be found within the

same race and ethnicity.

“In patients who receive multiple blood transfusions, it’s really important to match those as exactly as we can,” said Kimber Blackwell, a physician assistant at the Indiana Hemophilia and Thrombosis Center.

Many patients with sickle cell disease — an illness that mostly affects African Americans — and certain types of blood cancer rely on regular blood transfusions.

Finding African American blood is crucial and here’s why: When a person receives multiple blood transfusions, the body notices the small differences between its red blood cells and the donor’s. This can lead to a reaction and the development of antibodies that can make future life-saving blood transfusions hard.

“We do have a few patients who we don’t have donors in the state of Indiana that match up with them,” Blackwell said. “When I see them get admitted I get nervous because I know if this person needs blood it will take us two days to get blood from a blood bank out of state to match up with them and two days is too long for some situations.”

African American bone marrow and stem cells are also scarce.

“Only 4% of stem cell donors that we have on our registry are African American in our database,” said Nichole Badura, stem cell recruitment specialist of global stem cell donor registry Be The Match. “When a patient needs a transplant, typically we check their family first but no matter what race or ethnicity you are, you have only 20% of finding a match in



Adam Richardson, 47, donates blood at the Black and Minority Health Fair as part of Indiana Black Expo Summer Celebration. (Photo/Farah Yousry)

your family.”

But even outside of their family, Black patients have a 23% chance to find a match only as opposed to 77% chance for white patients if they need stem cell or bone marrow transplant.

Aware of the increasing need, some blood centers are investing in outreach to the Black community.

“We attend events like the Black Expo to engage with the community and know what matters to them,” Tajwana Ryder, vice president of the multicultural leadership council at Versiti Blood Center, said. “We want to have conversations with them because we rely on them to help those who have severe health conditions.”

But the barriers run deep.

“There is a lack of awareness and also a big one is mistrust of the health care system,” Ryder said.

It’s not only prominent

incidents like the Tuskegee Experiment, which involved the U.S. government studying syphilis in Black men without their consent, but a collection of systemically racist practices Black Americans have had to grapple with — some even specific to blood donation.

“Dr. Charles Drew, who is African American, helped to pioneer the techniques of banking blood plasma that laid the foundation for the Red Cross,” Amrita Myers, associate professor of history and gender studies at Indiana University Bloomington, said. “He did this under segregated conditions in the Jim Crow South.”

Accounts of Black Americans being turned away from blood donation after Pearl Harbor and Black blood being labeled with racial slurs and offered only to Black soldiers during World War II (out of discrimination and not based on sci-

ence) are all part of the collective memory of the community and have played some role in where things stand today.

“I think [this history] is very much orally passed down within communities, these are oral traditions,” Myers said. “People talk ... about what happened to their grandparents or their great-grandparents or to their aunts.”

Ryder of Versiti, who is African American, said she has no option but to “always lean on the science” when speaking to the community to help them understand why donation today is crucial.

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

Advertorial

Keeping Your Cool in Hot Weather

Summer and hot weather go together. Taking steps to stay cool when temperatures rise can help people from getting sick from the heat.

The main things that affect the body’s ability to cool itself during extremely hot weather are:

High humidity. When the humidity is high, sweat won’t evaporate as quickly, which keeps your body from releasing heat as fast as it may need to.

Personal factors. Age, obesity, fever, dehydration, heart disease, mental illness, poor circulation, sunburn, and prescription drug and alcohol use can play a role in whether a person can cool off enough in very hot weather.

Those who are at highest risk include people age 65 and older, children younger than two, and people with chronic diseases or mental illness. Closely monitor these vulnerable populations, especially those who depend on you for their care.

Take time and make sure they drink plenty of water, have access to air conditioning, and have anything they might need to keep cool. Some other important ways to prevent illness or death from the heat:

Stay in air-conditioned buildings as much as possible. People can reduce the risk for heat-related illness by spending time in public facilities that are air-conditioned and using air conditioning in vehicles when possible.

Do not rely on a fan as a primary cooling device from extreme heat. Electric fans may provide comfort, but when the temperature is in the high 90s, they will not prevent heat-related illness. Taking a cool shower or bath or moving to an air-conditioned place is a much better way to cool off.

Drinking more fluids than usual, regardless of physical activity, is important.

Even young and healthy people can get sick from the heat when participating in strenuous physical activities during hot weather. Limit

outdoor activity, especially midday when the sun is hottest. Wear and reapply sunscreen as indicated on the label.

Start activities slow and pick up the pace gradually. Muscle cramping may be an early sign of heat-related illness. Wearing loose, lightweight, light-colored clothing is also important to help stay cool.

When playing a sport that practices during hot weather, teammates should look out for others who might be struggling in the heat. Scheduling workouts and practices earlier or later in the day when the temperature is cooler can help. Anyone who is showing symptoms of heat-related illness should seek medical care immediately.

Resources on staying healthy and safe in the hot weather are available at CDC.gov.

Free Diabetes Self-Management Classes

ABCs of Diabetes is a free, four-part series offered monthly by the Marion County Public Health Department.

The program provides access to educational services and information about managing and preventing diabetes.

Classes are currently offered online and technical assistance is available.

Information presented aims to empower those with diabetes to achieve and maintain good health, prevent complications that may develop from uncontrolled diabetes, and increase knowledge and skills for successful diabetes self-management.

Instruction is given on medications, nutrition, exercise, monitoring, complications, and available community resources.

Classes in August will be held on Thursdays, August 5, 12, 19 and 26 from 5:30-7 p.m. Those who participate are asked to attend all four sessions.

To register or get more information about the ABCs of Diabetes, please visit MarionHealth.org/diabetes or call 317-221-2094.



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Millions skipped church during pandemic. Will they return?

By DAVID SHARP
Associated Press

WALDOBORO, Maine (AP) — With millions of people having stayed home from places of worship during the coronavirus pandemic, struggling congregations have one key question: How many of them will return?

As the pandemic recedes in the United States and in-person services resume, worries of a deepening slide in attendance are universal.

Some houses of worship won't make it.

Smaller organizations with older congregations that struggled to adapt during the pandemic are in the greatest danger of a downward spiral from which they can't recover, said the Rev. Gloria E. White-Hammond, lecturer at the Harvard Divinity School and co-pastor of a church in Boston.

On the Maine coast, the pandemic proved to be the last straw for the 164-year-old Waldoboro United Methodist Church.

Even before COVID-19 swept the world, weekly attendance had dipped to 25 or 30 at the white-clapboard New England church that could hold several hundred worshippers. The number further dwindled to five or six before the final service was held, said the Rev. Gregory Foster.

The remaining congregants realized they couldn't continue to maintain the structure and decided to fold the tent, Foster said.

"We can't entirely blame everything on COVID. But that was just the final blow. Some people have not been back at all," he said.

In Virginia, the Mount Clifton United Methodist Church experienced a similar fate. The church can seat more than 100 but the number of weekly worshippers dwindled to 10 to 15, even before the

pandemic.

The small white church built on a hill in the Shenandoah Valley in the 1880s may be rented to another congregation, or it may be put up for sale.

"It's a complicated picture overall, but the pandemic was the straw that broke the camel's back," said the Rev. Darlene Wilkins, who oversaw Mount Clifton. "It just became next to impossible to sustain."

In the United States, the latest challenge for places of worship comes against a backdrop of a decadeslong trend of a smaller share of the population identifying as religious.

It's too early to know the full impact of the pandemic. Surveys do show signs of hopefulness — and also cause for concern.

About three-quarters of Americans who attended religious services in person at least monthly before the pandemic say they are likely to do so again in the next few weeks, according to a recent AP-NORC poll. That's up slightly from the about two-thirds who said in May 2020 that they would if they were allowed to do so. But 7% said they definitely won't be attending.

Those findings are in line with a Pew Research Center survey of U.S. residents last summer. It found that 92% of people who regularly attend religious services expected to continue at the same or higher rate, while 7% say they will attend in-person services less often.

Nashville, Tennessee-based Lifeway Research, an evangelical research firm, says many churches lost steam when in-person services shut down. A small but concerning number of churchgoers are coming out of the pandemic in limbo without a church home, said Scott McConnell, Lifeway's executive director.

"That's a lot of momen-



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tum to lose and a lot of people stepping out of the habit" of weekly worship, McConnell said.

Those that are successful in reemerging from the COVID-19 lockdowns will likely be those that did a better job adapting to the pandemic, said White-Hammond. Eight in 10 congregants in the U.S. reported that their services were being streamed online, Pew said.

Those that kept a connection with congregants and relied less on the physical passing of the plate for donations stand a better chance of emerging unscathed, White-Hammond said.

In Charlotte, North Carolina, Temple Beth El was closed during the pandemic but kept congregants in touch through events like "challah day." Volunteers baked over 900 loaves of the bread, which

were delivered to homes so worshippers could share them over a Shabbat meal.

There will be no returning to "normal" after the pandemic, said Rabbi Dusty Klass. "There were people who went home and may never come back to the sanctuary. They may just pray from their couch. It's up to us to make sure they have the opportunity."

The All Dulles Area Muslim Society, whose main campus is in Sterling, Virginia, said some of its 11 locations have reopened to worshippers with safety measures.

"If COVID is gone 100%, I firmly believe our community would be fully back because people crave ... to be together," said Rizwan Jaka, chair of interfaith and media relations.

In San Francisco, the historic Old St. Mary's Cathedral survived when members rebuilt after a

fire following the 1906 earthquake but it has struggled mightily during the pandemic to stay open.

The 160-year-old Roman Catholic church, which is heavily dependent on older worshippers and tourists, lost most of its revenue after parishes closed during the pandemic. During those "dark hours," the Rev. John Ardis had to dismiss most of the lay staff, cut the salary of a priest and close the parish preschool.

The plaster is crumbling, the paint is peeling off the walls and dozens of its stained-glass windows need to be replaced.

"But those are secondary at the moment," Ardis said. "Because I'm just basically trying to keep the doors open."

Here in New England, any slide could be more acute since a smaller proportion of residents

identify as religious.

In Maine, Judy Grant, 77, was a newcomer to Waldoboro who started watching the services online and then began attending in person.

She's upset by the closure.

"I'm extremely disappointed," she said. "A lot of churches are closing. I think COVID had a big part in this latest shrinkage, but they were shrinking even before that," she said.

The final service was emotional, with both smiles and tears, as nearly 60 gathered in the sanctuary. Foster preached about new beginnings and encouraged people to continue their faith.

Afterward, people began removing some of the church's contents, including religious paintings, some furniture and other items.

SPIRITUAL OUTLOOK

America: the perfect soil for a rebirth of Al-Islam

By MICHAEL SAAHIR



Al-Islam, commonly called "Islam," is a universal religion for all of mankind; it is not only for Muslims. Therefore, Prophet Muhammed (prayers and peace be upon him), the Qur'an (Al-Islam's holy book), even the Islamic religion is not just for the benefit of Muslims. Instead, all the forementioned and advancement of the universality of humanity.

Many Muslims believe the last words of revelation received by Prophet Muhammed from our Creator read, "This day have those who reject faith given up all hope of your religion: yet fear them not but fear Me. This day have I perfected your religion for you, completed My favor upon you, and have chosen for you Al-Islam as your religion" (Qur'an, chapter 5, verse 3).

The freedom of religion as established in the First Amendment — "Congress



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shall make no law respecting an establishment of religion, or prohibiting the free exercise thereof" — makes America the perfect soil for a rebirth of Al-Islam. America is an environment where Muslims are taking full advantage to study the Qur'an and the life modeled by Prophet Muhammed, studying these two key essentials of Al-Islam in an atmosphere that openly promotes freedom of thought, freedom of conscious and freedom of speech.

Sadly, in many "Islamic societies," these freedoms don't exist, at least not to the

level we're accustomed to in America. Some Muslim immigrants to America have stated that it wasn't until migrating to America that they were able to practice Al-Islam conscientiously, beyond mere rituals.

Al-Islam during the lifetime of Prophet Muhammed, particularly in Medina, is probably the first true expression of democracy in a community setting where multiple religions, ethnicities and cultures blended in unity while maintaining a diversity that recognized: "This day have I perfected your religion for you, completed My favor upon you, and have chosen for you Al-Islam as your religion each distinct group and respected each individual."

In 1943 it was a white American woman, Rose Wilder Lane, who noted the strong compatibility of America and Al-Islam in her book, "The Discovery of Freedom: Man's Struggle Against Authority." Lane wrote about three historical efforts to establish societies that were free to serve both

See OUTLOOK, B2 ►

OUTLOOK

►Continued from B1

their Creator and the good of mankind. She gives credit first to Prophet Abraham — called the “first attempt” — at successfully challenging paganism and authoritarianism. The second and third successful attempts to establish free societies, Lane notes, were achieved, respectfully, by Prophet Muhammed and the United States of America.

Due to the diligence of Muslim Americans, dating back even to the contributions of great men like the Honorable Timothy Drew Ali and the Honorable Elijah Muhammad, slowly but surely Al-Islam has evolved to become one of the well-rooted religions in America. Yes, an American-based Islam, albeit in its infancy, is now part and parcel of our American thinking, conversations and a viable alternative as an open expression of faith.

A special beauty of Al-Islam in an open and free society is that Muslim Americans are not burdened by the social and cultural oppressive baggage that often accompanies Islam as practiced in many Islamic societies around the world. On a larger scale, America is the perfect soil for a rebirth of all of Islam as modeled by Prophet Muhammed in Medina.

Sadly, too many of our Muslim societies around the world go against the Qur’an in their treatment of women and the poor and true public democracy. They are in need of a rebirth, an “Islamic renaissance,” and the best Islamic community to model that Islamic rebirth is the evolving community of Muslims in the U.S., particularly African American Muslims who has savored the struggles of America’s Civil Rights Movement as well as the growing pains of reconciling one’s entire life with a new religion. This sacred combination — America’s free and open society — is the perfect opportunity for baptizing (submerging) our life energies so that we can rise up energized for the

expressed purpose of building a better, more inclusive America that continues to respect freedom of choice and freedom of religion.

As Muslims around the world study the development of Al-Islam on our American soil, within an American context, yet fully Quranic, they will witness this American model of Al-Islam, a model that can revitalize their understanding and practice of Islam in their respective nations and communities.

Muslim American leader, Imam W. Deen Mohammed shared that, “Islam and democracy place high value on the human being.” He added, “Islam is addressing that. Islam wants to bring the good news to the human family, especially, to the oppressed of the human family that, “This world’s leaders, the oppressors of your humanity, they have evaluated you and have estimated you to be something very mean, low and cheap in your reality; but G_d has not. G_d, who created you respects you, and He highly values, or He places a high value on you, on your real human worth.”

Imam Mohammed concluded, “So, American democracy and Islam come into the world to challenge this idea in the power structure of the world that the human being, in his true human state, is not much to be respected.”

Al-Islam in America is in the best place, the perfect place, for giving a rebirth to the high human worth and value, a rebirth that shows how our Creator taught Prophet Muhammed how he intended life to be for all people.

May the Peace that only G_d (Allah) can give be with you!

Michael “Mikal” Saahir is the resident Imam of Nur-Allah Islamic Center. He can be reached at nur-allah@att.net or at 317-753-3754.

BIBLE TRIVIA

by Wilson Casey

- 1) Is the book of Ecclesiastes in the Old or New Testament or neither?
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BIBLE WORD SEARCH

by Elie’s Spiritual Treasures

Psalm 91:3-4

Surely he will **save** you **from** the **fowler’s snare** and from the **deadly pestilence**. He will **cover** you **with** his **feathers**, and **under** his **wings** you will **find refuge**; his faithfulness **will** be **your shield** and **rampart**.

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

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

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L	U	A	N	A	E	V	U	I	A
E	F	R	G	M	L	E	N	H	E
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OUTLOOK

Continued from B1

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E	F	R	G	M	L	E	N	H	E
R	E	E	S	P	I	R	D	S	D
U	R	F	E	A	T	H	E	R	S
S	Y	O	U	R	S	F	R	O	M
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Arts Council of Indianapolis grants focused on equity

By BREANNA COOPER
BreannaC@indyrecorder.com

Sixty-nine nonprofit arts and culture organizations in Indianapolis, a majority of which are led by or serve people of color, received a combined \$1.2 million in grants from the Arts Council of Indianapolis and the city.

“We’re excited to support nearly 70 organizations through this funding, in partnership with the Arts Council,” Indianapolis Mayor Joe Hogsett said in a statement. “These grants are a clear demonstration of the city’s commitment to equity and inclusion, as well as our commitment to a robust arts ecosystem across our neighborhoods.”

The grants, which range from \$2,000 to \$75,000, were awarded through a juried, independent public panel administered by the Arts Council. The criteria this year centered racial diversity, equity, inclusion and access and were evaluated on artistic merit, organizational capacity and community impact.

Of the top 10 scoring organizations, which include the Asante Art Institute, Big Car Collaborative and the Indianapolis Jazz Foundation, 40% of awardees are operated by or serve predominately Black and brown communities.

“This program will become an important barometer of our sector’s progress to advance racial equity as organizations compete for public funds based on accountability criteria developed with direct input from arts leaders,” Arts Council President and CEO Julie Goodman said. “We’re encouraged that 40% of the top-scoring applicants are African American or Latino-centered organizations. This tells



Actors during a production of “Hype Man” at Fonseca Theatre Company. Fonseca Theatre Company received a \$45,610 grant from the Arts Council of Indianapolis. (Photo/Ankh Productions)

us the new criteria is working to ensure that the allocation of public funding through this program represents the community we serve.”

Ernest Disney-Britton, vice president of community impact and investment for the Arts Council, said the council has had conversations about equity and diversity since 2015, around the same time the Arts Council created its equity statement and guide to grantmaking.

“This was also the time when our board made a point of asking about racial diversity when we did site visits amongst organizations,” Britton-Disney said. “Change doesn’t come

overnight, but it’s a steady and incremental process and so, what we’ve seen in terms of progress on all fronts, there has been continued impact and prioritization of community impact.”

The money awarded to the organizations are intended to be general operating support, meaning it can be used for anything the organization deems a priority. Oftentimes, Disney-Britton said, organizations centered around people of color are awarded project pool grants, which come with strict restrictions on how the money can be used. These grants, funded by the city, will assist with ever-changing

financial needs organizations may face throughout the course of a year.

While organizations didn’t have to indicate what the money would be used for, Disney-Britton said he’s excited to see how the funding will help Fonseca Theater — which received over \$45,000 — create an additional space within the Haughville complex for community-centered programming. Further, he looks forward to seeing Asante Children’s Theatre expand its programming and reach.

While these grants directly benefit arts and cultural organizations, the entire community benefits, Disney-Britton

said, when it has a thriving arts scene.

“When people see the talent that is here, and creatives are engaged and visible and working within the community, arts organizations become more reflective of the entire community,” Disney-Britton said. “That leads to higher levels of engagement and can lead to partnerships that can help the community in various ways. We are all impacted by the arts.”

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

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STATE OF INDIANA) IN HAMILTON SUPERIOR COURT 2) SS: COUNTY OF HAMILTON) CAUSE NO. 29D02-2101-AD-000030

IN THE MATTER OF THE ADOPTION OF KING ROYAL ROBERT PATTON, Minor Child NOTICE OF ADOPTION TO: Timothy Patton Via Publication - Indianapolis Recorder Timothy Patton is notified that a Petition for Adoption of the minor Child, named King Royal Robert Patton, who was born on the 6th day of December, 2018, and is the Child of Sarah Orton and Timothy Patton, was filed in the Office of the Clerk of the Hamilton County Superior Court No. 1, One Hamilton Square, Noblesville, Indiana, under the title: In the Matter of the Adoption of King Royal Robert Patton. The Petition alleges that Timothy Patton is the Biological Father of the minor Child; however, his consent is not required and/or are irrevocably implied. Timothy Patton abandoned or deserted King Royal Robert Patton at least 6 months immediately preceding the date of filing of this Petition; or has failed without justifiable cause to communicate significantly with King Royal Robert Patton when able to do so for at least one year while King Royal Robert Patton has been in the custody of another person; or has knowingly failed to provide for the care and support of King Royal Robert Patton when able to do so as required by law or judicial decree for at least one year while King Royal Robert Patton has been in the custody of another person. Further, the consent of Timothy Patton is not required because he is too unfit to be a parent to King Royal Robert Patton and the child's best interests would be served by dispensing with their consents.

If Timothy Patton seeks to contest the adoption of the Child, then he must file a motion to contest the adoption in accordance with IC 31-19-10-1 in the above-named court not later than thirty (30) days after the date of service of this Notice. If Timothy Patton files a motion to contest the adoption within thirty (30) days after service of this notice, the above-named court will hear and determine the Petition for Adoption. The consent to the adoption of King Royal Robert Patton will be irrevocably implied. Timothy Patton will lose the right to contest either the adoption or the validity of Timothy Patton's implied consent to the adoption. No oral statement made by the Petitioners relieve Timothy Patton of their obligations under this notice. This notice complies with IC 31-19-4.5-3, but does not exhaustively set forth a person's legal obligations under the Indiana adoption statutes. A person being served with this notice should consult the Indiana adoption statutes. Dated: 7/13/2021 /s/ Kathy Krag Williams Kathy Williams, Clerk of Hamilton County Attorney Information: Shelley Haymaker, Attorney, 124 N. 10th St., Noblesville, IN 46060, (317) 776-0480 5320-924252

07/23/21, 07/30/21, 08/06/21

STATE OF INDIANA) IN THE MARION CIRCUIT COURT) SS: COUNTY OF MARION) CASE NO.: 49C01-2101-MI-003301
IN RE: THE CHANGE OF NAME OF: ELIZABETH FREDONIA WILLIAMS,
Also known as FREDONIA ELIZABETH WILLIAMS
Also known as ELIZABETH FREDONIA HUMPHREY, Petitioner.
ALIAS NOTICE OF HEARING FOR PUBLICATION IN NEWSPAPER
Notice is hereby given that Petitioner ELIZABETH FREDONIA HUMPHREY, also known as FREDONIA ELIZABETH WILLIAMS, also known as ELIZABETH FREDONIA HUMPHREY/ELIZABETH FREDONIA WILLIAMS to FREDONIA ELIZABETH HUMPHREY. The Petition is scheduled for hearing in the Marion Circuit Court on September 28, at 9:00 a.m., which is more than thirty (30) days after the third notice of publication. Any person has the right to appear at the hearing and to file written objections on or before the hearing date. Petitioner is ordered to report for hearing remotely/virtually, and the Court will issue a WebEx invitation for attendance at the hearing. Date Clerk of the Marion Circuit Court So Ordered: June 29, 2021 /s/ Susan Boatright Magistrate, Marion Circuit Court 5320-924249

07/23/21, 07/30/21, 08/06/21

STATE OF INDIANA) IN THE MARION SUPERIOR COURT) SS: COUNTY OF MARION) CAUSE NO.: 49D05-2105-CT-015451
CLAUDIA SAGRERO PEREZ, Plaintiff, v. SILVANO CORDOVA CORTINA and AMERICAN ACCESS CASUALTY COMPANY, Defendants.
SUMMONS - SERVICE BY PUBLICATION - NOTICE OF SUIT
1. Silvano Cordova Cortina has been sued in the Court identified above.
2. This notice is being directed to Defendant, Silvano Cordova Cortina, whose whereabouts are currently unknown, and any other individuals who may have an interest in the lawsuit captioned Claudia Sagrero Perez v. Silvano Cordova Cortina and American Access

07/23/21, 07/30/21, 08/06/21

STATE OF INDIANA) IN THE MARION SUPERIOR COURT) SS: COUNTY OF MARION) CAUSE NO.: 49D05-2105-CT-015451
CLAUDIA SAGRERO PEREZ, Plaintiff, v. SILVANO CORDOVA CORTINA and AMERICAN ACCESS CASUALTY COMPANY, Defendants.
SUMMONS - SERVICE BY PUBLICATION - NOTICE OF SUIT
1. Silvano Cordova Cortina has been sued in the Court identified above.
2. This notice is being directed to Defendant, Silvano Cordova Cortina, whose whereabouts are currently unknown, and any other individuals who may have an interest in the lawsuit captioned Claudia Sagrero Perez v. Silvano Cordova Cortina and American Access

07/23/21, 07/30/21, 08/06/21

Casualty Company, Cause No. 49D05-2105-CT-015451, in the Marion County Superior Court Civil Division 5.
3. Complaint for Damages was filed on May 7, 2021, by Plaintiff, Claudia Sagrero Perez, against Defendants, Silvano Cordova Cortina and American Access Casualty Company. Defendant's negligence directly and proximately caused a collision that occurred on August 20, 2019, in Marion County, Indiana, and resulted in the Plaintiff sustaining injuries of a personal and pecuniary nature.
4. Silvano Cordova Cortina, you must respond to the Complaint, in writing, within thirty (30) days after the last notice of the action is published. To Wit: Schiller Law Offices, LLC, 210 East Main Street, Carmel, IN 46032. If you fail to do so, judgment by default may be entered against you for the relief demanded in Plaintiff's Complaint for Damages.
7/6/2021 /s/ Myla A. Eldridge Date Clerk Of the Marion County Courts 5320-924138

07/23/21, 07/30/21, 08/06/21

STATE OF INDIANA IN THE MARION SUPERIOR COURT 5) SS: COUNTY OF MARION) CAUSE NUMBER: 49D05-2107-MF-022499
U.S. BANK NATIONAL ASSOCIATION, AS TRUSTEE FOR TERWIN MORTGAGE TRUST 2005-5SL, ASSET-BACKED CERTIFICATES, SERIES 2005-5SL, Plaintiff, vs. UNKNOWN HEIRS, DEVISEES, LEGATEES, AND PERSONAL REPRESENTATIVES, AND CREDITORS OF JULIA A. WILLIS (DECEASED), et al. Defendants.
NOTICE OF SUIT SUMMONS - SERVICE BY PUBLICATION
The State of Indiana to the defendants above named, and any other person who may be concerned. You are notified that you have been sued in the Court above named. The nature of the suit against you is a foreclosure of the real estate mortgage, legally described as: Lot Number 368 in Oak Trace, Section Two, a subdivision in Marion County, Indiana, as per plat thereof recorded February 9, 2004 as Instrument No. 2004-003653 in the Office of the Recorder of Marion County, Indiana. Parcel Number (s) 49-13-13-100-024.000-200
This property is commonly known as 5809 Minden Drive, Indianapolis, IN 46221
This summons by publication is specifically directed to the following Defendants whose addresses are known: Unknown Occupant, if any 5809 Minden Drive Indianapolis, IN 46221 Oak Trace Section II Homeowner's Association, Inc. Serve Highest Officer Found 9202 North Meridian Street, Suite 300 Indianapolis, IN 46260 State of Indiana Department of Revenue Serve Highest Executive Officer Present, 100 North Senate North 105 Indianapolis, IN 46204 Deutsche Bank National Trust Company, as indenture trustee, on behalf of the holders of the Accredited Mortgage Loan Trust 2005-1, Asset-Backed Notes Serve Highest Officer Found 3217 South Decker Lake Drive Salt Lake City, UT 84119 And to the following defendant whose addresses are unknown: Unknown heirs, devisees, legatees, and personal representatives, and creditors of Julia A. Willis (deceased) In addition to the above named Defendants being served by this summons there may be other Defendants who have an interest in this lawsuit. If you have a claim for relief against the Plaintiff arising from the same transaction or occurrence, you must assert it in your written answer. You must answer the Complaint in writing, by your attorney, on or before the 5th day of September, 2021 (the same being within thirty (30) days after the Third Notice of Suit), and if you fail to do so a judgment will be entered against you for what the Plaintiff has demanded. Matthew C. Gladwell (30493-49)

07/23/21, 07/30/21, 08/06/21

STATE OF INDIANA) IN THE MARION SUPERIOR COURT) SS: PROBATE DIVISION) ESTATE DOCKET: 49D08-2106-ES-019724
IN THE MATTER OF THE SUPERVISED ADMINISTRATION OF THE ESTATE OF FAITH LOCKARD, DECEASED
Notice is hereby given that Jan McWhirter was, on June 10, 2021, appointed Personal Representative of the Estate of Faith Lockard, deceased, who died on April 17, 2021. 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 June 10, 2021. /s/ Myla A. Eldridge Clerk of the Marion Superior Court, Probate Division 5320-924499

07/23/21, 07/30/21, 08/06/21

Tamara Rogers Attorney Notice of Administration In the Marion Superior Court Probate Division In the Matter of the Unsupervised Administration of the Estate of Kenneth Floyd Rice II, deceased. Cause No. 49D08-2106-EU-021479
Notice is hereby given that Linda Knipp, on the 29th day of June, 2021, was appointed Personal Representative of the Estate of Kenneth Floyd Rice II, who died on May 31, 2021. 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 14th July, 2021. Myla A. Eldridge Clerk, Marion County Superior Court 5320-924372

07/23/21, 07/30/21, 08/06/21

ATTORNEY: Randall R. Shouse SHOUSE & LANGLOIS/1593-19 9510 East Washington Street
Indianapolis IN 46229 Telephone: (317) 899-3500 Facsimile: (317) 899-3526 e-mail: rshouse@shouselanglois.com
Notice of Administration In the Marion County Superior Court, Probate Division In the matter of the Estate of Peggy Ann Groves, deceased. Cause Number 49D08-2101-ES-001517
Notice is hereby given that Megan Murphy was, the 14th day of January, 2021, appointed personal representative of the Estate of Peggy Ann Groves, deceased. 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 9 months after the decedent's death, whichever is earlier, or the claims will be forever barred.

Dated at Indianapolis, Indiana this 14th day of January , 2021. /s/ Myla A. Eldridge Clerk of Marion County Superior Court, Probate Division 5320-924394

07/23/21, 07/30/21

STATE OF INDIANA) IN THE MARION COUNTY SUPERIOR COURT 8) SS: PROBATE DIVISION) COUNTY OF MARION) ESTATE DOCKET: 49D08-2106-ES-019724
IN THE MATTER OF THE SUPERVISED ADMINISTRATION OF THE ESTATE OF FAITH LOCKARD, DECEASED
Notice is hereby given that Jan McWhirter was, on June 10, 2021, appointed Personal Representative of the Estate of Faith Lockard, deceased, who died on April 17, 2021. 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 June 10, 2021. /s/ Myla A. Eldridge Clerk of the Marion Superior Court, Probate Division 5320-924499

07/23/21, 07/30/21

Tamara Rogers Attorney Notice of Administration In the Marion Superior Court Probate Division In the Matter of the Unsupervised Administration of the Estate of Jerri A. Sadler, deceased. Cause No. 49D08-2106-EU-018982
Notice is hereby given that Eko Seymour, on the 4th day of June, 2021, was appointed Personal Representative of the Estate of Jerri A. Sadler, who died on October 21, 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 14th July, 2021. Myla A. Eldridge Clerk, Marion Superior Court Probate Division 5320-924373

07/23/21, 07/30/21

STATE OF INDIANA) IN THE MARION COUNTY SUPERIOR COURT) SS: PROBATE DIVISION) COUNTY OF MARION) CAUSE NO. 49D08-2106-EU-012190
IN THE MATTER OF THE UNSUPERVISED ESTATE OF BETTY DENISE LUDLUM, DECEASED
NOTICE OF F ADMINISTRATION TO: ALL CREDITORS
In the Superior Court of Marion County, Indiana. Notice is hereby given that Wendi Hill was, on June 23, 2021, appointed Personal Representative of the Estate of Betty Denise Ludlum, deceased. 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, June 23, 2021. /s/ Myla A. Eldridge Clerk, Marion County Superior Court 5320-924144

07/23/21, 07/30/21

Tamara Rogers Attorney Notice of Administration In the Marion Superior Court Probate Division In the Matter of the Unsupervised Administration of the Estate of Kenneth Floyd Rice II, deceased. Cause No. 49D08-2106-EU-021479
Notice is hereby given that Linda Knipp, on the 29th day of June, 2021, was appointed Personal Representative of the Estate of Kenneth Floyd Rice II, who died on May 31, 2021. 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 14th July, 2021. Myla A. Eldridge Clerk, Marion County Superior Court 5320-924372

07/23/21, 07/30/21, 08/06/21

Tamara Rogers Attorney Notice of Administration In the Marion Superior Court Probate Division In the Matter of the Unsupervised Administration of the Estate of Eddie Lankster, deceased. Cause No. 49D08-2107-EU-022671
Notice is hereby given that Nathan Lankster and Thomas Lankster, on the 7th day of July, 2021, were appointed Co-Personal Representatives of the Estate of Eddie Lankster, who died on June 12, 2021. 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.

07/23/21, 07/30/21, 08/06/21

claims will be forever barred. Dated at Indianapolis, Indiana this 14th July, 2021. Myla A. Eldridge Clerk, Marion Superior Court Probate Division 5320-924371

07/23/21, 07/30/21

STATE OF INDIANA) IN THE MARION COUNTY SUPERIOR COURT) ss: PROBATE DIVISION) COUNTY OF MARION) CAUSE NO. 49D08-2107-EU-023142
IN THE MATTER OF THE ESTATE OF STEVEN J. COMBS
NOTICE OF ADMINISTRATION FOR PUBLICATION
Notice is hereby given that Darlene K. Jean was on the ____ day of _____, 20____ appointed Personal Representative of the Estate of Steven J. Combs, who died on May 31, 2021. 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 Marion County, Indiana, this ____ day of _____, 20____. /s/ Myla A. Eldridge, Marion County Clerk 5320-924142

07/23/21, 07/30/21

STATE OF INDIANA) IN THE MARION SUPERIOR COURT) SS: PROBATE DIVISION) COUNTY OF MARION) ESTATE NO. 49D08-2107-EU-023793
IN THE MATTER OF THE UNSUPERVISED ADMINISTRATION OF THE ESTATE OF JUANITA LOUISE JOHNSON, DECEASED.
NOTICE OF ADMINISTRATION
Notice is hereby given that on July 15, 2021, Matthew W. Clark was appointed personal representative of the Estate of Juanita Louise Johnson, deceased, who died on June 10, 2021. All persons having 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 one (1) year after the decedent's death, whichever is earlier, or the claims will be forever barred. Dated at Indianapolis, Indiana, this 16th day of July, 2021. /s/ Myla A. Eldridge Clerk, Marion Superior Court Tony H. Abbott FOLEY & ABBOTT, LLC 151 N. Delaware Street, Ste. 1130 Indianapolis, IN 46204 (317) 261-0900 5320-924526

07/23/21, 07/30/21

SUMMONS - SERVICE BY PUBLICATION STATE OF INDIANA) IN THE MARION SUPERIOR COURT 11) SS: COUNTY OF MARION) CAUSE NO.: 49D11-2107-PL-023996
HOOSIER COLLINS COMMERCIAL STRATEGIES, LLC Plaintiff, v. HELP THE WORLD FOUNDATION, INC., SECURE CORE INDIANAPOLIS LLC, UNKNOWN PERSONS OCCUPYING THE REAL ESTATE AT 105 S. DENNY STREET, INDIANAPOLIS, INDIANA, AND UNKNOWN PERSONS CLAIMING AN INTEREST IN MACHINERY STORED AT 105 S. DENNY STREET, INDIANAPOLIS, INDIANA. Defendants.
NOTICE OF SUIT
The State of Indiana to Defendant, any unknown persons occupying the real estate at 105 S. Denny Street, Indianapolis, Indiana, and any unknown persons claiming an interest in machinery stored at 105 S. Denny Street, Indianapolis, Indiana. You are notified that you have been sued in the Court above named. The nature of the suit against you is a Complaint. This summons by publication is specifically directed to the following persons who may have an interest in the machinery stored at 105 S. Denny Street, Indianapolis, Indiana and any persons occupying the real estate at 105 S. Denny Street, that is the subject of this proceeding, and whose whereabouts and names are unknown to Plaintiff. If you have a claim for relief against the Plaintiff arising from the same transaction or occurrence, you must assert it in your written answer. You must answer the Complaint in writing, by your or your attorney, on or before the 5th day of September, 2021, (the same being within thirty (30) days after the Third Notice of Suit), and if you fail to do so, a judgment will be entered against you for what the Plaintiff has demanded. /s/ Grover B. Davis Attorney for Plaintiff ATTEST: Clerk of the Marion County Superior Court 200 East Washington Street Room No. T-1441 Indianapolis, IN 46204 Phone Number: (317) 327-4160 5320-924546

07/23/21, 07/30/21

SUMMONS -- SERVICE BY PUBLICATION STATE OF INDIANA) IN THE COURT OF MARION COUNTY) SS: COUNTY OF MARION) CAUSE NO. 49D16-2104-DN-003306
Courtney Strahan Plaintiff v. Temidayo Olanipekum

07/23/21, 07/30/21, 08/06/21

Defendant NOTICE OF SUIT
The State of Indiana to the defendants above named, and any other person who may be concerned. You are notified that you have been sued in the Court above named. The nature of the suit against you is divorce to Temidayo Olanipekum from Courtney Strehen. This summons by publication is specifically directed to the following named defendant(s) whose addresses are: Temidayo Olanipekum, 6119 Beachview Dr., Apt. 187, Indianapolis, IN 46224. And the the following defendant(s) whose whereabouts are unknown: Temidayo Olanipekum. In addition to the above named defendants being served by this summons, there may be other defendants who have an interest in this law suit. If you have a claim for relief against the plaintiff arising from the same transaction or occurrence, you must assert it in your written answer. You must answer the Complaint in writing, by your or your attorney, on or before the 5th day of September, 2021, (the same being within thirty (30) days after the Third Notice of Suit), and if you fail to do so a judgment will be entered against you for what the plaintiff has demanded. ATTEST: Clerk of the Marion County Court 5320-924329

07/23/21, 07/30/21

NOTICE OF COMMITTEE MEETING
Notice is hereby given that a meeting of the Long Term Care Committee of the Board of Trustees of the Health & Hospital Corporation of Marion County, Indiana, will be held at 9:30 a.m. on Tuesday, July 27, 2021. The meeting is noticed and will be held via electronic means due to the COVID-19 Coronavirus Public Health Emergency in accordance with Indiana Governor Holcomb's Executive Order 21-16 and IC 5-14-1.5-3.7. Attendees may join by phone using the following information: P h o n e n u m b e r : 1.415.655.0001 Access code: 172.605.4788 Paul Babcock President and Chief Executive Officer of the Health & Hospital Corporation of Marion County, Indiana NOTICE OF COMMITTEE MEETING
Notice is hereby given that a meeting of the Public Health Committee of the Board of Trustees of the Health & Hospital Corporation of Marion County, Indiana will be held at 11 a.m. on Tuesday, July 27, 2021. The meeting is noticed and will be held via electronic means due to the COVID-19 Coronavirus Public Health Emergency in accordance with Indiana Governor Holcomb's Executive Order 21-16 and IC 5-14-1.5-3.7. Attendees may join by phone using the following information: P h o n e n u m b e r : 1.415.655.0001 Access code: 172.561.5115 Paul Babcock President and Chief Executive Officer of the Health & Hospital Corporation of Marion County, Indiana NOTICE OF COMMITTEE MEETING
Notice is hereby given that a meeting of the Finance Committee of the Board of Trustees of the Health & Hospital Corporation of Marion County, Indiana will be held at 12 p.m. on Tuesday, July 27, 2021. The meeting is noticed and will be held via electronic means due to the COVID-19 Coronavirus Public Health Emergency in accordance with Indiana Governor Holcomb's Executive Order 21-16 and IC 5-14-1.5-3.7. Attendees may join by phone using the following information: P h o n e n u m b e r : 1.415.655.0001 Access code: 172.392.2878 Paul Babcock President and Chief Executive Officer of the Health & Hospital Corporation of Marion County, Indiana NOTICE OF MEETING
Notice is hereby given that an Executive Session of the Board of Trustees of the Health & Hospital Corporation of Marion County, Indiana, will be held at 1 p.m. on Tuesday, July 27, 2021. The meeting is noticed and will be held via electronic means due to the COVID-19 Coronavirus Public Health Emergency in accordance with Indiana Governor Holcomb's Executive Order 21-16 and IC 5-14-1.5-3.7. The session will be held to discuss collective bargaining, initiation of litigation or litigation that is either pending or has been threatened specifically in writing, the implementation of security systems, the purchase or lease of real property by the governing body up to the time a contract or option to purchase or lease is executed by the parties, receipt of information about prospective employees/interview prospect employees, personnel matters, bids, proposals or arrangements that will be competitively awarded among health care providers, recruitment of health care providers, competitive marketing strategies and strategic planning of the Corporation. Paul Babcock President and Chief Executive Officer of the Health & Hospital Corporation of Marion County, Indiana NOTICE OF MEETING
Notice is hereby given that a Board meeting of the Trustees of the Health & Hospital Corporation of Marion County, Indiana, will be held at 2 p.m. on Tuesday, July 27, 2021. The meeting is noticed and will be held via electronic means due to the COVID-19 Coronavirus Public Health Emergency in accordance with Indiana Governor Holcomb's Executive Order 21-16 and IC 5-14-1.5-3.7. Attendees may join by phone using the following information: P h o n e n u m b e r : 1.415.655.0001 Access code: 172.545.9312 Paul Babcock President and Chief Executive Officer of the Health & Hospital Corporation of Marion County, Indiana

07/23/21, 07/30/21, 08/06/21

Indianapolis Public Transportation Corporation (IPTC) Invitation for Bid (IFB) 21-07-409 IndyGo East Campus Administration Construction Project.
IndyGo is seeking bids from qualified General Contractors!!
Project is an interior renovation consisting of minimal existing office demolition, build-out of approx. 40 offices & 10 meeting spaces with updated finishes. Includes corresponding revisions to HVAC, electrical/data, & limited plumbing alterations. Solicitation Release July 15, 2021
Pre-Bid Meeting July 19, 2021 at 3:00pm
Site location 9503 E. 33rd St. Indianapolis, IN 46235 / Only Site Visit date/time offered! Questions Due July 22, 2021 by 3:00 p.m. (EST). Answers Provided July 29, 2021 (Posted on IndyGoWebsite)
Bids Due August 10, 2021 at 12:00 p.m. (EST) / See Bidding documents. Bid Opening August 10, 2021 at 12:15 p.m. (EST) Teams Public Meeting. IPTC Board Meeting August 26, 2021 at 5:00 p.m. / Public Meeting.
No late Bids accepted and proposals must be hard copies. To access Solicitation / Bid Documents please email request to Dave Adamson at dadamson@indygo.net, at that time bidding documents will be emailed, also available on IndyGo website: <https://www.indygo.net/procurement/bid-opportunities/> 5320-924392
07/23/21, 07/30/21, 08/06/21

Indianapolis Airport Authority Indianapolis International Airport INVITATION TO BIDDERS Electronic Bids (E-bids) will be received via PlanetBids (IAA's solicitation management system) by the Indianapolis Airport Authority, for Corporate Hangar Development Infrastructure - Sanitary Main and Three-Phase Extension at the Indianapolis Regional Airport, Project No. C-19-095. All bids will be submitted electronically and opened via a Virtual Meeting and read aloud on August 10, 2021 at 11:00 a.m. E.T. No bids will be permitted after the designated time. To attend the bid opening on-line (virtual meeting), please contact P&DAdmins@ind.com. Bids are desired as set forth in the Instructions to Bidders, which is part of the specifications. Each bid shall include all work, labor, equipment and materials necessary to complete the project as required in strict compliance with the drawings and specifications (Plans) prepared by Shrewsberry & Associates, LLC, 7321 Shadeland Station, Indianapolis, Indiana 46256. Pursuant to the repeal of Indiana Code § 5-16-7, effective July 1, 2015, common construction wages are not required on this project. The Indianapolis Airport Authority, in accordance with the provisions of Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964 (78 Stat. 252, 42 U.S.C. §§ 2000d to 2000d-4) and the Regulations, hereby notifies all bidders that it will affirmatively ensure that any contract entered into pursuant to this advertisement, disadvantaged business enterprises will be afforded full and fair opportunity to submit Bids in response to this invitation and will not be discriminated against on the grounds of race, color, or national origin in consideration for an award. In accordance with Indiana Code Section 5-16-13-1, et seq., prequalification with the Indiana Department of Administration (IDOA) and the Indiana Department of Transportation (INDOT) is required of all contractors, in any contractor tier, performing work under contract to the IAA which is estimated to be One Hundred Fifty thousand Dollars (\$150,000) or greater. Specifications are on file and may be examined at: BX Indiana Construction League 1028 Shelby Street Indianapolis, IN 46203 www.bxindiana.com/ConstructConnect 3825 Edwards Road, Ste. 800 Cincinnati, OH 45209 www.constructconnect.com Dodge Data & Analytics 3315 Central Avenue Hot Springs, AR 71913 www.construction.com Shrewsberry & Associates, LLC 7321 Shadeland Station Indianapolis, IN 46256 Plans and Bid Documents may be obtained from ReproGraphix Inc., 437 North Illinois Street, Indianapolis, Indiana 46204, 317.637.3377, or on-line at <https://www.reprographix.com>. There will be no charge for the first set of Plans and Bid Documents; additional sets may be obtained for the cost of printing and shipping. All bids shall be on Form No. 96 as prescribed by the State Board of Accounts, must be accompanied by a Financial Statement, must be properly and completely executed and shall be accompanied by a properly completed non-collusion affidavit. After opening bids, no bid shall be withdrawn for a period of sixty (60) calendar days without written consent of the Owner. All bids shall be accompanied by a scanned copy of the bid bond in an amount of not less than 5% of the contract amount. Original copy of the bid bond will be requested from the successful bidder immediately following the bid opening. Contractors awarded a contract will be required to furnish acceptable surety bonds in the amount of 100% of the contract price. Said performance, material and payment bond shall remain in effect for twelve (12) months after the date of the Owner's final acceptance of Contractor's work. Should a successful bidder withdraw their bid or fail to execute

07/23/21, 07/30/21, 08/06/21

Indianapolis Public Transportation Corporation (IPTC) Invitation for Bid (IFB) 21-07-409 IndyGo East Campus Administration Construction Project.
IndyGo is seeking bids from qualified General Contractors!!
Project is an interior renovation consisting of minimal existing office demolition, build-out of approx. 40 offices & 10 meeting spaces with updated finishes. Includes corresponding revisions to HVAC, electrical/data, & limited plumbing alterations. Solicitation Release July 15, 2021
Pre-Bid Meeting July 19, 2021 at 3:00pm
Site location 9503 E. 33rd St. Indianapolis, IN 46235 / Only Site Visit date/time offered! Questions Due July 22, 2021 by 3:00 p.m. (EST). Answers Provided July 29, 2021 (Posted on IndyGoWebsite)
Bids Due August 10, 2021 at 12:00 p.m. (EST) / See Bidding documents. Bid Opening August 10, 2021 at 12:15 p.m. (EST) Teams Public Meeting. IPTC Board Meeting August 26, 2021 at 5:00 p.m. / Public Meeting.
No late Bids accepted and proposals must be hard copies. To access Solicitation / Bid Documents please email request to Dave Adamson at dadamson@indygo.net, at that time bidding documents will be emailed, also available on IndyGo website: <https://www.indygo.net/procurement/bid-opportunities/> 5320-924392
07/23/21, 07/30/21, 08/06/21

Indianapolis Airport Authority Indianapolis International Airport INVITATION TO BIDDERS Electronic Bids (E-bids) will be received via PlanetBids (IAA's solicitation management system) by the Indianapolis Airport Authority, for Corporate Hangar Development Infrastructure - Sanitary Main and Three-Phase Extension at the Indianapolis Regional Airport, Project No. C-19-095. All bids will be submitted electronically and opened via a Virtual Meeting and read aloud on August 10, 2021 at 11:00 a.m. E.T. No bids will be permitted after the designated time. To attend the bid opening on-line (virtual meeting), please contact P&DAdmins@ind.com. Bids are desired as set forth in the Instructions to Bidders, which is part of the specifications. Each bid shall include all work, labor, equipment and materials necessary to complete the project as required in strict compliance with the drawings and specifications (Plans) prepared by Synthesis Incorporated, 251 N. Illinois Street, Suite 200, Indianapolis, IN 46204. Pursuant to the repeal of Indiana Code § 5-16-7, effective July 1, 2015, common construction wages are not required on this project. The Indianapolis Airport Authority, in accordance with the provisions of Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964 (78 Stat. 252, 42 U.S.C. §§ 2000d to 2000d-4) and the Regulations, hereby notifies all bidders that it

Businesses express concerns with finding workers as pandemic winds down

By **ABRIANA HERRON**
aherron@indyrecorder.com

As COVID-19 guidelines ease, Black-owned businesses and businesses with a majority Black staff are searching for more employees; however, many companies have struggled to find them. These companies attribute their worker shortage to various factors including unemployment wages, certification requirements and limited benefits for their workers.

Congress passed a COVID-19 relief bill in January that added \$300 to weekly unemployment benefits. With the intention of getting people to return to work, Gov. Eric Holcomb ended the extra relief money for unemployed Hoosiers on June 19. The state was ordered by the Court of Appeals of Indiana to continue paying federal unemployment benefits temporarily, challenging Gov. Holcomb's decision.

William Birdsong understands why these benefits are needed but believes people might be abusing these resources.

"There's so many people who are taking advantage of unemployment benefits when they could be working," he said.

Birdsong is the CEO and co-founder of DocuMentor — a company that provides software solutions for health care and social service agencies.

Historically, minority groups have the highest unemployment rates in the country, Black and Native Americans being at the top of the list. According to the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics, in May 135,178 people were unemployed in Indiana and 46,407 people were unemployed in Indianapolis.

While Birdsong's company is adequately staffed, the companies he provides services for are not. Since these companies do not have enough people working, Birdsong has made many price negotiations for his software, leading his company to lose money in the process.

"The essence of the problem is that it's a low paying industry," he said. The pandemic has brought attention to the insufficient pay companies provide to their employees and many people are demanding better wages and better benefits from companies to be hired on. For Calvin Jones, owner of Techucate and Code Black Indy, the pandemic has also highlighted the resources that he cannot provide to his employees.

Jones said a lot more people are looking for positions that provide benefits such as health insurance, and because his companies are young — Code Black Indy began in 2018 and Techucate in 2021 — he does not have the resources to provide his employees with benefits. His goal is to

offer suitable benefits for all employees in the future.

He needs people with the certifications and skills to teach others how to make and fix hardware. He's struggling to find those educators.

"Sometimes we can find teachers, but they don't have a technical background," he said. "Sometimes we can find someone with a technical background but no teaching experience. You have the certification, but you really have to have the passion to teach."

Jerald Cosey, operational leadership development director at American Senior Communities, did not notice a shortage of workers when he was executive director at one of the company's nursing home eight months ago. However, some of the positions require certifications, which can limit potential hires. Certified nursing assistants (CNAs), licensed practical nurses (LPNs) and registered nurses (RNs) require a certification or a license to be hired at any nursing facility.

"We have to be intentional about identification of talent, and we have to be intentional of development of talent," he said.

Contact staff writer Abriana Herron at 317-924-5243. Follow her on Twitter and @Abri_onyai.

What is going on with unemployment benefits?

The Department of Workforce Development has made unemployment vouchers accessible to unemployed people throughout Indiana. This comes after Gov. Holcomb decided to end federal unemployment benefits June 19 to get people back into the workforce. A Marion County Superior Court judge ruled to continue paying federal unemployment benefits temporarily and this decision was reinforced by the Court of Appeals of Indiana.

How can you receive benefits dating back to June 19?

Claimants must submit weekly vouchers to receive benefits from relief funding from June 19 and the weeks following.

When does the extra \$300 end?

Pandemic unemployment benefits are to end by Sept. 6; however, benefits could end earlier depending on how the lawsuit is ruled.

Is there any more information you should know?

People may be required to file a new unemployment insurance claim because of the change to the third quarter July 4 to receive federal unemployment benefits. To sign up for unemployment benefits, visit in.gov.

LEGAL SERVICES CLASSIFIED

residence address is: Marion County, Indiana, hereby gives notice that, on the 26th day of May, 2021, she filed a petition in the Marion Circuit Court, requesting that her name be changed to Lavonna Ann Jefferson. Notice is further given that a hearing will be held on said Petition on the 17th day of September, 2021, at 9:00 o'clock a.m. Any person has the right to appear at this hearing and to file objections. THIS MATTER WILL BE HEARD REMOTELY/VIRTUALLY, and the court will issue a WebEx invitation for attendance at the hearing. /s/ Lavonne Ann Barker So Ordered: June 9, 2021 Petitioner Date: 5/20/2021 /s/ Susan Boatright Magistrate, Marion Circuit Court 5320-924041 07/16/21, 07/23/21, 07/30/21

STATE OF INDIANA) IN THE MARION SUPERIOR CIRCUIT COURT) SS: COUNTY OF MARION) CAUSE NO. 49C01-2107-MF-022770 FORUM CREDIT UNION Plaintiff, Vs. UNKNOWN HEIRS AND DEVISEES OF JOSEPH A. SWIFT; BOWMAN HEINTZ BOSCIA & VICIAN; CARL DAVIS; JEFFERSON CAPITAL SYSTEMS, LLC; MORTGAGE ELECTRONIC REGISTRATION SYSTEMS, INC., AS NOMINEE FOR HSBC MORTGAGE CORPORATION (USA); OCWEN FINANCIAL CORPORATION AS SUCCESSOR IN INTEREST TO SAXON MORTGAGE, INC.; DEFENDANT(S). FILE NO. 21-005140 NOTICE OF SUIT The State of Indiana to the defendants named above and any other person or persons who may be concerned. You are notified that you have been sued in the Court named above. The nature of the suit against you is: Foreclosure of real estate mortgage on: Lot 162 in C.E. and W. H. Johnson's East 10th Street Addition, amended, as recorded in Plat Book 15, page 63, in the Office of the Recorder of Marion County, Indiana. This summons by publication is specifically directed to the following named defendant whose whereabouts are unknown: The Unknown Heirs and Devisees Joseph A. Swift In addition to the above named defendants being served by this summons there may be other defendants who have an interest in this lawsuit. If you have a claim for relief against the plaintiff arising from the same transaction of occurrence, you must assert it in your written answer. You must answer the Complaint in writing, by you or your attorney, within thirty (30) days after the third Notice of Suit is published, and if you fail to do so, a judgment will be entered against you for what the plaintiff has demanded. PADGETT LAW GROUP By: /s/ Lynn C. Pluister JENNIFER FITZWATER, Attorney for Plaintiff LYNN PLUISTER, Attorney for Plaintiff ELYSSAM.MEADE, Attorney for Plaintiff ATTEST: /s/ Myla A. Eldridge Clerk of the Marion Superior Circuit Court JENNIFER R. FITZWATER, 22981-49-A LYNN C. PLUISTER, 26499-71 ELYSSA M. MEADE, 25352-64 PADGETT LAW GROUP 10475 Crosspoint Blvd. Suite 250 Indianapolis, IN 46256 (850) 422-2520 (telephone) (850) 422-2567 (facsimile) lnattorney@padgettlawgroup.com THIS IS AN ATTEMPT TO COLLECT A DEBT AND ANY INFORMATION OBTAINED WILL BE USED FOR THAT PURPOSE. THIS COMMUNICATION IS FROM A DEBT COLLECTOR. 5320-924029 07/16/21, 07/23/21, 07/30/21

STATE OF INDIANA) IN THE MARION SUPERIOR COURT) SS: PROBATE DIVISION) COUNTY OF MARION) CAUSE NO.: 49D08-2106-EU-020232 IN THE MATTER OF: THE ESTATE OF JUDITH ILENE CYPHERS N O T I C E O F ADMINISTRATION In the Superior Court 8 of Marion County, Indiana. Notice is hereby given that Theresa Thomason, on July 8, 2021, was appointed personal representative of the Estate of Judith Ilene Cyphers, deceased, who died on March 29, 2021. 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 JULY 8, 2021. /s/ Myla A. Eldridge CLERK OF SUPERIOR COURT 8 FOR MARION COUNTY, INDIANA 5320-924090 07/16/21, 07/23/21, 07/30/21

ATTORNEY: Jennifer G. Ruby, #23479-49 Attorney-at-Law 5427 Julian Avenue Indianapolis, Indiana 46219 (317) 332-3757 Notice of Administration In The Marion Superior Court - Probate Division, County Of Marion, State Of Indiana In The Matter Of The Estate Of Lucy M. Baker, Deceased. Cause No. 49D08-2107-EU-022805 Notice is hereby given that Monica Schmidt was on the 8th day of July, 2021, appointed personal representatives of the Estate of Lucy M. Baker, deceased, who died on the 9th day of April, 2021. 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 8th day of July, 2021. /s/ Myla A. Eldridge Clerk of the Marion Superior Court, Probate Division 5320-924083 07/16/21, 07/23/21

SUMMONS STATE OF INDIANA) IN THE MARION SUPERIOR COURT 9) SS: PATERNITY DIVISION -- TITLE IV-D) COUNTY OF MARION) CAUSE NO. 49D09-2105-JP-004134 IN RE: THE PATERNITY OF Izcaili Olivo Mendoza Camila Olivo Mendoza Ernesto Olivo Ventura, Petitioner, v. Dulce Soledad Mendoza Barranco, Respondent, To: Dulce Soledad Mendoza Barranco Cerrado Monte Prizles Mz.29 Lt 2 casa 2 La Alborada, Cuautitlan De Mexico 54803 You are hereby notified that you have been sued by the Petitioner to establish Paternity Custody and Child Support. Attached is a Verified Petition for Paternity and an Appearance. If this summons is accompanied by an Order to Appear, you must appear in Court on the date and time stated in the Order to Appear. If you do not appear, evidence may be heard in your absence and a determination made by the Court. If a Temporary Restraining Order is attached, it is effective immediately upon your receipt or knowledge of the Order. If you wish to retain an attorney to represent you in this matter, it is advisable to do so before the date stated in the Order to Appear. If you take no action in this case after receipt of this

summons, the Court can grant a Legal Separation or make a determination regarding any of the following: paternity, child custody, child support, maintenance, visitation, property division (real or personal) and any other distribution of assets and debts. Dated: 5/18/2021 /s/ Myla A. Eldridge Clerk, Marion County Courts 5320-923798 07/16/21, 07/16/21, 07/23/21

SUMMONS - SERVICE BY PUBLICATION STATE OF INDIANA) IN THE SUPERIOR COURT OF MARION COUNTY) SS: COUNTY OF MARION) CAUSE NO.: 49D10-2106-DC-00470 Folarinwa Laoye Plaintiff(s) -V- Adetutu Laoye Defendant(s) ORDER The court, having considered Petitioner's Praecipe for Service by Publication in Marion County, Indiana, and being duly advised, hereby Grants said request. Respondent may be served for Notice of these proceedings by publication in Marion County, IN. SO ORDERED this 21st day of June, 2021. Judge, Marion County Superior Court Distribution: Plaintiff/Petitioner: Folarinwa Laoye 2329 Four Oaks Dr., Apt. A Indianapolis, IN 46224 Defendant/Respondent: Adetutu Laoye Address Unknown 5320-924046 07/16/21, 07/23/21, 07/30/21

SUMMONS - SERVICE BY PUBLICATION STATE OF INDIANA) IN THE SUPERIOR COURT OF MARION COUNTY) SS: COUNTY OF MARION) CAUSE NO. 49D16-2106-DC-005035 Ronke R. Smith, Plaintiff(s) -V- Tayo H. Oyinloye Defendant(s) ORDER The court, having considered Petitioner's Praecipe for Service by Publication in Marion County, Indiana, and being duly advised, hereby Grants said request. Respondent may be served for Notice of these proceedings by publication in Marion County, IN. SO ORDERED this 21st day of June, 2021. Judge, Marion County Superior Court Distribution: Plaintiff/Petitioner: 609 Beachway Dr. Apt. 19 Indianapolis, IN 46224 Defendant/Respondent: Address Unknown 5320-924044 07/16/21, 07/23/21, 07/30/21

STATE OF INDIANA) IN THE MARION SUPERIOR COURT) SS: COUNTY OF MARION) CAUSE NO. 49C01-2106-MI-005208 NOTICE OF PETITION FOR CHANGE OF NAME McKINLEY TORENCE PHILLIPS, Petitioner CAUSE NO.: 49C01-2106-MI-005208 NOTICE OF PETITION FOR CHANGE OF NAME McKINLEY TORENCE PHILLIPS, whose mailing address is 928 Beal Way, Indianapolis, IN 46217 in Marion County, Indiana, hereby gives notice that he has filed a petition in the Marion Circuit Court requesting that his name be changed to Torrance Kenton Phillips. Notice is further given that the hearing will be held on said petition on the 24th day of September, 2021, at 9:00 a.m. ORDER THIS MATTER having come before the Marion Circuit Court upon the Petitioner's Motion to Continue Hearing and the Court being duly advised in the premises, now finds that it should be granted. IT IS THEREFORE

ORDERED, ADJUDGED AND DECREED by the Court that hearing on Petitioner's Verified Petition for Change of Name is hereby set for the 24th day of September, 2021, commencing at 9:00 o'clock a.m. So ordered this 28th day of June, 2021. Susan Boatright, Magistrate, Marion Circuit Court 5320-923412 07/09/21, 07/16/21, 07/23/21

STATE OF INDIANA) IN THE MARION CIRCUIT COURT) SS: CIVIL DIVISION) COUNTY OF MARION) CAUSE NO. 49C01-2105-MI-016489 IN RE: THE NAME CHANGE OF: DEBORAH ANN "DOBA" CRAIG, nee DEBORAH ANN BECKAGE Petitioner. ORDER SETTING HEARING AND NOTICE OF FILING PETITION FOR CHANGE OF NAME Notice is hereby given that, on May 17, 2021, Deborah Ann ("Doba") Craig, nee Deborah Ann Beckage, an adult female, filed a Petition in the Marion County Circuit Court, under cause number 49C01-2105-MI-016489, to change her legal name from Deborah Ann Beckage to Doba Craig. A hearing on the Petition is set in the Marion County Circuit Court, located at Room W-506, City-Country Building, 200 E. Washington Street, Indianapolis, Indiana 46204, on the 27th day of August, 2021, at 9:00 a.m. o'clock. This matter will be heard remotely and the Court will issue a WebEx/Zoom invitation for attendance at the hearing. In accordance with Indiana Code § 34-28-2-3(a), Notice of the Petition is being made by three (3) weekly publications in the Indianapolis Recorder, a newspaper of general circulation in Marion County, Indiana, with the final publication not less than thirty (30) days before the date of the above hearing. Dated at Indianapolis, Indiana, this 18th day of May, 2021. /s/ Susan Boatright /s/ Myla A. Eldridge Magistrate, Marion Circuit Court Clerk of the Circuit Court of Marion County, Indiana Distribution: Tony H. Abbott Foley & Abbott, LLC 151 N. Delaware Street, Suite 1130 Indianapolis, IN 46204 5320-923368 07/09/21, 07/16/21, 07/23/21

STATE OF INDIANA) IN THE MARION CIRCUIT COURT) SS: COUNTY OF MARION) CASE NO. 49C01-2106-MI-019728 In The Matter of the Name Change of Marion Gonzalez Townson ORDER SETTING HEARING AND NOTICE OF PETITION FOR NAME CHANGE Marion Gonzalez Townson, whose mailing and residence address is 7300 Highland Rd., Apt. B, Indianapolis, IN 46268, in Marion County, Indiana, gives notice that she has filed a petition in the Marion Circuit Court on June 10, 2021, requesting that her name be formally changed to Jinx Jinx. A hearing will be held on her Petition on September 21, 2021, at 9:00 a.m. Any person has a right to appear at the hearing and file objections. This matter will be heard remotely/virtually, and the Court will issue a WebEx invitation for attendance at the hearing. Dated: June 15, 2021 /s/ Myla A. Eldridge Clerk of the Marion Circuit Court Dennis K. Frick So Ordered: 6/15/2021 Attorney for Marion Gonzalez Townson /s/ Susan Boatright Indiana Legal Services, Inc. Magistrate, Marion Circuit Court 1200 Madison Ave., Ste. 300 (Seal) Indianapolis, IN 46225 07/09/21, 07/16/21, 07/23/21

5320-923391 07/09/21, 07/16/21, 07/23/21

STATE OF INDIANA) IN THE MARION CIRCUIT COURT) SS: COUNTY OF MARION) CAUSE NO. 49C01-2106-MI-020403 IN RE: THE NAME CHANGE OF: Kendra Ruth Hart, Petitioner. ORDER SETTING HEARING AND NOTICE OF PETITION FOR CHANGE OF NAME Kendra Ruth Hart, whose mailing address is 4532 Lesley Avenue, Indianapolis, Indiana, 46226, and, if different, my residence address is: in the Marion County, Indiana, hereby gives notice that Kendra Ruth Hart has filed a petition in the Marion County Circuit Court requesting that her name be changed to Kendra Aaron Lee Hart. Notice is further given that the hearing will be held on said Petition on September 24, 2021, at 9:00 a.m. This matter will be heard remotely/virtually, and the Court will issue a WebEx invitation for attendance at the hearing. /s/ Kendall Ruth Hart Petitioner June 16, 2021 Date /s/ Susan Boatright Judicial Officer This hearing will be held virtually. Use the information below to join through www.webex.com and selecting "Join a Meeting" or by using the toll-free number to call in. Meeting number (access code): 173 867 9021 Meeting password: cqN6fqPb853 (27663772 from phones) Join by phone: 1-844-4726 (toll free) So Ordered: 6/21/2021 5320-923523 07/09/21, 07/16/21, 07/23/21

STATE OF INDIANA) IN THE MARION CIRCUIT COURT) SS: COUNTY OF MARION) CASE NO. 49C01-2106-MI-020648 IN RE: THE NAME CHANGE OF: A S K A K I M U U M B A ABDUALLAH, an Adult, Petitioner. ORDER SETTING HEARING AND NOTICE OF PETITION FOR CHANGE OF NAME Petitioner, Askaki Muumba Abdullah, whose mailing address is P.O. Box 511, Indianapolis, Indiana 46206-0511 If different, Petitioner's residence address is 7609 Carlton Arm Drive, Indianapolis, Indiana 46256 Marion County, Indiana, hereby gives notice that on the 18th day of June, 2021, she filed a petition in the Marion Circuit Court, requesting that her name be changed to Nieci Olamide Martin. Notice is further given that a hearing will be held on said Petition on the 24th day of September, 2021, at 9:00 o'clock a.m. Any person has the right to appear at the hearing and to file objections. This matter will be heard remotely, and the Court will issue a WebEx invitation for attendance at the hearing. So Ordered: 6/22/2021 Petitioner Date: 6/8/21 /s/ Susan Boatright Magistrate, Marion Circuit Court 5320-923431 07/09/21, 07/16/21, 07/23/21

STATE OF INDIANA) IN THE MARION CIRCUIT COURT) SS: COUNTY OF MARION) CAUSE NO. 49C01-2106-MI-021015 IN THE MATTER OF THE PETITION OF: BRIANN NICHOLE CURTISS, Minor, DEBORAH CROWE, Petitioner. NOTICE OF PETITION FOR CHANGE OF NAME

Notice is hereby given that I have filed in the Office of the Clerk of Marion County Circuit Court my Petition for change of name of Briann Nichole Curtiss from Briann Nichole Crowe and that said Petition will be heard by the Court on this date: September 28, 2021, or as soon thereafter as may be convenient with the Court, at 9 a.m. Any person has the right to appear at this hearing and file an objection. /s/ Deborah Crowe Deborah Crowe, Petitioner /s/ Myla A. Eldridge CLERK OF THE CIRCUIT COURT OF MARION COUNTY (SEAL) 5320-923395 07/09/21, 07/16/21, 07/23/21

STATE OF INDIANA) IN THE MARION CIRCUIT COURT) SS: COUNTY OF MARION) CAUSE NUMBER: 49C01-2106-MI-022048 IN RE: THE NAME CHANGE OF: Johnny Edward Israel Petitioner NOTICE OF PETITION FOR CHANGE OF NAME Johnny Edward Israel, whose mailing address is 2533 N. Alabama St., Indianapolis, IN 46205, and, if different, my residence is: in the MARION County, Indiana, hereby gives notice that Johnny Edward Israel has filed a petition in the MARION Court requesting that his name be changed to Johnny Sandigo Medina. Notice is further given that the hearing will be held on said Petition on Johnny Edward Israel Petitioner 5320-923420 07/09/21, 07/16/21, 07/23/21

SUMMONS -- SERVICE BY PUBLICATION STATE OF INDIANA) IN THE SUPERIOR CIVIL COURT OF MARION COUNTY) SS: ROOM NO. 2 CIVIL COUNTY OF MARION) CAUSE NO. 49D14-2104-DC-002862 GOLDSON FEQUIERE Plaintiff(s) -V- FABIOLA DESIR Defendants (s) NOTICE OF SUIT The State of Indiana to the defendants above named, and any other person who may be concerned. You are notified that you have been sued in the Court above named. The nature of the suit against you is: Dissolution of Marriage This summons by publication is specifically directed to the following named defendant(s) whose addresses are: Fabiola Desir And to the following defendant(s) whose whereabouts are unknown: Fabiola Desir. In addition to the above named defendants being served by this summons there may be other defendants who have an interest in this lawsuit. If you have a claim for relief against the plaintiff arising from the same transaction or occurrence, you must assert it in your written answer. You must answer the Complaint in writing, by you or your attorney, on or before the 22nd day of August, 2021, (the same being within thirty (30) days after the Third Notice of Suit), and if you fail to do so a judgement will be entered against you for what the plaintiff has demanded. /s/ Attorney for Plaintiff 4419 Duxbury Ln, Apt. 130 Lawrence, IN (347) 779-6449 ATTEST: /s/ Myla A. Eldridge Clerk of the Marion Court 5320-923537 07/09/21, 07/16/21, 07/23/21

NOTICE OF DISSOLUTION Effective on February 23, 2021, BPI Services, LLC, was voluntarily dissolved with the Indiana Secretary of State. Pursuant to Indiana Code § 23-18-9-9, any claims against BPI Services, LLC will be barred unless a proceeding to enforce the claim is commenced within two (2) years after the publication of this notice. Claims should contain all relevant information concerning the basis of the claim and alleged damages, and should be mailed to Blair Vandivier, 11647 Oak Tree Way, Carmel, IN 46032. 5320-923428 07/09/21, 07/16/21, 07/23/21

commenced within two (2) years after the publication of this notice. Claims should contain all relevant information concerning the basis of the claim and alleged damages, and should be mailed to Blair Vandivier, 11647 Oak Tree Way, Carmel, IN 46032. 5320-923429 07/09/21, 07/16/21, 07/23/21

NOTICE OF DISSOLUTION Effective on November 17, 2020, Seleco, Inc. was voluntarily dissolved with the Indiana Secretary of State. Pursuant to Indiana Code § 23-1-45-7, any claims against Seleco, Inc. will be barred unless a proceeding to enforce the claim is commenced within two (2) years after the publication of this notice. Claims should contain all relevant information concerning the basis of the claim and alleged damages, and should be mailed to Blair Vandivier, 11647 Oak Tree Way, Carmel, IN 46032. 5320-923430 07/09/21, 07/16/21, 07/23/21

NOTICE OF DISSOLUTION Effective on May 27, 2020, Zionsville Road Investment Company, LLC, was voluntarily dissolved with the Indiana Secretary of State. Pursuant to Indiana Code § 23-18-9-9, any claims against Zionsville Road Investment Company, LLC will be barred unless a proceeding to enforce the claim is commenced within two (2) years after the publication of this notice. Claims should contain all relevant information concerning the basis of the claim and alleged damages, and should be mailed to Blair Vandivier, 11647 Oak Tree Way, Carmel, IN 46032. 5320-923428 07/09/21, 07/16/21, 07/23/21

IN THE CHANCERY COURT FOR CANNON COUNTY, TENNESSEE AT WOODBURY EMILY ROSE LANE Petitioner/Mother VS. DOCKET #21-56 JESSE LEE MILLER Respondent/Father ORDER FOR SERVICE BY PUBLICATION Publication is hereby made as ordered by the court on May 7th, 2021, as to the Petition for Name Change of a minor child filed by the Petitioner, Emily Rose Lane. The Petitioner's Attorney, Barbara Penland-LaFevers can be contacted at 722 South Church Street, Murfreesboro, TN 37130, phone (615) 486-9671. By order of this court, publication shall run once weekly for four (4) consecutive weeks in the Indianapolis Recorder, a newspaper of general circulation of Marion County, Indiana. The Respondent Jesse Lee Miller has 30 days from the last date of publication of this Order to file an answer in the Chancery Court of Cannon County, Tennessee, 200 West Main Street, Woodbury, TN 37190, phone (615) 563-5936, otherwise a Default Judgment may be granted for relief sought in the Petition. This the 7th day of May, 2021. /s/ HONORABLE DARRELL L. CHARLETT CLERK BY INTERCHANGE /s/ DANA M. DAVENPORT CLERK & MASTER FOR CANNON COUNTY, TN 5320-923122 07/02/21, 07/09/21, 07/16/21, 07/23/21

Calumet Specialty Products Partners, L.P. seeks a SAP Solution Consultant-OTC (Order to Cash) in Indianapolis, IN to perform as the SAP business process solution and configuration expert for one or more SAP modules. Apply online at Visit: <https://www.calumetspecialty.com/useful-links/careers/>

Indiana's Finest Wrecker will be having an auction/public sale on August 2nd, 2021 at 8AM. 7576 W Washington St Indianapolis, IN 46231 List of vehicles to be included in the sale:

Year	Make	VIN	Sale Price
1989	FORD	1FMCU14T9KUA35607	\$1,500.00
2004	CADILLAC	1G6DM577940111113	\$1,500.00
1997	HONDA	JHMBB6245VC002918	\$1,500.00
2002	JEEP	1J4GW58N12C171748	\$1,500.00
2002	DODGE	1B4GP25342B729566	\$1,500.00
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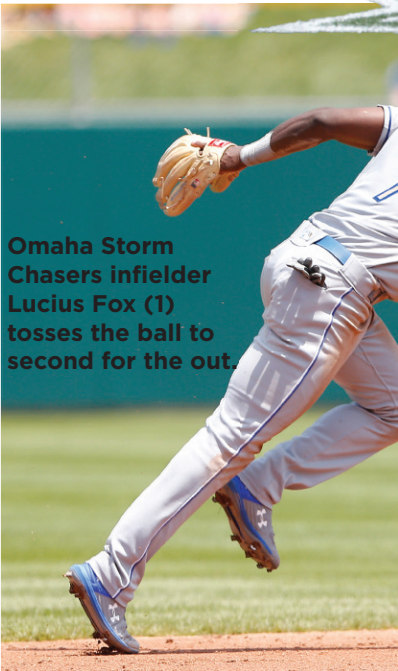
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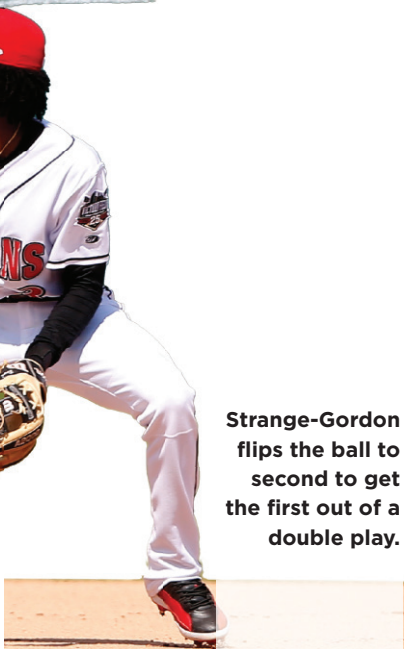
Indianapolis Indians take on Omaha Storm Chasers



Omaha Storm Chasers infielder Lucius Fox (1) tosses the ball to second for the out.



Indians infielder Dee Strange-Gordon (3) puts the tag on Storm Chasers catcher Meibrys Viloria (21). (Photos/Jeff Brown)



Strange-Gordon flips the ball to second to get the first out of a double play.

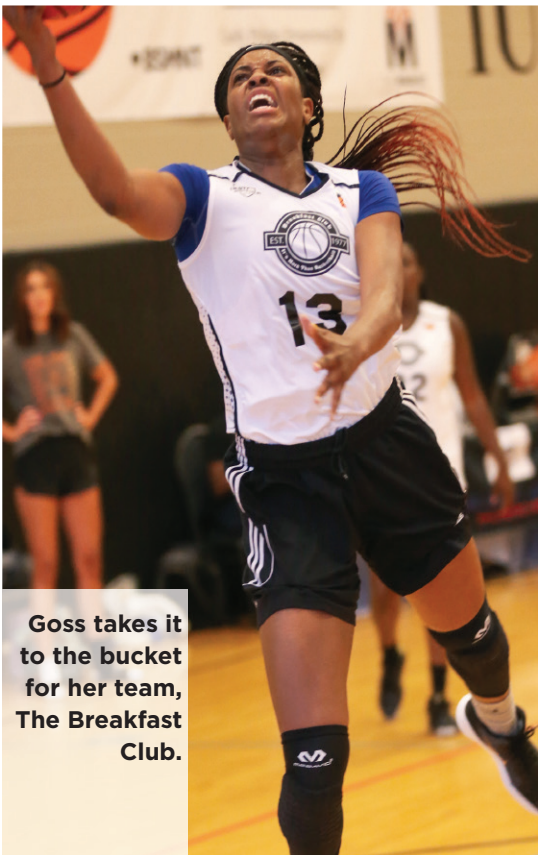
The Indianapolis Indians continued to celebrate 25 years at Victory Field during their six-game series against the Omaha Storm Chasers.

The City League queens of the court

Porchia Green is an assistant coach for the Ben Davis girls basketball team. (Photos/David Dixon)

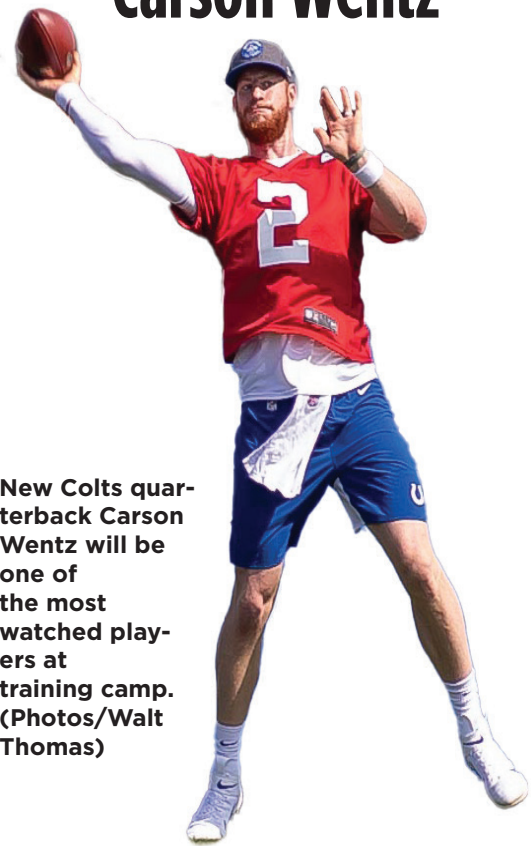


Bria Goss (Ben Davis High School) and Porchia Green (Arlington High School) pose together at The City League games.



Goss takes it to the bucket for her team, The Breakfast Club.

All eyes on Carson Wentz



New Colts quarterback Carson Wentz will be one of the most watched players at training camp. (Photos/Walt Thomas)



Acquired in a trade with the Eagles, Wentz will be reunited with Colts head coach Frank Reich.

NBA Finals were great without the usual suspects

By DANNY BRIDGES

Dear NBA faithful: It's over, and if you didn't see it, then I'm here to inform everyone that you definitely missed one superb championship series. Yes, despite the fact some of you suffered from the type of withdrawals that may have occurred from not seeing the likes of LeBron James and Kevin Durant on your television, the NBA Finals were indeed entertaining.

It's time for many of you to come clean. Basketball fans have been spoiled for years when it comes to the NBA Finals. After all, it's the biggest stage on which a superstar can distinguish themselves and further develop their financial brand to boot if they can capture the coveted title.

In the past 30-plus years, we've been treated to the likes of Michael Jordan, Kobe Bryant, Shaquille O'Neal, James, Stephen Curry and Durant. While that's truly a Hall of Fame yardstick to measure finals greatness with, I'm old enough to remember Kareem and Magic battling Bird and can even tell you about Rick Barry putting the Golden State Warriors on his back and sweeping a heavily favored Washington team with Elvin Hayes and Wes Unseld. Yeah, I get it.

The NBA Finals are the personal playground for big-time superstars and household names, so when

the highly anticipated Lakers vs. Nets series didn't materialize, many basketball purists cried foul.

How could we end up with Phoenix vs. Milwaukee? Well, thank goodness we did because the match-up we just saw provided both some spirited basketball and a sorely needed change of pace for the NBA and those who actually paid attention to the regular season this year.

First and foremost, there was the official postseason coming-out party of Giannis Antetokounmpo. While his phenomenal regular season accolades speak for themselves, could a two-time league MVP who just so happened to be a former Defensive Player of the Year lead his team to a championship? All he did was drop 50 points and 14 rebounds on the Suns in a decisive Game 6, along with five blocked shots for good measure. His gaudy finals averages of 35 points and 15 boards can leave no doubts about him being both the best and most versatile player in the game at the age of 26. As he has stated numerous times, the Bucks were not a one-man band as both Khris Middleton and Jrue Holiday also came up big for Milwaukee in these finals.

On the Phoenix side of things, we saw a budding superstar in Devin Booker and a sure Hall of Famer in Chris Paul combine to make things more than

interesting in the postseason, proving their regular season success was no fluke. While it was probably the only shot Paul will get at a championship ring, his guidance of an otherwise mostly young Phoenix team had him in the regular season MVP discussion, and combined with Booker gave NBA fans a ton of great moments in the finals.

Clearly this championship series had plenty of star power, and for the closet haters who will point to the likelihood of reduced TV ratings for fuel to further stoke the the debate that LeBron vs. Durant would've been better, just stop it. These NBA Finals were indeed great and while a Game 7 would've been exciting, no one can

legitimately complain about the tremendous level of play that occurred. For those who claim they didn't enjoy this series, I'm thinking you really don't understand the NBA today and how much we should appreciate what we witnessed from both teams.

It's OK to be an old school fan who's accustomed to the established stars, but just don't tell me these guys weren't hooping like there was no tomorrow. I'm not buying that, and you really shouldn't either.

Danny Bridges, who can still recognize great basketball when wearing his glasses, can be reached at 317-370-8447 or bridgeshd@aol.com.



Indianapolis native Jeff Teague (7) is now an NBA champion. (Recorder file photo)