

## Local redistricting process underway with familiar complaints

By TYLER FENWICK  
tylerf@indyrecorder.com

No, you're not stuck in a time loop. Redistricting is happening again, this time locally with Indianapolis City-County Council districts, and the early stages of the process suggest it could play out in a similar fashion to what happened in 2021 at the state level.

See REDISTRICTING, A9►



Residents attend a redistricting forum Jan. 25, 2022, at CAFE in Lawrence Township. (Photo/Tyler Fenwick)



A billboard campaign — a collaboration between the Marion County Prosecutor's Office, VOICES Corp. and Reagan Outdoor Advertising — hopes to spark conversations about violent crime in Indianapolis. (Photo/Breanna Cooper)

## 'I AM THE HOPE':

### City leaders, community members unite to curb violence

By BREANNA COOPER  
BreannaC@indyrecorder.com

If you drive east on Troy and Keystone avenues, you'll see two billboards outside the Marion County Child Advocacy Center. Created by young adults involved in VOICES Corp. — a nonprofit organization pairing young adults with civic resources and employment opportunities — one billboard reads "We are powerful. Beautiful. Family. Human." The other highlights the root causes of violence, including trauma, lack of resources and poverty.

Shaniece Brown, 17, knows all too well the impact violence can have on someone's life.

The Shortridge High School student grew up surrounded by violence; her stepfather served time in prison for murder. These circumstances would leave many feeling hopeless. In Brown's case, they inspired action.

"I am the hope," Brown said. "If I don't try to change things, who will?"

Brown met Marion County Prosecutor Ryan Mears — whose office collaborated with VOICES Corp. to install the billboards — when she participated in a public forum. Brown's challenge to the audience was to talk to young people about their concerns and work with them to form solutions. Speaking to young people, Brown said, would help reduce the

See HOPE, A6►

## City threatens nuisance lawsuit against north side apartment complex



A burned out building at Lakeside Pointe apartments. (Photo/Jill Sheridan/WYFI)

By TYLER FENWICK  
tylerf@indyrecorder.com

The city is threatening to sue the owners of Lakeside Pointe at Nora apartment complex, a move that would test judicial interpretations of a state nuisance statute.

In a letter to apartment ownership, Mayor Joe Hogsett and Health and Hospital Corporation of Marion County CEO Paul Babcock called apartment conditions unacceptable.

The north side apartment complex, owned by Fox Lake AHF, has had many issues over the years, including more than 600 notices from the health department since 2017. Violations include plumbing and sewage issues, structural defects with walls and ceilings, garbage buildup, and a lack of hot water.

There have been 12 fires since 2019 that required a response from the fire department. A fire in November 2021 forced at

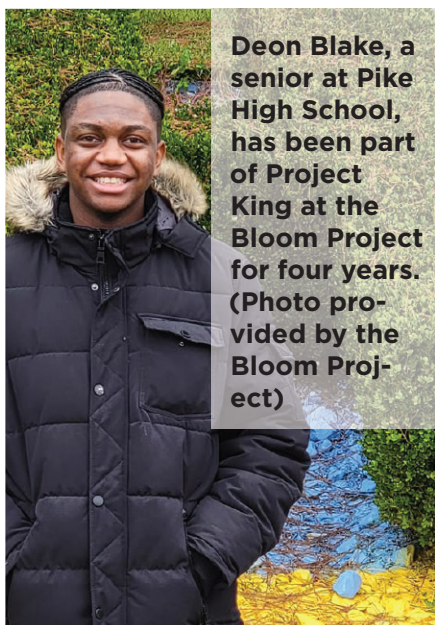
See COMPLEX, A7►

## How mentoring can make a difference

By TYLER FENWICK  
tylerf@indyrecorder.com

To the rest of the world, he's Deon Blake, a high school senior trying to get all of his college applications done in time so he can find a good mechanical engineering program. But when he's with his peers and mentors at the Bloom Project, he's King Deon, the young man focused on character development and emotional intelligence.

See MENTORING, A2►



Deon Blake, a senior at Pike High School, has been part of Project King at the Bloom Project for four years. (Photo provided by the Bloom Project)

### OPPORTUNITIES FOR MENTORS AND MENTEES

January is National Mentoring Month, and many organizations are using the opportunity to bring attention to a shortage of mentors available for young people.

#### Bloom Project

Bloom Project provides mentoring that includes college preparation, career exploration and character building.

• Contact: 317-758-8531;  
bloomprojectinc@gmail.com  
• Website: bloomprojectinc.org

#### Leading Ladies

Leading Ladies serves girls ages 12-18, providing academic support and a bi-weekly discussion group for young ladies.

• Contact: 317-731-2117;  
leadingladiesindy@gmail.com  
• Website: leadingladiesindy.org

#### Big Brothers Big Sisters of Central Indiana

Big Brothers Big Sisters matches youth (Littles) with adults (Bigs), who serve in a one-on-one mentoring role.

• Contact: 317-921-2201;  
bigs@bbosci.org  
• Website: bebigforkids.org

#### 100 Black Men of Indianapolis

100 Black Men provides a 20-week team mentoring program for fifth through ninth graders.

• Contact: 317-921-1276;  
teammentoring@100blackmenindy.org  
• Website: 100blackmenindy.org



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# Kappa Alpha Psi Founders Day Banquet



The Indianapolis Alumni Chapter of Kappa Alpha Psi Fraternity Inc. held its Annual Founders Day Banquet on Jan. 22. The theme was, “Remember Kappa” and the keynote speaker was Darren R. Adams, the North Central Province senior province vice president of Kappa Alpha Psi Fraternity Inc. Vice President Keith A. Young served as the 2022 Founders Day Chairman. Dr. Martin F. Hill Sr. is chapter president. (Submitted Photo)

## MENTORING

► Continued from A1

Blake has seen the value of mentorship. He’s been part of the Bloom Project’s Project King since his freshman year, learning from the perspective of grown men.

“It’s helped me show that I have a unique purpose and a special talent trait that I possess,” he said.

The group has mentors who help students get ready for college and plan a career, along with learning about civics and going through workshops. They participate in community service projects, too, including a Christmas food giveaway.

“They’re mentoring us as if they’re fathers for us,” Blake said.

Arnetta Scruggs, executive director of the Bloom Project, said anyone, even adults, could use a mentor, and mentors aren’t just for people who don’t have enough support at home. Sometimes it’s good to have

extra encouragement beyond parents and everyday caregivers.

“Our youth need someone they can talk to,” she said.

### Not enough mentors

Many organizations that provide mentoring services are using January, which is National Mentoring Month, to call attention to a shortage of mentors.

Big Brothers Big Sisters of Central Indiana has about 1,200 children waiting for a mentor, and 70% of them are boys. A little more than half identify as Black or African American. At the Bloom Project, where there are consistently about five mentors, Scruggs said the organization would like to have 10 more.

Leading Ladies, which serves girls ages 12-18, is in an especially difficult position because, as Executive Director

La Tonya Brown said, girls are often an afterthought when it comes to mentoring. That means Leading Ladies, like other organizations, needs more mentors.

Brown sees a couple of reasons for this. There’s the stigma of the strong Black girl or woman, which makes people believe the girls will eventually be OK on their own. There’s also the fact that Black boys and men are the subject of so much negative attention in media, and Brown sees girls overlooked as a result.

### What does it take to be a mentor?

Being a mentor is about leading by example, Brown said. That comes with the good and the bad. In other words, it’s OK to make mistakes.

One of the most important traits for a mentor to have, according to Scruggs, is consis-

tency. Mentors can learn and grow alongside their mentees, and accountability can go both ways.

Rod Ferguson, a match relationship specialist at Big Brothers Big Sisters, said it’s important for a mentor to create a bond, establish trust and demonstrate he or she cares.

“When you have two people involved in a mentoring relationship, you cannot have a one-way relationship,” said Rod Ferguson, a match relationship specialist at Big Brothers Big Sisters. “Both people involved must be open-minded and be willing to make accommodations for the other for the friendship to grow.”

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



## Office of Minority and Women Business Development gets new director

David Fredricks was named director of the Office of Minority and Women Business Development (OMWBD). Fredricks will begin his new position Jan. 31.

Fredricks was most recently program manager for supplier diversity for the Indianapolis Airport Authority. In 2021, the Airport Authority received the Diversity in Leadership Award during the annual Mayor’s Celebration of Diversity.

A native of Indianapolis, Fredricks has 25 years of experience in nonprofit, program and grant management as well as diversity and inclusion business development and compliance. He was previously principal at Innovative Business Development and worked at Mid-States Minority Supplier Development Council, the Indiana Association for Community Economic Development and the Indianapolis Department of Metropolitan Development.

## COVID-19 test kit distribution

The Indianapolis Chapter of Indiana Black Expo will distribute free at-home COVID-19 test kits at 10 a.m. Jan. 28 at the Indianapolis Recorder newspaper, 2901 N. Tacoma Ave. Limit two kits per person while supplies last. Test kits will be available on first-come, first-served basis. COVID-19 test kits provided by Eskenazi Health.

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Study: Common school ratings biased, often inaccurate

By MATT BARNUM  
Chalkbeat

There is a powerful, intuitive idea that has long shaped perceptions of American education: The schools with the highest test scores are the best schools. It seeps into everything from conversations among parents to real estate websites.

But this thinking is profoundly misleading, according to new research. Schools with the top scores aren't necessarily the ones that actually help students learn more. On top of that, rating schools based on overall scores unfairly penalizes those serving more students of color, potentially exacerbating racial segregation.

"If you just go by published accountability ratings, you will be guided to the schools that have the most white and Asian students," said Josh Angrist, a professor at MIT who recently won the Nobel Prize in economics. "You're not actually being guided to the best schools."

This conclusion isn't new in education research, but the paper, by Angrist and three other economists, is among the first to rigorously examine the validity of the measures used by the popular third-party rating site GreatSchools. The study comes after reporting by Chalkbeat in 2019 showed that GreatSchools ratings effectively steer families toward schools serving more affluent, white and Asian students.

Using data from middle schools in Denver and New York City, the researchers compare the components of GreatSchools' ratings to their own statistically sophisticated measurements of school performance. (The researchers look only at test scores, mirroring how GreatSchools rates middle schools.)

They find that the part of a school's 1-10 rating that is based on students' proficiency on state exams is particularly off base and is strongly skewed in ways that hurt schools with more students of color.

Another part of the rating, the academic "growth" score, is much less bi-



GettyImages

ased and a strong gauge of how much a school contributes to student learning, the researchers conclude.

Angrist says their point is not to pick on GreatSchools but to show that the test score metrics widely used by states, media outlets and other third-party sites are fraught with bias. U.S. News and World Report faced similar criticism last year after rolling out its own rankings of elementary and middle schools across the country.

The new research was partially funded by the Walton Family Foundation, which is also a funder of both Chalkbeat and GreatSchools.

Jon Deane, the CEO of GreatSchools, said the organization welcomes this type of study. "This is the work we do: to consistently try to provide the best information to families," he said. "When we see a signal that there may be better information, we get excited about that." Deane also noted that

the research is limited by its focus on middle schools in just two cities.

Still, he said the work validated GreatSchools' recent shift to place more weight on academic growth, which — when available — is now the biggest factor in the site's ratings of elementary and middle schools.

The researchers say that some of the differences in proficiency rates across schools reflect factors outside of schools' control that affect students' test scores. Those include poverty, food insecurity and environmental hazards, like lead poisoning, that students of color are more likely to experience.

Of course, school ratings are only one factor in how parents choose schools. Another recent study suggests that school demographics themselves make a big difference.

In a survey-based experiment, white, Asian and Hispanic parents in New York City were all much less likely to say they would send their children to a

high school with mostly Black students compared to one with fewer Black students. White and Asian parents were also less likely to select a predominantly Hispanic school than a racially mixed or mostly white school.

This was true even when parents were provided with information showing that the school's graduation rate and safety were similar to other schools with a different racial makeup.

"People often use these ratings as a way to justify the preferences they already have coming into making school choices," said Chantal Hailey, a University of Texas at Austin professor who conducted the study. "They already have preconceived notions of which schools are quality schools based upon the demographics."

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





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**Dr. Terri Jett**

**Starts February 2nd, 6-7:30PM**

This title explores the history of racial caste systems in America and the ways Black communities have used their relationships and resilience to fight back against them.

**February 4th, 3-4:30PM**

Dr. Terri Jett, Professor of Political Science at Butler University, joins the Kheprw space for a discussion on strategies to elevate the Black voice, disrupt systemic oppression, and maintain a more inclusive community.



**HIP-HOP as  
Afrofuturism**  
w/  
**Maurice Broaddus**



**Seeing the Past  
in the Present**  
w/  
**Dr. Les Etienne**

**February 11th, 3-4:30PM**

Kheprw's resident Afrofuturist, Maurice Broaddus and creatives from our ALKHEMY program discuss Hip-Hop as a tool for reexamining the past, critiquing the present, and creating new futures for community.

**Friday 18th, 3-4:30PM**

Dr. Leslie Etienne, Founding Director of IUPUI's African Studies Program, takes a deep dive on the lessons Black communities can draw from our collective pasts, and the tools we can use to bring those lessons into the present.

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## Untold stories of slave ships

By TERRI SCHLICHENMEYER

You can only imagine.

There was fear, of course, but also pain and a feeling of suffocation. Surely, there was a sense of embarrassment when clothes were lost and bodily smells were unavoidable. Outrage, too, that was surely present, but you can only imagine. If you're compelled to know, read these two great new books about the ships of the Middle Passage.

Not long ago, the news was buzzing with a very unexpected discovery: The remains of the Clotilda, a 160-year-old ship, were discovered in Alabama waters, half-burned but in good enough shape for its discoverers to know what it was and the importance it held ...

"The Last Slave Ship" by Ben Raines (Simon & Schuster, \$26) begins the tale of those ruins in 1860, when more than five decades had passed since the importation of slaves from Africa had become law. Still, Timothy Meaher was a betting man. Meaher wagered that he could somehow send the Clotilda across the ocean, and back with human cargo, without getting caught. History, of course, didn't allow that.

But this isn't just a tale of a white man and a ship. It's also a story of warfare, the capture of 110 people and their sale in Africa by a king who showed no mercy and who almost recaptured the slaves-to-be to resell them. It's a story of peril and politics, and it extends to the descendants of the captain and his cargo today.

"The Last Slave Ship" is an action-packed, whip-smart true account that's filled with

science, history and compassion. Readers will devour it.

A nice companion to the Raines book is "The Black Joke" by A.E. Rooks.

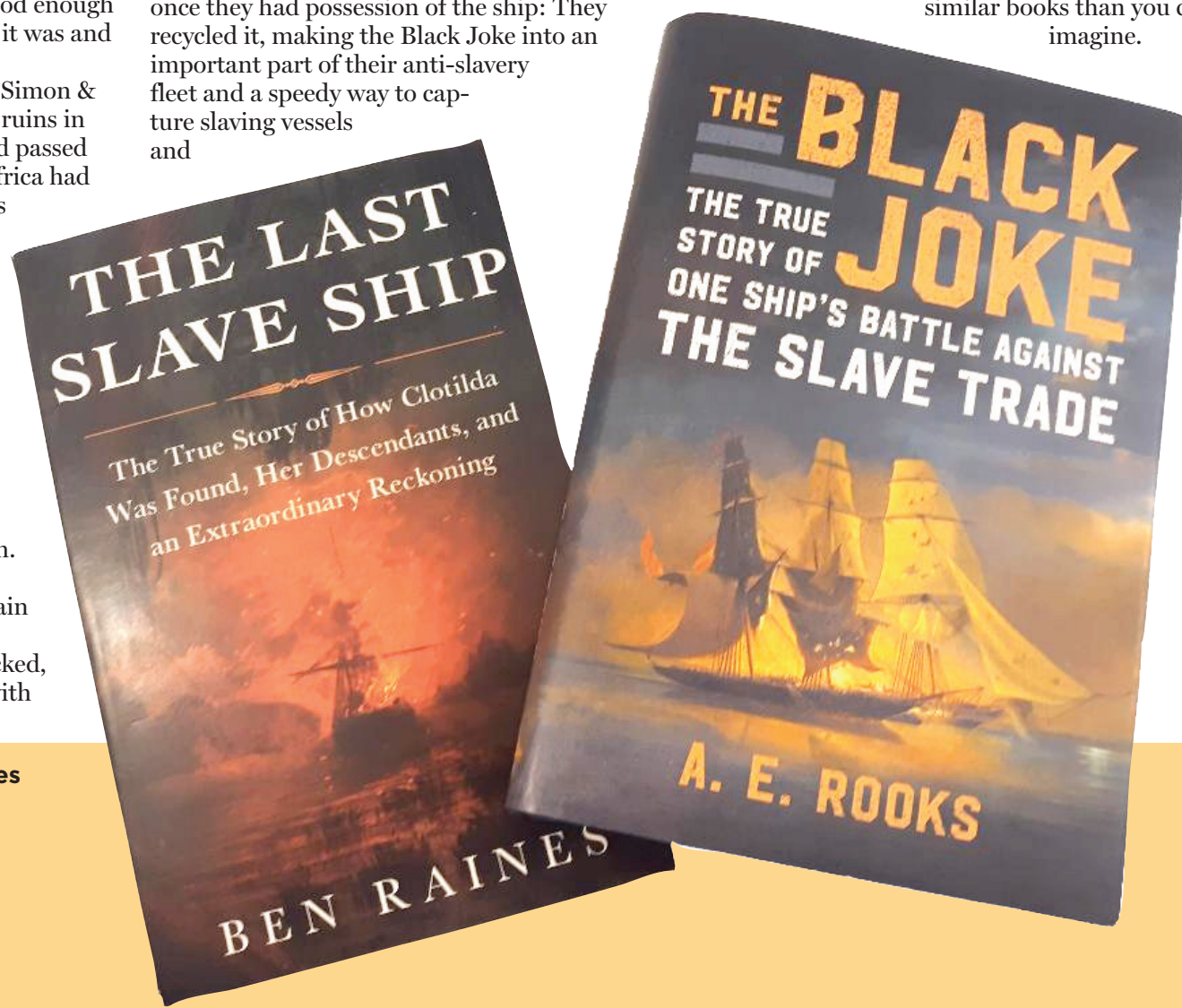
In the time between Napoleon's fall in France and the very height of Queen Victoria's reign in England, the Black Joke sailed the Atlantic on behalf of England to end the slave trade — not just in Great Britain, but on both sides of the ocean.

Until its capture by the Royal Navy in 1827, the Black Joke was a notoriously fast slave ship that shuttled humans from Africa to parts elsewhere. The Brits knew exactly what to do with it, once they had possession of the ship: They recycled it, making the Black Joke into an important part of their anti-slavery fleet and a speedy way to capture slaving vessels and

free the people aboard them.

Like "The Last Slave Ship," "The Black Joke" is full of action and heroism, but in a different way: the former includes the recovery of an important bit of U.S. history, while the latter is a wider story, both in scope and geography. Readers will be happy (and very well-informed) to read one, then the other, in quick succession.

Once you've done that, you may want more information so check with your favorite book-seller or librarian. They have many more stories of slave ships at their fingertips, including first-hand accounts from many points of view. All you have to do is ask and you'll find more similar books than you can imagine.



"The Last Slave Ship" by Ben Raines  
\$27.99  
307 pages  
Simon & Schuster  
c.2022

"The Black Joke" by A.E. Rooks  
\$29  
400 pages  
Scribner  
c.2022

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**By Fifi Rodriguez**



Answers  
1. 24  
2. A type of bat  
3. Mediterranean  
4. A pelican  
5. Oceanic  
6. Abraham  
7. Mjolnir  
8. Japan  
9. 1989  
10. Atmospheric pressure  
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**Answer**

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## Super Cross

by Linda Thistle

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**DIFFICULTY THIS WEEK: ♦♦**

◆ Moderate    ◆◆ Challenging  
                  ◆◆◆ HOO BOY!

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## ACROSS

1 Musical  
McEntire  
5 Bank acct.  
underwriter  
9 Skate parts  
15 Church seats  
19 Students at  
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motion  
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32 Morales of  
"Bad Boys"  
34 Roman 1,501  
35 Noisy tot toy  
36 Principles of  
household  
management  
42 Rooted (in)  
43 Hidden  
obstacle

44 Kitchen flooring, to a Brit  
45 Sullen  
47 Gore and Pacino  
50 Humorous impact  
58 Tightness, as one's fist  
63 Track circuit  
64 Chute-deploying jumper  
65 Goth foe  
66 Fixed fashionably  
68 Dollar part  
70 Author — Rogers St. Johns  
71 Taj Mahal locale  
73 Person on a most-wanted list  
77 Geraint's patient wife  
78 Averse (to)  
80 Swanky  
81 Diplomat  
83 Suffix with ethyl  
84 Strong coffee  
87 Suffix with fact  
89 One frosting a cake, e.g.  
91 All-out attempt  
94 Potentially shocking fist

95 Discontinued iPod  
96 Rock concert equipment  
99 Speak like Daffy Duck  
103 Hits, as a fly  
108 Imaginary band on the earth's surface  
113 Form a single file  
115 "—tu" (Verdi aria)  
116 Healing sign  
117 Drink in a schooner  
118 Luge, diving and biathlon  
123 Saintly  
125 Sit heavily  
126 Clause's cousin  
127 Face-off are in hockey (or what's found in eight answers in this puzzle)  
129 Article in Germany  
130 Yamaha products  
131 "—girl!"  
132 The Bradys' Alice, e.g.  
133 Elk relative  
134 Sharply focused  
135 Low in pitch  
136 Poker cost

**DOWN**

- 1 Sends back into custody
- 2 Euphoria
- 3 Female honcho
- 4 "You wish!"
- 5 Most liberated
- 6 Go on a brief yacht outing
- 7 Furiously state
- 8 Wine vessel
- 9 Marlon of film
- 10 Chinese noodle dish
- 11 Aid in wrongdoing
- 12 Sandwich shop
- 13 Actor Bana of "Munich"
- 14 Control the course of
- 15 Pre-euro Spanish money
- 16 Puts forth
- 17 Move like a hula dancer
- 18 Didn't leave
- 24 Ho-hum grades
- 29 "No worries, dude"
- 30 Catch red-handed
- 33 Here, to Yves
- 37 Pulitzer-winning novelist Jennifer

38 Ltr. extra  
39 Uncanny  
40 Wets a bit  
41 "Ew, gross!"  
42 Marina del  
—, California  
43 PC screen  
type  
44 Frigate, e.g.  
51 Raiphat of "The  
Karate Kid"  
52 Dual weapon  
53 Govt. med  
approver  
54 Bona —  
55 Smoothed  
(out)  
56 "My Heart  
Will Go On"  
singer Dion  
57 Brokerage  
employee  
58 Alpine abode  
59 "The Raven"  
co-star Bela  
60 Absorbed  
61 Academy  
URL ending  
62 Writ for court  
appearance  
67 Ararat's gp.  
69 Dayton-to-  
Toledo dir.  
72 Trac II  
successor  
74 "Time — the  
essence"  
75 Team VIP  
76 Olden times  
79 Clucking bird  
82 — "haw!"  
(rodeo shout)

85 Bad deed  
86 Swindle  
88 "Doggone!"  
90 Penne —  
vodka  
92 Mental haze  
93 "You're  
oversharing,  
in texts  
97 They may run  
Windows  
98 Some trig  
functions  
100 Like "penne"  
and "graffiti"  
101 Seek  
pleadingly  
102 Go ahead of  
103 Went uphill or  
downhill  
104 Baseballer  
Mays  
105 "Who's  
interested?"  
106 Tone down  
107 Have dinner  
109 Liam of film  
110 Author  
Hemingway  
111 Australia's  
main airline  
112 Force along  
114 Kid-lit's  
Longstocking  
landing area  
119 Uppercut  
part of QED  
120 Part of QED  
121 Windmill part  
122 Healing sign  
124 Columnist  
Bombeck  
128 Socrates' "H"

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**2022 BLACK HISTORY  
MONTH TABLOID**

**BLACK HISTORY  
MATTERS**



## DIVERSITY EQUITY AND INCLUSION

**Artwork Deadline:**  
Monday, February 14, 2022

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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, the Recorder recognizes 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 and those who prioritize diversity, equity and inclusion. 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.***

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# HOPE

► Continued from A1

number of people being killed. Young people in Indianapolis are disproportionately impacted by violence. Last year, roughly 69% of homicide victims were under the age of 40. Mears said he’s noticed a shift in recent years of more young adults being charged with murder.

Brown and Mears hope the 25 billboards spread throughout the city reminds Hoosiers of the role each community member can play in reducing violent crime.

The billboard campaign, supported by Reagan Outdoor Advertising, comes after a record-breaking year of violence in Indianapolis. Last year, 271 homicides — including 249 murders — were committed in Indianapolis, according to the Indianapolis Metropolitan Police Department (IMPD). Of the victims, 69% were Black, and 89% died from a gunshot wound.

Roughly 57% of last year’s homicide cases remain unsolved.

Latricia Hanyard has been searching for years for information surrounding her son Dontrell’s murder in 2013. Just 21 at the time of his death, Dontrell worked at an Amazon warehouse and left behind a young daughter, Dezire. Hanyard believes those close to Dontrell know who killed him, but no one has come forward with information.

“All these murder victims is someone’s child,” Hanyard said during a previous interview with the Recorder. “[Dontrell] is my child, and I still love him no matter what he did in life. ... I’m not going to see my son no more, and it hurts. Nothing gives nobody the right to kill somebody.”

**‘Hopefully we’ll see a transformative change’**

Mayor Joe Hogsett knows there’s hard work ahead. Mayor since 2016, Hogsett has been at the helm throughout several record-breaking years of violence, social justice uprisings and, most recently, the COVID-19 pandemic. The latter, he said, has contributed to the uptick in violence not just in Indianapolis, but has “victimized every urban area throughout the country.”

To combat the effects of the pandemic — which has led to an increase in substance abuse and mental health disorders, according to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention — Hogsett’s administration is investing \$140,000 of federal funds toward organizations focused on mental health issues. Further, the creation of the Community Justice Cam-

pus in the Twin Aire neighborhood — expected to open this year — will hopefully revamp the city’s reentry program. Instead of incarceration for low-level offenses, Hogsett said the campus will offer treatment and provide individuals with the resources they need to get back on their feet.

“It’s an unprecedented and historical level of investment we’ll be making over the course of the next three years,” Hogsett said of the federal dollars allotted to the city from

violence reduction teams led by IMPD’s Enhanced Community Safety Initiative seized 863 firearms.

Despite efforts from the city to curb gun violence, a bill in the Indiana General Assembly may make that work more challenging.

House Bill 1077, which was approved by the House by a vote of 64-29 Jan. 11, would repeal the state’s handgun permit requirement, making it easier for gun owners to carry in public. If signed into law,

the checks put in place by the state. Notably, many of the law enforcement officers present at the hearing earlier this month expressed concerns about their ability, if the bill passes, to determine whether someone can legally carry a handgun during traffic stops without a permit requirement.

**Community-led efforts**

Among the programs touted by Hogsett and the Office of Public Health and Safety

with Peacemakers in his Near Northwest United neighborhood concerned him.

“It’s deeply troubling because I know they wouldn’t do this to a white community,” Paschall said. “Send in someone who the community doesn’t know and they don’t know how to get in touch with them. It’s not a good way to build trust, nor is it a good way to prevent violence.”

For Paschall, community-led violence prevention involves helping people in the community overcome obstacles, such as poverty and trauma, which lead to violence.

“I truly believe that most people don’t want to be violent,” Paschall said. “People are victims of some of their poor choices, for sure, but most are victims of the circumstances and the systems in place. If you can help people overcome obstacles, most people, given the opportunity, would rather choose peace than risk incarceration or hurting themselves or someone they love.”

“Roughly 57% of last year’s homicide cases remain unsolved.”

President Joe Biden’s American Rescue Plan. “This isn’t a challenge that occurred overnight, and it won’t be a challenge that we resolve overnight. ... Over the next three years, hopefully we’ll see a transformative change in the level of violence that’s experienced by the city of Indianapolis.”

Hogsett is optimistic about data he said shows violence in the city is trending downward.

According to IMPD Assistant Chief Chris Bailey, the number of shooting incidents during the last half of 2021 decreased 11%. As of Jan. 24, homicides are down 35% compared to this time last year, and the rate of non-fatal shooting incidents is down 40%.

“It’s too early to say definitively, but I’m optimistic that the numbers are starting to trend in directions that I hope will be meaningful,” Hogsett said. “Let me qualify, if those numbers go back up, then we’ll be having another conversation, but at least thus far ... the numbers seem to be trending in a way that I hope the people of Indianapolis will appreciate.”

**Getting guns off the street**

With 239 of the 271 homicide victims killed by a gun last year, the city has a “laser focus” on getting illegal guns off the street, according to Hogsett. Last year, the Indiana Crime Guns Task Force — a partnership between the Indianapolis Crime Guns Intelligence Center and several law enforcement agencies throughout the state — seized 288 illegally-owned firearms. Further,

the bill would allow anyone 18 or older to carry a handgun without a permit, though those with felony convictions would still be prohibited. Both Hogsett and IMPD Chief Randal Taylor take issue with the bill.

“It won’t surprise you to know that it’s my judgment that that’s a step in the wrong direction,” Hogsett said. “What we’re focused like a laser on is trying to get as many guns off the street that are illegally possessed. ... That’s an important distinction to make because it’s a lot of what I hear the debate over in the Indiana General Assembly becoming.”

Hogsett said most Americans support “common sense” gun reform, like closing the gun show loophole, which allows an individual to purchase a firearm at a gun show without undergoing a background check. However, the gun control debate often gets muddled, Hogsett said, by partisan politics.

“Everybody immediately turns to, ‘Well, you’re trying to take our legally possessed guns away from us,’ and nothing could be further from the truth,” Hogsett said. “If you own and operate a gun safely and legally, I guess that’s what the Second Amendment protects. We don’t want legal guns to be confiscated from people who possess them legally, we want to get the guns off the street that have no business being there.”

Taylor added that the bill would make it easier for individuals with felonies to obtain weapons by altering

(OPHS) is the Peacemakers. Thanks to funding from the American Rescue Plan, OPHS expects to have as many as 50 Peacemakers working in various communities in Indianapolis to curb violence.

Peacemakers can work in three different roles: outreach worker, life coach and interrupter. According to OPHS Chief Communications Officer Caroline Ellert, outreach workers and life coaches work to identify people who are “very high risk” for becoming either a victim or perpetrator of violence. Several of the eight risk factors include being 18-35 years old, being a Black or Latino male, previous criminal history, unemployment and having a close friend or family member shot in the last year.

Some Indianapolis residents take issue with the “violence interrupters,” largely because that position is meant to be anonymous.

“That is for safety reasons,” Ellert said in an email. “Interrupters prevent a conflict, typically with a gun, from occurring either by intervening right before a conflict happens or while a conflict is happening. Interrupters need to be credible messengers, meaning they have the trust and knowledge to be able to intervene in a situation that is close to potentially becoming violent or even deadly.”

However, some say this anonymity can make it difficult to build trust within neighborhoods. Keith “Wildstyle” Paschall, a community activist, photographer and music producer, said his experiences

**Tackling obstacles**

As someone who sees the impact of crime every day, Mears knows you can’t effectively address violent crime without addressing poverty.

“Poverty is the root cause of many types of violence we see in the community,” Mears said. “It’s important to recognize that when you give people hope and opportunity, you don’t see them in the criminal justice system. ... There’s very much the haves and the have-nots in Indianapolis, and we need to work to eliminate those differences.”

Hogsett said he’s proud of his administration’s investments in food access and security, as well as the \$30 million investment into the city’s rental assistance program. He said reducing poverty in the city is a “long and committed effort.”

For Brown, working to combat violence means working to see the humanity in everyone, regardless of their criminal history. Knowing people who were victims and people who were perpetrators of violent crime helped her understand the many factors that lead to violence and what needs to be done to stop it.

“Even though I was around a lot of violence, I was also around people who were changing, people who need help,” Brown said. “I was impacted, but I was inspired.”

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



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COMPLEX

► Continued from A1

least 25 residents from their homes. “This pattern of inattention to the structural soundness of the complex, the proper disposal of trash and prevention of disease, the proliferation of unsafe vacant buildings that can serve as magnets for crime, and the necessities of everyday upkeep constitutes a public nuisance,” Hogsett and Babcock wrote in the five-page letter. The city gave ownership until Jan.

31 to take remedial steps, including addressing current code violations and committing to attend an upcoming hearing on two pending building demolition orders. The ownership company could not be reached for comment. City leaders, along with Indiana Legal Services and Patchwork Indy, announced their intent to sue the apartment complex at a press confer-

ence Jan. 25. The lawsuit could result in Lakeside Pointe paying the city for past emergency services and other damages. The lawsuit would serve as a test for what kind of authority cities can exercise under state nuisance laws. Hogsett said the nuisance statute applies in this case because of a pattern of violations. “It is imperative that we pursue every

legal avenue available to the City to protect the tenants of Lakeside Pointe,” Hogsett said in a statement. “There must be real consequences for charging Indianapolis residents to live in unacceptable, uninhabitable conditions.”   
  
Contact staff writer Tyler Fenwick at 317-762-7853. Follow him on Twitter @Ty\_Fenwick.

TOP 10 MOVIES

- 1. Spider-Man: No Way Home (PG-13) Tom Holland, Zendaya
- 2. Sing 2 (PG) animated
- 3. The 355 (PG-13) Jessica Chastain, Fan Bingbing
- 4. The King’s Man (R) Ralph Fiennes, Gemma Arterton
- 5. American Underdog (PG) Zachary Levi, Anna Paquin
- 6. The Matrix Resurrections (R) Keanu Reeves, Carrie-Anne Moss
- 7. West Side Story (PG-13) Ansel Elgort, Rachel Zegler
- 8. Ghostbusters: Afterlife (PG-13) Carrie Coon, Paul Rudd
- 9. Licorice Pizza (R) Alana Haim, Cooper Hoffman
- 10. House of Gucci (R) Lady Gaga, Adam Driver

Source: Box Office Mojo

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TOP 10 VIDEO, DVD

- Video On Demand
- 1. Venom: Let There Be Carnage (PG-13) Tom Hardy
  - 2. No Time to Die (PG-13) Daniel Craig
  - 3. The Last Duel (R) Matt Damon
  - 4. Dangerous (R) Scott Eastwood
  - 5. Free Guy (PG-13) Ryan Reynolds
  - 6. Cry Macho (PG-13) Clint Eastwood
  - 7. American Siege (R) Bruce Willis
  - 8. Spencer (R) Kristen Stewart
  - 9. Jungle Cruise (PG-13) Dwayne Johnson
  - 10. Zeroes and Ones (R) Ethan Hawke

- DVD, Blu-ray Sales
- 1. No Time to Die (PG-13) Universal/MGM
  - 2. Venom: Let There Be Carnage (PG-13) Sony Pictures
  - 3. Shang-Chi and the Legend of the Ten Rings (PG-13) Disney/Marvel
  - 4. Antlers (R) Disney/Searchlight
  - 5. Yellowstone: Season 1 (NR) Paramount
  - 6. Yellowstone: Season 3 (NR) Paramount
  - 7. F9: The Fast Saga (PG-13) Universal
  - 8. Yellowstone: Season 2 (NR) Paramount
  - 9. Cry Macho (PG-13) Warner
  - 10. Jungle Cruise (PG-13) Disney

Source: ComScore/MediaPlay News

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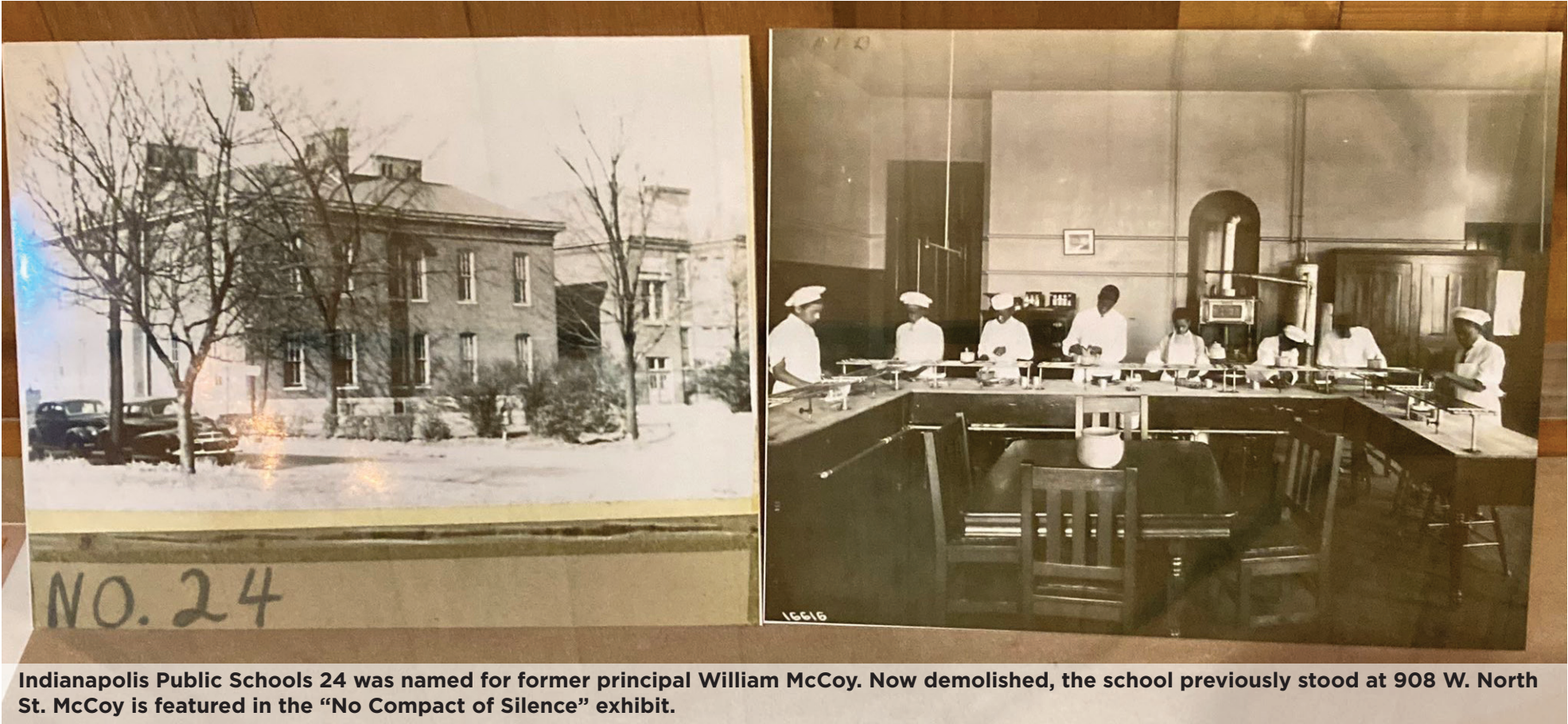
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# New exhibit highlights Black civic leaders



Indianapolis Public Schools 24 was named for former principal William McCoy. Now demolished, the school previously stood at 908 W. North St. McCoy is featured in the “No Compact of Silence” exhibit.

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

A new exhibit at the Benjamin Harrison Presidential Site details the role Black activists played in Indiana and the nation during the 23rd president's lifetime. Opening Jan. 28, “No Compact of Silence” features national icons such as Ida B. Wells, as well as local figures, including Kathleen Flossie Bailey.

Put together by IU-PUI graduate student Kelly Poston, the exhibit examines voter suppression, anti-lynching laws and activism, as well as modern day social justice movements, including the Black Lives Matter protests of 2020.

“I think this exhibit is really going to bring in people from both parties

(Republican and Democrats) in the community to see that these major events that were happening in the 1890s are still very much happening in today's time. We still have white mob violence, lynching and voter suppression,” Poston said.

“By uplifting these voices, I'm hoping when people come, they themselves think ‘What can I be doing to be a civil rights advocate?’ I want this to be an eye-opening exhibit.”

Jennifer Capps, vice president of curatorship and exhibition at the Benjamin Harrison Presidential Site, said “No Compact of Silence” is an extension of the museum's previous exhibits about Harrison's relationship with abolitionist Frederick Douglass.

“We wanted to take

**See “No Compact of Silence”**  
**When: Times vary, Jan. 28-Nov. 1**  
**Where: Benjamin Harrison Presidential Site, 1230 N. Delaware St.**  
**Cost: \$12 admission; \$7 seniors; toddlers, free**

a deeper look into the issues of Harrison's time period and other nationally and locally prominent advocates of that time,” Capps said.

“By sharing those stories, we hope to make people more aware of what was going on during Harrison's presidency.”

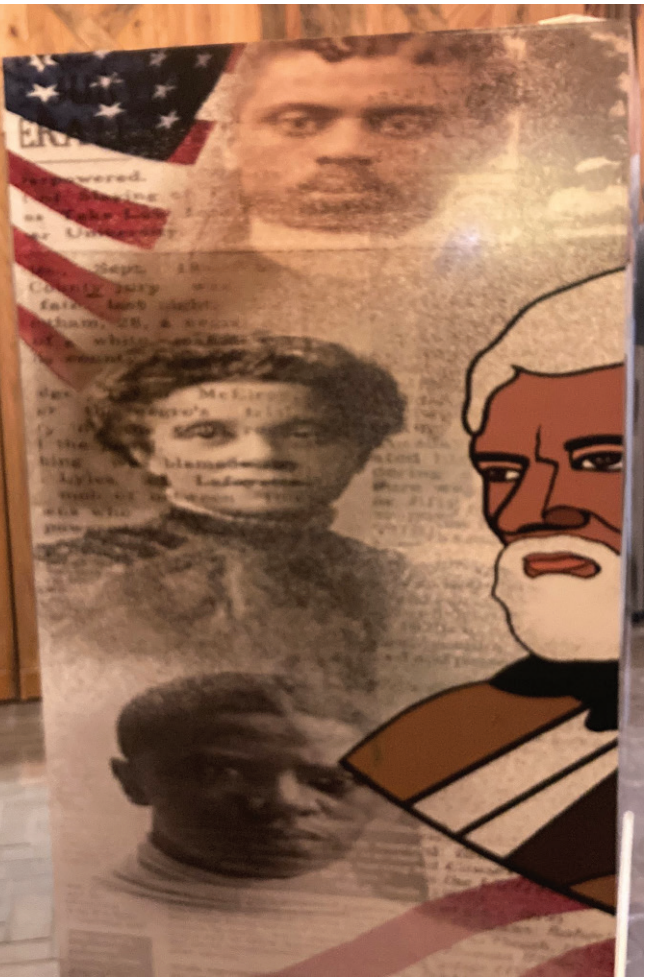
The name, “No Compact of Silence,” refers to Harrison's response to the question of Black suffrage, posed by Harrison's 1888 running mate, Whitelaw Reid.

“I would not be willing myself to purchase the Presidency for a compact of silence upon

this question,” Harrison wrote, meaning he would rather lose the presidency than falter on civil rights issues. Capps said this dedication to civil rights and justice led Harrison through his one term as president. Though unsuccessful, Harrison was the first president to propose a federal anti-lynching law, a cause that was championed locally by Flossie Bailey decades after Harrison's presidency.

In August 1930, two African American men — Thomas Shipp and Abram Smith — were lynched by a white mob in Marion. Determined to put an end to lynching in the Hoosier state, Bailey, a Kokomo native, lobbied in the Indiana General Assembly to pass stricter anti-lynching laws. Thanks to Bailey, then-Gov. Harry Leslie signed a more comprehensive anti-lynching bill into law in 1931. By that time, Bailey was president of the Indiana chapter of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People.

Along with Bailey, the exhibit also includes information on William McCoy, who was born in Cambridge City before settling in Indianapolis. McCoy was principle of Indianapolis Public Schools (IPS) 23 and 24



Prominent local African American leaders, including George P. Stewart and Major Taylor, are featured in the new exhibit “No Compact of Silence” in the Benjamin Harrison Presidential Site. (Photos/Breanna Cooper)

from 1879 until 1890. Though it's since been demolished, IPS School 24 was named for him after his death. McCoy served as Harrison's council general to Liberia, a post he held until his death in 1893.

For Poston, who did the bulk of her research through newspaper articles and obituaries, Lillian Thomas Fox's story stuck out to her the most. While living in Indianapolis, Fox became the first Black colum-

nist to write for a white newspaper in Indiana. She joined the staff of the Indianapolis News in 1900 and frequently wrote about lynching in her column, “News for the Colored People.” She later went on to create the Indiana State Federation of Colored Women, as well as the Women's Improvement Club, the latter started with Beulah Wright Porter, who was the first female African American physician in Indianapolis.

“No Compact of Silence” comes at a time when voting rights are still discussed, with members of the U.S. Senate blocking the John Lewis Voting Rights Act of 2021 last week. While the timing wasn't intentional, Capps said the exhibit serves as an important reminder that we have to understand our history to understand modern-day issues.

“We have to learn more from our history, and this exhibit is very relevant in that respect,” Capps said.

“What you learn about in the exhibit, whether it's the 13<sup>th</sup> Amendment or the 1965 Civil Rights Act, it's important today because there's still concern about voting rights and civil rights protections.”

The exhibit opens Jan. 28 and will run through Nov. 1. For more information, visit [bhpsite.org](http://bhpsite.org).

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

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# REDISTRICTING

► Continued from A1

Through two forums in Perry and Lawrence townships, where residents could talk about their concerns and priorities, there are already familiar themes.

There have been calls for an independent redistricting commission to draw the new map that the council would then vote on. Some find it confusing that a forum series, which will eventually make its way to all nine townships, is happening without any maps to comment on. (A new map will pass through the council like any other ordinance, so there eventually will be a review and hearing process.)

The city-county council has promised transparency.

“How do we get as many voices involved in this as we possibly can?” council President Vop Osili said after the forum in Lawrence Township on Jan. 25. “Let’s get a broad perspective. Let’s find out those communities of interest.”

The council created a website, [yourvoice2022.com](http://yourvoice2022.com), that has basic information about redistricting and a portal for online comments.

## Don’t expect a redistricting commission

Osili has shot down the idea of an independent redistricting commission, saying it’s the constitutional duty of the council to draw districts.

In that way, it’s not only the public comments that sound familiar to what lawmakers heard at the Statehouse last year, but also the defense of a process that many see as blatantly partisan. The difference is Republicans are in power in the General Assembly, and it’s Democrats who have a supermajority on the city-county council.

“It’s the same conversation,” said Julia Vaughn, policy director for Common Cause Indiana, a prominent advocate for an independent redistricting commission. “We really have the same scenario. It’s just the parties are switched.”

Common Cause Indiana created a model ahead of state-level redistricting called the Indiana Citizens Redistricting Commission. The commission included three Republicans, three Democrats and three independents.

“We’re really hoping to shift the conversation away from what redistricting is usually about,” Vaughn said, “which is a big old fight between Republicans and Democrats.”

The last two times the city-county council redrew districts, it sparked legal battles that ended in the Indiana Supreme Court. The court made its own map in 2003, and in 2014 it let a Republican-drawn map stand.

## Low participation

The first two forums were better attended by councilors and other partisans than average citizens. The council contracted Engaging Solutions to lead the meetings and provide a report based on community feedback.

Osili hopes participation will grow throughout

## UPCOMING FORUMS

The city-county council will host a redistricting forum in each of the county’s nine districts. The first two were held in Perry and Lawrence townships.

### Franklin Township

- 5:30-7:30 p.m. Jan. 28
- Franklin Township Civic League, 8822 Southeastern Ave.
- COVID-19 requirements: Masks must be worn at all times

### Washington Township

- 5:30-7:30 p.m. Jan. 31
- Washington Township Community and Education Center, 8550 Woodfield Crossing Blvd.
- COVID-19 requirements: Masks must be worn at all times

### Decatur Township

- 5:30-7:30 p.m. Feb. 1
- Decatur Township School for Excellence Community Room, 5106 S. High School Road
- COVID-19 requirements: Masks must be worn at all times

### Wayne Township

- 5:30-7:30 p.m. Feb. 2
- Northwest Middle School, 5525 W. 34th St.
- COVID-19 requirements: Masks must be worn at all times

### Pike Township

- 5:30-7:30 p.m. Feb. 3
- Fay Biccard Glick Neighborhood Center Gymnasium, 2990 W. 71st St.
- COVID-19 requirements: Masks must be worn at all times

### Warren Township

- 5:30-7:30 p.m. Feb. 7
- Moorhead Community Resource Center, 8400 E. 10th St.
- COVID-19 requirements: Masks must be worn at all times

### Center Township

- 5:30-7:30 p.m. Feb. 8
- Crispus Attucks High School, 1140 Doctor M.L.K. Jr. St.
- COVID-19 requirements: Masks must be worn at all times

the series, which is scheduled to go through Feb. 8. He also acknowledged people may go to the meeting but then be reluctant to speak in front of everyone.

“The main thing is we’re creating this so that folks know that they can participate,” Osili said.

Joe Elsener, the county Republican chair, called the process disappointing and hypocritical.

“The whole thing seems to lack any substance,” he said. “Seems like a show.”

This type of political dance is to be expected, Vaughn said, because redistricting is traditionally about the minority party complaining about a lack of information and bad process, while the majority party says it will tend to everyone’s needs. After all, she said, redistricting is about power.

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

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EDITORIAL

Racism at the Mint?

By OSEYE BOYD



Other than the commercials that used to come on during daytime TV or Saturday mornings about special edition, commemorative coins for collectors, I never thought much about the United States Mint, the Mint for short.

I'm going to venture to say I'm like most people in that regard; the Mint isn't top of mind — or in my mind at all. That is until recently. About a week or so ago the Mint announced Dr. Maya Angelou would be on the quarter as part of the American Women Quarters program. The program will feature prominent women in American history on coins. The news that Angelou, a poet, activist and all-around phenomenal woman, would grace the quarter was met with celebration. I have to admit, though, my enthusiasm dampened a little when I found out George Washington will still be on the coin. While my wish is that Angelou have the quarter all to herself, I'm not going to quibble about it.

However, while many of us were cheering about the inclusion of Angelou on the quarter — and the news that President Biden would nominate Ventris C. Gibson, a Black woman, to be the first Black director of the Mint — controversy was brewing.

The New York Times reviewed an internal report that “depicts an institution rife with tumult over al-

legations of racist behavior.”

According to the New York Times article, the report said the Mint had a “culture problem,” and “implicit bias” and “microaggressions” are common toward people of color. I use people of color here because the article doesn't provide specificity on the race or ethnicity of the targets of these behaviors.

The report goes on to say concerns about racial issues were dismissed and managers even made comments such as “we need a model minority,” and “if we put a minority as a U.S. Mint assistant director, the minorities will see we are not racist or sexist.”

The Mint isn't new to allegations of racism. A long, long time ago, 2017 to be exact, a white employee at a facility in Philadelphia took a rope used for sealing coin bags and tied it into a noose. He left it on the workstation of a fellow employee. The employee, by the way, just happened to be Black. In 2020, so not very long ago, then Treasury secretary Steve Mnuchin received a letter outlining other racist incidents: another noose, the n-word written on restroom walls and a Black leader called “zoo keeper” by a white Mint official.

Traditionally, staff at the Mint was white, but it's becoming more diverse. At the headquarters in Washington, the higher paying jobs are occupied by white people while people of color make up the bulk of lower-paying jobs.

I know some may be surprised. None of this is surprising to me.

This is just but one example of how I know racism exists. It's why I know institutional racism in this country is real no matter how many times people want to argue to the contrary. You can't say individuals may be racist, but institutions are not. Where do the individuals work? In said institutions, duh. It's easy to reason then that those individuals bring their thoughts, views, beliefs — their total selves — into the job, and they treat people accordingly. Laws on the books didn't change people's hearts and minds. If it were that simple, we wouldn't even need laws on the books. People would just do what's right because it's right.

Instead of arguing against critical race theory, why not use that energy to actually remove racism from institutions in America? The incidents at the Mint are why diversity, equity and inclusion (today better known as critical race theory) efforts are necessary. If we educated our children on America's true history, maybe they wouldn't grow up to be adults who think it's OK to leave a noose on their Black coworker's workstation or write the n-word on a restroom wall. Trust and believe, these things weren't done in ignorance. The perpetrators knew exactly what those actions meant.

Unfortunately, these types of incidents will continue because parents don't want their children, and by extension themselves, to be uncomfortable. Until then, Black people will continue to be uncomfortable in the country we call home.

By LARRY SMITH



The phrase “my truth” really irritates me. It always has. Most of those who use it don't know that it is a byproduct of the sophistry that is known as postmodernism. Postmodernism posits that there is no such thing as objective, immutable truth. As a Christian, I understand that God is the ultimate, objective, immutable truth.

Authors Bob Hostetler and Josh McDowell define postmodernism as follows: “A worldview characterized by the belief that truth doesn't exist in any objective sense but is created rather than discovered. ... (Truth is) created by the specific culture and exists only in that culture. Therefore, any system or statement that tries to communicate truth is a power play, an effort to dominate other cultures.” Sadly, their characterization is spot on.

When people use the phrase “my truth,” they're saying that their life and experiences are personal, unique and

core to their being. I understand that sentiment. I can have my opinion. I can have my perspective. I can have my experiences. But I cannot have my truth. Truth transcends any individual. Thus, if something is genuinely true, it is true for everyone. If it isn't true for everyone, it isn't truth — even though it may be a fact for an individual. To deny this is to deny objective reality (which, of course, many people are willing to do).

My point is not to fight with those who embrace postmodernism — at least in this forum. My point is that postmodernist thinking can have dire implications when it isn't confined to the halls of academia. Indeed, we see its negative effects in today's highly charged geopolitical context. What was merely a boutique, “Nieman Marcus” ideology for the left has become a mass market, “Walmart” ideology for the right. Postmodernism has metastasized from being a fringe ideology into a fully embraced practical strategy — and not just in America. It is the reason that the U.S. and Europe are on the brink of war with Russia.

Russian President Vladimir Putin has created an alternate reality in which the U.S. and Europe are the aggressors in the standoff with Ukraine — a state of affairs that he caused. In short, Putin's truth is that Europe is threatening Russia. Ironically, of course, his actions are bringing about the very reality about which he is most concerned: Eastern European countries, including those on or close to the Russian border, are forging closer ties with the West. In literary terms, this global drama is the marriage of George Orwell and Michael Crichton.

I will not opine as to whether Vladimir Putin actually believes the nonsense that he's peddling. (Either he does, or he wants the world to think that he does.) But I will assert that Putin is a narcissistic, megalomaniacal, homicidal wannabe dictator. The former KGB officer who came of age during the post-war zenith of Russian power is desperately trying to reconstitute the former USSR's imperial grandeur. For a multiplicity of reasons, his eventual failure is inevitable. Yet, in the meantime, he can (and undoubted-

ly will) continue to cause varying levels of mischief wherever and whenever his heart desires.

Many of those who intentionally distort facts — which are our best proxy for understanding objective reality — don't care that doing so exacts a very high cost to society. (Political leaders in one of our two major political parties are largely the reason that we are experiencing such political and social chaos in the United States, but that's a story for another day.) When finding, or acknowledging, the truth is not the goal, the negative consequences are as unpredictable as they are certain. Plato, in his “Republic,” argues in favor of “the noble lie” that — allegedly — is important for maintaining cohesion in society. He is wrong; creating myths, even with good intent, inexorably achieves the opposite.

That's my truth anyway.

Larry Smith is a community leader. Contact him at [larry@leaf-llc.com](mailto:larry@leaf-llc.com).

But not this time — Sen. McConnell goes too far

By RAY BEGOVICH



By now, it's hard to imagine anyone who pays even the slightest attention to the news not being aware of the ludicrous and offensive remarks made recently by Sen. Mitch McConnell (R-Ky.).

When discussing, at a news conference, the John Lewis Voting Rights Advancement Act, McConnell said, “If you look at the statistics, African American voters are voting in just as high a percentage as Americans.”

Huh? African Americans aren't Americans?

Our social media world today is awash with rash, graceless, instant reactions to even the most innocent slip of the tongue by people in the public eye. We should first think about being more empathetic, more forgiving, more understanding, when such public slip-ups occur.

But not this time.

These remarks seem too revealing, too ominous. It seems like this slip-up was indeed accidental, but accidental only in the sense of speaking what was supposed to remain unspoken.

McConnell is not only an elected legislator, but also the minority leader — and formerly the majority leader — of the U.S. Senate. He wields national power. What he says matters. We should hold such a public figure to a higher standard.

Political and governmental leaders like Sen. McConnell give countless public speeches, countless news media interviews, so we think they should be perfect at it all the time. In fact, no matter how polished a public speaker is, the vast numbers of public statements a politician makes simply increases the odds that there will be an oral faux pas now and then. It's good if you want to forgive them, appreciate their attempts to correct misstatements and accept their apologies.

But not this time.

The stakes are too high. We live in a time in which efforts to suppress the vote are not only horrendously undemocratic and vicious, but are also appallingly blatant and obvious. We shouldn't let this “mistake” pass.

To be fair, McConnell did try to correct the record, according to a Jan. 21 [nbcnews.com](https://www.nbcnews.com) article. NBC and other news outlets reported that McConnell said at a news conference that he has a strong record on civil rights, citing, among other things, attendance at Dr. King's “I Have a Dream” speech. McConnell said the criticism he has received is an “outrageous mischaracterization” of his record. He said that all he did was inadvertently omit the word, “almost.”

Well, where would “almost” be placed in his statement to make it better? The statement again: “If you look at the statistics, African American voters are voting in just as high a percentage as Americans.” Sorry, senator, “almost” doesn't fix it.

After the news conference, Sen. McConnell returned to the journalists to fix his fix. He told them, “The omitted word is ‘all,’ not ‘almost,’ sorry.” Better, but after two bombs, this diffusion attempt doesn't seem all that comforting.

As a public relations professor and practitioner, it's only fair for me to acknowledge how extremely challenging news conferences are for anyone — it looks easy, but it's not. News conferences are often chaotic (though they shouldn't be). The speaker faces a surreal array of cameras, bright lights, tripods, microphones, digital recorders and cell phones. Plus, the most challenging aspect is that journalists ask tough questions, as they should. The speaker almost always craves the news coverage generated by a news conference but also knows that the slightest slip-up can be sent instantly around the globe.

So, I appreciate how awkward and difficult news conferences can be for even well-seasoned politicians. Beyond news conferences, we all should be more graceful and forgiving when any public speaker messes up now and then — teachers, ministers, broadcasters, entertainers, coaches, athletes, business professionals, presidents and even Senate minority leaders.

But not this time.

Ray Begovich is the director of graduate studies in public relations at the University of Indianapolis. Comments are welcome at [begovichr@indy.edu](mailto:begovichr@indy.edu).

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# ‘IT’S NEVER GONNA BE TOTALLY GONE’: What it means to end COVID-19 pandemic

By TYLER FENWICK  
tylerf@indyrecorder.com

For as often as it feels like the COVID-19 pandemic will never go away, the simple truth is it eventually will. The more complicated parts to figure out — how and when — are less certain.

If Google searches serve as a barometer for people’s frustration, the beginning of 2022 marked one of the highest points of impatience since the beginning of the pandemic nearly two years ago. Searches for the phrase “when will covid end” spiked going into the holidays and have kept up at a high rate through the new year.

What people likely found was a mixed bag of confusing answers — or guesses — with references to the omicron variant, the word “endemic” and a general sense of continued uncertainty.

Most scientists agree by now that eradication is not on the table.

“At this point, I think the sense is no,” Dr. Clif Knight, an associate professor of family medicine at Marian University, said of eradicating COVID-19. “It’s never gonna totally be gone.”

Think less of smallpox and polio, diseases that have effectively been eradicated, and more of the seasonal flu, which comes and goes in predictable waves. That’s a key feature of a disease that becomes endemic: Enough people gain immunity so the spread of the virus is more stable and predictable, even if there are occasional spikes.

That would also mean scientists are able to work ahead, much in the same way they do with the flu, by creating a vaccine for the variant they expect to circulate at that time.

But before that, COVID-19 can’t cause massive disruptions, which means there needs to be more widespread immunity. Natural immunity counts, but it’s not clear how much. One of the popular questions right now is if omicron, the highly contagious variant, could speed up the process.

Dr. Anthony Fauci, President Joe Biden’s top medical adviser for COVID-19, told people during the World Economic Forum’s Davos Agenda in mid-January it’s too early to tell if that will happen.

He said the number of cases (about 700,000 each day in the U.S.) could have a meaningful impact on the country’s

collective immunity, but it remains to be seen if omicron is the “live virus vaccination that everyone is hoping for.”

Fauci estimates the U.S. is still a ways off from reaching endemic status. He sees five stages to a pandemic — the “truly pandemic” phase, followed by deceleration, control, elimination and eradication — and said this is still the first phase. The control phase is when it becomes endemic, and Fauci said COVID-19 won’t be eradicated.

Even if omicron ends up boosting collective immunity, Knight warned it’s only effective until another variant comes along that can bypass the protection. It will probably protect against many variants, he said, but there could be one that the body’s immune system isn’t prepared for well enough.

There isn’t a good estimate for when the U.S. and the rest of the world might leave this emergency phase of the pandemic, but there are signs to monitor that could indicate the end is near.

Dr. Virginia Caine, director of the Marion County Public Health Department, said there are certain numbers to pay attention to, including positivity rate, daily and weekly case counts, and the vaccine rate.

Here’s what success looks like, according to Caine:

- A positivity rate that stays below 5% for at least a month. (Marion County’s seven-day positivity rate was 35% as of Jan. 17; the U.S. is about 27%.)
- Less than 35 cases per 100,000 people on average for at least a month. (Marion County is at about 1,500; the U.S. is at 208.)
- A vaccination rate of at least 80%. (About 56% of people in Marion County are considered fully vaccinated, compared to 63% for the U.S. Caine hopes to get the county’s rate close to 70% by May.)

Like many others, Caine doesn’t see a total escape from COVID-19 and thinks there could be a vaccine every year.

“We will never be able to get rid of it,” she said.

Instead, society will add COVID-19 to the list of diseases that come and go, likely hospitalizing and killing some, albeit more predictably than the last two years.

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



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## Medical databases could improve outcomes for childhood asthma and other conditions

BY FARAH YOUSRY

Over the past 10 years, rates of childhood asthma in Indiana have decreased, but death rates have increased, according to a new study from the Indiana University School of Medicine.

Researchers studied childhood asthma trends by examining the health records of more than 50,000 patients from 2010 to 2019. The peer-reviewed study, published in the Journal of Asthma, did not look at the reasons behind the trends in the data — but the findings could help inform future research and public health responses that could improve outcomes for patients with asthma and other conditions.

The study was conducted using a statewide medical records database, the Indiana Network for Patient Care, which aggregates records from 95% of Indiana's health care providers.

Historically, health data on issues like asthma has been collected and analyzed by federal agencies. The data can sometimes take months or years to analyze and publish, but this new state database provides information in near real time, said Dr. Colin Rogerson, research scientist at Regenstrief Institute and assistant professor of pediatrics at IU School of Medicine and the study's lead author.

"One of my research goals is then to use this kind of data to test asthma treatments," he said.

The data the researchers analyzed includes information about medications and respiratory support devices that patients used.

"Having such a large number of patients and data, we can actually test, retrospectively, treatments and see which patients respond better to different medications than others," Rogerson said.

It's also important to combine information from medical records with other data, he said.

"Hospital systems and record systems are talking to each other and exchanging information," Rogerson said. "And that's allowing more and more research to be done."

To put the health exchange to the test, researchers chose to examine trends in childhood asthma because it is a common disease and provides ample data points.

The researchers found a decrease in hospital ad-



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mission rates coincided with an increase in the death rate — 5 to 7 deaths per 1,000 hospital encounters from 2016 to 2019, up from 1 to 3 per 1,000 from 2010 to 2014.

The study authors say possible contributors include worsening environmental conditions and an uptick in vaping among teens. But more research is needed to figure out how to improve health outcomes for children at highest risk of asthma-related death.

The Indiana Network for Patient Care makes it easier for medical records to follow patients around if they switch health providers. Patients do not need to

take any action for their information to be included. The network, which is operated by the Regenstrief Institute and is not available to the general public, gives researchers access to aggregated, de-identified medical information from across the state, all in one place. This helps track disease trends in a timely way, to flag early signs of public health problems and inform prompt public health interventions.

Rogerson said the same method can be applied to other diseases.

"If the computer systems can share information with each other, we could potentially see that different hospital systems are seeing this pattern earlier, and then we could have public health measures to address it," he said.

Typically, health authorities such as the U.S. Census Bureau and the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention call people on the phone to collect information about prevalent health-related issues and diseases such as obesity, childhood vaccination and heart disease. But this method has been riddled with problems. For example, some people may not pick up the call, Rogerson said, and others would hang up, reluctant to share any personal information and worried it's a phone scam.

While a medical records database like this is valuable for researchers, Rogerson said randomized clinical trials, which compare a group receiving a particular treatment to a control group, remain "the best way to prove a therapy or treatment is effective or not."

But mining databases is both faster and cheaper than a randomized control trial.

"If there was a treatment that had been used for a year or two but hadn't had a randomized control trial for it, we could [potentially] use this kind of approach to test it retrospectively and see if we think it's associated with a better outcome," Rogerson said.

*This story comes from a reporting collaboration that includes the Indianapolis Recorder and Side Effects Public Media — a public health news initiative based at WFYI. Follow Farah on Twitter: @Farah\_Yousrym.*



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## Folic Acid Helps Prevent Certain Birth Defects

Not all birth defects are preventable, but the chances of a woman delivering a healthy baby increase by managing health conditions and adopting healthy behaviors before and during pregnancy. Folic acid plays an important role in preventing birth defects.

When a woman takes the recommended amount of folic acid before and during early pregnancy, it helps prevent some major birth defects of the baby's brain and spine.

Anencephaly is a serious birth defect in which parts of a baby's brain and skull do not form correctly. Babies born with this defect cannot survive. Spina bifida is a serious birth defect in which a baby's spine does not develop correctly, and can result in some severe physical disabilities.

All women need 400 micrograms (mcg) of folic acid every day, especially those who want to become pregnant. Folic acid is still important because the body makes new cells every day—blood, skin, hair, nails and others. Folic acid is needed to make these new cells.

Women are encouraged to start a healthy habit today and get 400 mcg of folic acid every day. Birth defects of the brain and spine happen in the first few weeks of pregnancy, often before a woman finds out she's pregnant. Also, half of all pregnancies in the United States are unplanned.

These are two reasons why it is important for all women who can get pregnant to be sure to get 400 mcg of folic acid every day, even if they aren't planning a pregnancy any time soon. By the time a woman realizes she's pregnant, it might be too late to prevent these birth defects.

An easy way to be sure women are getting enough folic acid is to take a daily multivitamin that has folic acid. Most multivitamins have all the folic acid women need. If an upset stomach results from taking a multivitamin, try taking it with meals or just before bed.

For someone who has trouble taking pills, try a multivitamin that is gummy or chewable. Also be sure to take it with a full glass of water.

Folic acid has been added to foods, such as enriched breads, pastas, rice and cereals. Check the nutrition facts label on the food packaging. A serving of some cereals has 100 percent of the folic acid needed each day.

The U.S. Food and Drug Administration also approved the addition of folic acid to corn masa flour. Corn masa flour is used to make foods like corn chips, tortillas, and taco shells.

In addition to getting 400 mcg of folic acid from supplements and fortified foods, eating a diet rich in folate also helps. You can get food folate from beans, peas and lentils, oranges and orange juice, asparagus and broccoli, and dark leafy green vegetables such as spinach and mustard greens.

During pregnancy, take a prenatal vitamin that has 600 micrograms of folic acid in it every day.

The Marion County Public Health Department has resources available for anyone with questions about how to prevent birth defects and other ways to improve the chances for a healthy birth.

For more information, please contact the Maternal-Child Health department at 317- 221-2312. Additional information about health department programs is also available at MarionHealth.org.

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## Burned out from lingering pandemic, some on front lines find faith an antidote

Special to NNPA Newswire

When the omicron variant started emerging around the country, registered nurse Currine Smith flashed back to the despair she felt at the beginning of the pandemic.

Now entering the third year of COVID-19, she describes feeling a sense of dread and anxiety when walking into work. “The scene is quite grim,” she said of the Level I trauma hospital where she works in Delaware. “People feel like the light at the end of the tunnel doesn’t exist anymore.”

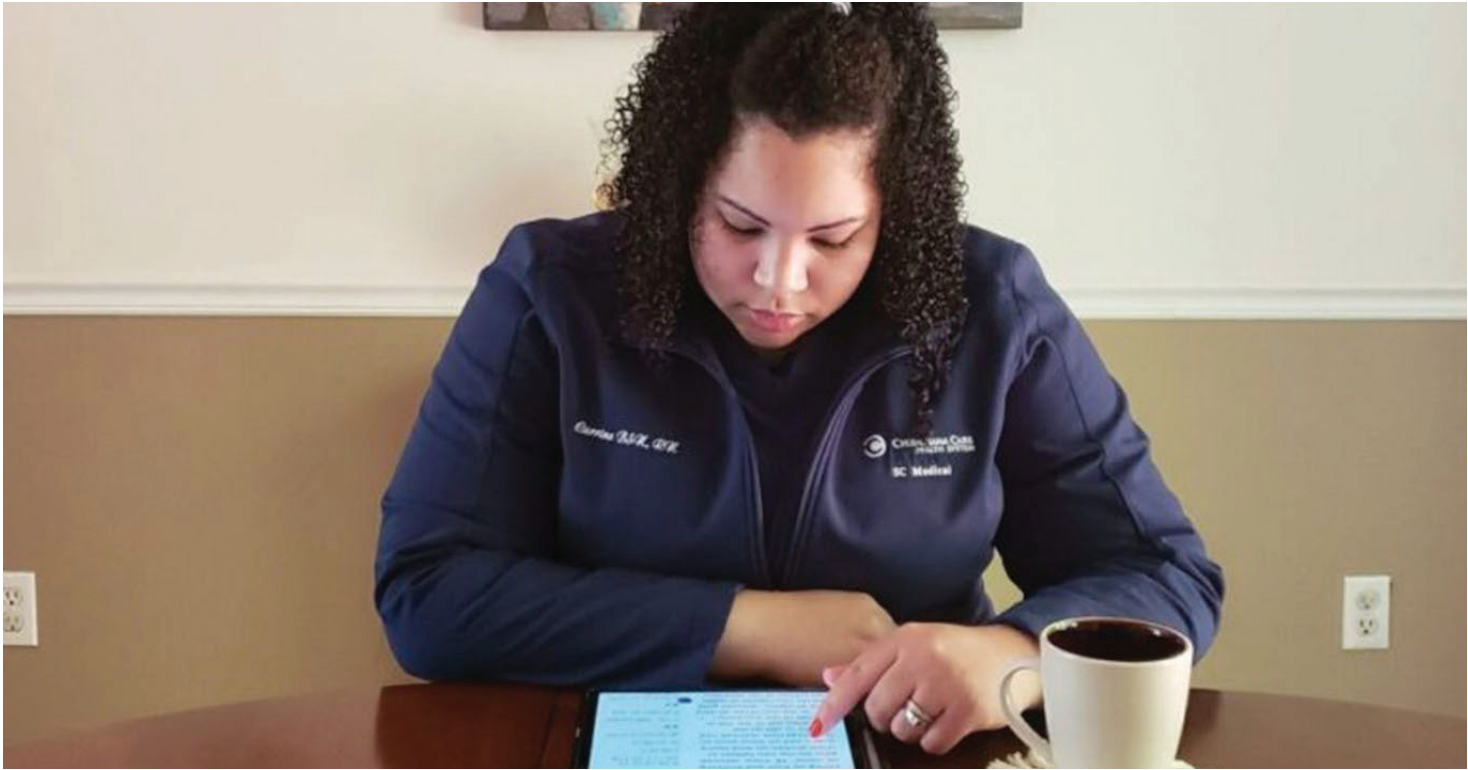
Many medical workers like her are exhausted from working through the pandemic.

With variants straining short-staffed facilities across the country, some on the front lines are experiencing added physical, mental and emotional stress.

“I’m feeling burnout,” said Smith, who saw her medical floor skyrocket with COVID-19 cases amid the current surge.

What pulled her out of despair in the early phases of the pandemic continues to keep her afloat. She credits her faith as one of Jehovah’s Witnesses for helping her and other health care workers in her religious community endure the ongoing toll of the pandemic.

“Remembering how my faith and relationship with God has sustained me thus far helps me to continue,” Smith said.



Currine Smith, a registered nurse, credits faith for helping her through the pandemic. (Photo provided)

American psychological and psychiatric associations, while not advocating or endorsing any specific religion, acknowledge the role spirituality and religious faith can play in coping with stress and trauma.

Lawrence Onoda, Ph.D., a clinical psychologist in Mission Hills, California, noted some ways spirituality can help, including giving people “a positive hope and meaning toward life, comfort by looking for answers and strength

from a higher power, and a collective shared experience of support and community.”

Smith finds joy in passing along to others what has helped her.

She recently participated in a special worldwide campaign to offer the article “A Better World is Near” from jw.org, the official website of Jehovah’s Witnesses.

“Sharing that message was a constant reminder that the suffering I see in the

hospital is only temporary.”

Jw.org offers a collection of practical articles like “How to Beat Pandemic Fatigue” and short comforting videos such as “The Resurrection – Soon a Reality.” It’s a free resource that Smith recommends to everyone.

“The information is always timely and the articles about how to handle stress have given me invaluable pointers on coping skills,” she said. “It’s definitely been a source of comfort for me.”

## The pandemic changed death rituals and left grieving families without a sense of closure

By NATASHA MIKLES  
Texas State University

The unexpected death of a friend and colleague to COVID-19 in January 2021 led me to start researching how American death rituals were transforming during the pandemic. My friend was Hindu, and while watching his funeral on Zoom, I witnessed the significant transformations that had to be made to the traditional rituals to accommodate COVID-19 safety guidelines.

In the spring and summer of 2021, I conducted over 70 hours of oral history interviews with people involved in the medical and funerary professions, as well as grieving families and those who worked closely with them, including grief counselors, hospice workers and even spirit mediums.

As a historian of religion interested in how different cultures make sense of death, I noticed what appeared to be a momentous cultural shift happening in America in terms of death rituals as over 850,000 Americans died from COVID-19. During this period, funerary customs dramatically shifted and, in many cases, failed to bring any comfort to grieving friends and families.

### What changed in funerary rituals

In my conversations, funerary professionals described the initial chaos as funeral size had to be dramatically curtailed, sometimes with only one to two hours’ notice. Eventually, many began to innovate with new technologies that allowed them to hold virtual funerals.

Richard Davis of the Cook-Walden Funeral Home in Pflugerville, Texas, described how early in the pandemic he utilized radio technology for grieving families who could be in their cars in the parking lot, tune the radio to a specific station and listen to the person giving the eulogy inside the funeral home.

Some funerary directors partnered with wedding videographers whose business was suddenly upended because most weddings were canceled or delayed. These videographers found that the high-quality equipment used to produce wedding videos could as easily be put to use broadcasting a Zoom funeral.

I also spoke with three spirit mediums who all described a marked increase in clients seeking postlife words from loved ones who died on ventilators. They described how anguished families sought to know that their loved one had not died alone and did



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not blame them for their death. One medium in particular also noted that the pandemic saw an increase in family members seeking to connect with those who had died of drug overdoses brought on by the stress of the pandemic.

The end-of-life work of religious leaders was transformed as well: Catholic and Episcopal last rites were performed via FaceTime, sometimes with consecrated oil being carefully administered by a Q-tip.

The Jewish tradition of sitting with a body before burial — usually performed by volunteers in shifts at the funeral home — became an at-home experience. Although the volunteers, called shomer or shomeret in Hebrew, could not sit next to the body as usual, they worked on the honor system to ensure that someone was always praying and keeping the deceased in their thoughts, even while far away.

Muslim leaders described working with local health agencies to obtain personal protective equipment (PPE) and specialized training for those performing the full-body washing of a corpse known as ghusl in Arabic.

### Virtual commemorations

These adaptations reflect a long history of transformations for the American funeral.

In the 17th and 18th centuries, most Americans generally prepared the body themselves and hosted the funeral at home. However, by the 19th century, more Americans were dying in hospitals as a result of the availability of medical care and because the corpse was believed to be carrying disease. This spurred the development of the funeral home. Individual funeral homes often personalize their offerings to the needs of local cultural or reli-

gious communities.

Funeral homes became most popular after embalming — a form of preservation performed by mortuary specialists — became the norm after the Civil War. The war spurred a crisis to preserve soldiers’ bodies while they made the long trip home, and embalmers would sometimes follow the military troops to accept payment in advance for the procedure.

Today, the funeral industry has grown to a whopping \$20 billion, and embalming remains the predominant treatment for the body after death.

With the rise of the internet, funerals are once more undergoing rapid transformations. Scholar of death and dying Candi Cann has shown how the internet gives rise to new forms of social remembrance after death. These can include mourners going to Facebook or Instagram pages on the anniversary of the death and leaving a message about how much they miss the deceased. Online marketplaces allow for the purchase of individualized mourning paraphernalia like T-shirts or bumper stickers, and public memorials at the site of death.

Such tools thrived during the pandemic. During my research, several individuals who lost loved ones explained creating memorial items, including stickers and face masks commemorating a lost loved one, as a way to encourage others to wear masks. Virtual online communities of COVID-19 mourners adopted the yellow heart as a public expression of loss of a loved one to the pandemic in the U.S. and Europe.

### Unprocessed grief

Funerals and other rituals surrounding death are important to begin the grieving process. Research has found that performing rituals has a major role

in alleviating grief through increasing feelings of control and transitioning mourners to accepting their loss. Funerals can provide important structures for families to say goodbye that have been correlated with better grief outcomes.

J.Z. Smith, one of the most influential theorists of religion in recent years, said that “ritual relies for its power on the fact that it is concerned with quite ordinary activities placed within an extraordinary setting.” In other words, ritual takes elements from the ordinary world — words, gestures, symbols, etc. — and imbues them with extraordinary meaning.

We might cry or wear black clothing every day for any number of reasons, but in funeral rituals these activities have special significance and bring a sense of closure. It is this repurposing of ordinary things that makes rituals so effective.

Psychological studies too have shown that the greater the difference between what happens in the ritual and “normal” life, the more effective it is for individuals.

But in my conversations with those who lost loved ones to COVID-19, it became apparent that for many, the transformations in funerals and rituals of mourning failed to help them in dealing with their grief. As one individual explained to me, “I knew my grandmother would pass away sometime, but I always imagined I would be there; I never imagined I would be watching it virtually on Facebook. It felt like a parody of a funeral.”

Another interviewee explained how the isolation necessary in the pandemic era fundamentally undermined the comfort these rituals could provide: “Because my family has been so terrified of COVID, we have not been able to gather together to process my mother’s death.”

Rev. Richard R. Andre, C.S.P. of St. Austin Catholic Parish in Austin, Texas, echoed these thoughts as he described assisting those losing loved ones in his own spiritual community: “The funeral helps you to start a process of closure. But without the funerals they envisioned, people are just getting stuck and are unable to grieve.”

The COVID-19 pandemic has forced us to consider how rituals can lose their extraordinary power when our sense of “normal” is shattered and remains shattered for years.



SPIRITUAL OUTLOOK

Sever ties with settling

By RAE KARIM



Here we are at the end of the first month of the year. Has anybody seen time? Does anyone know were January went? Both time and January seemed to move quite swiftly. Lord, help us to keep pace.

As we continue to move forward into the year, I have one question: What are we doing?

I don't mean in the New Year's resolution sense of reading more books, exercising regularly or eating healthier. I don't mean by way of being consistent in communication with loved ones or spending more quality quiet time with God. I believe it's safe to say the aforementioned list should be one with which we engage. However, my question goes beyond the surface, and here's how.

A couple of weeks ago I had a taste for grits. I walked along the aisles of Target looking for hot cereal. When I found where it was located, I looked and looked again for old-fashioned grits. I found oats, steel cut oats and oatmeal, but I didn't see old-fashioned grits. I looked high and low, still couldn't find old-fashioned grits. Did you just read that to the tune of "Nobody Greater" by Vashawn Mitchell, or was it just me? Nevertheless, I was disappointed when I didn't find what I was looking for. As a result of time being of the essence, I chose what was available to me: instant grits (judge not, lest ye be judged). I figured they would at least curb the craving and they did.

But there's more to this story of instant grits.

A friend of mine noticed the box and immediately began to laugh. While laughing, my friend shared the nostalgic memory that emerged from seeing the box. While laughing, my friend questioned why I purchased instant instead of old-fashioned grits. My response was simple: Target didn't have old fashioned in stock. After laughing some more, my friend said something that taught me a lesson I will not forget. I was told that my decision to purchase instant meant

**Effie Harris missing you love you always.**  
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It's been 4 years , and I still can't believe you are gone.  
Love you always love you forever your wife JoAnn, children,  
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Getty Images

I settled. Say what? I settled. I didn't just want grits. I wanted old-fashioned grits. However, I settled on what was available at that store. Never mind the fact that there is a Kroger, an Aldi and a Meijer all within 15 minutes of this Target. I could have easily driven to any of these stores to get what I wanted. But I didn't. I settled.

Yet, not everyone does what I did. Not everyone settles. In Luke 15, Jesus tells a series of lost and found parables. Specifically in verses 8-10, Jesus tells of a woman who "diligently searched every nook and cranny for one lost coin" (The Passion Translation, paraphrased). The text says the woman had 10 coins and lost one. Some may have let the lost coin remain unfound. Some may have considered the woman to be "doing too much" for one coin. Some may have felt she had a scarcity mindset, due to her diligence to find the coin.

However, I have a different perspective. Though the primary reason for this illustration is finding what has been lost, there's a secondary illustration: not settling. The woman in the parable chose not to settle with only having the remaining nine coins. She chose

to go after what she wanted, if for no other reason because it (the lost coin) belonged to her. If she ever had ties with settling, in that moment she severed them.

So I ask the initial question again: As we move further forward into the year, what are we doing? In other words, are we settling? If we are, we don't have to. We're not supposed to. Why, because Jesus died so we would have life and that more abundantly. There is no such thing as settling when there is abundance. Read that again. We may have to drive 15 minutes to get to it. We may have to be more diligent in our work, our search and our commitment. Still we can take a lesson from the parable of the woman and the lost coin. We can sever ties with settling and choose to go after what we want and what belongs to us, a choice that is always worth it.

*Rae Karim, formerly chapel director at Christian Theological Seminary, is now pastor at First Christian Church of Honolulu. She can be reached at [pastoraefcc@gmail.com](mailto:pastoraefcc@gmail.com).*

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## DC, 3 states sue Google saying it invades users' privacy

By **MARCY GORDON**  
AP Business Writer

WASHINGTON (AP) — The District of Columbia and three states are suing Google for allegedly deceiving consumers and invading their privacy by making it nearly impossible for them to stop their location from being tracked.

In the lawsuit filed Jan. 24 in a District of Columbia court, D.C. Attorney General Karl Racine alleges Google has “systematically” deceived consumers about how their locations are tracked and used. He also says the internet search giant has misled users into believing they can control the information the company collects about them.

“In reality, consumers who use Google products cannot prevent Google from collecting, storing and profiting from their location,” the lawsuit says. Google has “an unprecedented ability to monitor consumers’ daily lives.”

Google makes it impossible for users to opt out of having their sensitive and valuable location data tracked, the suit alleges.

The attorneys general of Texas, Indiana and Washington state filed similar lawsuits in their state courts.

“Google’s business model relies on constant surveillance of its users,” Racine’s office said in a news release. The D.C. suit asserts that Google has “a powerful financial incentive to obscure the details” of its location-data collection and to make it difficult for consumers to opt out. It says location data is a key part of its digital advertising business that generated \$150 billion in revenue for Google’s parent company, Alphabet Inc., in 2020.

The company, based in Mountain View, California, is disputing the claims.

“The attorneys general are bringing a case based on inaccurate claims and outdated assertions about our settings,” Google spokesperson Jose Castaneda said in a statement. “We have always built privacy features into our products and provided robust controls for location data.”



Getty Images

The company will defend itself and “set the record straight,” Castaneda said.

Google says that in recent years it has made several improvements to make location data easy to manage and understand, and has minimized the amount of data stored.

The lawsuits are the latest in a raft of legal salvos against the tech giant, whose search engine accounts for an estimated 90% of web searches worldwide.

In December 2020, 10 states led by Texas filed a federal suit against Google accusing it of “anticompetitive conduct” in the online advertising industry, including a deal to manipulate sales with rival Facebook.

In October 2020, the U.S. Justice Department joined by 11 states filed a landmark antitrust suit against Google for allegedly abusing its dominance

in online search and advertising. The suit asked the court to order structural changes “as needed” for Google, opening the door to possible fundamental changes such as a spinoff of its Chrome browser.

Bipartisan legislation advanced last week by a Senate panel would bar the dominant online platforms — Google, Meta (formerly Facebook), Amazon and Apple — from favoring their own goods and services over those of competitors. It could, for example, bring restrictions for Google’s search engine, which routinely places its services at the top of search results.

The new lawsuits mirror one brought by Arizona in May 2020, similarly accusing Google of deceiving consumers about protections for their personal data.

Documents unsealed in the Arizona case in August 2020 revealed that

Google’s own engineers were troubled by the way the company secretly tracked the movements of users who didn’t want to be followed.

Racine’s office said it began its investigation following publication of an Associated Press investigation in August 2018 showing that Google records users’ movements even when they explicitly tell it not to, through the “Location History” setting. Computer-science researchers at Princeton University confirmed the findings at the AP’s request.

Inside Google, a self-titled “Oh S---” meeting was convened the day the AP story was published to come up with responses, the new D.C. filing says. Afterwards, Google updated its Help Page to remove the misleading point, “With Location History off, the places you go are no longer stored,” the suit says.

## Howard University professor says Americans are quitting ‘bad jobs’

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



It’s official. America has entered the Great Resignation.

In August 2021, 4.3 million Americans quit their jobs, and the quit rate, measured by the government against total employment, rose to 2.9% in August 2021.

But that was August.

According to the Labor Department’s Job Openings and

Labor Turnover Survey, November 2021 quits hit close to historic highs.

The number of workers jumped to 4.5 million above the prior record of 4.4 million reached in September 2021. When broken down, 3% of workers voluntarily left their positions, a figure that matched September’s record high.

Further, employers posted 10.6 million job openings, down from a near-record 11 million the previous month and just below July’s all-time high. Openings have now topped 10 million for six straight months.

Economists said the decline was fueled by a drop of 261,000 openings in restaurants and hotels, leaving a whopping 1.5 available jobs for each unemployed person, the most on record dating back two decades.

After years in the restaurant industry, Colette Graack told CBS News that she left her duties in the food prep line in June 2021 in exchange for a more profound role as mom.

“I just couldn’t handle keeping on that pressure when my son needed me more,” Graack said.

Graack told the network the leap proved difficult.

“Especially financially because I’m a single mom. Thankfully I had savings at the time that we could ride that out,” she said.

Despite millions quitting, millions more found new jobs. So where are they going? Often, it’s a different industry altogether.

“This notion that if you leave one industry, going to a new one requires, you know, a degree or a bunch of training, it might not be the case,” Steve Grove, commissioner of the Minnesota Department of Employment and Economic Development, told CBS.

William Spriggs, a professor in Howard University’s Economics Department and an economist for AFL-CIO, cautioned that the government’s job numbers

shouldn’t frighten anyone.

During an appearance on the NNPA’s “Let It Be Known” live breaking news program, Spriggs said it’s dubious calling this the “Great Resignation” or the “Great Quit.”

“The problem of job matching was going to be a problem once we, the United States, showed a policy of separation as opposed to retention to make it through the virus,” Spriggs remarked.

He asserted that “what took place in Europe, Australia and Canada were schemes where the government paid employers to keep employees connected to their jobs through the pandemic.”

Spriggs said the U.S. took a different route.

He said the federal government placed workers on unemployment, separating them from their jobs with no reconnection plans.

“For instance, in a place like New Jersey where you have perhaps the best unemployment insurance system, you also have better job matches,” Professor Spriggs stated. “You didn’t see the quit rate rise when we had the supplement to unemployment because you could choose jobs. Now, we force people to take a job so you will get a mismatch as you’ve seen in the accommodations sector.”



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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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### Notice of Public Sale of Collateral

We will sell to the highest qualified bidder in public, the property described below, on Wednesday, February 16, 2022, at 10:00 a.m. (Mountain) at the following location(s): The courthouse front steps of the Third District Court, 8080 South Redwood Road, West Jordan, Utah. Opening bid \$296,189.00. Winning bidder must pay non-refundable deposit of \$5,000.00 in the form of certified funds (bank cashiers check/money order), payable to the Lender: DHM Industries, Inc., with remainder of sale proceeds paid by electronic funds transfer (EFT) or wire on or before Thursday, February 17, 2022, at 2:00 p.m. (Mountain). You may request information by calling William T. Jennings at (801) 787-9686. Description of Property: All rights, titles and interests in and to the limited liability company membership interests in, 1546 Hoyt Avenue Industries, LLC, held by debtor and all proceeds therefrom. The limited liability company 1546 Hoyt Avenue Industries, LLC owns the real property located at 1546 Hoyt Avenue, Indianapolis, Indiana 46203 subject to a deed of trust or mortgage in favor of the Lender. 5320-937312

**STATE OF INDIANA ) IN THE MARION CIRCUIT COURT )**  
**COUNTY OF MARION )**  
**CASE NO. 49C01-2112-MF-040497**  
**IN RE THE CHANGE OF NAME:**

Alexander Malenkov  
Petitioner  
NOTICE OF HEARING FOR PUBLICATION IN NEWSPAPER

Notice is hereby given that Petitioner Alexander Malenkov, as a self represented litigant, filed a Verified Petition for Change of Name to change name from Alexander Malenkov to Cleo Tsubasa Konoha. The Petition is scheduled for hearing in the Marion Circuit Court on March 18, 2022, at 9:15 a.m., which is more than thirty (30) days after the third notice of publication. Any person has the right to appear at the hearing and to file written objections on or before the hearing date. This hearing will be in the Marion County Circuit Court, 200 E. Washington Street, City County Building, Room W506, Indianapolis, Indiana 46204. This hearing will be held remotely by WebEx. A separate WebEx invitation will be sent with instructions to join the hearing.

Date  
Clerk of the Marion Circuit Court  
So Ordered: December 20, 2021  
Judicial Officer  
Distribution:  
P e t i t i o n e r  
5320-936795

01/28/22, 02/04/22, 02/11/22

**SUMMONS-SERVICE BY PUBLICATION**  
**STATE OF INDIANA ) IN THE MARION CIRCUIT/ SUPERIOR COURT )**  
**SS:**  
**COUNTY OF MARION )**  
**CAUSE NO.: 49C01-2201-MF-000128**  
**WONG VENTURES, LLC Plaintiff,**  
**v.**  
**INDIANA DEPARTMENT OF REVENUE, ASSET ACCEPTANCE, LLC,**  
**AND ALL PERSONS UNKNOWN CLAIMING ANY RIGHT, TITLE,**  
**ESTATE, LIEN OR INTEREST IN THE REAL ESTATE Defendants.**  
**NOTICE OF SUIT**  
**The State of Indiana to Defendant.** All persons unknown claiming any right, title, estate, lien, or interest in the real estate located at 5337 Thornridge Place, Indianapolis, IN 46237.

You are notified that you have been sued in the Court above named.  
The nature of the suit against you is a Complaint for Strict Foreclosure and to Quiet Title to Real Estate.  
This summons by publication is specifically directed to any and all persons unknown claiming any right, title, estate, lien or interest in the real estate located at 5337 Thornridge Place, Indianapolis, Indiana 46237, that is the subject of this proceeding.  
If you have a claim for relief against the Plaintiff arising from the same transaction or occurrence, you must assert it in your written answer. You must answer the Complaint in writing, by you or your attorney, on or before the 13th day of March, 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/ Grover B. Davis  
Attorney for Plaintiff  
ATTEST: 1/3/2022  
/s/ Myla A. Eldridge  
Clerk of the Marion County Superior Court  
200 East Washington Street  
Room No. T-1441  
Indianapolis, IN 46204  
P h o n e N u m - b e r : (317) 327-4160  
5320-936805

01/28/22, 02/04/22, 02/11/22

**STATE OF INDIANA ) IN THE MARION SUPERIOR COURT )**  
**SS:**  
**COUNTY OF MARION )**  
**CAUSE NO. 49D08-2112-EU-041746**  
**IN RE THE UNSUPERVISED ESTATE OF: MOLLY WHITCOMB, Decedent.**  
**NOTICE OF ADMINISTRATION**  
**IN THE SUPERIOR COURT NO. 8 OF MARION COUNTY, INDIANA**  
In the Matter of the Estate of Molly Whitcomb, deceased.  
Estate Docket 49D08-2112-EU-041746

Notice is hereby given that Melissa Y. Brook was, on the 17th day of December, 2021, appointed Personal Representative of the Estate of Molly Whitcomb, deceased, who died on the 12th day of November, 2021.

All persons who have claims against this estate, whether or not now due, must file the claim in the office of the Clerk of this Court within three (3) months from the date of the first publication of this notice, or within nine (9) months after the decedent's death, whichever is earlier, or the claims will be forever barred.  
Dated at Indianapolis, Indiana, this 11th day of January, 2022.  
/s/ Myla A. Eldridge  
Clerk, Marion County Superior Court  
5320-937313

01/28/22, 02/04/22, 02/11/22

**STATE OF INDIANA ) IN THE MARION SUPERIOR COURT )**  
**SS:**  
**COUNTY OF MARION )**  
**CAUSE NO. 49D08-2201-MF-000796**  
**CALIBER HOME LOANS, INC., Plaintiff,**  
**vs.**  
**UNKNOWN HEIRS, DEVISEES OR LEGATEES, AND THEIR SPOUSES, IF ANY OF MARK D TOWERS Defendants.**  
**NOTICE OF SUIT**  
**SUMMONS-SERVICE BY PUBLICATION**  
**The State of Indiana to the defendants above named, and any other person who may be concerned. You are notified that you have been sued in the Court above**

named. The nature of the suit against you is a foreclosure of the real estate mortgage, legally described as:

LOT NUMBERED 35 IN KEYSTONE MANOR, AN ADDITION TO THE CITY OF INDIANAPOLIS, AS PER PLAT THEREOF RECORDED IN PLAT BOOK 24, PAGE 22 TO 25 IN THE OFFICE OF THE RECORDER OF MARION COUNTY, INDIANA.  
SUBJECT TO ALL LIENS, EASEMENTS AND ENCUMBRANCES OF RECORD.  
This property is commonly known as 6410 Walton Street, Indianapolis, IN 46241  
This summons by publication is specifically directed to the following Defendants whose addresses are not known: Unknown Heirs, Devisees or Legatees, and Their Spouses, if any of Mark D Towers, Unknown Address  
In addition to the above named Defendants being served by this summons there may be other Defendants who have an interest in this lawsuit. If you have a claim for relief against the Plaintiff arising from the same transaction or occurrence, you must assert it in your written answer. You must answer the Complaint in writing, by your attorney, on or before the 13th day of March, 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.  
Matthew C. Gladwell (30493-49)  
Amanda L. Krenson (28999-61)  
David W. Cliffe (36402-15) Attorney's for Plaintiff  
Reisenfeld & Associates LLC  
3962 Red Bank Road  
Cincinnati, OH 45227  
Voice: 1-513-322-7000  
Facsimile: (513) 322-7099  
ATTEST: 1/10/2022  
/s/ Myla A. Eldridge  
Clerk of the Marion County Circuit/Superior Court  
5320-937178

01/28/22, 02/04/22, 02/11/22

01/28/22, 02/04/22

**STATE OF INDIANA ) SUPERIOR COURT )**  
**PROBATE DIVISION )**  
**CAUSE NO. 49D08-2112-EU-041888**  
**IN THE MATTER OF THE UNSUPERVISED ADMINISTRATION**  
**OF THE ESTATE OF EVERTON JONES, Deceased**  
**NOTICE OF ADMINISTRATION**  
Notice is hereby given that Lakesha Renee Jones was, on the APPOINTED DATE, appointed Personal Representative of the Estate of Everton Jones, who died on September 6, 2021.

All persons who have claims against this Estate, whether or not now due, must file the claim in the office of the Clerk of this Court within three (3) months from the date of the first publication of this notice, or within nine (9) months after the decedent's death, whichever is earlier, or the claims will be forever barred.  
Dated this 22nd day of December, 2021.  
/s/ Myla A. Eldridge  
Clerk, MARION COUNTY THOMAS N. LESLIE, #8774-49  
Attorney at Law  
830 Kreutzinger Lane  
Indianapolis, IN 46234  
(317) 637-2400  
(317) 201-6764  
skillet202@aol.com  
5320-937200

01/28/22, 02/04/22, 02/11/22

**STATE OF INDIANA ) IN THE MARION SUPERIOR COURT )**  
**SS: PROBATE DIVISION )**  
**COUNTY OF MARION )**  
**CAUSE NO. 49D08-2111-EU-037886**  
**IN THE MATTER OF THE UNSUPERVISED ESTATE OF LARRY COLLINS, DECEASED.**  
**NOTICE OF ADMINISTRATION**  
In the Superior Court of Marion County, Indiana.  
In the matter of the Estate of Larry Collins, deceased.  
Estate Docket No. 49D08-2111-EU-037886  
Notice is hereby given that Toni Charlene Collins was, on the 10th day of November, 2021, appointed personal representative of the Estate of Larry Collins, deceased, who died on the 12th day of March, 2020.  
All persons having claims against this estate, whether or not now due, must file the claim in the office of the Clerk of this Court within three (3) months from the date of the first publication of this notice, or within nine (9) months after the decedent's death, whichever is earlier, or the claims will be forever barred.  
Dated: November 17, 2021.  
/s/ Myla A. Eldridge  
Clerk, Marion County Superior Court  
Probate Division  
Daniel Cueller  
The Cueller Law Office  
22 E. Washington St., Ste. 210  
Indianapolis, Indiana 46204  
317-225-4584  
Fax 317-245-0204  
dan@cuellerlaw.com  
5320-937113

01/28/22, 02/04/22, 02/11/22

**STATE OF INDIANA ) IN THE MARION SUPERIOR COURT )**  
**SS: PROBATE DIVISION )**  
**COUNTY OF MARION )**  
**CAUSE NO. 49D08-2201-EU-000540**  
**IN THE MATTER OF THE UNSUPERVISED ADMINISTRATION**  
**OF THE ESTATE OF DONALD L. SMITHSON, DECEASED.**  
**NOTICE OF ADMINISTRATION**  
Notice is hereby given that Tracy L. Smithson was, on the 6th day of January, 2022, appointed Personal Representative of the Estate of Jean L. Gibson, deceased.  
All persons having claims against said Estate, whether or not now due, must file the claim in the office of the Clerk of this Court within three (3) months from the date of the first publication of this notice or said claims will be forever barred.  
Dated at Indianapolis, Indiana, this 6th day of January, 2022.  
/s/ Myla A. Eldridge  
Clerk, Marion County Superior Court  
Attorney for Personal Representative:  
Robert G. Cook  
Attorney I.D. # 3355-68  
116 E. Washington Street  
P.O. Box 433  
Winchester, IN 47394  
Telephone: (765) 584-8600  
Fax: (765) 584-8625  
bob@robertgcook.com  
5320-937598

01/28/22, 02/04/22

**STATE OF INDIANA ) IN THE MARION SUPERIOR COURT )**  
**SS: PROBATE DIVISION )**  
**COUNTY OF MARION )**  
**CAUSE NO. 49D08-2201-EU-000640**  
**IN RE THE UNSUPERVISED ESTATE OF EMMETT M. CASH, JR, DECEASED**  
**NOTICE OF ADMINISTRATION**  
Notice is hereby given that on January 8, 2022, Tawnya Padgett was appointed personal representative of the Estate of Emmett M. Cash, Jr, Deceased, who died on October 8, 2021.  
All persons having claims against this estate, whether or not now due, must file the claim in the office of the Clerk of this Court within three (3) months from the date of the first publication of this notice, or within nine (9) months after the decedent's death, whichever is earlier, or the claims will be forever barred.  
Dated at Indianapolis, Indiana, on January 8, 2022.  
/s/ Myla A. Eldridge  
Clerk of the Marion County Probate Court  
Georgianna Q. Tutwiler, #32181-49

01/28/22, 02/04/22

**STATE OF INDIANA ) SUPERIOR COURT OF MARION COUNTY )**  
**SS: COUNTY OF MARION )**  
**CAUSE NO. 49D08-2201-EU-000995**  
**IN THE MATTER OF THE UNSUPERVISED ADMINISTRATION**  
**OF THE ESTATE OF JAMIE JOAN DEVINE, Deceased**  
**NOTICE OF ADMINISTRATION**  
Notice is hereby given that, on the 11th day of January, 2022, PATRICK T. DEVINE was appointed Personal Representative of the Estate of JAMIE JOAN DEVINE, deceased, who died on November 15, 2021.  
All persons having claims against this estate, whether or not now due, must file the claim in the office of the Clerk of this Court within Three (3) months from the date of the first publication of this notice, or within Nine (9) months after the decedent's death, whichever is earlier, or the claims will be forever barred.  
Dated at Indianapolis, Marion County, Indiana, this January 11, 2022.  
/s/ Myla A. Eldridge  
Clerk of the Marion County Superior Court  
R. Martin Hill  
Attorney at Law  
6801 Lake Plaza Unit A 108  
Indianapolis, Indiana 46220  
(317) 259-5600  
Atty. ID 8279-49  
Ndmlr74@aol.com  
5320-936951

01/28/22, 02/04/22

**STATE OF INDIANA ) SUPERIOR COURT OF MARION COUNTY )**  
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01/28/22, 02/04/22

**STATE OF INDIANA ) SUPERIOR COURT OF MARION COUNTY )**  
**SS: COUNTY OF MARION )**  
**CAUSE NO. 49D08-2201-EU-001188**  
**IN THE MATTER OF THE UNSUPERVISED ADMINISTRATION**  
**OF THE ESTATE OF GERTRUDE YVONNE ABERNATHY, Deceased**  
**NOTICE OF ADMINISTRATION**  
Notice is hereby given that, on the 11th day of January, 2022, KRISTY LYNN ABERNATHY-DAVIS was appointed Personal Representative of the Estate of GERTRUDE YVONNE ABERNATHY, deceased, who died on November 19, 2021.  
All persons having claims against this estate, whether or not now due, must file the claim in the office of the Clerk of this Court within Three (3) months from the date of the first publication of this notice, or within Nine (9) months after the decedent's death, whichever is earlier, or the claims will be forever barred.  
Dated at Indianapolis, Marion County, Indiana, this January 13, 2022.  
/s/ Myla A. Eldridge  
Clerk of the Marion County Superior Court  
R. Martin Hill  
Attorney at Law  
6801 Lake Plaza Unit A 108  
Indianapolis, Indiana 46220  
(317) 259-5600  
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01/28/22, 02/04/22

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01/28/22, 02/04/22

**STATE OF INDIANA ) SUPERIOR COURT OF MARION COUNTY )**  
**SS: COUNTY OF MARION )**  
**CAUSE NO. 49D11-2111-MF-039605**  
**Lima One Capital LLC Plaintiff,**  
**vs.**  
**Ray Marie Properties, LLC, et al. Defendants.**  
**NOTICE OF SUIT SUMMONS BY PUBLICATION**  
**TO: The Cottages of Fall Creek by Cardinal Accounts, The Cottages of Fall Creek: BE IT KNOWN, that Lima One Capital LLC, the above-named Plaintiff, by its attorney, Stephanie A. Reinhart, has filed in the office of the Clerk of the Marion Superior Court #11 its Complaint against Defendant The Cottages of Fall Creek by Cardinal Accounts, The Cottages of Fall Creek, and the said Plaintiff having also filed in said Clerk's office the affidavit of a competent person showing that the residence and whereabouts of the Defendant, The Cottages of Fall Creek by Cardinal Accounts, The Cottages of Fall Creek, upon diligent inquiry is unknown, and that said cause of action is for default on the promissory note and to foreclose a mortgage on the following described real estate in Marion County, State of Indiana, to wit:**  
**Lots 248 and 249 in John S. Spann & Co's Addition Terrace, addition to the City of Indianapolis, the plat of which is recorded in Plat Book 16, Page 193, in the Office of the recorder of Marion County, Indiana.**  
**and**  
**Lot Number 59 in Campus Terrace, Fifth Section, as addition to the City of Indianapolis, as per plat thereof, recorded in Plat Book 26, Page 182, in the Office of the Recorder of Marion County, Indiana.**  
**commonly known as 1020 South Holmes Avenue And 211 South Emerson Avenue, Indianapolis, IN 46221.**  
**NOW, THEREFORE, said Defendant is hereby notified of the filing and pendency of said Complaint against them and that unless they appear and answer or otherwise defend thereto within thirty (30) days after the last notice of this action is published, judgment by default may be entered against said Defendant for the relief demanded in the Complaint.**  
**Dated Clerk, Marion Superior Court #11**  
**Stephanie A. Reinhart (25071-06)**  
**J. Dustin Smith (29493-06)**  
**Nicholas M. Smith (31800-15)**  
**Chris Willey (26936-10)**  
**Attorneys for Plaintiff**  
**MANLEY DEAS KOCHALSKI LLC**  
**P.O. Box 165028**  
**Columbus OH 43216-5028**  
**Telephone: 614-220-5611**  
**Facsimile: 614-220-5613**  
**Email: sei-SAREinhart@manleydeas.com**  
5320-936818

01/28/22, 02/04/22, 02/11/22

**STATE OF INDIANA ) SUPERIOR COURT OF MARION COUNTY )**  
**SS: COUNTY OF MARION )**  
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no bids shall be withdrawn for a period of sixty (60) days thereafter	Matthew C. Gladwell (30493-49)	/s/ Myla A. Eldridge Clerk of the Marion County Probate Court	or the claims will be forever barred.	separate WebEx invitation will be sent with instructions to joining the hearing	above stated, whose names may have been changed and the names of all the spouses	5320-935469	to contest the adoption or a paternity action under IC	opened and read aloud in the offices of Capital Asset Management
	Amanda L. Krenson	Dated at Indianapolis					01/14/22, 01/21/22	831-14 within thirty (30) days

opened and read aloud in the  
offices of Capital Asset Man-  
agement, 2550 Northwestern

venue, Suite 1100, West Lafayette, IN 47906.

Bids received after such time will be returned unopened. Bids may be withdrawn prior to such time, but no bids shall be withdrawn or a period of sixty (60) days thereafter.

The Principal Subcontractor Questionnaire listing the names of the bidder's principal subcontractors shall be submitted with the bid. The

Capital Asset Management  
2550 Northwestern Avenue,  
Suite 1100  
West Lafayette, IN 47906  
Phone (765) 494-0580

Each bid must be accompanied by the Contractor's written plan for a program to restrict the contractor's employees for drugs in accordance with IC 4-13-18.

Each bid must be accompanied by a Contractor's Combination Bid Bond and a form for Construction in the form included in the specification.

[illegible]

On February 1, 2022 at 9:00 a.m. EST. The meeting will be held virtually on Teams. The meeting link will be released via an addendum or contact [procurement@purdue.edu](mailto:procurement@purdue.edu) for the meeting link.

The architectural/engineering firms for this project: Project No. 1 Physical Facilities

2550 Northwestern Ave., Suite 1100  
West Lafayette, IN 47906

To view or obtain bid documents online:

Repro Graphix Inc.  
437 N. Illinois St  
Indianapolis, IN 46204  
Web: [PurduePlanroom.com](http://PurduePlanroom.com)

Phone: 1-800-718-0035  
Email: [Plans@Reprographix.com](mailto:Plans@Reprographix.com)

A \$300 deposit will be required for each hardcopy set of bidding documents. One compact disk or download is available at no charge. Postage and handling fees may apply.

All orders must be placed online but bidders may choose to pick up orders at:

Purdue Print & Digital Services delivered by Xerox:  
698 Ahlers Drive  
West Lafayette, IN 47907  
Phone: 765-494-2006

Bidding Documents are on file in the office of:

Senior Vice President for Administrative Operations  
2550 Northwestern Avenue, Suite 1100  
West Lafayette, IN 47906  
Phone (765) 494-0580

The Board of Trustees of The Trustees of Purdue University reserves the right to reject any and all bids and to waive, to the extent permitted by law, any of the terms, conditions and provisions con-

and in this Advertisement  
 or Bids or the Instructions  
 or Bidders or any informality,  
 irregularity or omission in any  
 bid, provided that such waiver  
 shall, in the discretion of the  
 Board of Trustees, be to the  
 advantage of The Trustees of  
 Purdue University.  
**THE TRUSTEES OF PUR-**  
**DUE UNIVERSITY**  
 By  
 James K. Keeffe  
 Senior Director of Capital  
 Asset Management  
 Date: 1/3/2022  
 3320-935296  
 01/14/22  
 01/28/22  
 having an auction/public  
 SAM.  
 Indianapolis, IN 46231  
 the sale:

K979344603	\$1,500.00
9047318371	\$1,500.00
K61U095510	\$1,500.00
4E9247080	\$1,500.00
967884644	\$1,500.00
8C579126180	\$1,500.00
066N349104	\$1,500.00
57Z015148	\$1,500.00
2551140417	\$1,500.00
K5W9164149	\$1,500.00
B1D7200229	\$1,500.00
X8E9172241	\$1,500.00
01/28/22	

Local Work, Community Development field as well as 5 years research at an institution of higher learning with social research or program experience working to address communities and stakeholders, and educators, governmental institutions and leaders; experience with grant writing as well as budget and grant management on projects that support social inclusion.

Apply at <https://jobs.ui.edu/>.

Employment and affirmative action: We are an equal opportunity employer. All qualified applicants will be considered for employment without regard to age, race, sex, sexual orientation, gender identity, marital status, national origin, or veteran status.



# ‘His calling was to love’: Arnold Mickens lives on in football record books and classrooms

By TYLER FENWICK  
tylerf@indyrecorder.com

The story of Arnold Mickens will almost certainly start with the things he could do on a football field. It was special, first at Broad Ripple High School and then Butler University and even for a short time with the Colts, but it wasn't everything. Not even close.

Because Mickens was a proud father of four and grandfather of three who loved being in the stands at games to support his family. He chose a career in education so he could influence the lives of young people.

It's why Mickens' oldest son, Allen Mickens, is having a difficult time making sense of his father's death at 49 years old.

"His calling was to love, serve and support anybody who he came into contact with," Allen said.

It feels like the best people are taken too soon, he said, and if the universe's pitiless indifference blindly picks who stays and who goes, it's Allen and everyone else Mickens served whose task it is to assign meaning.

"He was the best man I've ever had the pleasure of knowing," Allen said.

Mickens died Jan. 18. He was a ninth grade counselor at Crispus Attucks High School, where he worked with the same cohort of students through their graduation. His first cohort was the class of 2021, so this school year was his first with new ninth graders.

"He had a very calm approach with students," Crispus Attucks principal Lauren Franklin said. "Very optimistic, very positive. But he was also pretty matter of fact, no nonsense. He had a way to inspire and motivate kids."

Franklin said the school has a crisis team working with



Arnold Mickens, a ninth grade counselor at Crispus Attucks High School, died Jan. 18. Mickens was a record-breaking running back who played for Broad Ripple High School, Butler University and the Colts. (Photo provided by Crispus Attucks)

students and staff.

Mickens passed a love for education to his children, including Allen, who is a principal in Indianapolis Public Schools. Allen's twin brother, Aaron, is an assistant principal in the district. Allen said one of his favorite memories of his father was working together almost 10 years ago at Indiana Math and Science, where Mickens was a dean and Allen was a teacher out of college.

"To be able to work with your lifelong mentor, I'll never forget that," Allen said. "I learned so much from him."

**Mickens on the gridiron: 'He's a very mature young man'**

Mickens wasn't a household name like fellow running backs Barry Sanders at Oklahoma State or Marcus Allen at USC, but the college football record books show Mickens among some of the most prolific players to touch the field.

He led the country in 1994 with an NCAA-record 2,255 rushing yards and easily led Butler with 18 touchdowns in 10 games. His record stood for four seasons at the Division I-AA level (now Football Championship Subdivision), and he currently ranks fifth in single-season rushing, made all the more impressive by the fact that teams play more games now.

Mickens rushed for at least

200 yards in eight consecutive games that season and finished with 10 such games in his two-year career. He once rushed for 203 yards in one half against Valparaiso.

In all, Mickens set 18 Division I-AA records.

Before he went to Butler, Mickens enrolled at Indiana University to play football. According to a Washington Post article in 1994, then-Indiana coach Bill Mallory convinced Mickens to switch to linebacker, a position he also played in high school, and said Mickens "wasn't good enough to run the ball in his program."

"I hear it all the time in my head," Mickens told the Post. "You're not good enough."

You're not good enough."

Mickens transferred to Butler and was inducted into the school's Hall of Fame in 2009.

Mickens was first a star at the now-closed Broad Ripple, playing both running back and linebacker. He was selected to the Recorder All-Stars team as a senior in 1990 and told the paper his goal was to play football at a Division I school.

Mickens also briefly played professionally with the Colts, which signed him as an undrafted free agent in 1996. Mickens played in three games that season. It took a lot of patience to get to those three games after the Colts cut him twice and brought him back as a backup fullback. He primarily played on special teams.

"He's a very mature young man," Colts running backs coach Gene Huey told the Recorder in August 1996. "I can see through my conversations with him he carefully thinks out things."

After the team brought him back a second time, Mickens admitted he was tired of the "roller coaster" of being on the roster and then not being on the roster.

"I am just trying to take things day-by-day and learn the offense," he told the Recorder later that season, "so that when I get a chance to get in there I plan to make the best of it."

By 1998, Mickens was an assistant athletic director at Brebeuf Jesuit Preparatory School.

"I bring to Brebeuf an excitement for knowledge of athletics and along with a willingness to learn," he said at the time.

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

## Cathedral beats Tech for city title



Arsenal Tech's Reggie Bass had 26 points and eight steals in the Titans' 80-64 loss to Cathedral. (Photos/David Dixon)

Cathedral's JV team also won the City Alliance title, beating Tech 58-45.

Cathedral head coach Jason Delaney now has seven City Alliance titles: two with Cathedral and five at Tech.



Louisville Cardinals guard Dre Davis (14) goes up with his shot from the lane over Notre Dame Fighting Irish guard Trey Wertz (2), who scored nine points off of the bench.

## ND tops Louisville



Davis (14) tries to drive past Wertz (2) during Notre Dame's 82-70 win over the Cardinals on Jan. 22. (Photos/Jeff Brown)