



Teachers, bus drivers and parents filled the cafeteria during a school board meeting Dec. 9 at Central Elementary School. (Photo/Tyler Fenwick)

Pike teachers agree to new contract; board approval expected Thursday

By TYLER FENWICK
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Pike Township teachers agreed to a new one-year contract with the district Dec. 13 that would bring an average salary raise of more than 5% and a minimum starting salary of \$45,000.

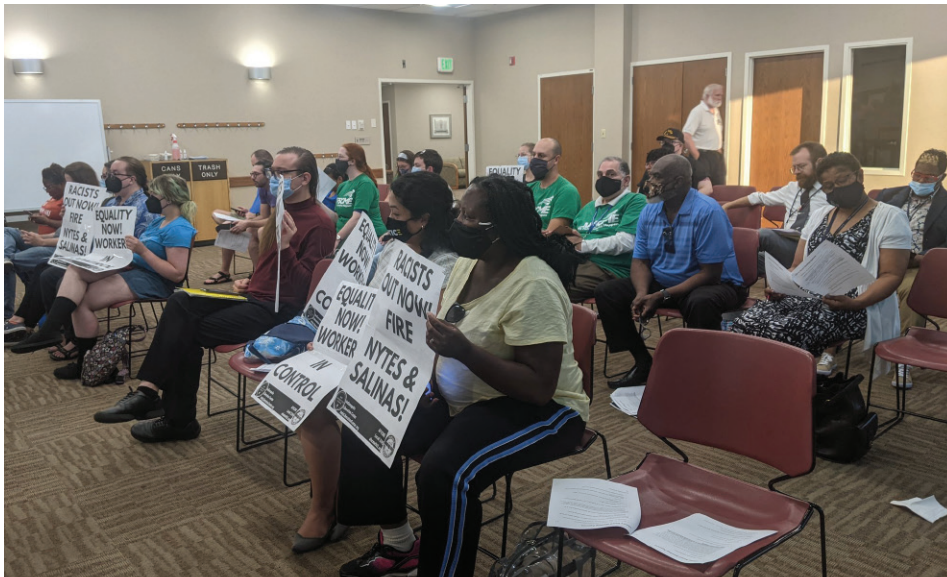
The contract, which the school board is expected to approve during a meeting Dec. 16, totals about \$2.6 million in raises, base salaries and benefits. View the contract on Metropolitan School District of Pike Township's human resources page at pike.k12.in.us.

The Pike Classroom Teachers Association and district officials had to use a state mediator after the two sides couldn't meet a November deadline to establish a new contract.

Pike schools have gone to remote learning multiple times recently — often with little notice for families — amid the tense negotiation process because of a lack of teachers and other staff, including bus drivers.

See PIKE, A4►

Indianapolis Public Library's climate study continues



A climate study comes several months after library staff began calling for an overview of the internal climate at Indianapolis Public Library. (Photo/Breanna Cooper)

By BREANNA COOPER
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After months of in-fighting among the Indianapolis Public Library (IndyPL) board of trustees, library workers finally received a climate improvement survey Dec. 9. Board members hope the survey, announced in June, helps give a better understanding of the organization's current climate.

The survey, created by Ice Miller and a committee made up of IndyPL employees from various departments and management levels known as the Go Team, contains several sections pertaining to the employee's faith in the

board of trustees and library management, as well as their experiences with discrimination and racism during their time at IndyPL. Employees have two weeks to fill out the survey. Ice Miller will use the results to make recommendations to the board, though the firm is not expected to help implement its recommendations. A representative from Ice Miller could not be reached for comment. IndyPL communications director Joe Backe said the firm does not speak to the press during these processes.

Board member Dr. Khaula Murtadha, who often administers climate studies as part of her job, offered in June to do the climate study for free and said she could start the process in a matter of weeks. Some on the board feared it was a conflict of interest, which started debates about who or what

See STUDY, A4►

2 east side neighborhoods get grant to bolster education, life outcomes



By TYLER FENWICK
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Two Indianapolis neighborhoods won a \$30 million federal grant to help improve educational outcomes by addressing issues such as poverty, unemployment and crime.

The five-year grant, administered by the U.S. Department of Education, will go to the near east side and Martindale-Brightwood communities. The two are collectively referred to as the IndyEast Promise Neighborhood. Indianapolis is one of seven cities to be awarded a grant in 2021.

John Boner Neighborhood Centers led the application process.

“How a child grows has everything to do

Indianapolis Public Schools Superintendent Aleesia Johnson speaks during a press conference Dec. 14, 2021, at James Russell Lowell School 51 to announce a \$30 million federal grant that will go toward improving education and life outcomes in two Indianapolis neighborhoods. (Photo/Tyler Fenwick)

with the neighborhoods they live in and the schools they attend,” the organization's CEO, James Taylor, said during a press conference Dec. 14 at James Russell Lowell School 51.

School 51 is one of seven participating schools in the area. Other schools: Thomas Gregg Neighborhood School, Brookside School 54, Paramount School of Excellence, KIPP Indy College Prep Middle School, Harshman Middle School and Arsenal Technical High School.

Other partner organizations include Edna Martin Christian Center, EmployIndy and IUPUI. The organizations will meet over the next six months to work out details of the plan.

Indianapolis Public Schools Superintendent Aleesia Johnson said the funding will allow participating schools to both expand pro-

See GRANT, A4►



Shonna Majors (Recorder file photo)

Shonna Majors joins Brightwood Community Center

By STAFF

Shonna Majors, the city's former director of community violence reduction, is now executive director of the Brightwood Community Center. The nonprofit announced the move Dec. 8.

“Shonna's robust advocacy for our city and grassroots organizations made her the ideal fit for our organization,” Roger Outcalt, the center's board chair, said in a statement. “Her experience and expertise to leverage partners and funding will guide us to new heights in serving our neighbors at a more effective level.”

Majors left her role with the city in November, citing the toll anti-violence work can take on a person's mental health.

“Being in the trenches is where real change happens, and the Brightwood Community Center's mission aligns with my desire to serve at the grassroots level,” Majors said in a statement. “I look forward to working with the board and staff to deepen the organization's impact as it enters this next chapter.”

Majors started her role with the community center effective immediately.



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Starting and Scaling a Small Business as a Minority Entrepreneur

Ever dreamed of owning your own business? If so, you’re not alone. In fact, you’re among [more than 60% of Americans](#) with the same aspiration.

There are plenty of resources to support you in making that dream a reality, especially as the COVID-19 pandemic continues to impact minority-owned businesses. Our team at JPMorgan Chase, for example, has set aside 15,000 loans and \$2 billion in capital for Black, Latino and Hispanic businesses. There are many other companies across the country who have also launched initiatives to support long-term recovery and economic growth in minority communities.

Small businesses have the power to boost local economies, job creation and community development. Equipping small business owners with the capital, knowledge and tools necessary to start and develop a company is critical for success.

The most important factors in a first-time entrepreneur’s journey are the initial steps to launch – a foundational understanding of what you’ll need for a successful business is a good place to start. There are a few driving factors that can help you succeed:

- 1. A reliable network:** Having a mentor – or access to someone who’s done this before – can be extremely valuable. Whether asking questions, discussing ideas, or just offering general support, there are incredible champions in your local community. You can also supplement a local strong support network with JPMorgan Chase workshops, panel discussions and summits, as well as the [Chase for Business](#) mailing list and social channels, where you’ll find regular updates on networking and available learning opportunities. The Chase for Business offerings are great for both growing your knowledge of managing a business, as well as growing your network beyond your community
- 2. A relationship with your banker:** Banking is about relationships, so I encourage and welcome you to stop by your local Chase or set up a digital appointment to begin cultivating one. JPMorgan Chase wants to know about the experiences of Black, and Latino and Hispanic entrepreneurs in your communities, including their must-know steps to financial success.
- 3. Knowledge of operational tools:** From digital payment systems to automated billing, there are tech-based software and service offerings available to simplify many aspects of [managing a business](#). Digital media and marketing tools have also been game-changers for many of our clients as they look to reach and engage more customers.
- 4. Access to funding and loans:** Starting, maintaining and scaling a business costs money! Initial expenses can include everything from licenses to new equipment. Luckily, there are alternatives to covering these costs entirely on your own, like loans, grants, lines of credit and other capital set aside specifically for minority entrepreneurs.

Access to Capital

Undoubtedly, funding is crucial as an aspiring small business owner and securing capital can be challenging. However, there are options available to Black, and Latino and Hispanic business owners that you should be aware of. In addition to the traditional options and types of capital, JPMorgan Chase has reserved low-cost loans specifically for minority-owned businesses. Many local small business owners are able to secure loans fairly quickly by working with the Chase team. When you visit your local branch, ask us about the process for securing funding and we’ll walk you through all of your options – ranging from loans to lines of credit – including your eligibility and the pros and cons of each. Chase strives to present you with every option – even the ones you may have not originally thought were right for you – to give you all the information you need to make the right decision for yourself and your business.

Build a Network You Trust

Building a strong network and understanding the access you have to supportive resources will help you find the tailored support you need to get your business off the ground. For example, JPMorgan Chase’s Advancing Black Entrepreneurs platform was built in collaboration with Black Enterprise, National Urban League and other organizations that understand firsthand the challenges associated with starting a business. Many existing small business owners say the site’s free educational courses, on-demand resources and networking events have been extremely helpful in building the foundation they need to successfully navigate their small business journey. You don’t even need to be a Chase customer to access these free resources.

In addition to digital support, Chase’s local community managers at branches around the U.S. are building connections with Black and Hispanic communities to increase awareness and utilization of available resources, as well as organizing neighborhood networking events and enrichment workshops to help local entrepreneurs start or grow their businesses. These events, whether in-person or virtual are great to connect and network with your local community, and to better take advantage of all the tools and options available to you.

Lastly, the [Chase Chats webcast series](#) features a session with Shark Tank’s Daymond John, who discusses how Black business owners can navigate life as a business owner and, more specifically, lingering pandemic-driven issues. That webcast, along with the educational course on the same topic, offers great advice – from the importance of bookkeeping to pivoting your business model and developing contingency plans.

If you find yourself inspired to take the leap and start a business of your own, consider stopping by your local Chase branch to find out more about the tools, resources and capital available to you.

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Help secure financial aid for your child, you can start now

By Amar Patel

Today, students of color and students from low-income backgrounds make up an increasing share of all students interested in pursuing post-secondary learning opportunities. Without support, they are the least likely to go to college, achieve academic success while enrolled and graduate on time or complete their degree at all.

There are two key programs that help address the need today — Indiana’s 21st Century Scholars and the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA). The 21st Century Scholars program provides up to four years of undergraduate tuition at participating colleges and universities to income-eligible Indiana students. Enrollment in 21st Century Scholars — between the time your child enters seventh grade and before the end of their eighth grade year — provides a wealth of resources and step-by-step guidance to support student success to and through college. One such step is completing the FAFSA application. FAFSA helps current and prospective college students gain eligibility for student financial aid at both in- and out-of-state higher education institutions and provides access to numerous scholarships and grants. Students pursu-

ing higher education can complete FAFSA anytime between October and June annually.

These programs are highly effective at promoting postsecondary learning. Students who successfully complete FAFSA are almost 50% more likely to enroll in college. According to data from Indiana’s Commission for Higher Education, 88% of scholars go to college, whereas only 35% of low-income, non-scholars do so. Scholars also graduate from college at higher rates. 21st Century Scholars are the only group on track to close Indiana’s college-going achievement gaps by 2025.

Although program success rates are high, gaps exist. The challenge and opportunity today are that students of color and students from low-income backgrounds do not appear to be equitably accessing these programs. Only 51% of eligible students in Marion County were enrolled in 21st Century Scholars in 2019, according to a recent report conducted by Richard M. Fairbanks Foundation. Where we have racial and ethnic data, only 21% of the graduating scholars cohort of 2022 identified as Black. Similar disparities hold true with FAFSA — only 41.5% of Marion County students completed the application. If we want our stu-



Getty Images

dents to reach key educational milestones and be on the path to economic mobility, we must take meaningful effort to close these gaps now and in the future. The gap is clear, and we, as a community, need to be focused here.

Fortunately, some schools like Victory College Prep are providing support to

ensure all students are accessing every available financial resource for their postsecondary education. And while schools should be responsible for connecting their students to 21st Century Scholars and FAFSA, if you are prepared with the right questions, you can proactively advocate for your child, as well. For example, asking

your school leader or guidance counselor questions like, “What resources are out there to pay for higher education?” and “How does my family’s income affect my child’s financial aid and scholarship opportunities?” You can also directly access many resources online via organizations focused on these efforts, such as the Indiana

Commission for Higher Education (CHE), Indy Achieves, and the Center for Leadership Development (CLD), who are leading in this effort.

By 2030, Teach For America aims to double the number of students reaching educational milestones, indicating they are on a path to economic mobility and a future filled with possibility. As a community, we can work together to ensure that our students have the tools they need to reach the dreams they have set for themselves. Whether it is connecting a student directly to the resources or assisting them with an application, utilizing both 21st Century Scholars and FAFSA can help put a student on a surer path to start and complete postsecondary learning, no matter their race, ethnicity or socioeconomic background.

Amar Patel serves as executive director at Teach For America Indianapolis, an education nonprofit organization that recruits, supports and develops diverse, equity-minded leaders that drive change in our education system, starting in the classroom. Teach For America is working toward increasing student achievement in Indianapolis while advocating for policies and practices that support family and student success.



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STUDY

▶Continued from A1

organization should conduct the climate study, delaying it significantly. The board accepted Ice Miller's bid for \$100,000 in September. While the firm is not minority-led, board member Hope Tribble said Ice Miller "set themselves apart" by aligning its proposal with the library's focus on racial equity in the strategic plan. The Ice Miller team overseeing the study is led by a Black woman.

The cost was a point of contention for employees as this didn't seem to follow normal procedure. The library board typically goes with the lowest bidder that can adequately get the job done. In the search for a manager of the climate improvement process, Ice Miller was the highest bidder, with the second highest asking for \$27,000.

Library Workers Union President and IndyPL employee Michael Torres said IndyPL staff have done many surveys in the past without ever seeing changes. Further, he said the decision to hire Ice Miller reflects an alleged history of Black women being ignored within IndyPL.

“We have experts on the board who have done studies like this before, and they’re ignoring their expertise,” Torres said. “We have three attorneys on this board who are engaging and vetting a law firm and showing again they are ignoring the Black women on the board who are questioning what’s happening.”

Judge Jose Salinas, president of the board, said they went with the law firm because the application submit-

ted was the most comprehensive and the company is local.

"We had four proposals and the board voted on the one they felt gave us the best opportunity to get some of the information we needed to move forward," Salinas said. "... From memory, theirs was the most comprehensive, and because Ice Miller is based here, there wasn't anything done virtually. It was all in person."

So far, the Go Team has had four meetings to discuss the next steps for the library.

One member of the Go Team, who requested anonymity to protect employment, expressed concern that IndyPL staff will be tasked with carrying out Ice Miller's recommendations and that there ought to be a team

specifically dedicated to improving the climate and tackling equity issues with IndyPL.

“This is important, but I’m tired of fighting people,” the employee said.

“The fight is just, but it can be a lot. ... A question I have is what exactly is [Ice Miller] going to do, and at what point will all the work be put on us? We’re already overworked. It’s like, you already have a 40-hour work week, and ‘Oh by the way, you also have to cure racism by 5:30.”

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

PIKE

▶ Continued from A1

What's in the contract?

- A newly hired teacher will receive a base salary of no less than \$45,000. The most a teacher can make under the contract is \$88,962. (For reference, a current Pike teacher with a bachelor's degree and four years of experience whose base salary is \$46,000 will receive a total base salary increase of \$2,608.)
- Teachers can be absent from work for personal or family illness for a total of 14 days the first year and 12 days in each year after without loss of compensation.
- The contract is retroactive to July 1, 2021, and ends June 30, 2022.
- Pay for athletics coaches ranges from \$2,312 to \$13,000.

'I just feel like I'm not being heard'

Teachers, bus drivers and parents packed a school board meeting Dec. 9 at Central Elementary School. Many used the public comment portion to criticize board members and Superintendent Flora Reichenadter. Some union members held signs at a nearby intersection beforehand as passersby

honked their car horns in support.

Union president Chris Ludy announced a vote of no confidence against Reichanadter. One district staff member said he put in his two-week notice, and a high school sophomore said they will likely enroll in another school district soon.

Keisha Nickolson, a fifth grade teacher, said after the meeting work has been difficult because of the day-to-day uncertainty if school will be in person or virtual — or if some students might be hours late because of transportation issues.

Nickolson, who has a daughter in seventh grade in the district, started teaching 10 years ago and said she recently sold her home in Fishers to move to Pike so she can live where she teaches.

The bottom line, Nickolson said, is teachers and other staff need better transparency from the district.

"I don't feel disrespected," she said. "I just feel like I'm not being heard."

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

GRANT

▶Continued from A1

grams that have already started and begin new initiatives. Johnson said the district has had priorities that weren't possible without the kind of funding that will come through the grant.

One example she gave is what educators call a two-generation approach, where goals related to a child's education are tied to other household needs such as workforce development programs.

"If we have strong children that are attending strong schools, that makes for a strong neighborhood," Johnson said. "It's a symbiotic relationship."

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

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Nonprofit quietly creates a village for Indianapolis children, women

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

It takes a village to raise a child. For nearly 40 years, the Assistance League of Indianapolis (ALI) has been a part of that village, helping Hoosier students in kindergarten through fifth grade get the clothes they need for school.

At the beginning of each school year, students in need within Indianapolis Public Schools and school districts of Pike, Washington, Warren and Lawrence townships receive two school uniforms, a package of underwear and socks, a belt, a winter coat, a hygiene set and a few books in a duffel bag. Students in those districts as well as students in the Metropolitan School District of Wayne Township can receive a pair of tennis shoes through ALI's initiative, Operation School Bell. The nonprofit donated 2,528 duffel bags at the beginning of the 2021 school year and 890 pairs of shoes.

However, like most programs, ALI was heavily impacted by the COVID-19 pandemic. Remote learning and teacher shortages made it difficult to connect with school social workers, and children learning from home didn't need to worry about uniforms. However, as students returned to the classroom, ALI volunteers found a heightened need for assistance. While they couldn't go into schools for fittings as usual, they worked with social workers and parents to get correct measurements for children in need and dropped off duffel bags to the schools for distribution.

"We get letters from kids saying, 'Now nobody will make fun of me because I have the right clothes,'" Kathy Kerr Wylan, vice president of marketing, said.

Deb Myers, who has volunteered with ALI for 12 years, said having the proper clothes to wear can help children succeed in school.

"We used to do impact surveys," Myers said, "and the biggest response we got was that children were feeling better about themselves. When they don't have to worry about what they're wearing, they can focus on their studies."

ALI's mission goes beyond clothes for children. The nonprofit also works with 19 local hospitals to supply assault survivor kits, which consist of clothing and underwear for those seeking help in assault, domestic violence or sexual assault cases. Often, victims have to surrender their clothing as evidence of a crime. Since March 2020, Indianapolis domestic violence shelters have been inundated with calls and more people in need of assistance. Since the beginning of the pandemic, rates of domestic violence-related homicides increased 100% in Indiana. Beyond domestic violence, growing rates of gun violence in Indianapolis, Myers said, has led to a growing need for assault kits.

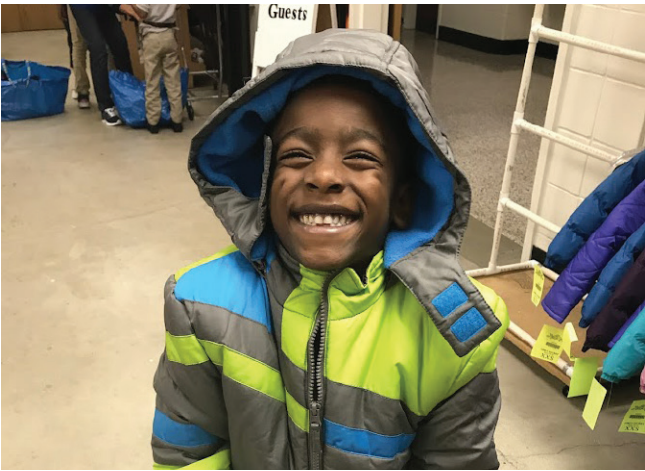
The majority of ALI's funding comes from grants and contributions from local organizations, as well as fundraising events hosted by ALI's 201 members, including

its annual "Jingle and Mingle" holiday event and a charity golf outing every September. ALI President Trish Severns credits the nonprofit's success to community involvement and the dedication of its volunteers. "We're all mostly retired professional women, and people who volunteer here know they're going to work," Severns said. "We all want to be out

here making a difference. ... Everyone has a passion for it and works really hard."

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

To learn more about ALI and fundraising endeavors, visit alindy.org.



In 2021, the Assistance League of Indianapolis provided 2,528 students with school uniforms, hygiene kits and winter coats through its Operation School Bell initiative. (Photo provided by Assistance League of Indianapolis)

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SPREAD SOME HOLIDAY CHEER! IT'S CHRISTMASTIME IN THE CITY

By STAFF

Santa is almost here. We can sense his presents. (See what we did there?)

The world won't be back to completely normal for Christmas 2021, but it could still look much better than 2020 thanks to vaccines. That's good news for your family gatherings and holiday events that were either paused or made virtual last year.

It's almost time for Kwanzaa, too: the annual celebration of African American culture that starts Dec. 26 and lasts until Jan. 1, 2022.

Here are some events to consider as you get into the holiday spirit.

Black Santas across the city

Looking for a Black Santa to visit? There are plenty of opportunities. Santa Chris and Santa Antoine will be at the Children's Museum of Indianapolis on the following days:

11 a.m.-2 p.m. Dec. 16
1:30-5 p.m. Dec. 18
1:30-5 p.m. Dec. 19
10 a.m.-1:30 p.m. Dec. 19
10 a.m.-5 p.m. Dec. 20

Santa Josiah will be at the Indiana State Museum on the following days:

10 a.m.-5 p.m. Dec. 16
9 a.m.-5 p.m. Dec. 18
(Santa's Holiday Breakfast event with Mrs. Claus)
10 a.m.-5 p.m. Dec. 21
10 a.m.-5 p.m. Dec. 23

If you want a virtual option, mrkringle.com offers the chance to personalize a visit with Black Santa over Zoom. Visits start at \$48.

Indianapolis Kwanzaa

2021

Join the Indianapolis Kwanzaa Committee each night of Kwanzaa for a virtual celebration on the committee's Facebook page. The committee, which began in the late 1970s, will display the late poet Mari Evans' kinara (the seven-branched candleholder used in Kwanzaa celebrations) at the Center for Black Literature and Culture at Central Library.

• When: 6 p.m. Dec. 26-Jan. 1, 2022
• Where: Indianapolis Kwanzaa Committee Facebook page

Holiday Soul Review Concert

Get in the holiday spirit with a concert featuring Rodney Stepp, Men in the Fire and Damon Karl.

• When: 8 p.m. Dec. 17
• Where: Madam Walker Legacy Center, 617 Indiana Ave.
• Cost: Tickets start at \$10 at ticketmaster.com

Christmas at the Zoo

The zoo turns into a winter wonderland as the sun sets. Attractions include a fantasy forest for visitors to explore, a dancing lights display and Mistletoe Kisses Gazebo, where guests try to find hidden mistletoes. Visits with Santa continue through Dec. 23.

Fun fact: The Indianapolis Zoo was the first in the nation to host a holiday lights event in 1967, according to Visit Indy.

• When: 5-9 p.m. (or 10 p.m. some days) now through Dec. 30
• Where: Indianapolis Zoo, 1200 W. Washington St.
• Cost: Free for zoo members, otherwise included with regular admission

Winterlights at Newfields

The garden at Newfields will be lit — with more than 1.5 million lights. New attractions include Huckleberry Funk's projection-mapped rock show and local artist Anila Agha's sculpture that uses light and shadow to show concepts of communal space, belonging and exclusion.

• When: Times vary through Jan. 2
• Where: Newfields, 4000 N. Michigan Road
• Cost: \$13-\$25; children under 5 are free; advance tickets required



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SPOTLIGHT

Opera singer Angela Brown returns to Indy for Christmas

By STAFF

World-renowned soprano and Indianapolis native Angela Brown will accompany the Indianapolis Symphonic Choir on Dec. 17-19 for “Festival of Carols.” On Dec. 15, the Crispus Attucks High School grad performed at

the Warren Performing Arts Center in Warren Central High School before three shows at The Palladium at the Center for the Performing Arts in Carmel on Dec. 17-19.

The shows will feature fan favorites including “Joy to the World” and “Do You Hear What I Hear” as well as the world premiere of “Gather Round the Holy Manger,” winner of the 12th annual Christmas Carol Commission Competition, organized by the Indianapolis Symphonic Choir. The piece was composed by Indianapolis native Joyce Vickery.

“It is such an honor to have ‘Gather Round the Holy Manger’ premiered this year at Festival of Carols,” Vickery said in a statement. “Writing the text and music to this carol in the midst of a pandemic was both a challenge and a comfort, as our family longed to gather with our loved ones. This longing led me to see Christmas in a whole new way, as a heavenly invitation from God himself who calls to each of us, ‘Gather round!’”

For tickets to “Festival of Carols,” visit indychoir.org. Guests 13 and older must show proof of vaccination or a negative COVID-19 test within 72 hours of the event. Masks are required.

You have four opportunities to see “Festival of Carols.”
8 p.m. Dec. 17, The Palladium, 1 Carter Green, Carmel
3 p.m. Dec. 18-19, The Palladium, 1 Carter Green, Carmel
The Dec. 19 show will include American Sign Language interpretation.



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From slavery to Reconstruction, Jim Crow to the Civil Rights Movement to the current protests against injustice, Black history exists on a continuum and is made every day. In honoring the past, we recognize our perseverance and triumphs, using our achievements to guide our future. The Black History Month special section will highlight local African American history makers of today. Whether breaking ground in the boardroom, making a difference in government or organizing protests, local and national leaders stand on the shoulders of greatness and continue in the advocacy of their forebears.



Moving forward together

We've been through a lot together and have proved to be resilient. The approaching new year brings with it new possibilities to help our clients, communities and teammates move forward and prosper — safely.

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In our communities, we continue to collaborate with local partners, business leaders, experts and academics across the public and private sectors to fuel job growth and financial stability. More than \$400 million of our \$1.25 billion commitment to advance racial equality and economic opportunity is already supporting diverse small businesses and partners, including many recipients here in Indianapolis who provide job skilling and hiring programs.

We've also increased resources to support our teammates' emotional and financial well-being. Recently, we raised our minimum hourly wage for U.S. employees to \$21 per hour, moving closer to our goal of \$25 by 2025.

My teammates and I look forward to growing existing partnerships and creating new ones as we work together to make a difference. Have a safe and happy holiday season.


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'A way we resist': Quilts honor victims of racial violence

By **LEAH WILLINGHAM**
Associated Press/Report for America

JACKSON, Miss. (AP) — Long after he was killed, Myrtle Green-Burton wouldn't let anyone wear her 17-year-old son's high school track team jacket.

James Earl Green, an aspiring Olympic runner, was supposed to receive the green and yellow coat at his graduation in Mississippi half a century ago. It became a symbol of his life — and her loss, said his sister Gloria Green-McCray.

"She just kept it until it dry-rotted because that was all she really had to remember his dream — his vision," Green-McCray said of her mother.

A cross-stitch portrait of Green wearing his track jacket is now included with 115 others in a quilting project dedicated to memorializing lives lost to racial violence in the U.S. The two quilts are open for public viewing on weekdays through Dec. 17 at Jackson State University's Margaret Walker Center.

James Earl Green and 21-year-old Jackson State student Phillip Lafayette Gibbs were fatally shot on the Jackson State campus during a violent police response to a protest against racial injustice in 1970. Green was not a student at the historically Black university but was walking through the campus on his way home from his grocery store job.

Twelve more people were injured. No officer ever faced criminal charges.

On a visit to Jackson State's campus last week to see the portrait, Green-McCray, now in her late 60s, recalled her older brother's ambitions of running in college and then in the Olympics. In the weeks leading up to his death, graduating and getting that track jacket were all he could talk



A section of two hand crafted quilts adorned with more than 115 cross-stitched portraits honoring African Americans who lost their lives to racial violence, is photographed while on display at the Margaret Walker Center on the Jackson State University campus, Tuesday, Nov. 30, 2021, in Jackson, Miss. The quilts, stitched together by 75 artists from the U.S. and beyond, are part of the Stitch Their Name Memorial Project. (AP Photo/Rogelio V. Solis)

about, she said.

"He didn't get the chance to wear it," she said, reaching out and running her finger across the tiny portrait.

The Stitch Their Names Memorial Project was started by Eugene, Oregon, high school math teacher Holli Johannes in July 2020 as so many around the U.S. reckoned with the country's legacy of systematic racism in the wake of George Floyd's murder at the hands of Minneapolis police. A group of 75 stitchers from across the U.S. and beyond worked together to construct the two quilts and a website containing biographies of each victim.

Johannes said they wanted to create a piece of art that would humanize the lives lost.

Each stitcher took a different, personalized approach: Some portraits are headshots, some full-body. They include different backdrops and details to inform viewers about the

victims' lives.

Elijah McClain, 23, a massage therapist killed by police in Aurora, Colorado, in 2019, is pictured playing the violin next to a tabby cat. McClain loved animals and taught himself how to play the guitar and violin.

John Crawford III, 22, was killed by police inside a Beavercreek, Ohio, Walmart store in 2014. He is depicted with his two young sons.

Gibbs — killed in Jackson the same night as Green — is wearing a gray suit. He was studying to be a lawyer.

Ebony Lumumba, department chair and associate professor of English at Jackson State, said quilting has long been a powerful form of activism and of reclaiming history — especially for Black women in America, whose voices are often overlooked.

"It's a history that sometimes supersedes what can be written down," said Lumumba,

who is also the city of Jackson's first lady. "That's significant for our community because we have been denied the privilege of being documented for so many centuries and so this is one of the ways that we resist that."

At Jackson State, Green-McCray said she hadn't seen a quilt made since she was a little girl — the ones stitched by the women who raised her. She remembered how quilting was a form of storytelling for them. Her mother would piece together quilts using pieces of aprons, hats and dresses from her grandmother.

"Each little piece represents something — each piece had a significant meaning," she said. "It was not just a piece of cloth, but it was a piece of history, a piece of that person."

Green-McCray said the quilts would evoke memories, even of a time before she was born — a reminder of "the struggle of survival."

"It's like you re-live it," she said. "My mother came from a family of sharecroppers, old slaves, and I can remember the history."

Green-McCray said if people don't learn about history, it repeats itself. When her brother was killed, everyone asked her, "Do you think this will ever happen again?"

"At that time, we was thinking it was going to soon end, and it will never happen again," she said. "Now today, you see them saying 'Black Lives Matter,' and that really grieves my spirit. We've come a long way, but we still got such a long way to go."

Leah Willingham is a corps member for the Associated Press/Report for America Statehouse News Initiative. Report for America is a non-profit national service program that places journalists in local newsrooms to report on uncovered issues.

BRIEFS

Production grants available for Black playwrights

Some aspiring Black playwrights can receive full production grants to bring their work to life for OnyxFest 2022.

Playwrights will receive royalties, along with stipends to pay actors, directors, lighting assistants and sound technicians. The grant will include funds for set design, props, costume and makeup as well as the cost of theater rental for rehearsal and performances.

Submit an application online; learn more at onyxfest.com. A jury of theater professionals will determine five winners, who will be notified April 15, 2022. Applications are due March 15.

Entries must be original, one-act plays between 45 minutes and an hour. There can be no more than six characters per cast. Subject matter is unrestricted.

Engaging Solutions changes structure

Engaging Solutions will transition its corporate structure to a C-suite model, leaving leadership responsibilities to members of the board of advisors.

The change comes as co-founders Debbie Wilson and Venita Moore, along with managing principal Charles Johnson, depart the organization — which provides business solutions for corporate, nonprofit and government entities.

The new C-suite staff are: Hope Tribble, chief administration officer; Teresa Jeter, chief operations officer; and Kelli Lester, chief strategist.

Engaging Solutions will also hire 10 directors to lead all service segments and help the organization's long-term growth strategy.

Glick Philanthropies give grants totaling \$1.5M

Glick Philanthropies announced a series of grants to organizations totaling about \$1.5 million.

Grant recipients include the Arts Council of Indianapolis, Coburn Place, Patachou Foundation, SHE. Xperience and Women4Change.

"Equitable access to education, affordable housing, and creative expression — among other basic needs — is critical to building resilient communities," Marianne Glick, chair of the Glick Family Foundation, said in a statement.

"From providing STEM education and professional development to advancing racial equity and supporting artistic endeavors, these organizations are making a real difference in the lives of residents."



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‘IN the Beginning’ mural unveiled at Gainbridge

Amiah Mims stands with her mural, “IN the Beginning,” which was unveiled Dec. 10 at Gainbridge Fieldhouse. The mural is located in the main concourse, outside of section 2. Works by Indiana artists will be unveiled throughout the upcoming year through a partnership with the Pacers Foundation and International Marketplace. Mims, a local artist who also created the mural on the building of the Indianapolis Recorder, was selected to complete the first mural.

Mims was introduced to fans during the Pacers vs. Mavericks game Dec. 10 at Gainbridge Fieldhouse. (Photos provided by Pacers)

“IN the Beginning” mural by Amiah Mims can be seen in the main concourse, outside of section 2 at Gainbridge Fieldhouse.

admiration and appreciation

As the year comes to a close, Eskenazi Health is grateful for our extraordinary staff members who demonstrate in so many ways, large and small, their unwavering commitment to our patients and our community.

Their work has never been more important, and we appreciate all that they do.

We wish health and happiness for all in the new year.

ESKENAZI HEALTH

Remains of former O’Jays member identified after 40 years

By **STACY M. BROWN**
NNPA Newswire Senior
National Correspondent

He was raised in relative obscurity in Cleveland, Ohio, but his unique talent with the guitar helped the R&B supergroup, The O’Jays, ultimately make it to the Rock & Roll Hall of Fame. But Frankie Little Jr. didn’t live long enough to see fellow bandmates Ed-die Levert, Bobby Massey, Sammy Strain, Walter Williams and William Powell leap into music immortality.

But whatever happened to Little had remained a mystery for nearly 40 years.

On Dec. 15, Ohio au-thorities identified partial human remains found in a garbage bag in 1982 as belonging to Little.

The Twinsburg Police Department released a statement noting that a worker discovered a skull inside a bag discarded behind a now-closed business.

Investigators said the bones found with the skull showed signs of blunt force trauma and have ruled Little’s death a homicide.

“The remains belonged to an African-American male, 20 to 35 years of age, approximately 5’6” tall, and that he may have had adolescent kyphosis, a curvature of the spine,” read the statement.

The DNA Doe Project, which provided names of potential relatives, gave police Little’s name and a



A comparison of a clay model done of remains found in Twinsburg in 1982 with a photo of Frank Little from the Cleveland Metropolitan School District. (Twinsburg Police Department/TNS)

DNA sample.

That sample was analyzed by the Ohio Bureau of Criminal Investigation crime lab, and Little’s identity was then confirmed by Dr. Lisa Kohler of the Summit County Medical Examiner Office.

“It’s definitely nice that we can give some answers to the family, and hopefully, they have some sense of closure,” Twinsburg Detective Eric Hendershott told WEWS. “He had a life, and ultimately he ended up here in Twinsburg, with his life taken by another.”

Little was last known to be alive in the mid-1970s, according to police.

He resided in Cleve-land, about 24 miles away from where his remains were discovered. Police are continuing to investigate the case to determine what hap-pened to Little. After that, authorities will

turn his remains over to relatives for burial.

In a statement, The O’Jays said they hadn’t heard from Little long before his death.

“He came with us when we first ventured out of Cleveland and traveled to Los Angeles, but he also was in love with a woman in Cleveland that he missed so much that he soon returned back to Cleveland after a short amount of time,” the group wrote in the statement.

“We wish his family and friends closure to what appears to be a very sad story.”

According to various reports about Little’s life, he served two years in the U.S. Army, including deployment during the Vietnam War.

He had a daughter who passed away in 2012, and he has a son who has not yet been located or identified.



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OPINIONS

Separating the real from the fake for democracy’s sake

By OSEYE BOYD



I know it seems like ages ago, but Jan. 6 wasn’t even a year ago. Typical of America’s short attention span, many have moved on and forgotten all about the day democracy almost fell. I don’t say that hyperbolically because that was the intent of the insurrectionists.

After the shock wore off, the spin began almost immediately. Many of those on the right started placing blame at antifa, Black Lives Matter, other left-wing activists and Nancy Pelosi for the attempted coup.

It worked. A poll by Public Religion Research Institute released in September found 61% of Republicans blame the liberals and left-wing activists for the Jan. 6 insurrection. Now, we watched this unfold. We know why people stormed the Capitol: They wanted to overturn the election in favor of former President Donald Trump. They thought the election was stolen, and in their minds, they were there to right a wrong and felt starting a revolution is the American way. Yet, a significant number of Americans choose not to believe what they saw and heard but what someone told them. A testament to the power of persuasion. If you say something enough it becomes true even if it’s not.

Fox News hosts played a major role in spinning the story. Early on they planted seeds of infiltration by antifa and the FBI. They played on people’s intelligence and gaslit Americans at every opportunity.

It turns out those TV personalities over at Fox knew what this was all along — an insurrection — and they pleaded with Trump to put an end to the madness.

Thanks to subpoenaed documents from former chief of staff Mark Meadows, we know several Fox TV hosts sent text messages to Meadows illustrating they were clear the events happening on the Capitol were wrong and needed to be quelled — immediately.

“Mark, the president needs to tell people in the Capitol to go home,” texted Laura Ingraham, host of “The Ingraham Angle.” “This is hurting all of us. He is destroying his legacy.”

Sean Hannity, who hosts an eponymous show, wanted to know if Trump could come on the air and give a statement to encourage people to leave the Capitol.

He did encourage them to go there, imploring supporters to “march” to the Capitol and “fight like hell.” “Fox & Friends” host Brian Kilmeade’s text to Meadows read: “Please get him on TV. Destroying everything you have accomplished.”

Fox is already playing mind games, saying these people are TV personalities not journalists. This is true. I know this, but most Americans don’t make

that delineation. These people are on a news channel, so they’re journalists. I can’t say 24/7 news is at fault because C-SPAN doesn’t have this issue, but I will say this is part of the problem with news as entertainment. Keeping people entertained 24/7 is a hard job, and this is where personality comes into play.

The fact that they want to entertain more than inform is the difference between a TV host/personality and a journalist. A journalist’s job is to inform the public of what government is doing. Does that mean there aren’t entertainment journalists or a journalist can’t have personality and be entertaining? Of course not, but there’s a line, real journalists know it and endeavor not to cross it. Media oversight of government and an informed public are hallmarks of democracy.

The lack of actual journalism has consequences. Americans don’t receive the news they need, and the news they do receive is filtered through political bias. It’s why this idea of a stolen election hasn’t dissipated. It’s just as strong as ever. It’s why this country feels more divided than it has in a very long time. You have those purporting to be journalists fanning the flames of discontent while real journalists are standing up for democracy for all.

Who will win this war for America’s soul? Only time will tell, but I’m glad I’m on the right side.

By LARRY SMITH



In 2003 I resigned from an executive role at a company that ranks in the top third of the Fortune 500. I did so to pursue a nonprofit career after having accepted the call to the ministry. Given my experience and education, I was certain that I would very quickly find a comparable role in my newly chosen field. Disappointingly, that didn’t happen as quickly as I had anticipated.

Somehow I learned that Indiana Sports Corporation was holding a conference, featuring then-Colts quarterback Peyton Manning, at the convention center. Given my desire to join the nonprofit sector, as well as my being a lifelong athlete, I was hopeful that I would get to meet someone from that esteemed organization.

As I surveyed the room, I became quite aware that there appeared to be fewer than five African Americans in a crowd that numbered well into the hundreds. While such experiences are common for me, I was somewhat apprehensive. As I was standing at a table by myself, a distinguished African American gentleman approached me

and introduced himself. That gentleman was none other than Milton Ollie Thompson.

I had no idea who Milt was, but I was very grateful that he took the time to make me feel welcome. I quickly came to learn — from other people — that Milt is a legend in Indiana’s business, sports, entertainment, civic and political circles. I have never allowed him to forget his kindness on that day, even though he wishes that I would. I am all too aware that not all African Americans of his stature would make such a gesture.

Milt has an incredible biography. He was such a superb baseball player at Wittenberg University that he was drafted by the Baltimore Orioles. (He now serves as a trustee emeritus at Wittenberg.) Deciding to forego a baseball career, Milt chose to attend Indiana University’s Maurer School of Law. He became a deputy prosecutor before embarking on an incredible business career. Milt has been recognized as an “Indiana Super Lawyer.” He also has served as president of the IU law school’s Board of Visitors and president of its alumni association. Milt has also been inducted into the Academy of Law Alumni Fellows, which is the most prestigious honor the law school bestows.

Outside of the law, Milt’s honors include being selected to receive the Business & Philanthropy Award from the National Center for Black Philanthropy in Washington, D.C. Most recently, he was selected as the 2020 recipient of the Charles L. Whistler Award, which is generally recognized as Indiana’s most prestigious public service award. In presenting the award, Mayor Joe Hogsett remarked, accurately, that “we all take our que from Milt.”

Simply reading Milt’s list of accomplishments is exhausting; it is difficult to comprehend how he has managed to be so involved in so many endeavors — at the highest level. Milt is president and CEO of Grand Slam, which is a sports, entertainment and recreation management consulting firm. He is also the co-founder of Play Ball Indiana, which supports youth baseball in the inner city. He has been a certified contract advisor with the NFL and the NBA Players Association and a board member of the Indianapolis Indians Baseball Club. Known simply as “the Voice,” he hosted the weekly radio show “Playing for Keeps” on ESPN950. Currently, Milt hosts a talk show on WHMB 40 called “Playing for Keeps.”

Milt is well known for his work in community development and in build-

ing collaborations that create highly effective partnerships. For example, he served as president and interim director of Big Brothers as it was merging with Big Sisters to create Big Brothers Big Sisters of Indiana. He also played a key role in negotiating the merger between the Legacy Fund of Hamilton County and the Indianapolis Foundation to create the Central Indiana Community Foundation in 1997. Milt currently serves on the Indianapolis Capital Improvement Board, the Tourism Tomorrow Board of Visit Indy and the English Foundation, among others. In addition, he is the former general counsel to the Pan American Games and held the position of vice president of Indiana Sports Corporation.

The motto of Milt’s beloved alma mater, Wittenberg, is “Having Light, We Pass It On to Others.” Milt has spent decades sharing the spotlight. Even more frequently, he has lifted others into the light — while choosing to stand in the shadows. Thus, I am honored to highlight him. He is “a man apart” who delights in bringing people together.

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

The rise of black sports agents

By DEVON DAVIS



Sports agents get in on the life of luxury, glamour and fame in an industry where agents compete heavily against each other to sign the biggest superstar athletes in their respective sports. Trying to get them the best contracts for their playing careers, the best marketing opportunities, the best endorsement deals, philanthropic opportunities and the best advice on how they can invest their money into businesses, startups and back into their communities. Many don’t see with the glamour comes a “sales pitch” and a trust factor, one that has not always fallen into the winning column of African American sports agents.

Last year we saw a groundbreaking shift within the sports agency world when more than half of the players selected in the first round of the NFL draft were represented by Black agents. This was the first time that has happened. Seventeen of the first-round selections, to be exact, were represented by Black agents. To add to that, five out of the first 10 players drafted in the first round of the 2020 NFL draft

were represented by African American agents, which is a new record. Some of those African American agents who represent some of those first round picks in the 2020 NFL draft are David Mulugheta of Athletes First Agency, Nicole Lynn of Young Money APAA Sports and Lifestyle Agency, Damarius Bilbo of Klutch Sports Group Agency and John Thornton of Roc Nation Sports.

Black agents have had a history of unique struggle in this industry. More than often overly critiqued by both white players and Black players because of an antiquated social ideology that views Blacks as intellectually inferior. Especially when their job description doesn’t include playing in a sports arena or performing on a stage.

Last year, the NCAA tried to implement a rule that required all agents to have a bachelor’s degree to serve as an agent. It was deemed by many as the “Rich Paul Rule” and seen as an attempt to impede the success of one of the most powerful agents in sports who does not have a college diploma. Paul represents LeBron James, Anthony Davis, Ben Simmons and Draymond Green, among many other NBA players. The agency also represents Chase Young and Jeff Okudah, two of the top three picks in

the 2020 NFL draft. The NCAA amended its agent requirements shortly after the backlash, axing the degree requirement. However, the prospective rule served as another indication of how these power structures continued to disallow individuals from less prestigious backgrounds, and oftentimes individuals of color, an opportunity to be successful.

Rich Paul was seen as a threat to the status quo and to the hierarchy of power. And to the image of an industry that is still dominated by individuals who don’t look like him that has long exercised fiscal and moral authority over Black athletes. You can see how Black agents are making huge positive impacts from the most popular and respected sports leagues in the world from the NBA to the NFL and to the MLB and laying out the ground work for others to follow in this business. In the future, it would be great and inspiring to see Blacks in this industry continue to thrive and dominate in this hard maneuvering industry. All we ever wanted in this industry was a seat at the table.

Devon Davis is a public policy specialist at Bose Public Affairs Group. Contact him at ddavis@bose-publicaffairs.com.

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Alumni chapters host coat drive



The Indianapolis chapter of the Jackson State University National Alumni Association and the Tennessee State University Greater Indianapolis Alumni Chapter held a coat drive Nov. 8-30 at Flanner House. The alumni chapters collected 111 coats for children in need. (Photos provided)

AARP Indiana is in your corner and in your community

During the 2021 Indiana General Assembly, state lawmakers sought to dismantle public transit in Indianapolis as we know it. As legislators debated about the merits of expansion of bus rapid transit and what it meant for consumers, AARP Indiana sprung into action to protect this valuable public service that helps make Indy more livable. AARP Indiana, community partners, and individual community members successfully advocated against legislation that would have brought transit to a screeching halt.

It's in this spirit that we wanted to introduce ourselves as wise friends and fierce defenders to our families and neighbors in Indianapolis. AARP Indiana is the state office for the nation's largest nonprofit, nonpartisan organization dedicated to empowering people 50-plus to choose how they live as they age. Our staff and volunteers work in partnership to fulfill our mission through education, outreach, and advocacy at the federal, state, and local levels of government.

Our membership of more than 820,000 members across the state is a diverse one – representing a full spectrum of backgrounds, political ideologies, and incomes. Indianapolis is one of AARP Indiana's focus communities which includes a local volunteer team that advocates for services, resources, and infrastructure that help Hoosiers age in place— living independently in their homes and communities, where they want to be.

As an eventful 2021 comes to a chilly close, we're mapping out our priorities for 2022. There are five ways we're going to advocate for the Indianapolis community at large: by making communities more livable; supporting family caregivers; fighting for safe, high-quality long-term care; ensuring financial security; and by encouraging exercising our rights to vote.

What does that all mean, and what does it look like?

It looks like lobbying for housing that is diverse, accessible, and affordable. It looks like fighting for better access to high-speed internet, for reliable and convenient public transit, and for safe and walkable streets that promote physical activity.

It means we'll be working hard to make it easier for parents, spouses, or other loved ones caring for someone. We can make this difficult task easier for



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families by advocating for relief like paid leave and tax credits for related out-of-pocket expenses.

And our friends, family members, and neighbors in long-term care won't be left behind.

Pushing lawmakers to keep a close eye on our long-term care system will be a top priority. Older Hoosiers who worked hard their entire lives are confronted with an out-of-date system and too many low-quality facilities. This doesn't have to be their reality.

AARP Indiana wants to make sure that Hoosiers have options when it comes to their long-term care, which includes investing in home-and community-based services so they can live independently at home, again, where they want to be most.

In addition to these efforts, AARP will continue to offer resources to help ensure our community's financial security, including a job board, resume advisor, and a skills builder to help older workers stay competitive.

Lastly, AARP proudly conducts non-partisan voter engagement in election seasons and has done so for more than 30 years. In 2022, we'll strive to inform the Indianapolis community about candidates' positions on the critical issues that impact the lives of people 50-plus and their families. We don't endorse candidates or make contributions to campaigns or political parties.

The team at AARP Indiana is excited about the opportunities for Indianapolis in 2022, and we hope we strive to serve our community well.

Addison Pollock is the Community Engagement Director for AARP Indiana where he works alongside volunteers and community partners to advocate for public policies and initiatives that make communities more livable for people of all ages.

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Data indicate omicron is milder, better at evading vaccines

By **ANDREW MELDRUM**
Associated Press

JOHANNESBURG (AP) — The omicron variant is offering more hints about what it may have in store as it spreads around the globe: a highly transmissible virus that may cause less severe disease, and one that can be slowed — but not stopped — by today's vaccines.

An analysis Dec. 14 of data from South Africa, where the new variant is driving a surge in infections, suggests the Pfizer vaccine offers less defense against infection from omicron and reduced, but still good, protection from hospitalization.

The findings are preliminary and have not been peer-reviewed — the gold standard in scientific research — but they line up with other early data about omicron's behavior, including that it seems to be more easily spread from person to person.

The spread can be seen in Britain, the United States and Denmark, where confirmed omicron cases are increasing at a worrisome pace, said Dr. Jacob Lemieux, who monitors variants for a research collaboration led by Harvard Medical School.

"Omicron is moving extraordinarily fast, faster even than the most pessimistic among us thought it was going to move," Lemieux said.

During past waves of the pandemic, the U.S. could look to Europe and Britain for an early signal of what was coming, Lemieux said. "With omicron, it seems to be happening everywhere all at once with extremely rapid kinetics."

It's unclear whether omicron's rapid spread will overwhelm hospitals. In South Africa, al-

though case numbers are rising, hospital admissions for adults diagnosed with COVID-19 are 29% lower compared to the wave the country experienced in mid-2020, after adjusting for vaccination status, according to the new analysis.

Still, some experts cautioned that it's too soon to draw conclusions since the variant is quite new and hospitalizations can lag weeks behind infections.

When omicron reaches broader populations more useful information will emerge, said Dr. David Dowdy, an infectious disease epidemiologist at Johns Hopkins Bloomberg School of Public Health.

"To date, omicron has disproportionately infected young adults — people who probably have more social contacts and are more likely to attend large gatherings," Dowdy said. Young adults may be more likely to be sick without knowing it, have more intense exposures and experience milder disease, he said.

"Our society needs to learn how to wait, rather than either panicking or dismissing early findings," Dowdy said.

U.S. health officials estimate that a small but growing proportion of new COVID-19 infections are due to omicron, and that the rise is particularly dramatic in some places.

Two weeks ago, omicron accounted for less than 0.5% of the coronaviruses that were genetically sequenced in the U.S. That rose to about 3% last week, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention reported Dec. 14.

But it varies from place to place, and is as high as 13% in the New York/New Jersey area, according to the agency.

The CDC is tracking how fast the percentage doubles, and as more cases come in, it may be better able to predict whether — or when — the omicron variant becomes the dominant version of the coronavirus in the U.S, health officials say.

In Britain, omicron cases are doubling every two to three days. Health officials say the variant will replace delta as the dominant coronavirus strain within days.

In the new South Africa findings, people who received two doses of the Pfizer-BioNTech vaccine appeared to have just 33% protection against infection, compared to those who were unvaccinated, during the country's current omicron-fueled surge, but 70% protection against hospitalization. The analysis was conducted by Discovery Health, South Africa's largest private health insurer, and the South African Medical Research Council.

The study did not look at booster shots, which are not yet prevalent in South Africa but which data from elsewhere has indicated improves protection.

The Pfizer vaccine's 70% protection against hospital admission during the omicron surge compares to a 93% protection level seen in South Africa's delta-driven wave, according to the new analysis.

That's a big drop in vaccine protection from severe illness requiring hospitalization, said Dr. Eric Topol, head of the Scripps Research Translational Institute.

"What we don't know yet is whether the booster will restore that back to greater than 90% and for how long," Topol said.

The analysis in South Africa was based on examining more than 211,000 COVID-19 test

results that date from Sept. 1 to Dec. 7 — 41% of which were for adults who had received two doses of the Pfizer vaccine, which is the most commonly used one in South Africa.

Experts now say that omicron accounts for more than 90% of all new infections in South Africa, according to Discovery Health chief executive Dr. Ryan Noach.

Researchers around the world are rushing to figure out what the variant will mean for the coronavirus pandemic, now well into its second year. More information came Dec. 14 from Pfizer, which announced that its experimental pill to treat COVID-19 — separate from its vaccine — appears effective against omicron.

In the weeks since the variant was detected, South Africa has experienced rapid spread of the virus. The seven-day rolling average of daily new cases in the country rose over the past two weeks from 8.07 new cases per 100,000 people on Nov. 29 to 34.37 new cases per 100,000 people on Dec. 13, according to Johns Hopkins University. The death rate hasn't increased during that same period.

Some say there's still not enough data to draw broad conclusions about hospitalizations and the severity of disease caused by omicron.

"Is omicron milder, or more severe than delta?" said Dr. Michael Head, Senior Research Fellow in Global Health, University of Southampton, wrote of the study.

"Time will tell. The world's finest scientists, including many in the global south such as in South Africa, will find out. For now, national-level decision-makers have to consider that discretion is the better part of valor."

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Early Syphilis Cases Increase in Marion County

Early syphilis cases in Marion County increased by 69% in 2020, from 317 cases in 2019 to 536 cases in 2020. The largest increases were among persons living with HIV; persons who are Black, African American or Hispanic; and men who have sex with men (MSM).

The rise in early syphilis cases in Marion County has continued in 2021, with an estimated 662 cases by the end of the year. Notably, cases among women have nearly doubled in 2021, with an estimated 98 cases in 2021 as compared to 54 cases in 2020, and the proportion of women with early syphilis who are pregnant has also increased.

Across the United States, cases of syphilis increased 74% between 2015-2019, with 129,813 cases in 2019 compared to 74,709 in 2015.

MSM remain disproportionately impacted accounting for a large number of male cases; however, rates among women have increased greatly in the recent years. During the years 2018–2019, the rate of congenital syphilis — when syphilis is passed from a woman to her baby during pregnancy — increased 41%. At the same time, the rate of primary and secondary syphilis among women of childbearing age increased 28%. National data from 2020 and 2021 have not yet been released.

In the fall of 2020, the Marion County Public Health Department's STD Control Program and Bell Flower Clinic reported the increases in early syphilis to medical providers and community partners. It requested appropriate syphilis testing, prompt treatment, immediate case reporting, and collaboration with the health department for partner services. Bell Flower Clinic has continued to provide low-cost STD services at its main location throughout the COVID-19 pandemic. A satellite STD testing site opened in September 2020 in an area with a high rate of early syphilis.

In the spring of 2021, the STD Control Program launched a free at-home STD testing program marketed to key populations through an online dating application. Early syphilis is now the top priority of the program's Disease Intervention Specialists (DIS) to provide timely disease investigation, partner notification, and linkage to services.

MCPHD recently received funding to expand and modernize its DIS workforce, which will strengthen the response to increases in early syphilis in Marion County. It is working closely with the Indiana Department of Health (IDOH) and the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) on response efforts.

MCPHD and IDOH have worked together to develop syphilis campaign materials that will be widely released on social media. Additionally, MCPHD and IDOH are partnering with CDC on a rapid ethnographic assessment to better understand what may be contributing to recent increases in syphilis in Marion County.

With this project, CDC staff are gathering information from various individuals in the community including staff at the local and state health department, staff at community-based organizations, local medical providers, and people at increased risk for syphilis.

Findings from the project will be used by MCPHD and IDOH to inform public health efforts such as improving access to and the quality of STD services and enhancing delivery of STD programs and related services. Medical providers are encouraged to consult with MCPHD's Bell Flower Clinic and STD Control Program as needed. To contact Bell Flower, please call 317-221-8300.

More information about Bell Flower Clinic is available at BellFlowerClinic.org.

Women breaking through to top roles in Black churches

By **ADELLE M. BANKS** of
Religion News Service and
PETER SMITH
Associated Press

When an opening for bishop arose in the Christian Methodist Episcopal Church in 2010, Teresa Jefferson-Snorton looked around to see if any women were offering to be candidates.

None were.

She knew that since its founding 140 years earlier by Black Methodists emerging from slavery, the denomination had never elected a woman bishop.

"I was like, oh my goodness, this can't be," she recalled. "If no one steps forward, it gives the church a pass."

Jefferson-Snorton, who had spent decades as a pastor, chaplain and theological educator, undertook several months of intensive prayer before discerning she was "feeling a call to this" from God. Then she put her name forward.

"To an extent, it was a political statement," said Jefferson-Snorton.

Despite opposition from some who said the denomination wasn't ready for a woman bishop, she was elected the CME's 59th bishop, overseeing 217 churches across Alabama and Florida.

Jefferson-Snorton said people there have come to accept



Getty Images

her in the role — if awkwardly at times.

"I can't tell you how many times people said, 'Yes sir,' to me," she said. "I just remind them, 'Yes ma'am' is OK."

Eleven years later, she remains the CME's only woman bishop, a status made vivid in an official photo of the church's college of bishops, where she sits among 16 men, all in purple and white vestments.

Most major Black Christian denominations in the U.S. have no doctrinal bar to ordained women leaders in the way that Catholicism and some other denominations do, and women have preached and been ordained in historically Black churches since at least the 19th century.

Yet denominational leadership remained all-male until the 21st century, and women are still the exception in the top rungs.

Earlier this year, the Rev. Gina Stewart became the first woman president of a major Black Baptist organization, the Lott Carey Baptist Foreign Mission Society, an organization that responds to disasters and fights poverty, hunger and human trafficking.

"Whenever a woman is placed in a role that is traditionally male, there's always some negativity that surrounds it," Stewart said, but in her first 90 days as president, she has received congratulatory calls from some male denominational leaders and support from her male predecessors,

without encountering "any major resistance."

"There's a shifting taking place," Stewart said, noting that more women have been promoted to important departments in the church.

"We know that it's long overdue," added Stewart, who is the senior pastor of Christ Missionary Baptist Church in Memphis, Tennessee. "But we give those organizations that are making the effort credit, taking the initiative and giving women that opportunity."

Religious organizations still need to do more to provide women chances for leadership development, said the Rev. Maisha Handy, associate professor of religion and education at the Interdenominational Theological Center,

a consortium of historically African American seminaries in Atlanta.

"We've certainly made strides around that in recent years, in recent decades, but we still have a long way to go," said Handy, who is also executive director of the Center for Black Women's Justice at ITC.

When Black denominations got their start in the late 18th and early 19th centuries, according to Handy, their biblical interpretations were affected by the cultural attitudes around them. "When you think about the kind of patriarchy and misogyny that is intrinsic to American history and culture, it makes sense that it was reflected also in those denominations," she said.

What's your religion? In US, a common reply now is 'None'

By **LUIS ANDRES HENAO**,
KWASI GYAMFI ASIEDU and
DAVID CRARY
Associated Press

Nathalie Charles, even in her mid-teens, felt unwelcome in her Baptist congregation, with its conservative views on immigration, gender and sexuality. So she left.

"I just don't feel like that gelled with my view of what God is and what God can be," said Charles, an 18-year-old of Haitian descent who identifies as queer and is now a freshman at Princeton University.

"It wasn't a very loving or nurturing environment for someone's faith."

After leaving her New Jersey church three years ago, she identified as atheist, then agnostic, before embracing a spiritual but not religious life. In her dorm, she blends rituals at an altar, chanting Buddhist, Taoist and Hindu mantras and paying homage to her ancestors as she meditates and prays.

The path taken by Charles places her among the religiously unaffiliated — the fastest-growing group in surveys asking Americans about their religious identity. They describe themselves as atheists, agnostics or "nothing in particular."

According to a survey released Dec. 14 by the Pew Research Center, this group — commonly known as the "nones" — now constitutes 29% of American adults. That's up from 23% in 2016 and 19% in 2011.

"If the unaffiliated were a religion, they'd be the largest religious group in the United States," said Elizabeth Drescher, an adjunct professor at Santa Clara University who wrote a book about the spiritual lives of the nones.

The religiously unaffiliated were once concentrated in urban, coastal areas, but now live across the U.S., representing a diversity of ages, ethnicities and socioeconomic backgrounds, Drescher said.

Even in their personal philosophies, America's nones vary widely, according to a recent poll by The Associated Press-NORC Center for Public Affairs Research. For example,



Getty Images

30% say they feel some connection to God or a higher power, and 19% say religion has some importance to them even though they have no religious affiliation.

About 12% describe themselves as religious and spiritual and 28% as spiritual but not religious. More than half describe themselves as neither.

Nearly 60% of the nones say religion was at least somewhat important to their families when they were growing up, according to the AP-NORC poll. It found that 30% of nones meditate and 26% pray privately at least a few times a month, while smaller numbers consult periodically with a religious or spiritual leader.

"There are people who do actually practice, either in a particular faith tradition that we would recognize, or in multiple faith traditions," Drescher said. "They're not interested in either membership in those communities formally or in identifying as someone from that religion."

Over recent years, the prevalence of the nones in the U.S. has been roughly comparable to Western Europe — but overall, Americans remain more religious, with higher rates of daily prayer and belief in God as described in the Bible. According to a 2018 Pew survey, about two-thirds of U.S. Christians prayed daily, compared to 6% in Britain and 9% in Germany.

The growth of the nones in the U.S. has come largely at the expense of the Protestant population in the U.S., according to the new Pew survey. It said 40% of U.S. adults are Protestants now, down from 50% a decade ago.

Among the former Protes-

tants is Shianda Simmons, 36, of Lakeland, Florida, who began identifying as an atheist in 2013.

She grew up as a Baptist and attended church regularly; she says she left mainly because of the church's unequal treatment of women.

Not everyone in her family knows she has forsaken religion, and some who do know struggle to accept it, Simmons said.

"There are certain people I can't tell that I am atheist," she said. "It has made me draw away from my family."

Similarly, at the beauty store she owns, she feels she must keep her atheism "under wraps" from clients, for fear they'd go elsewhere.

Like Simmons, Mandisa Thomas is a Black atheist — an identity that can be challenging in the many African American communities where churches are a powerful force. Thomas sang in a church choir in her childhood but was not raised Christian.

"Within the Black community, we face ostracism," said Thomas, who lives near Atlanta and founded Black Nonbelievers, a support group, in 2011. "There is this idea that somehow you are rejecting your blackness when you reject religion, that atheism is something that white people do."

Another advocate for the nones is Kevin Bolling, who grew up in a military family and served as a Roman Catholic altar boy. In college, he began to question the church's role, and grew dismayed about its position on sexuality after he came out as gay.

He's now executive director of the Secular Student Alliance, which has more than

200 branches in colleges and schools nationwide. The chapters, he said, serve as havens for secular students or those questioning their faith.

"I think this generation can be the first generation to be majority non-religious versus majority religious," he said.

Being Catholic also was a big part of Ashley Taylor's upbringing — she became an altar server at 9. Now 30, she identifies as religiously unaffiliated.

"It just means finding meaning and maybe even spirituality without practicing a religion ... pulling from whatever makes sense to me or whatever fits with my values," she said.

Her faith gave her strength when she had cancer at 11, she said, but she also feels that growing up Catholic negatively affected her emotional and sexual development and delayed her coming out as queer.

Eventually, Taylor discovered Sunday Assembly, which provided her with a congregation-like community but in a secular way, offering activities such as singing, book clubs and trivia nights. She's now board president at Sunday Assembly Pittsburgh.

"They're not trying to tell you what's true," said Taylor. "There's always a spirit of curiosity and questioning and openness."

For some nones, such as 70-year-old Zayne Marston of Shelburne, Massachusetts, their spiritual journey keeps evolving over decades.

Growing up near Boston, Marston attended a Congregational church with his family — he remembers Bible study, church-sponsored dances, the itchiness of his flannel trousers while attending Sunday

services.

Through high school and college, he "drifted away" from Christian beliefs and in his 30s began a serious, long-lasting journey into spirituality while in rehab to curb his alcoholism.

"Spirituality is a soul-based journey into the heart, surrendering one's ego will to a higher will," he said. "We're looking for our own answers, beyond the programming we received growing up."

His path has been rough at times — the death of his wife from a fast-moving cancer, financial troubles leading to the loss of his house — but he says his spiritual practice has replaced his anxieties with a "gentle joy" and a desire to help others.

He previously worked as a landscape designer and real estate appraiser, and now runs a school teaching qigong, a practice that evolved from China combining slow, relaxed movement with breathing exercises and meditation.

"As a kid, I used to think of God up on a throne, with a white beard, passing judgment, but that has totally changed," Marston said. "My higher power is the universe. ... It's always there for me, if I can get out of my ego's way."

The AP-NORC poll of 1,083 adults was conducted Oct. 21-25 using a sample drawn designed to be representative of the U.S. population. The margin of sampling error for all respondents is plus or minus 4 percentage points.

The Pew survey was conducted among 3,937 respondents from May 29 to Aug. 25. Its margin of error for the full sample of respondents is plus or minus 2.1 percentage points.

SPIRITUAL OUTLOOK

An Islamic perspective on critical race theory

By MICHAEL SAAHIR



“Seest thou not that Allah sends down rain from the sky? With it We then bring out produce of various colors. And in the mountains are tracts white and red, of various shades of color, and black intense in hue. And so amongst men and crawling creatures and cattle, are they of various colors. Those truly fear Allah, among His Servants, who have knowledge: for Allah is Exalted in Might, Oft-Forgiving.” Qur’an Chapter 35, verses 27-28

The dictionary offers various shades of definitions to the term “theory.” As regards to critical race theory (CRT), the following is probably the most applicable definition for “theory”: “the analysis of a set of facts in their relation to one another.”

As relates to the social illness of entrenched racism and racial strife in our collective American history and psyche (soul and self), some 40 years ago members of academia thought it appropriate — long overdue — to apply critical thinking to how race and racism affected the laws in our land. Furthermore, CRT is a deep analytical study into a race-based social construct (ideas that have been created and accepted by the people in a society) that created an “oppressor-victim” caste system that still exists in our society today. CRT is a study designed spe-

cifically for bringing to the forefront of America’s conscious solutions for addressing and eradicating the unnatural and divisive race-based social construct.

In his May 18, 2021, Education Week article, Stephen Sawchuk described CRT as, “An academic concept ... the core idea (of CRT) is that race is a social construct, and that racism is not merely the product of individual bias or prejudice, but also something embedded in legal systems and policies.”

So how does CRT go from being an academic approach to identifying racism in American laws to becoming a divisive political football game for changing K-12 curriculums? Around America we see state legislatures with Republican strongholds creating laws to stop CRT from being taught in K-12 grades in public schools, but guess what — no K-12 schools in those states even teach CRT. Critical race theory is an academic, collegiate level discussion, not an elementary level subject. So why the rush to stop CRT before it affects our K-12 students?

CRT has the potential to bring us closer to the realities and promises given to us in scripture. The above verse from the Qur’an concludes by stating, “Those truly fear Allah, among His Servants, who have knowledge: for Allah is Exalted in Might, Oft-Forgiving.” Isn’t that the goal of CRT, an in-depth analytical study that seeks for everyone to have more critical knowledge about the role of race in lawmaking? Power in America is in the hands

of those who make the laws of the land. The honorable Frederick Douglass shared a universal truth that is unbound by time: “Power concedes nothing without a demand. It never did and it never will ...”

Actually, CRT is not a 20th century novelty that began in the 1970s. CRT in America began quietly within the minds and hearts of the first enslaved Africans who suffered injustice simply because of their skin color. From 1619 until today there has been a constant stream, drip by drip, of sweat from Africans in America toiling on plantations; drips of their tears from souls crying to G_d for mercy; and drips of their blood from the wounds of uncountable lashes from the slave whip; yes all of these drips were the beginning of critical theories that questioned why my race — the color of my skin — was such an issue for people who claimed on paper that “all men are created free.” The same people, who while declaring their freedom, enshrined the words, “We hold these truths to be self-evident, that all men are created equal, that they are endowed by their Creator with certain unalienable Rights, that among these are Life, Liberty and the pursuit of Happiness ...”

That’s all that CRT in academia is designed to do — the demanding from those abusing power to deconstruct all abusive race-based social constructs. Yes, this deconstruction obligates the privileged folks to look into the mirrors of an ugly past of America’s treatment of many sectors of our society, and that, it seems, is the crux (crossroads) of

the problem.

Many conservative-minded Americans are afraid, maybe even distrustful of the universal claims of the U.S. Constitution that, just maybe, it is for all people. Most conservatives want to conserve things just the way they are even if it means conserving false historical narratives taught in our society, namely, that CRT is in our schools. What are they afraid of? A loss of perceived power and control?

Allah in the Bible and the Qur’an levels the playing field for all of His human creatures. “Seest thou not that Allah sends down rain from the sky? With it We then bring out produce of various colors.” The Qur’an says the same about the various colors of mankind. We all come from the same source, and we’re all going back to the one and same source. We hear a similar message from Paul the Apostle, “There is neither Jew nor Gentile, neither slave nor free, nor is there male and female, for you are all one in Christ Jesus.” If all people recognized the common human essence in everyone, then there would be no racism, thus no need for CRT.

For those opposing CRT, often they throw out a red herring; the false notion that CRT is about making Caucasian children feel bad or guilty about America’s racist past. But as with any problem in life, you can’t solve a problem until you properly identify exactly what is the problem. That is what CRT is doing, trying to properly identify the race problem in whatever formats it is presented. If we trust the ability of

our children to learn and handle historical truths of the past, would not that make them greater leaders for tomorrow?

Muslim American spokesman, the late Imam W. Deen Mohammed, explained that the mountain mentioned in chapter 37, verse 27, represents the government order: the leaders in society. It reads, “tracts white and red, of various shades of color, and black intense in hue.” This huge, massive leadership (mountain) should be a collective that is representative of all the races in our human family where each is respected as an equal in the government and in lawmaking.

As America continues to strive toward a “more perfect union,” it is imperative that we recognize that slavery is America’s “original sin,” and that CRT is an important factor in our striving toward achieving the status of, “One nation, under G_d, with liberty and justice for all!” America needs a theoretical idea that allows for a serious critique of the deep reaching and negative effects that racism has had (and still has) on our collective nation.

No matter what our skin color may be, as the Qur’an says, “Allah sends down rain from the sky? With it We then bring out produce of various colors.” Yes, one rain, one humanity, One G_d!

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

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EAST LOCATION
2125 N. GERMAN CHURCH ROAD
INDIANAPOLIS, IN 46229

SUNDAYS
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THURSDAYS
7:00pm

WEST LOCATION
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4401 W 52ND ST., INDIANAPOLIS, IN 46254

SUNDAYS
9:30am

Dr. James Anthony & Lady Tara Jackson

www.NEWBINDY.org
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Six Sigma program helps Cummins fulfill mission

By STAFF

The Six Sigma Racial Equity Initiative, a program for Black female professionals to earn a certification in problem solving, removes some of the barriers Black women often face in corporate America when it comes to receiving training.

The program includes six classes — one class a week for six weeks — and ends with a test and project. The next cohort will start in April 2022.

Cummins, one of the sponsors for the program, uses the training to advance its goals in diversity, equity and inclusion. Judy Brunson, vice president for global quality, answered questions about what the training means to the company.

Indianapolis Recorder:

What is the relationship between Cummins and the Six Sigma Racial Equity Initiative?

Judy Brunson: Diversity and inclusion is a cornerstone

value of Cummins Inc., and the company is recognized as a continuous improvement company because of our over 20 years of Six Sigma practice. Just as Six Sigma and continuous improvement are business imperatives, our diversity, equity and inclusion are also imperative. Connecting with the Six Sigma Racial Equity Initiative helps us fulfill our mission of making people's lives better by powering a more prosperous world, and in this case by helping build the data driven and problem-solving capability of Black women through accredited Six Sigma training. Our Six Sigma Black Belts, Latonya Sisco and Christopher Walker, lead Cummins Advocating for Racial Equity (CARE) Six Sigma coaching efforts, which is also a creative way to give back to the community with our talent and time.

Indianapolis Recorder:

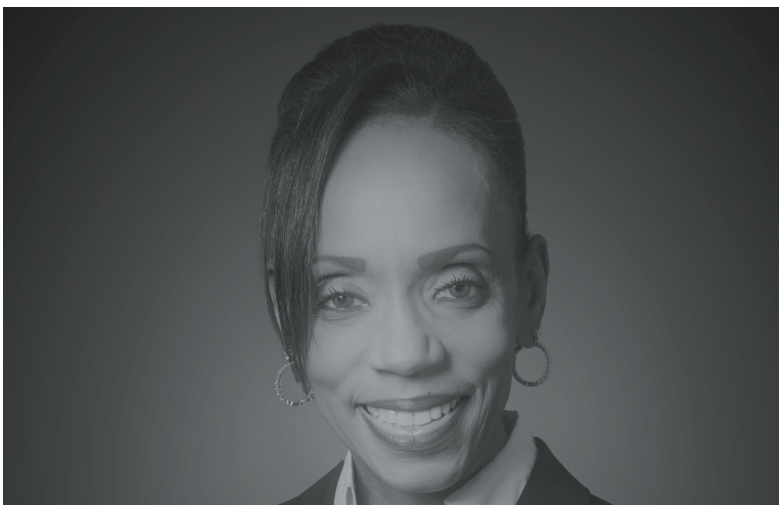
Why is the program important to Cummins?

Judy Brunson: Diversity, equity and inclusion have been woven into the fabric of our company and is an opportunity to upskill Black women to be complex problem solvers through this accredited Six Sigma Green Belt training program and aligns with our company's values and mission, and improves the communities we serve.

Indianapolis Recorder:

What does the program mean for you and other corporate partners?

Judy Brunson: Cummins Inc., and similar companies, understand the value of the data-driven methodology of Six Sigma. Six Sigma improves the performance of our products and processes throughout our company. We are helping to empower Black women that will use their Six Sigma skills to solve complex problems in their profession and communities. For Cummins, this aligns directly with our mission and values.



Judy Brunson (Photo provided by Cummins)

Indianapolis Recorder: Is there anything else you'd like people to know?

Judy Brunson: Cummins is built on diversity, equity and inclusion. Six Sigma is also a common practice in our operation. Six Sigma data-based analysis is used to identify defects and variation in a wide range of manufacturing and business situations. Cummins employees also frequently use Six Sigma when working with

community partners on community engagement projects. Cummins' support to the Six Sigma Racial Equity Initiative is part of Cummins Advocating for Racial Equity (CARE), which is Cummins' systematic approach to dismantle racial inequity. Under our CARE initiative, April Guest and Sara McAninch lead Six Sigma projects to address mental health resource requirements in Bartholomew County, Indiana and recommend solutions.

Overcoming obstacles one step at a time

By JERWANA LASTER



Standing on your own two feet is how you support yourself. We rely on our feet to stand, walk, run and so much more, but are we always providing them the support they need? We Heel the Sole Podiatry provides high-quality, comprehensive

foot care for the senior community — a community that requires support and help from people they can relate to. Especially for seniors of color, it's critical that they're able to access the quality care they need from health care professionals who look like them.

The aging minority population has inferior access to health care and receives lower quality services than the general population throughout their lives. This creates an evident disparity of more chronic medical conditions, which worsen over time, and leads to earlier deaths. Health education can

be tied back to susceptible seniors of Black, brown and Latino descent being deeply distrustful of our government and health care institutions.

I wasn't fortunate enough to grow up with either set of my grandparents. The knowledge and history passed down in Black families is vital to making sense of the world. Especially in the Black community, we face impediments to health care access, community health challenges and a lack of representation of health care professionals who not only look like us, but they better understand our unique needs. We Heel the Sole Podiatry was built out of a desire to provide quality and critical health care by the Black community, for the Black community and the community of seniors as a whole.

From the desire to start on my own and separate We Heel the Sole Podiatry from the "big" health care competitors, I strive to create an environment where patients feel like family — with trust being at the core of that patient provider relationship. Getting to know my patients and hearing their stories is a treat. Providing their bodies with the support they need is why I started

my own practice, and I'm grateful for the trust they invest in me to help meet their health care needs.

But last year, my senior patients were not the only ones who needed support. I needed it. In March 2020, the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS), the federal regulator for nursing homes, restricted all visitation in response to the coronavirus, except in end-of-life situations. The senior community I saw was no longer accessible. Their doors were shut, and I was doing everything in my power to keep mine open.

When I discovered the Indy Chamber, I knew I needed the help and expertise of a team that knew all about business and the community at large. The Indy Chamber's Business Ownership Initiative (BOI) team immediately referred me to the Rapid Response Loan program, where I received funding critical to my business's survival. In addition, I was set up with business coaching and free webinars that helped answer questions and ease the financial depletion the pandemic caused my business.

I am here to serve and support the senior community. BOI allowed me

to continue providing non-invasive, preventive podiatry services to a population in need at a time when they struggled to access quality care. We Heel the Sole has been able to participate in programs and grants that have changed the trajectory of my business, all because I took the time and initiative to connect.

BOI continues to connect me with resources and programs that have created an abundance of networks throughout the city of Indianapolis and the entire state. I didn't know these opportunities existed prior to reaching out to the Indy Chamber. My feet establish my voice and place as an entrepreneur in Indiana, and they led me down this path, which is one of the best decisions I have made to date as a small business owner. One day soon, I will say I am a big business in Indiana because of this support.

Dr. Jerwana Laster is owner of Wee the Sole Podiatry.

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INDIANAPOLIS, IN

Brian Philps

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New Rates

As an historic publication that has served the Indianapolis community for nearly 124 years, it's with regret that the Recorder must raise its rates for legal notices.

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

We want to thank you for all the support you have shown us and ask for your continued support.

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

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STATE OF MICHIGAN CASE NO. 21-0006-NA 39th JUDICIAL CIRCUIT -- FAMILY DIVISION PETITION NO. 1
LENAWEE COUNTY PUBLICATION OF HEARING
(NOTICE TO PUTATIVE FATHER)
IN THE MATTER OF: MAYA LINLEY
TAKE NOTICE:
A petition has been filed with this court regarding the following minor(s):
Maya Linley who was born on 04/12/2017 at University of Michigan Hospital in Washtenaw County, Ann Arbor, Michigan.
The mother of the minor(s) is Alysianna Nicole Banda. If you are or may be the natural father, you should appear at Lenawee County Juvenile Court, Adrian, MI, 49221, on January 8, 2022, at 8:30 a.m. to state any interest you may have in the minor(s). Failure to appear at this hearing is a denial of interest in the minor(s), waiver of notice for all subsequent hearings, and a waiver of a right to appointment of an attorney. Failure to appear at this hearing COULD RESULT IN PERMANENT TERMINATION OF PARENTAL RIGHTS.
5320-933856
12/17/21

STATE OF INDIANA) IN THE MARION CIRCUIT COURT
COUNTY OF MARION) CAUSE NO: 49C01-2112-PL-040807
HTC PROPERTIES, LLC Plaintiff,
v.
WILLIAM JOHN RUSSELL and unknown husbands, wives, widows, widowers, surviving spouses, heirs, legatees, devisees, grantees, children, descendants, mortgagees, creditors, administrators, executors, trustees, receivers, guardians, successors, assigns, if deceased, of all persons above named, all persons, associations, partnerships, partners, trustees, assigns, representatives, successors, corporations, or claimants, who assert any title to claim upon or interest in the real estate herein described, all women once known by any of the names or designations above stated, whose names may have been changed and the names of all the spouses of persons above named; described and designated as defendants to this action who are married and whose names are unknown
NOTICE OF SUIT
The STATE OF INDIANA to the defendants above named, and any other person who may be concerned. You are notified that you have been sued in the Court above named.
The nature of the suit against you is:
Complaint to Quiet Title to the following Real Estate in Marion County, Indiana, to-wit:
LOT NUMBERED EIGHTEEN (18) IN GUTHRIE THOMPSON'S SUBDIVISION OF PETER M. BIGNEY'S SUBDIVISION AS SHOWN IN PLAT BOOK 24, PAGE 539, IN THE OFFICE OF THE RECORDER OF MARION COUNTY, INDIANA.
Commonly known as: 1617 N. Bosart Ave., Indianapolis, IN 46218
To the following Defendants whose whereabouts are known:
To the following Defendants whose whereabouts are not known: WILLIAM JOHN RUSSELL and The unknown husbands, wives, widows, widowers, surviving spouses, heirs, legatees, devisees, grantees, children, descendants, mortgagees, creditors, administrators, executors, trustees, receivers, guardians, successors, assigns, if deceased, of all persons above named, all persons, associations, partnerships, partners, trustees, assigns, representatives, successors, corporations, or claimants, who assert any title to claim upon or interest in the real estate herein described, all women once known by any of the names or designations above stated, whose names may have been changed and the names of all the spouses of persons above named; described and designated as defendants to this action who are married and whose names are unknown to Plaintiff. In addition to the above named defendants being served by this summons there may be other defendants who have an interest in this law suit. If you have a claim for relief against the plaintiff arising from the same transaction or occurrence, you must assert it in your written answer.
You must answer the Complaint in writing, by or your attorney, on or before 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.
The Name and Address of the Attorney Representing the Plaintiff is:
Kathleen S. Crebo
HOCKER LAW LLC
Attorney for Plaintiff
6626 E. 75th St., Suite 410
Indianapolis, IN 46250
T: (317) 578-1630
F: (317) 849-1892
E: Kathleen.Crebo@hockerlaw.com
12/9/2021
/s/ Myla A. Eldridge
Marion County Clerk
SEAL:
Prepared By: Kathleen S. Crebo #29876-49 HOCKER LAW LLC 5320-933956
12/17/21, 12/24/21, 12/31/21

ATTORNEY: Michael Langlois SHOUSE & LAN-GLOIS/9884-82 9510 East Washington Street
Indianapolis IN 46229
Telephone: (317) 899-3500
Facsimile: (317) 899-3526
e-mail: mlanglois@shouselanglois.com
Notice of Administration
IN THE MARION COUNTY Superior Court, Probate Division
In the matter of the Estate of Helen T. Lamb, deceased.
Cause Number 49D08-2111-EU-038794
Notice is hereby given that Kathleen Kozenski, Michael Lamb, and Diane Lamb were, on the 30th day of November, 2021, appointed Co-Personal Representatives of the Estate of Helen T. Lamb, deceased.
All persons who have claims against said estate, whether or not now due, must file the claim in said 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 30th day of November, 2021.
/s/ Myla A. Eldridge
Clerk of the Marion County Superior Court, Probate Division
For Marion County, Indiana 5320-933589
12/17/21, 12/24/21

STATE OF INDIANA) IN THE MARION SUPERIOR COURT
) SS: COUNTY OF MARION) CAUSE NO.: 49D08-2112-EU-040386
IN THE MATTER OF THE UNSUPERVISED ADMINISTRATION OF THE ESTATE OF PAULINE J. CRIDER, DECEASED.
NOTICE OF ADMINISTRATION
IN THE SUPERIOR COURT OF MARION COUNTY, INDIANA
In the matter of the Estate of Pauline J. Crider, deceased.
Notice is hereby given that Janet S. Crider was, on the December 6, 2021, appointed Personal Representative of the Estate of Pauline J. Crider, deceased, who died on the 1st day of March, 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 months from the date of the first publication of this notice, or within nine months after the decedent's death, whichever is earlier, or the claims will be forever barred.
Dated at Indianapolis, Indiana, this December 6, 2021.
/s/ Myla A. Eldridge
Myla Eldridge, Clerk of the Superior Court of Marion County
Claire E. Lewis, 115 North Girls School Road, Indianapolis, Indiana 46214, (317) 484-8115.
5320-933579
12/17/21, 12/24/21

NOTICE OF UNSUPERVISED ADMINISTRATION CAUSE NO. 49D08-2112-EU-040617
IN THE SUPERIOR COURT OF MARION COUNTY, INDIANA

have been sued in the Court above named.
The nature of the suit against you is the foreclosure of a mortgage upon the property legally described as follows:
LOT ONE (1) IN BUENA ANN ADDITION AN ADDITION TO THE CITY OF INDIANAPOLIS AS PER PLAT THEREOF RECORDED IN PLAT BOOK 25 PAGE 357 IN THE OFFICE OF THE RECORDER OF MARION COUNTY INDIANA.
SUBJECT TO ALL EASEMENTS, COVENANTS, CONDITIONS, RESERVATIONS, LEASES AND RESTRICTIONS OF RECORD, ALL LEGAL HIGHWAYS, ALL RIGHTS OF WAY, ALL ZONING, BUILDING AND OTHER LAWS, ORDINANCES AND REGULATIONS, ALL RIGHTS OF TENANTS IN POSSESSION, AND ALL REAL ESTATE TAXES AND ASSESSMENTS NOT YET DUE AND PAYABLE.
BEING THE SAME PROPERTY AS CONVEYED FROM JAMES R. GLOVER AND CAROL JEAN GLOVER TO JEFFREY L. BURTON AND REBECCA J. BURTON, HUSBAND AND WIFE, AS DESCRIBED IN INSTRUMENT NO. 900007689, DATED 1/19/1990, RECORDED 1/24/1990.
Commonly known as: 3003 Villa Ave, Indianapolis, IN 46237
This summons by publication is specifically directed to the following defendant(s) whose whereabouts are unknown: Rebecca J. Burton
In addition, to the above-named defendants being served by this summons, there may be other defendants who have an interest in this lawsuit.
An answer or other appropriate response in writing to the Complaint must be filed either by you or your attorney with the Clerk of the Court for Marion County at:
Marion County Clerk
200 East Washington Street
Ste. W122
Indianapolis, IN 46204
on or before the 30th day of January, 2022, (the same being thirty (30) days after the Third Notice of Suit), and if you fail to do so, a judgment may be entered against you for what the plaintiff has demanded.
Phillip A. Norman, P.C.
/s/ Phillip A. Norman
Phillip A. Norman #13734-64
Attorney for Plaintiff
Phillip A. Norman, P.C.
2110 Calumet Avenue
Valparaiso, IN 46383
Telephone: 219-462-5104
20-00303
ATTEST:
/s/ Myla A. Eldridge
Clerk, Marion Superior Court
5320-933742
12/17/21, 12/24/21, 12/31/21

Notice is hereby given that Jeffrey K. Sparks was, on the 8th day of December, 2021, appointed personal representative of the Estate of Shirley A. Ripberger, deceased, who died on the 26th day of October, 2021.
All persons having claims against said estate, whether or not now due, must file the same in said 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 said claim will be forever barred.
Dated at Indianapolis, Indiana, this 8th day of December, 2021.
Myla A. Eldridge, Clerk of the Court
Marion County, Indiana
Briane M. House, Attorney
Pritske & Davis, LLP
728 N. State St.
Greenfield, IN 46140
(317) 462-3434
Attorney for the Estate
5320-933852
12/17/21, 12/24/21, 12/31/21

STATE OF INDIANA) SUPERIOR COURT 8
) ss: PROBATE DIVISION) COUNTY OF MARION) CAUSE NO.: 49D08-2112-EU-040684
IN THE MATTER OF THE UNSUPERVISED FREDERICK C. KELLERMEIER, DECEASED
Attorney:
Kathryn Kuehn, #21506-49
Kuehn Law, LLC
45 West Clinton Street
Indianapolis, Indiana 46122
Publisher:
The Indianapolis Recorder
2901 North Tacoma
Indianapolis, Indiana 46218
PUBLICATION NOTICE OF ESTATE OPENING
Notice is hereby given that, on December 9, 2021, Kerri Stanger was appointed Personal Representative of the Estate of Frederick C. Kellermeier who died on the 16th day of November, 2021.
All persons who have claims against the 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 of the decedent's death, whichever is earlier, or the claims will be forever barred.
Dated at Indianapolis, Indiana, this December 9, 2021.
/s/ Myla A. Eldridge
MYLA A. ELDRIDGE, Clerk of Marion County
5320-934004
12/17/21, 12/24/21

SUMMONS -- SERVICE BY PUBLICATION
STATE OF INDIANA) IN THE SUPERIOR COURT OF MARION COUNTY
SS: COUNTY OF MARION) CAUSE NO.: 49D09-2107-DC-006308
ADENIKE O. SONUGA Plaintiff(s)
-V-
SAMUEL O. SONUGA Plaintiff(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 against you is: Civil.
This summons by publication is specifically directed to the following named defendant(s) whose addresses are:
And to the following defendant(s) whose whereabouts are unknown: SAMUEL O. SONUGA.
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 or your attorney, on or before the 30th day of January, 2022, (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/ Adenike O. Sonuga
Plaintiff
Address: 5960 Magdalen Dr.
City and State: Indianapolis, IN 46224
Phone Number: (317) 665-2222
ATTEST:
Clerk of the Marion Court
5320-933494
12/17/21, 12/24/21, 12/31/21

SUMMONS -- SERVICE BY PUBLICATION
STATE OF INDIANA) IN THE SUPERIOR COURT OF MARION COUNTY
SS: COUNTY OF MARION) CAUSE NO.: 49D09-2111-DN-010023
IN THE MARRIAGE OF: GRETTEL L. ULLOA AND ISMAEL JIMENEZ AGUILAR
NOTICE OF SUIT
The State of Indiana to the RESPONDENT above named, and any other person who may be concerned.
You are notified that you have been sued in the Court above named.
The nature of the suit against you is: Petition for Dissolution of Marriage.
This summons by publication is specifically directed to the following named RESPONDENT who address WAS DEPORTED TO MEXICO AND WHILE HE WAS HERE HIS STATUS WAS ILLEGAL. HE HAS NO WAY TO COME BACK BECAUSE HE DOESN'T HAVE A VISA.
And to the following RESPONDENT whose whereabouts are unknown: Ismael Jimenez Aguilar.
In addition to the above named RESPONDENT being served by this summons there may be other RESPONDENT 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 or your attorney, within thirty (30) days after the Third Notice of Suit, and if you fail to do so a judgment by default may be entered against you for the relief demanded by the plaintiff.
/s/ Andrew L. Kraemer

must answer the Complaint in writing, by or your attorney, on or before the 30th day of January, 2022, (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 Court
Pro se
Grettel L. Ulloa
5361 Sunset Ave.
Indianapolis, IN 46208
Phone: (908) 343-5196
5320-934071
12/17/21, 12/24/21, 12/31/21

SUMMONS -- SERVICE BY PUBLICATION
STATE OF INDIANA) IN THE COURT OF MARION COUNTY
) SS: COUNTY OF MARION) CAUSE NO.: 49D10-2112-DN-010301
Courtney G. Starms Plaintiff
V.
Ricco L. Starms 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 proceedings/Divorce filed.
This summons by publication is specifically directed to the following named defendant(s) whose addresses are: unknown.
And to the following defendant(s) whose whereabouts are unknown: Ricco L. Starms.
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 or your attorney, on or before the 30th day of January, 2022, (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 Court
Courtney G. Starms
4425 Devon Drive
Indianapolis, IN 46226
(317) 658-1970
5320-933578
12/17/21, 12/24/21, 12/31/21

SUMMONS -- SERVICE BY PUBLICATION
STATE OF INDIANA) IN THE MARION SUPERIOR COURT
COUNTY OF MARION) CAUSE NO. 49D12-2110-MF-034263
Clerk
Marion SUPERIOR Court
200 E. Washington Street,
Room W122
Indianapolis, IN 46204
(317) 327-4740
NEWREZ LLC D/B/A SHELLPOINT MORTGAGE SERVICING Plaintiff
Vs.
UNKNOWN HEIRS AT LAW AND DEVEISES OF PATRICIA J. WESTERFIELD; INDIANAPOLIS MORRIS PLAN CORPORATION; JPMORGAN CHASE BANK, N.A.; SABBINA A. KAUVAKA; JOHN WESTERFIELD; JEANNIE MARIE KIRTNER; WILLIAM J. WESTERFIELD JR.; ESTATE OF PATRICIA J. WESTERFIELD; UNKNOWN OCCUPANT Defendant
NOTICE OF SUIT
The State of Indiana to the Defendant above named and any other person who may be concerned.
You are notified that you have been sued in the Court against you is:
Complaint on Note and to Foreclose Mortgage on Real Estate against the property described in Exhibit B of the Complaint as set out below:
Legal Description
LOT 47 IN HOLLY HEIGHTS SUBDIVISION IN MARION COUNTY, INDIANA, AS PER PLAT THEREOF, RECORDED MARCH 18, 1978, AS INSTRUMENT #78-12685 IN THE OFFICE OF THE RECORDER OF MARION COUNTY, INDIANA.
This summons by publication is specifically directed to the following named defendants: UNKNOWN HEIRS AT LAW AND DEVEISES OF PATRICIA J. WESTERFIELD; INDIANAPOLIS MORRIS PLAN CORPORATION and/or the successor in interest to the INDIANAPOLIS MORRIS PLAN CORPORATION; JPMORGAN CHASE BANK, N.A.; SABBINA A. KAUVAKA; JOHN WESTERFIELD; JEANNIE MARIE KIRTNER; WILLIAM J. WESTERFIELD JR.; ESTATE OF PATRICIA J. WESTERFIELD; UNKNOWN OCCUPANT
This summons by publication is specifically directed to the following named defendant whose whereabouts are: OR LESS IN LENGTH IN SECTIONS 11, TOWNSHIP 17 NORTH, RANGE 3 EAST, CLAY TOWNSHIP WILL BE OPENED AND READ ON THE 10th DAY OF JANUARY, 2022, AT 12:00 P.M., BY THE HAMILTON COUNTY DRAINAGE BOARD IN THE HAMILTON COUNTY COMMISSIONERS COURT IN THE HAMILTON COUNTY JUDICIAL BUILDING, ONE HAMILTON COUNTY SQUARE, NOBLESVILLE, INDIANA 46060-2230.
All bids must be on proposal forms furnished by the Hamilton County Surveyor and accompanied by a bid bond or certified check in an amount equal to five percent (5%) of the bid amount. The bidder shall also execute a FORM 96 as required by the State Board of Accounts and include a notarized non-collusion affidavit with the bid documents.
Plans and specifications for the project are on file in the office of the Hamilton County Drainage Board / Sur-

Andrew L. Kraemer
Attorney No. 14872-71
Andrew L. Kraemer
Johnson, Blumberg & Associates, LLC
500 West Lincoln Highway,
Suite J
Merrillville, IN 46410
Ph. (312) 541-9710
Fax (312) 541-9711
NOTICE
JOHNSON, BLUMBERG & ASSOCIATES, LLC IS A DEBT COLLECTOR. THIS IS AN ATTEMPT TO COLLECT A DEBT, AND ANY INFORMATION OBTAINED MAY BE USED FOR THAT PURPOSE.
/s/ Myla A. Eldridge
5320-934084
12/17/21, 12/24/21, 12/31/21

STATE OF INDIANA) IN THE MARION COUNTY SUPERIOR COURT 9
SS: COUNTY OF MARION) CAUSE NO. 49D09-2106-AD-018693
IN RE THE MATTER OF THE ADOPTION OF JORDAN AZELL SPARKS MINOR
TO ALL INTERESTED PERSONS:
You are hereby notified that a Petition for Adoption of a child named Jordan Azell Sparks was filed in the Office of the Marion County Clerk.
A final hearing in the adoption matter is scheduled for the 28th day of February, 2022, at 11:00 o'clock a.m.
The Petition for Adoption alleges that the consent to the adoption of the natural father is not necessary due to not seeing, supporting or communicating with child in eight (8) years.
If you are an interested Person and wish to object to or consent to the adoption, then said objection or consent should be filed fourteen (14) days prior to the above-referenced hearing date.
No oral statement made to any person relieves that person from the obligations under this Notice.
Myla A. Eldridge
Marion County Clerk
Sherree D. Mullins
Mullins Law, LLC
1903 Crown Plaza Blvd
Plainfield, IN 46168
(317) 839-9400
5320-933593
12/17/21, 12/24/21, 12/31/21

SUMMONS -- SERVICE BY PUBLICATION
STATE OF INDIANA) IN THE COURT OF MARION COUNTY
) SS: COUNTY OF MARION) CAUSE NO.: 49D15-2110-DN-008964
Marnita Taylor Plaintiff(s)
V.
Shanika Taylor Defendant(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 against you is: Divorce.
This summons by publication is specifically directed to the following named defendant(s) whose addresses are: N/A I don't know. Haven't seen or talked to this person in over 2 1/2 years. No contact at all.
And to the following defendant(s) whose whereabouts are unknown: Shanika Taylor.
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 or your attorney, on or before the 30th day of January, 2022, (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 Court
Marnita Taylor
2707 N. Kessler Blvd.
Indianapolis, IN 46222
(463) 230-2201
5320-934011
12/17/21, 12/24/21, 12/31/21

Legal Notice
STATE OF INDIANA) DEPARTMENT OF ADMINISTRATION
NOTICE TO BIDDERS ON BEHALF OF: All State Agencies
SOLICITATION FOR: Less Lethal Munitions; ASA-22-69936
PROPOSAL DUE DATE: February 04, 2022 by 3:00 PM EST
<https://www.in.gov/idoa/2354.htm>
5320-933567
12/17/21

NOTICE TO BIDDERS
NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN THAT SEALED BIDS FOR THE RECONSTRUCTION OF THE CLARA KNOTTS PARK BROADWAY DRAIN, PHASE 2, 4,250 FEET, MORE OR LESS IN LENGTH IN SECTIONS 11, TOWNSHIP 17 NORTH, RANGE 3 EAST, CLAY TOWNSHIP WILL BE OPENED AND READ ON THE 10th DAY OF JANUARY, 2022, AT 12:00 P.M., BY THE HAMILTON COUNTY DRAINAGE BOARD IN THE HAMILTON COUNTY COMMISSIONERS COURT IN THE HAMILTON COUNTY JUDICIAL BUILDING, ONE HAMILTON COUNTY SQUARE, NOBLESVILLE, INDIANA 46060-2230.
All bids must be on proposal forms furnished by the Hamilton County Surveyor and accompanied by a bid bond or certified check in an amount equal to five percent (5%) of the bid amount. The bidder shall also execute a FORM 96 as required by the State Board of Accounts and include a notarized non-collusion affidavit with the bid documents.
Plans and specifications for the project are on file in the office of the Hamilton County Drainage Board / Sur-

veyor's Office at One Hamilton County Square, Suite 188, Noblesville, Indiana 46060.
This is a federally funded project, Davis-Bacon Wage Rates will apply. WBE/MBE Businesses are encouraged to bid.
A non-refundable fee for plans and specifications of Seventy-Five Dollars (\$75.00) is required. Check payable to the Hamilton County Treasurer.
ALL BIDS WILL BE SUBMITTED TO THE DRAINAGE BOARD SECRETARY BY 12:00 P.M. JANUARY 10, 2022.
Attest: Lynette Mosbaugh
Executive Secretary
5320-934085
12/17/21

Indianapolis Public Transportation Corporation (IndyGo)
Notice of Public Meeting
IndyGo Shares Analysis of Blue Line Segment 1 Design
IndyGo will host an informational Blue Line virtual meeting Tuesday, Dec. 28, from 5:30-6:30 p.m. that will detail an evaluation of a reconfigured design for Segment 1, from the Indianapolis International Airport to Holt Road.
As IndyGo progresses toward 60% completion of the design for the upcoming Blue Line rapid transit, members of the state legislature have asked the agency to evaluate a reconfigured design for Segment 1. This meeting will share an analysis and budgetary impacts of the reconfigured design elements.
While IndyGo has no plans to implement these designs in this segment, nor are these scenarios included in the budget, the agency wants to continue to be transparent with the community on this shared journey toward stronger mobility options for our city.
Those interested in learning more or registering to attend should visit www.indygo.net/blue-line/. Special accommodations requests should be made at least three days in advance to Jordan Patterson at jpaterson@indygo.net.
5320-933416
12/17/21

ADVERTISEMENT TO PRE-QUALIFY TO BID
Project: Schleman Hall, Stewart Center, & Related Renovations - 2022 located on Purdue University's main campus, in West Lafayette, Indiana.
F.A. Wilhelm Construction Company will receive pre-qualification statements for the following trade scopes included in Bid Event #1 until 12:00 P.M., December 29th, 2021 for the Schleman Hall, Stewart Center & Related Renovations -- 2022 project.
•BE#1--Monumental Stair and Railings (Furnish Only), Millwork (Furnish Only), Exterior Windows, Doors, Frames & Hardware, Sectional Door and Air Handling Units (Furnish Only).
All interested bidders must contact Matt McCullough at mattmccullough@fawilhelm.com to gain access to the Pre-qualification form. Pre-qualified bidders will receive an invitation to bid on the above referenced project. Please direct all questions to Matt McCullough at (317) 359-5411 or mattmccullough@fawilhelm.com.
F.A. Wilhelm is an Equal Opportunity Employer M/F/D/V
All qualified applicants will receive consideration for employment without regard to their protected veteran status and will not be discriminated against on the basis of disability.
F.A. WILHELM CONSTRUCTION COMPANY
Matt McCullough - Preconstruction Manager
Tom Kerker - Project Executive
5320-934012
12/17/21, 12/24/21

NOTICE OF COMMITTEE MEETING
Notice is hereby given that a meeting of the Quality Committee of the Board of Trustees of the Health & Hospital Corporation of Marion County, Indiana will be held at 10:30 a.m. on Tuesday, December 21, 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 Orders and IC 5-14-1.5-3.7. Attendees may join by phone using the following information:
Phone number: 1.415.655.0001
Access code: 230.823.81368
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 12:15 a.m. on Tuesday, December 21, 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 Orders and IC 5-14-1.5-3.7. Attendees may join by phone using the following information:
Phone number: 1.415.655.0001
Access code: 230.555.37885
Paul Babcock President and Chief Executive Officer of the Health & Hospital Corporation of Marion County, Indiana
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Phone number: 1.415.655

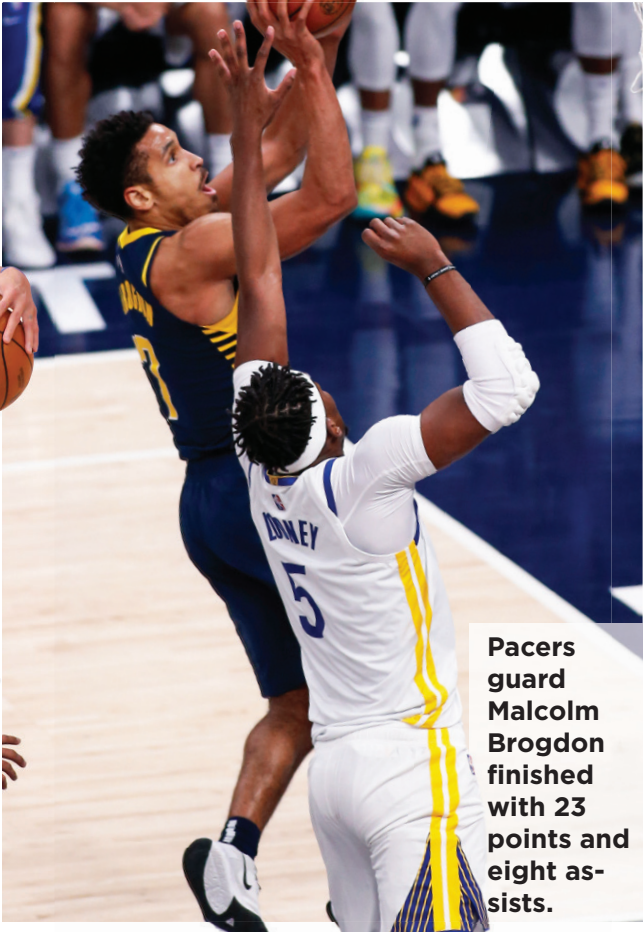
Pacers fall to Curry, Warriors



Warriors star Stephen Curry made five 3s in a 102-100 win over the Pacers, leaving him two shy of the career record, which he got a day later against the Knicks.



Curry dribbles through Pacers defenders. (Photos/David Dixon)



Pacers guard Malcolm Brogdon finished with 23 points and eight assists.

Warriors' Stephen Curry breaks the NBA career 3-point record

By BRIAN MAHONEY
AP Basketball Writer

NEW YORK (AP) — Stephen Curry never wanted to say it himself, even if others have been saying it for years.

He refused to call himself the greatest shooter of them all until the numbers said so.

And now?

“I got that baby,” Curry said, raising his arms high in the air.

He struck the same pose hours earlier Dec. 14 after shooting his way to the top of the NBA record book with his 2,974th 3-pointer in the first quarter of the Golden State Warriors’ win over the New York Knicks.

Curry broke the record set by Ray Allen, who held it for 10 years after passing Reggie Miller. They were both at the game and presented Curry with a jersey with a 2,974 on the back.

That number could be 4,000 or more by the time Curry is done playing a game in a way that barely existed before him.

“He has totally changed the game of basketball as we know it,” teammate Draymond Green said.

Curry hit the record shot from the right wing with 7:33 remaining in the first quarter, waving his arms toward the sky, blowing a kiss and pounding his chest as he jogged backward down court. The Warriors then committed a foul and quickly called timeout to let the celebration begin.



Stephen Curry, now the NBA’s all-time leader in 3-pointers, takes in the fanfare during the Golden State Warriors’ game against the Pacers. (Photo/David Dixon)

Curry went and embraced his father, Dell Curry, who was seated along a baseline, while Bob McKillop, his coach at Davidson, stood in the stands and beamed alongside Larry Riley, who drafted Curry for the Warriors. Then came a hug from Green, among others and, finally, Curry trotted back across the court for a long embrace and a few congratulatory words from Allen.

Curry already owns two of the top three seasons for 3-pointers — including the only season with 400 3s — and now has the career record.

It came at Madison Square Garden, where Curry had one of his early-career highlights on Feb. 27, 2013, when he made 11 3-pointers and scored 54 points. He’s gone on to win two MVP awards and three championships while becoming one of the biggest, most

popular stars in the game.

Fans waited long afterward while he conducted a postgame interview on the court, chanting “MVP! MVP!” when he finished.

“I think fans are attracted to him just because of his humility and his story and how hard he’s had to work, so from that standpoint it transcends sports somewhat,” Golden State coach Steve Kerr said before the game.

Curry had been far from his best beyond the arc to start this road trip, going 3 for 14 in Philadelphia and then 5 for 15 in Indiana. But with his ability to go from slumping to surging in a hurry, Kerr predicted a breakout would be coming soon.

It came quickly. Curry hit from straightaway on his first attempt, and fans around the arena stood as he was drib-

bling the ball across center court on the next possession. He launched an ugly attempt that he missed.

The record-breaker came on his next shot and was vintage Curry. He gave the ball up and eventually raced back to the outside, getting the ball back and seemingly launching it in the same motion before a defender could get out to him.

Not an easy shot, but Curry has made it so many times he knew this one was pure.

“Oh, for sure,” he said. It’s that quick shot — whether after catching it or on the dribble — and the ability to release from so far behind the arc that’s made him a shooter unlike any before him.

“He’s the best shooter I’ve ever seen, and I think it’s clear he is the best catch-and-shoot player,” former Dallas superstar Dirk Nowitzki recently said.

“But where he’s so good is off the dribble, and I think that’s something that he added, the quick 3 off the dribble. It’s one motion and his shot is gone.”

None of Curry’s stardom was guaranteed when he entered the league in 2009 as the No. 7 pick from Davidson, far from one of the basketball powerhouses that usually produce the top players.

But with perhaps an unmatched combination of dribbling and shooting accuracy, he led a long-distance revolution that has turned the 3-pointer from an afterthought in NBA offenses into a weapon. He has led the league in 3-pointers six times and is well on his way to a seventh for a resurgent Warriors team that again has the league’s best record at 23-5.

“He has revolutionized the

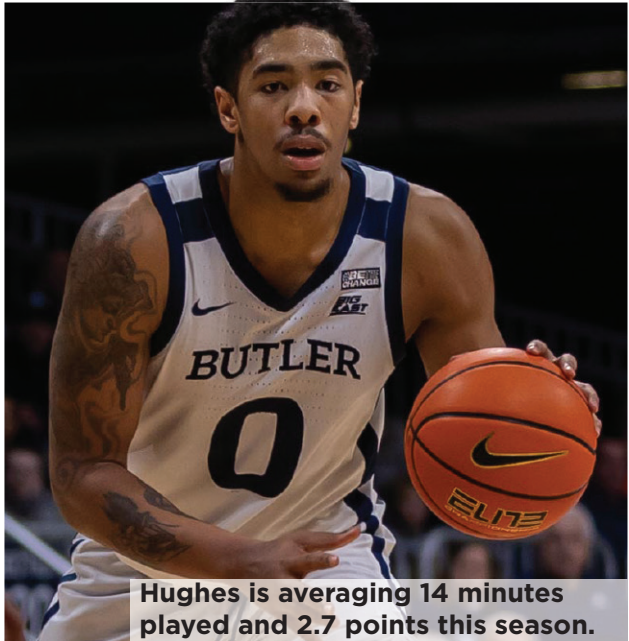
Bulter defeats Eastern Illinois 66-54



D.J. Hughes contributed four rebounds and a steal off the bench in Butler’s win over Eastern Illinois. (Photos/Walt Thomas)



Hughes is a freshman and graduated from Lawrence North.



Hughes is averaging 14 minutes played and 2.7 points this season.



22ND ANNUAL
BLEED BLUE
BLOOD DRIVE

PRESENTED BY
versiti
Blood Center of Indiana

FRIDAY | DECEMBER 17
LUCAS OIL STADIUM
EVENT TIME: 9:00AM-7:00PM

Visit www.colts.com/bleedblue for more information and to make your appointment.

SPONSORED IN PART BY:



Indiana University Health

